

LESSON 17

The Blessings of The Holy Spirit

Objective : Experience the blessings of the Holy Spirit.

Bible Portion : I Cori.12:14, Eph.4:1-16.

Memory Verse : I Cori 12:1-3

Now concerning spiritual *gifts*, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant: You know that you were Gentiles, carried away to these dumb idols, however you were led. Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

Introduction :

We have learnt in the previous lessons about the Holy Spirit and its works. We need to experience the blessings of the Holy Spirit in our daily lives so that we can be transformed into the likeness of God. We should also understand what the Bible say about baptism in Holy Spirit, anointing in the Holy Spirit, filling up of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the first experience of a believer who received Holy Spirit and fully influenced by it. This is what Jesus had promised to his followers. Jesus said to his followers before ascending to the heaven, “For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Act 1:5). The fulfillment of the promise happened at the day of Pentecost. It continued in the apostolic age, and still it continues.

The baptist

The baptism of spirit is given only by Jesus Christ. Jesus is revealed as the one who baptize in the Holy Spirit (Mt 3:11, Mk1:8, Lk. 3:16, Jn.1:33). It can be received by constant prayers after being born again.

A sinner leads the experience of new birth with the help of the Holy Spirit (Jn.3:5-6, Icori 12:3). When a person gets saved by the grace, the spirit dwells in him. (Rom. 8:16, Jn. 14:17). But the baptism in spirit is a different experience. At the house of Cornelius, those who hear the word of God, get saved and filled by the Holy Spirit. Though these processes happened in the same time, they are of two experiences Act.11:18 (Repentance) Act 11:15-16 (Baptism in spirit). Let us examine other evidences.

1. Apostles including peter were going through the process of repentance, baptism and following of Jesus. (Mt. 16:16, 19,27-28). They were having the Holy Spirit (Jn.14:16-17). But they needed to get anointing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised them that they would receive power as the Holy Spirit came upon them. (Act1:5). Then they were given the baptism in Holy Spirit (Act. 1:1-4)
2. Listen the words spoken by Peter in his speech on the day of Pentecost (Act. 2:37-39). He explains that the repentance, baptism, and baptism in spirit are three different experiences.
3. Philip, the evangelist preached gospel in Samaria. Many believed and got baptized (Act 8:5-12). But they were filled with the Holy Spirit when peter and John went there and putting their hands upon

them after some days (Act. 8:14-18). The processes of repentance, baptism and baptism in spirit are described as three experiences.

4. When the disciples heard the gospel from Apostle, they believed and got baptized. (But their baptism was of John, the baptism not in the name of the father, the son and the Holy Spirit). After a few days Paul reached there and baptized them in the name of Jesus Christ. It is clear that the experiences of repentance, baptism in water and the spirit are different.

The visible sign of the baptism in Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. The related verses can be seen in the book of Acts.

- a) After the ascension of Jesus Christ, the group of 120 gathered in Jerusalem for receiving the Holy Spirit in order to fulfill Jesus' command. When they were praying, they felt tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the spirit enables them. (Act 2:3-4).
- b) When Peter was preaching the word in the house of Cornelius, those who heard the word were filled with the Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues and praised God. (Act. 10:45-46).
- c) When Paul baptized the disciples at Ephesus in the name of Christ and placed his hands on them, they received the Holy Spirit. They spoke in other tongues and prophesied (Act. 19:6)
- d) When apostles placed their hands on the disciples of Samaria, they received the Holy Spirit. It was a vivid experience that others see and hear. (Act. 8:17-18)

In all the above mentioned events, it is clear that the visible evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking of other tongues. Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If not so, do you pray from today for receiving it?

How to receive the baptism in spirit?

1. Believe and understand that Holy Spirit is the gift of God.

Many failed to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit because they keep the notion that they are not eligible to it. The Bible clearly states

that it is the gift of God (Act. 2:38, 8:20, Eph.4:7-8). The gift is given not based on the eligibility of the receiver. It is the reflection of the greatness and love of the giver. So let us volunteer ourselves stopping our own endeavors, but receive the power from God, who is the free giver of the Holy Spirit.

2. Be obedient to the instructions (Act. 5:32)

Even though, the Holy Spirit is the gift of God, It is every important that the receiver must wait in a suitable place. Apostle Peter finishes his talk on the day Pentecost, the instructions for receiving the Holy Spirit. It requires a sinless life. “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”(Act. 2:38). It is said that those who believe and baptize will receive the Holy Spirit.

3. Pray with desire, faith and submission (Act. 5:32)

Christ led the disciples into the baptism of the Holy Spirit who was praying in a place with earnest desire and faith, after his ascension. (Act.1:4:14).If we submit ourselves in the presence of God and pray with strong faith, surely he will baptize us with the spirit. Read the portion which Jesus talks about the importance of prayer. (Lk.11:8-13).

