

“The Power You Can Have”
Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; 8; 2:1-4 (KJ)

By Kip Box

I. The Introduction

A. This was part of the last days' outpouring.

1. When I was in my sophomore year of college, God started a work in my life.
 - a) In February of 1985 I had an experience with God that I couldn't describe, but I knew sin's power and mastery over my life had been broken.
 - b) Later I would learn that I had been sanctified on that February night.
2. After that I became hungry and thirsty for God. I could not read enough, pray enough, or go to church enough.
3. Then Sunday night, April 21, 1985, I was baptized in the Holy Ghost.
 - a) I stood in a prayer line in Florence, Alabama; and before the evangelist ever laid his hands on me, I was speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance.
 - b) I knew that I had received what the disciples had received on the Day of Pentecost-the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
4. I was blessed to a part of Peter's prophetic word of the last days - "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh . . ."
(Acts 2:17).

B. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was promised by our Lord.

1. The devil has fought Spirit baptism with the initial evidence of speaking in tongues like no other doctrine of our church.
2. However, according to the Scriptures, Jesus promised this experience.
 - a) Before He ascended back to heaven, our Lord said, "And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).
 - b) Acts 1:4, 5 Jesus referred to this "promise of the Father" and identified it as the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
 - c) Acts 1:8 (KJ) "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall me witness unto Me . . ."
3. We need to give special attention to the wording our Lord used.
 - a) Jn 14:17 " . . . He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." We find that Jesus in John 20:22 breathed on the disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
 - b) At that moment in John 20:22, when the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were regenerated. At that moment (post-Calvary), the Holy Spirit came into them making them new creatures in Christ.
4. However, Jesus didn't stop with their regeneration.
 - a) In Luke 24:49 He commanded His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were *endued* with power from on high. The word *endued* means "to be clothed with." The Spirit of God would come upon these regenerated believers and cloth them in power.
 - b) In Acts 1:8 Jesus said the "Holy Ghost would come upon them." This "coming upon" is a separate work from salvation and sanctification. According to Acts 1:4-8 it is the baptism of the Holy Spirit-power for service.

C. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is power from God.

1. We live in a power conscious age. We are intrigued with power.
 - a) Technological power
 - b) Mechanical power

c) Natural power - waterfalls, hurricanes, earthquakes, tornadoes

2. There is a supernatural power reserved for believers; it is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
3. Power
 - a) It comes from a word that means "ability-the power to accomplish anything."
 - b) Power means "is able," "can do," or "possibility to do a thing."
4. Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples out of all the nations, but before they were to go out, they were to be baptized, endued with this power.
5. Right now we are living in a "post-Christian" America.
 - a) In the last eight years executively America has been moved away from God in every level of society, and the church has been marginalized.
 - b) With all of this facing us, believers need to be baptized in the Holy Ghost; and the church must reclaim Pentecost. and its power.
6. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Do I really need the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

II. The Book of Acts Provides a Record of This Power.

A On the Day of Pentecost, 120 believers were filled with the Holy Ghost.

1. Acts 2:4 (KJ) "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."
 - a) Our Lord has ascended back to His Father. How do you know? The fact that these believers were filled with the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost was evidence that that Jesus had made it back home.
 - b) He asked His Father to send the Comforter, and the Father answered Jesus' prayer.
2. Although many say this experience of Spirit baptism ceased with the apostles, it did not.
 - a) The Day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of Joel 2:28, 29 of God pouring out His Spirit on all flesh; yet it wasn't the end of the outpouring.
 - b) Acts 2:16 (Amp.) "But instead this is the **beginning** of what was spoken through the prophet Joel."
3. There are five episodes in Acts where the reader can find definitive instances of individuals or groups of individuals being filled with the Spirit.
4. The Day of Pentecost was the thoroughfare not the apex of a new experience - the baptism of the Holy Ghost.
 - a) Acts 8:14-17
 - b) Acts 9:17
 - c) Acts 10:44-46
 - d) Acts 19:5-7
 - e) The baptism of the Holy Spirit would be for "as many as the Lord our God would call" (Acts 2:39).

B. Peter preached a revival in Samaria, and believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

1. Philip goes to Samaria and preached Jesus. The result: people were delivered and healed after his message.
2. Revival broke out, and Peter and John came down from Jerusalem to check it out.
 - a) Acts 8:14-17
 - b) They laid hands on these new believers, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost.
3. Some people have used this Scripture to say that tongues may not be the initial evidence of Spirit baptism.

