

The Holy Spirit

Session # 10 / Wednesday, November 20, 2007

THE OUTPOURING OF GOD'S SPIRIT

Joel 2:28-29

And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: [29] And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Acts 2:14-18

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: [15] For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. [16] But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; [17] And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: [18] And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

I want to read to you several paragraphs from a book, *Conference on the Holy Spirit*, published by the Assemblies of God. Please note carefully these words written by then-General Superintendent Thomas F. Zimmerman:

"This may well be the Church's greatest hour. In His sovereignty God is moving mightily by His Spirit throughout the earth today, bringing spiritual life to multiplied millions.

"The winds of the Spirit are blowing freely over national barriers, across cultural frontiers, overriding political ideology, and penetrating the whole of our globe. I believe this is the time of the greater fulfillment of Joel's prophecy.

*"Thousands of people have prayed for years that this worldwide spiritual outpouring would come to pass. Truly we live in these exciting days when it is happening! According to the World Christian Encyclopedia recently published by Oxford University Press, the largest category of Protestants today is the Pentecostals – those who have received the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This publication estimates that **there be as many as 100 million Spirit-filled believers worldwide!**"*

Those words were written in late 1983, a mere 24 years ago. Zimmerman quoted Oxford

1 Press as reporting 100 million Pentecostals. In the last less-than-a-quarter century,
2 number has exploded to well over **a half billion persons!** This is unquestionably the
3 work of the Holy Spirit, without whom we can do absolutely nothing.

4 5 THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT 6

7 From the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost until today, the
8 Holy Spirit has manifested himself for A PURPOSE. This has never changed. The
9 work of the Holy Spirit is to:

- 10 ● Exalt Christ
- 11 ● Lead us into all truth
- 12 ● Empower us for service and evangelism
- 13
- 14

15 There are hallmarks of the Holy Spirit's work within us:

- 16 ● An emphasis on worship of Almighty God in SPIRIT and in TRUTH
- 17 ● A recognition of the person of Christ - His deity, His incarnation, and His
18 redemptive work
- 19 ● A recognition on the person and work of the Holy Spirit
- 20 ● A recognition of the authority of and hunger for the Word of God
- 21 ● An emphasis on the second coming of Christ
- 22 ● An emphasis on prayer for the sick
- 23 ● An emphasis on sharing Christ in witnessing and evangelism
- 24
- 25

26 THE BASICS OF PENTECOSTAL FAITH 27

28 **1. Prayer and Intercession**

29 Acts 1:14

30 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and
31 Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

32
33 *Every religious awakening through history has had its birth in prayer. The mighty*
34 *Pentecostal revival which broke out in 1900 resulted from individuals seeking God in*
35 *prayer, consecration and abandonment to His will.*

36 37 **2. Close Scrutiny of the Scriptures** 38

39 God's Word is our final rule of faith and practice. We stand firmly on that premise.
40 The Holy Spirit will never take us beyond or outside of the bounds of Scripture.
41 Throughout history Spirit-filled people have sought diligently and constantly to be on the
42

1 side of Scriptures. Pentecostals have historically held a high view of the Bible.

2

3 **3. The Discovery of Ways and Means by Which We Can Win the Lost and Lead** 4 **Them In Discipleship**

5

6 Matthew 28:18-20

7 And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All **power** is given unto me in heaven
8 and in earth. [19] Go ye therefore, and **teach all nations**, baptizing them in the name of
9 the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: [20] **Teaching them** to observe all
10 things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the
11 end of the world. Amen.

