



# First Things First

A First Step Programme to help  
you Grow in Christ

Pastor James Anson

## **Lesson 5 – The Holy Spirit**

Making disciples who make disciples

At Jesus Water Baptism, the Holy Spirit Comes to Anoint Him for Service



### **Matthew 3:16,17**

*"After his baptism, as soon as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the spirit of God coming down in the form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said, 'this is my beloved Son and I am wonderfully pleased with him'*

## **Rivers of Living Water in your Innermost Being**

**John 7:37-38**<sup>37</sup> On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup> He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

<sup>39</sup> But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

The Holy Spirit makes God alive to every follower of Christ. He brings the reality of God to all who receive Him into their lives. Inwardly, He lives with us and releases these rivers of living water.

## **Jesus - the Baptiser in the Holy Spirit**

**Luke 3:16** John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptise you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

Jesus will baptise people with the Holy Spirit and fire. We will find out at the completion of this lesson how we can also receive this Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**Discussion:** John baptised with water but Jesus baptism is a 'spirit baptism'. How do you feel about experiencing a powerful impact within your body that is invisible to the naked eye, yet powerful (FIRE)?

## **The Bible Describes the Holy Spirit in Different Ways**

### **1. THROUGH DIFFERENT NAMES**

- The Good Spirit (Nehemiah 9:20)
- The Spirit of God (Matthew 3:16)
- The Counsellor (John 14:16,26)
- The Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)
- The Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9)
- The Spirit of sonship (Romans 8:15)
- The Spirit of Grace (Hebrews 10:29)

### **2. THROUGH SYMBOLS**

- Dove (Matthew 3:16)
- Voice (I Kings 19:12)
- Seal (Ephesians 1:13)
- Water and living water (John 7:37-39)
- Wind (Acts 2:2)
- Oil (I Samuel 16:13)
- Fire (Acts 2:3)

## **SOME OF THE REASONS WE NEED THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OUR LIVES**

### **1. POWER TO BECOME**

When we receive Christ into our lives – the Holy Spirit enters our human spirit and gives us the full assurance that we have now become a child of God. We are now part of God's family.

*John 1:12* "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."

### **2. POWER TO FOLLOW**

God wants us to know His power so that we can live a life of faith and become examples to others of what it means to live the new life in Jesus day by day. We

know our flesh is weak, but we are not alone. The Holy Spirit strengthens us with power on the inside.

*Ephesians 3:16-17* I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through His Spirit In your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith."

### 3. POWER TO OVERCOME

Every follower of Christ lives in a war zone. Before we became Christians, we were on Satan's side, but when we chose to follow Jesus we were put on the winning side, God's side. (Ephesians 2:1-5). The warfare we experience from Satan is far tougher after we believe because he is attempting to stop us from following Jesus. God makes His power available within us, so that we have the strength and the know-how to defeat the devil.

**1 John 4:4** "You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world."

Discussion: What are some of the ways you have experienced this battle?

### 4. POWER TO WITNESS

God wants us to be filled with power so that we can share the life of Jesus with others; not only does He enable us to speak about Jesus, God also wants to impact others through the power of the Holy Spirit, as if Jesus was still walking the earth today.

**John 14:12** "I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father"

## THE EFFECT OF BEING FILLED OR BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Before Jesus ascended to heaven, He told his disciples to wait (tarry) in Jerusalem to receive this special gift of power – to be filled with the Holy Spirit. He called this the 'PROMISE OF THE FATHER'.

**Luke 24:49** <sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

In human terms, when a Father promises his child something special – they wait with excitement and anticipation. So too, we can become like a little child in simple faith and receive this PROMISE OF THE FATHER – to be baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. When we receive Christ at Salvation, we receive the Holy Spirit. When we are baptised with the Holy Spirit we are 'filled and immersed' in the Spirit.

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we can expect the following effects to happen in our lives:

1. **TOWARDS JESUS**

You will know as never before that Jesus is alive, experiencing His power and authority in the present. (Acts 2:32-36)

2. **TOWARDS GOD**

You will experience the depth of God's love for you (Romans 5:5) and will come into a new assurance of His Fatherhood (Romans 8:15); you will be set free to love Him and praise Him with joy and confidence. (Ephesians 5:18-20)

3. **TOWARDS GOD'S WORD**

You will gain a new appetite and hunger for the Bible and a greater ability to use it and to hear God speak to you through it. (John 16:13-15)

4. **TOWARDS THE SPIRIT**

You will become sensitive to His presence and guidance (Romans 8:14); you will become open to receiving the many different gifts of the Holy Spirit.

5. **TOWARDS OTHERS**

You will become more open to other people, more loving towards them and more eager to be an active part of the church which is Christ's body (I Corinthians 12:7,11)

6. **TOWARDS THE WORLD**

You will grow bolder in witnessing for Jesus. (Acts 1:8)

7. **TOWARDS SPIRITUAL WARFARE**

You will become more aware of your authority in Christ Jesus over the enemy, so you can stand and see God's Kingdom extended. (Ephesians 1:17-23)

## WHAT ABOUT SPEAKING IN OTHER TONGUES?

Speaking in Other Tongues is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. You can expect to receive this gift when you ask the Father to fill you and baptise you in the Holy Spirit. It is a powerful gift given for building us up and helping us to follow Jesus.

