

Discussion Questions for Sunday, July 12, 2015

Filled with the Spirit, Pt. 1 (Acts 2:1-13)

Introductory comments:

Acts chapter 2 is foundational to the Church. The day of Pentecost ushered in a new phase in God's plan of redemption for humanity. The Spirit would now indwell believers permanently for salvation and fill them with ongoing power for service. This is the point...and this is what God does in every believer...if you are a Christian, God indwells you permanently for salvation and fills you with ongoing power to serve His purposes.

In this sermon you will hear what this passage teaches regarding being baptized by and filled with the Holy Spirit, Part 1. Many groups with many ideas have tried to use Acts 2 to prove many points. Lots of error, Scripture twisting, confusion and controversy generated by preconceptions, misconceptions, false perceptions, and often ignorance of or refusal to accept what the Bible actually says. We need to understand this and trust the Spirit to reveal the truth.

Pray that the Holy Spirit would lead you to understand this passage. Many Christians think the baptism and filling of the Spirit is very different than what it really is. We don't want to cause any division among true believers. We want to call for and promote a careful handling and accurate understanding of the Word. God is not the cause confusion and controversy. People are. Why doesn't everyone agree on this? OGK: Only God knows. ONE DAY JESUS WILL RETURN AND STRAIGHTEN EVERYTHING OUT. We are called by God to rightly divide the Word, study and handle it accurately. HOLD BIBLICAL CONVICTIONS confidently. Share Biblical truth humbly.

1. Discuss the dovetailing of the 2 big promises fulfilled in Acts 2. Matthew 16:18 I will build My Church & John 14:16 the Father will send another Helper. I WILL BUILD MY CHURCH. DEATH AND HELL CANNOT STOP IT. AND I WILL SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT.
2. The Baptism of Spirit.
Spiritual event that places believers into body of Christ. the Church. Spirit immerses into Church in union with Christ. Birth of Church through Jesus immersing, engulfing people in the HS, placing Spirit in believers, placing them into common life of community of God through the Spirit. One in Christ. Given birth by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Any teaching that says YOU HAVE to do something to be baptized in the Spirit isn't rooted in the Word and what happened on Pentecost in Acts chapter 2, TO BE BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT MEANS TO BE...Inundated. Immersed. Placed in union with. Baptized by. THE HOLY SPIRIT. Their life. They would never lose it. BAPTISM OF HS is PERMANENT STATE.

3. The Filling of the Spirit

FILLING is ONGOING. Eph. 5:18 be filled with the Spirit. Be being kept filled with the Spirit. Let the presence of the Holy Spirit dominate you. Totally control you. Filled not like filling a glass but like filling the sails of a sailboat and be moved along by. Holy men of God were moved along by the Spirit. At the point of salvation every believer is baptized (immersed, put into Christ) and filled (empowered). But we leak!!! Maintain the filling. Continually yield to the Spirit's power and control so that He moves us. Why some people never seem to grow. They are walking in the flesh. Filled? Joy, thankfulness, peace. All the fruit of the Spirit. Eph. 5:22 when these are your attitudes. A moment by moment choice to walk in the Spirit/obey God and enjoy life in Christ or walk in the flesh and reap the misery that brings. The baptism of the Spirit initiates the indwelling of the spirit for all believers. Indwelling is not the same as being filled. The filling of the Holy Spirit occurs when we walk in obedience to the Lord, not quenching or grieving the Holy Spirit by ignoring his promptings and continuing with unconfessed sin. We are commanded to be filled with the spirit. It is not automatic but requires a desire on our part to obediently follow Jesus.

4. How to be filled with the Spirit.

HOW TO BE FILLED? Col. 3:16 "let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly." Dominated by the Word of God. Yielding to the will of God. It will affect your focus in life. It will affect your relationships. Fill yourself with God's word & watch the Holy Spirit work. Not just hear God's Word, seek to do what it says. The Spirit baptized you into Jesus Christ upon conversion. One time event, you are "positionally perfect" in the righteousness of your Lord Jesus Christ. Until you are in your glorified state, you can let the Holy Spirit fill you, or you can quench or grieve the Spirit within you during this time called sanctification.