12

13 Note the progression here:

14 1) It is through the POWER of Christ, not ourselves, that we are able to carry out our
15 assignment

16 2) We are to reach ALL NATIONS, not just a chosen few

17 3) We are to teach or disciple the converts

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19 **THE RECEIVING OF THE BAPTISM EXPERIENCE**

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21 (This is from the teaching of Robert Abbott, an Assemblies of God evangelist, now with
22 the Lord)

23

24 *The receiving of the Holy Spirit may take place in a variety of settings. A man was filled*
25 *while in a grain silo, a lady while milking a cow. A young man received as he sat down*
26 *for dinner and the grace was being said over the meal. Several have testified to being*
27 *filled as they were driving a car. Some have received lying down, and others while*
28 *sitting, kneeling, or standing. It can happen at church, at home, at work, outdoors, at a*
29 *camp, in an auditorium. Many receive while alone; others are filled in group meetings.*

30

31 *Probably the greatest numbers receive in congregational settings. After teaching and*
32 *instruction have been given, the leader gathers the seekers together where they may stand*
33 *or sit. He then proceeds with the laying on of hands, praying with each one. The*
34 *remaining members of the congregation may join in singing, praising, and worshiping*
35 *the Lord. A number of Spirit-filled persons may be invited to stand behind the seekers,*
36 *praying in the Spirit. Being surrounded by a group of onlookers can be helpful.*

37

38 *Many will be filled quickly; others will require more time and assistance. Various*
39 *manifestations may accompany this experience: there may be crying, laughing or very*
40 *little visible emotion. Most of these manifestations, whatever they may be, are the*
41 *person's reaction to this wonderful, exhilarating infilling.*

42

1 *Receiving the Spirit has great spiritual impact, increasing one's devotion to Jesus, giving*
2 *new spiritual insight and creating a desire to share the good news with others.*

3
4 This is good counsel from one who led thousands of people into this experience. Let
5 me quickly deal with some things that could hinder a person from receiving the Baptism:

7 HINDRANCES

9 1. Feelings of guilt, self-doubt, self-recrimination and a false sense of unworthiness.

10
11 Satan has long been “the accuser of the brethren.” Job 1:9-10

12 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought? [10] Hast not
13 thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every
14 side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

15 Job 2:4-5

16 And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he
17 give for his life. [5] But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and
18 he will curse thee to thy face.

19 A. Undue feelings of unworthiness do not come from God

- 20 1. He has created you
- 21 2. He has redeemed you
- 22 3. He loves you
- 23 4. And now He seeks to empower you.

24
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26 B. Our “righteousness” is bound up in Christ’s righteousness and was paid for - in
27 full - at Calvary.

28 29 2. Fear of the unknown.

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31 A. Fear is not an emotion worthy of a believer. Throughout scripture, heavenly
32 beings encouraged mortals by saying, “Fear not!”

33
34 2 Tim. 1:7

35 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound
36 mind.

37
38 1. In stepping into the new and unknown, all kinds of fears present themselves
39 for your consideration:

- 40 • Will I do something stupid?
- 41 • Will I just speak gibberish and make a fool of myself?

1 • I know God wants to take me into an experience that I've never had before,
2 but how do I know it's really God? THERE COMES THAT TIME
3 WHEN EACH OF US TAKES A BOLD STEP OF FAITH INTO THE
4 UNKNOWN
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6 3. A lack of understanding - which contributes to the lessening of faith. This is the
7 reason I have taken ten Wednesday nights to lead you into a biblical understanding of the
8 work of the Holy Spirit. I encourage you to read your syllabi again and again, with an
9 open Bible handy. FAITH COMES BY HEARING....AND HEARING BY THE
10 WORD OF GOD.
11

12 4. A cold spiritual environment. Surround yourself with an atmosphere conducive to
13 seeking God.
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15 5. Discouragement. This is often referred to as "Satan's most prized tool."
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17 6. A tendency to quit or to give up just short of reaching the total experience in God.
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19 There's an old sports line: "'Close' only counts in horseshoes and hand grenades."
20 Getting "closer each time you seek" can grow old very fast and cause you to become
21 discouraged.
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23 **THE TESTIMONY AND CHALLENGE OF DENNIS J. BENNETT, RECTOR**
24 **EMERITUS OF ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH IN SEATTLE,**
25 **WASHINGTON**