- a) However, if you will notice Acts 8:18, you will see that the Spirit's coming upon the Samaritans was accompanied by observable manifestations apparent even to Simon the sorcerer.
 - b) It is logical to conclude the observable manifestations here were like those that occurred after the Spirit's coming upon the earliest disciples at Pentecost - speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4).
 - c) This sign of speaking in tongues gave both the Samaritans and the apostles a verifiable sign that the Holy Spirit had come upon these new believers.
- C. The Gentiles were baptized in the Holy Ghost.
 - 1. Peter would go to the home of Cornelius, a God-fearing man.
 - a) He would preach, and the Holy Ghost would fall on them.
 - b) Those circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished. Why? Because they "heard them speak with tongues and and glorify God" (Acts 10:45-46).
 - 2. These Gentile believers received the same Holy Ghost baptism as did the disciples on the Day of Pentecost - Acts 11:15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us as the beginning."
 - 3. Peter and those with him considered speaking in tongues through the Spirit as the convincing sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
 - a) The outpouring at Pentecost set a pattern for the reception of the Spirit thereafter.
 - b) Jesus still baptizes believers in the Holy Ghost. This past summer at Alabama Senior Youth Camp eighty-three campers were baptized in the Spirit, and at our children's camp in Baldwin County, ten were baptized in the Spirit.
- D. Twenty-five years after Pentecost, the Ephesian disciples were baptized in the Spirit.
 - 1. Acts 19:1-6
 - 2. Paul asked those twelve disciples at Ephesus a question that bears asking again: "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"
 - a) Of course, the Apostle Paul was expecting a definitive answer: "Yes" or "No."
 - b) They replied that they had not even heard of the Holy Ghost.
 - 3. This group of believers understood about water baptism.
 - a) They had believed and had received the Word of God. They were saved.
 - b) However, the Holy Ghost had not been poured out on them which proves that this experience is definite and distinct, apart from the new birth or regeneration.
 - 4. Paul laid his hands on them, and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues.
 - 5. Dr. George Voorhis writes, "People today should not be satisfied until they, too, have a definite experience as described by the Bible."

III. The Holy Spirit Baptism Is . . .

A. An experience with God

- 1. John the Baptist promised this experience: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I . . . He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Mt 3:11).
- 2. This experience has been described many ways in the Bible:
 - a) It is a filling - Acts 2:4 (To be baptized with the Holy Spirit is to be filled with the Spirit).
 - b) It is the receiving of a gift - Acts 2:38 " . . . You shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

- c) It is a falling upon - Acts 10:44 "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word."
 - d) It is a pouring out - Acts 10:45 "... On the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."
 - e) It is a coming upon - Acts 19:6 "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them . . ."
- 3. It is also a baptism; a person is immersed into the living waters of the Holy Spirit.
- 4. Just as Jesus has promised in our account from Acts 2, the believers experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- B. A Power Encounter
 - 1. Let's notice the power on these believers. Take Peter, for example.
 - a) Before the Day of Pentecost, he was fickle - up and down. In Jesus' greatest hour of need before the cross, Peter denied Jesus.
 - b) But on the Day of Pentecost, Peter was baptized in the Spirit; he had a power encounter and soared to new heights. He would stand up and preach about the Jesus he once denied, and 3,000 souls were saved. You want to talk about power? He and John would see a beggar who was lame and lying at the gate; Peter would tell him to get up and walk in Jesus name, and the lame man did!
 - 2. Do you want this power?
 - a) Power to witness
 - b) Power to see the sick healed
 - c) Power to cast out demons
 - d) Power to obey God
 - 3. This power also makes us available to be used in the gifts of the Spirit.
 - a) Power to know supernaturally: wisdom, knowledge, discernment
 - b) Power to act supernaturally: faith, miracles, and healing
 - c) Power to speak supernaturally: prophecy, tongues, interpretation
 - 4. There's power in the Holy Ghost.
 - a) The power of the Holy Ghost will turn a teen age boy into a giant killer.
 - b) The power of the Holy Ghost will turn a shepherd boy into a king.
 - c) The power of the Holy Ghost will turn a scarlet cord into a bloodline.
 - d) The power of the Holy Ghost will turn a Christian-killer into an apostle.
 - e) The power of the Holy Ghost will turn a sea into a highway.
 - f) The power of the Holy Ghost will cause the elders to dance, the women to sing, and the students to shout!
 - 5. Jesus has promised you and me this power!
 - a) This power is oil that anoints.
 - b) This power is fruit that grows.
 - c) This power is fire that burns.
 - d) Power to change
 - e) Power to grow
 - f) Power to overcome temptation
 - g) Power to be consistent
 - h) Power to be content
 - i) Power to surrender to God
 - j) Power to defeat our fears
 - k) Power to expand our horizons
 - 6. You can leave this service this morning, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you can turn your job, your home, your school, and this church upside down!