Why speaking in other tongues?

The word of God very clearly points out the importance of speaking in tongues related with the baptism in Holy Spirit.

1. As a sign

- a) The sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues. The believers, who were circumcised, heard the members of the household of Cornelius spoke in other tongues and they understood that the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the gentiles also. (Act. 10:45-46).
- b) It was a sign for unbelievers (Icori. 14:22). The people of Galilee, who gathered in the upstairs of room, spoke different languages in the world. The crowd gathered around the building wondered. It was a sign of the work of God. (Act.2:11-12).

2. He who speaks in a tongue, edifies himself

He speaks to God (Icor 14:2,4). “For I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays” (I cor. 14:14-15). We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the spirit himself intercedes for the saints in accordance with God’s will. So we are blessed with grace in the right time of temptation. Pray with spirit is more helpful for a person’s spiritual growth than to pray in intelligence. God wishes from us that we should pray in spirit (Jn.4:24,Eph.6:18).

3. It brings spiritual growth to the church

The interpretation of the speaking in other tongues is necessary so that the church can realize the mysteries of God and also experience spiritual growth. If there is not an interpreter, one who speaks in other tongues, do not make his sound high, but keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God. (I cori.14:13, 28).

In the light of the above mentioned reasons, it is necessary that we should be filled with the Holy Spirit and also. Speak in tongues. Apostle Paul spoke in tongues than the believers (I Cori. 14:18). Besides, he wishes that all believers should speak in tongues. (I Cori. 14:15)

Anointing of the Holy Spirit

It is also related to the works of the Holy Spirit. In the old testament times, the oil was poured on the heads of prophets, kings and priests in order to separate them for ministry (Ex.29:7,Lev.8:12,I sam.10:1,16:13, I Kin.19:16-17). In this way, God himself separates the children of God, the household of the royal priest hood for specific ministries by filling the Holy Spirit upon them.

Filling of the Holy Spirit

It is also related with the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Act.2:4). But a child of God always be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Act.4:31,6: 8). It is very necessary for a fruitful ministry, victorious Christian life and spiritual happiness (Eph. 5:8). God gives different spiritual gifts to those who filled with the Holy Spirit.

Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit blesses the believers with spiritual gifts. They receive it by the grace. So it is commonly called the gifts of grace. Let us see the

gift of spirit (I Cori. 12:4-1). They are the gifts of the message of wisdom, gift of knowledge, of faith, of healing, of miraculous powers, of prophesy, of distinguishing between spirit, of speaking in different kinds of tongues and of interpretation of tongues. God likes to bless us with these gifts (I Cori. 12:31). It is for you to remember that these gifts aim the glory of God and also to be used the growth of the church.

The fruits of the Holy Spirit

After describing the gifts in detail, Paul pointed out the most important character needed in our life i.e., Love. Like nine gifts of the spirit he describes nine fruits of the spirit. They are Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-control (Gal.15:22-28). The fruit of the Spirit starts with love since it is the root of all fruits. It is called agape love. The gifts of other tongues of prophesy of interpretation, and of healing is nothing without love. Every person should have the divine quality of love. Without love, all the gifts of spirit will be in vain (I cori.13). The aim of the Holy Spirit and spiritual gifts in every person is that they should reveal and witness the love and power of God.

Holy Spirit appoints ministries

Ministers are the spiritually appointed officials for the church.

(I Cori. 12:28, Eph.4:7-13). They are appointed for the growth of the church, the body of Christ. They can be into four.

1. Apostles.
2. Prophets.
3. Evangelists.
4. Pastors & Teachers.

The pastors are also known as the elders and overseers (I Pet.5:1-3)

The blessings instructions of the Holy Spirit given to the church are precious. We must follow them with devotion and thankfulness and also use them for the blessings of others. We must note that we do not grieve the Holy Spirit in our life and words (Eph.4:30).

Questions

1. What do you mean by the baptism in Holy Spirit? Make clear that is the promise of Jesus Christ?
2. Establish the fact that baptism in the Holy Spirit cannot be received by a person naturally at the time of his new birth?
3. Establish with the help of verses that the visible sign of the baptism in Holy Spirit is speaking in other tongues?
4. Explain how a person gets baptized in Holy Spirit?
5. What are the results of speaking in other tongues?
6. Explain the importance of the anointing of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the spirit?
7. What are the major gifts of the spirit? What do they aim at?
8. What did Paul points out as the greatest of gifts, after describing the gifts of the spirit?
9. Who are the ministries that the Lord appoints for the church?
10. What are the fruits of the spirit? Write the verse?