26 Delivered in a Holy Spirit Conference, sponsored by the Assemblies of God in Springfield, Missouri
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28

29 I am pleased to have been asked to speak on this opening night. I think it profoundly
30 significant that you should select as your opening speaker someone who is not a member
31 of your fellowship, who indeed, as an Episcopal priest, would seem in many ways to be
32 far removed from you in doctrine and practice.
33

34 Of course, the point is that I'm not! I too am Pentecostal, which means that, having
35 received the Lord Jesus as my Savior many years ago, I went on to receive the baptism in
36 the Holy Spirit as on the Day of Pentecost, with its normative manifestation of speaking
37 in other languages as the Holy Spirit gives utterance. Moreover, I believe this
38 experience is not optional, but a commandment of the Lord for all Christians.
39

40 What do I have to say to you? What can I say to you? You represent those who trod the
41 way before me. All of us owe much to the Christian brothers and sisters of the older
42 Pentecostal fellowships, such as the Assemblies of God, who first put up with persecution
43

1 and ridicule to testify that Pentecost is for today. They performed a service to all
2 Christendom that is of inexpressible value.

3
4 The evidence is everywhere, although still widely unrecognized. Yet it is so obvious.
5 **Where is the Christian faith prospering in our own land and in the far-flung places**
6 **of the earth? Whose are the crowded churches, the smiling faces, the warm**
7 **fellowships? Where is the healing power of God still acknowledged and received**
8 **through prayer? Where do men still experience God in power and reality in this**
9 **sad, tormented, unbelieving world? By and large, it is in the churches of**
10 **Pentecostal persuasion or in those historical fellowships, known as charismatic, who**
11 **have believed in and benefitted by the you have brought us.**

12
13 The knowledge of Pentecost, of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, is not incidental to the
14 Christian life. Jesus did not make the baptism in the Holy Spirit optional. Right before
15 His return to the heavenly places, He gave His orders: “Tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem
16 until ye be endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:29) Though this baptism is
17 not necessary to go to heaven, it certainly is vitally important to do the most effective job
18 while still on earth.

19
20 Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not like getting a gadget to be put on the
21 carburetor of your automobile to give you a little better gas mileage. It is more like
22 getting the transmission fixed to the power of the engine can find its way to the wheels.

23
24 It is not a luxury for people to receive the power of the Holy Spirit; it is a necessity. It is
25 needed not only so believers may have the power to manifest the gifts of the Spirit, or a
26 greater ability to show the fruit of the Spirit, but also to heighten discernment. This is
27 going to be a more and more needed reality as Christians face the onslaught of unbelief
28 and that which is even worse than unbelief - the worship of false gods already taking this
29 nation by storm. I am not as much concerned about atheism or secular humanism
30 themselves as I am about the fact that atheists and secularists are turning to the occult and
31 the psychic to find answers to their searchings.

32
33 **THE CHRISTIAN, UNLESS HE OR SHE HAS MADE THE HOLY SPIRIT FULLY**
34 **WELCOME AND HAS ACCEPTED THE SUPERNATURAL GIFTS HE HAS TO**
35 **OFFER, WILL HAVE LITTLE STRENGTH AGAINST THIS SORT OF THING.**
36 Without the Spirit’s power, he or she will be more open to deception – will not have the
37 sensitivity needed in this day when Satan is ever more subtly transforming himself into
38 an angel of light.

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1 So spoke Bishop Bennett some years ago, a message just as urgent, if indeed not more so,
2 today.

3
4 I encourage everyone to attend the revival meetings this entire weekend with Tim Enloe,
5 a young man whom God is using dramatically in leading people through to the baptism in
6 the Holy Spirit. Services will be Saturday night at 6, Sunday morning at 9:30 and 11,
7 Sunday night at 6 and Monday evening at 7. It is my prayer that everyone in this
8 congregation be baptized in the Holy Spirit during these days.

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