- a) You can win the drug pusher to Jesus.
- b) You can tell those bound by pornography they can be free.
- c) You can tell the homosexual that he/she can be delivered.

C. A Gateway into the things of God

1. Too many times believers think that if they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, that they have reached the summit of the Christian life. However, Spirit baptism is God's gateway for us to walk through and live in the Spirit.
2. Through the Holy Ghost we put to death the flesh.
 - a) Ro 8:5 (NKJ) "For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit."
 - b) Ro 8:13 (NKJ) "For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live."
3. The Holy Spirit imparts to the believer the fruit of the Spirit.
 - a) Gal 5:22-24
 - b) Love for your enemies and joy in a depressing world
4. Let me talk about speaking in tongues. Every time believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit, there was an outward, observable sign.
 - a) It was speaking in tongues.
 - b) When you speak in tongues, you are talking directly to God (I Cor 14:2).
 - c) Praying in the Holy Ghost, builds your faith (Jude 20). If you are in a battle, pray until you pray in the Holy Ghost.

IV. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Is for You.

A. We are in the last days outpouring.

1. How blessed you and I are to live in the last days outpouring of the Spirit!
 - a) The fact that you are sitting in a church where there is speaking in tongues is a sign we are in the last days.
 - b) Near the beginning of the twentieth century God began to pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.
2. In the spring of 1906, William J. Seymour and others began holding a prayer meeting in a house at 214 Bonnie Brae Street in Los Angeles, California.
 - a) One particular day a man named Edward Lee walked through the door of this house, lifted up his hands, and broke out in tongues. Suddenly the power of God flooded the room, and virtually everyone began speaking in tongues.
 - b) One lady, Jennie Moore, who later became William J. Seymour's wife, began speaking in tongues. She walked over to the piano and played and sang in tongues though she had never had a piano lesson.
3. This prayer meeting continued. For three days and nights they shouted. As people came near the house, they would fall under God's power. The sick were healed, and sinners were saved just as they came in. Many believers received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Soon this meeting was moved to the Azusa Street Mission.

B. And you can receive this same baptism of power.

1. Acts 2:17-18
 - a) "Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy" - There is no sexual bias.
 - b) "Your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" - there is no age barrier.
 - c) "And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit" - there is no economic prejudice.
2. Notice who can receive.

- a) The poorest kids from the wrong side of the tracks
- b) Anjel Hendry - a daughter who prophesies
- c) Young men who see visions - that's some of you.
- d) The Bible says, "All flesh."
- 3. I have seen God baptize kids from Alaska to West Virginia to South Georgia in the mighty Holy Ghost.
- 4. Hannah an exchange student from Sweden came to live with Larry and Kim Gore in Fyffe, Alabama; and she received the Holy Ghost.

Conclusion: How can I receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- 1. Accept as a gift by faith.
 - a) Acts 11:17 "Forasmuch then as God gave them the life gift (Holy Spirit baptism) as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ . . ."
 - b) Just as you were saved by faith, you will receive the baptism of the Spirit by faith.
- 2. Desire (You have to want to be baptized in the Holy Ghost.)
 - a) Mt 5:6 "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled."
 - b) James 4:2 (NKJ) "You do not have because you do not ask."
- 3. Obey
 - a) The 120 would never have been baptized in the Holy Spirit if they had not come to the Upper Room as Jesus told them to do.
 - b) Acts 5:32 " . . . So also is the Holy Ghost whom God has given to them that obey Him."
- 4. Exercise the gift.
 - a) Look closely at Acts 2:4.
 - b) Many people expect to be seized upon and overwhelmed by the Spirit and virtually compelled to speak in tongues.
 - c) The Spirit of God does not treat us that way. He leads; He encourages; He prompts; but He does not force.
 - d) The Spirit of God supernaturally enables you to speak in a language you have never learned. However, you have to open your mouth and begin to speak.

I want each person in this building to leave this service full of the Spirit. He is the power you can have. God has placed a calling on each of you. You need to the baptism of the Holy Spirit to help you in fulfilling God's call for your life.