

THE BAPTISM OF POWER

BY J.P. TIMMONS

February 22, 2015

©2015 CCI PUBLISHING

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**“Behold, I am sending the promise of my
Father upon you. But stay in the city until
You are clothed with power from on high.”**

Luke 24:49

Last week I wrote about the fact that the *true* gospel is by definition a gospel of power. One of the ways you can discern if the true gospel is being preached in a church or by a ministry is whether or not it is accompanied by works of power. The apostle Paul states this and he was not just establishing doctrine—he was writing to refute some false teaching by those he referred to sarcastically as “super apostles.”

Everywhere in the New Testament that we see the genuine gospel preached by Jesus, the apostles and other Five-fold ministers, e.g., Philip—the deacon who was promoted to the office of Evangelist—it is always accompanied by miracles, signs and wonders. Throughout history that has been a principle of God—God’s method of *authenticating* His Word from the time of Moses up to and including the day in which we live.

So if you go to church week after week and you never see any miraculous works of power at your church then—now don’t get mad at me—that means that the true gospel is not being preached in your church. Now I’m not saying that your church, per se, is a

false church although there are a lot of them around. I'm just saying that the Scriptures teach that works of power accompany the true gospel so by definition a false gospel or a partial gospel can be recognized by the absence of miraculous works of power.

Now one of the reasons this is true, especially today, is because we've never lived in a time where there were fewer men and women genuinely anointed for a Five-fold office pasturing churches. What we have for the most part pasturing churches are non-anointed business men. And, sad to say, nowhere do I see this more than in the Assembly of God churches. Those who used to know more about the power are sadly deficient of it today and, in fact, never even discuss the Baptism in the Holy Ghost as it is commonly referred to.

Now in *MYSTERIOUS SECRETS OF THE DARK KINGDOM* which was first published in 1991 I wrote quite a bit about this so I won't elaborate on how I came to understand by the Spirit way back then that this is really a Baptism of Power given by Jesus through the Agent of the Holy Spirit. Remember, the Holy Spirit is God's Agent of power and in the earth, not always but normally He manifests that power through human beings—those in covenant with the Father by the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. It's important for you to understand this fact because, unfortunately, the devil has deceived and shamed the true Church from utilizing this awesome gift that the Lord Jesus told His first apostles and disciples was so important that they should not leave the city until they received this *Baptism*.

The reason this Baptism of Power is important is for spiritual warfare! The Church, unfortunately, still doesn't understand this nor do they understand or want to be engaged in spiritual warfare when in fact that is our destiny if we are following the Holy Spirit! Consider the following scripture written by King David that is one of the Psalms for today:

“The Lord says to my Lord: ‘Sit at my right hand, until
I make your enemies your footstool.’” Ω Psalm 110:1

Meditate on this verse for a few days and you will see it.

So if you want to be the man or woman God created you to be and operate in the spiritual gifts that He's given to you {remember, “the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable”(Romans 11:29)} then you need the Baptism of Power. As I've preached

and written many times, and this is the fault of the local church leadership, the average church is weak (cf. 1 Corinthians 12) because the individual members of that church are weak.

If the leadership of the local church really cared about the work of the Lord and the individual members then they would fulfill Ephesians 4 and “train the saints for the work of the ministry” and “equip” them with their gifts and callings. But sad to say this doesn’t happen very often today. And there are many reasons for it. One reason that Evie is writing about has to do with the lack of genuine pastors in most churches today. They call themselves pastors but they are not—they do not possess the Five-fold anointing of pastor so how can they function as a pastor? And even if you cannot see that spiritually you know it’s true simply by the fact that a man or woman *anointed* for the Five-fold office of pastor possesses a genuine love and concern for the sheep Jesus has appointed them to be the overseer of. In most churches today, the “pastor” does not have this supernatural love for the sheep. In fact, as pointed out in the book I read back in the ‘90s titled *No Place for Truth* written by a seminary professor of theology, the average pastor today sees themselves as the “manager of small business,” i.e., the local church.

Perhaps you’ve known the Lord for a long time but you’ve never experienced this Baptism of Power. We see this spiritual occurrence throughout the Book of Acts in the early church and Peter the apostle made a famous statement in Acts that shows that this “promise” from Jesus that I quoted at the first of this teaching did not pass away as so many are so fond of erroneously teaching.

“For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” Ω Acts 2:39

The Book of Acts is the clearest picture that we have of the early Church and throughout Acts this “promise” when it was received by the Church was accompanied by their speaking in other tongues or foreign languages. Sometimes, normally because of false doctrine they been taught that “tongues are of the devil” or that “tongues passed away with the early church” (which Peter contradicts in the Scripture quoted above), people resist this experience. My pastor, John Osteen, when people would ask him, “Do I have to speak in other tongues?” would always respond, “No, you don’t have to but you get to.”

Now I want to explore what is going on spiritually with this Baptism of Power. My wife and I have been privileged to minister this gift to thousands and thousands of people both in person and over the phone. So we have learned what is taking place spiritually. Yogi Berra said, “You can learn a lot by observing” and if we “watch and pray” as the Bible admonishes us to do then we should learn some things.

Now I used to hear that this experience was receiving the Holy Spirit but that is clearly not the case. Many have preached that those who receive this experience, which is subsequent to salvation, are now “Spirit-filled Christians” and that they are more full of the Spirit than nominal, saved Christians.

But the Holy Spirit lives in your spirit if you’re born again—He comes to indwell the born-again believer and make a deposit of the Fruit of the Spirit in our spirits upon a profession of faith in Christ Jesus. So if you are a genuine Christian then the Holy Spirit is indwelling your spirit and this is located in an area about where your solar plexus is located.

When you receive the Baptism of Power, however, this “power” does not come up from the Holy Spirit in your spirit but rather comes straight down from Heaven. The Lord Jesus is the “Baptizer” and He sends this Baptism of Power from Heaven down into your spiritual body. It’s similar to an anointing by the Spirit—if you are spiritually sensitive you can “feel” that anointing resting upon you when you pray and ask the Lord Jesus to baptize you with this Power baptism.

Although I don’t want to minimize its importance because it is important, especially in praying since you will then have the ability to “pray the perfect will of God” (Romans 8), speaking in tongues that accompanies the Baptism of Power is normally your new found ability to praise and worship God as inspired and led by the Holy Spirit because He gives the languages to your spirit. The difference as I tell people is that these languages flow *up* and out of your spirit rather than down from the speech center in the brain. In other words, the languages spoken come from the spirit rather than the mind. Paul understood this and he wrote:

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful.”

So it’s very important that you not only receive the Baptism of Power but that you also pray in (by) the spirit as well each and every day. This builds up your spirit and is also the most effective way to pray because *whenever you are praying by the Spirit (other tongues) you are praying the perfect will of God because the Holy Spirit is giving you the prayer—he is praying through you as a vessel.*

Praise the Lord!