It is one of the gifts **PROMISED** by Jesus

**Luke 24:49** <sup>49</sup> Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

It is the ability to **COMMUNICATE** with God, your spirit with the Holy Spirit, which edifies you, i.e. builds you up and strengthens your own spirit

**1 Corinthians 14:1-4** <sup>1</sup> Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. <sup>2</sup> For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries. <sup>3</sup> But he who prophesies speaks edification and exhortation and comfort to men. <sup>4</sup> He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

It is the **GIFT** of a language that is personally yours which you have never learned

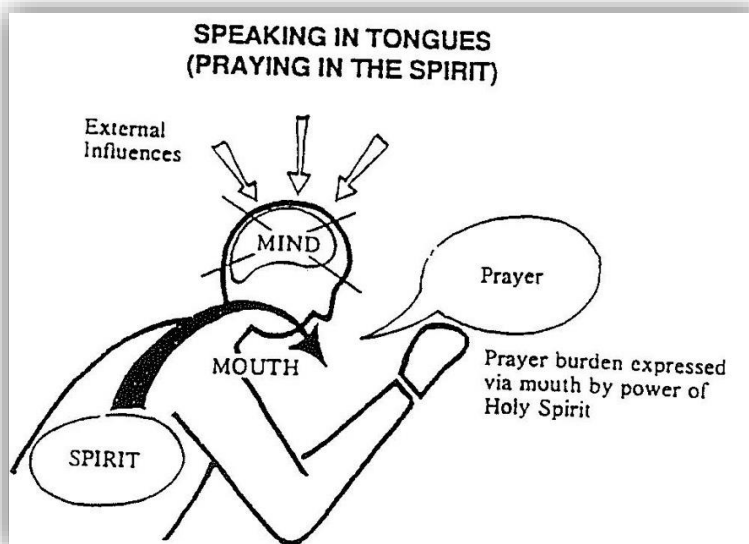
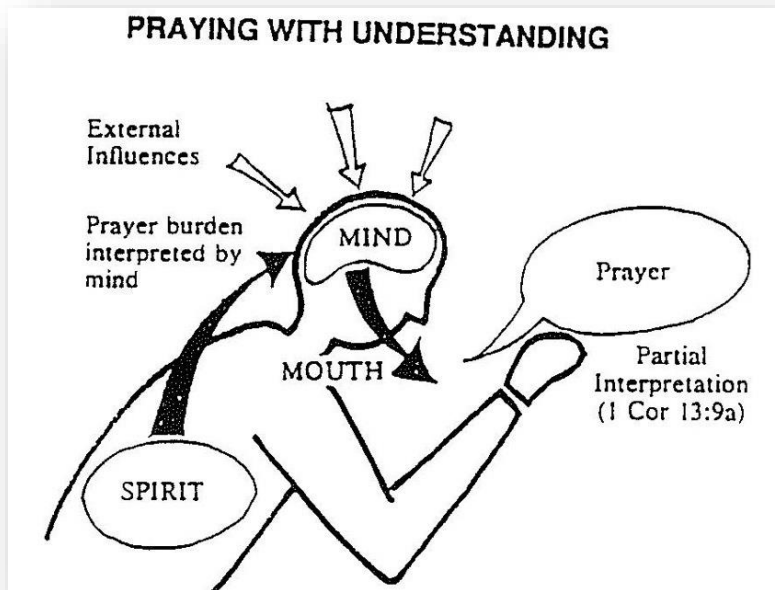
**Acts 2:4** <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

It is an **AIDE TO PRAYING** in line with the will of God (Romans 8:26, 27)

**Romans 8:26-27** <sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. <sup>27</sup> Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

Jesus did not start His work on earth until He had received the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:21-23). He needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit to empower Him to do all the work that God had asked Him to (Luke 4:18-19).

## Praying with human Understanding and Praying in Tongues



Being filled and baptised with the Holy Spirit is an experience whereby the believer is completely clothed with the supernatural power of the Holy Spirit to do the works of Christ and to live the Spirit-filled Christian life. It is the doorway leading from a natural realm of Christianity to a more supernatural realm of life in the Spirit.

## HOW DO WE GET FILLED AND BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**Illustration:** The Holy Spirit is likened to the wind:

**John 3:8** "The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit."

No one can create or control the wind, but we can put ourselves in a place where we can experience the wind when it blows. We can throw open the windows and doors to let the breeze come in.

**We can also do the same thing with our lives, opening them to the Holy Spirit.**

We need to yield our lives over to God and ask Jesus to be Lord of them to prepare ourselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit of God will not come where:

- He is not wanted
- He is not asked
- There is known and unrepented sin

Therefore, we must:

- Desire to live a life that will please the Lord
- Be willing to surrender your life completely to Christ
- Confess every known sin which the Holy Spirit calls to your remembrance
- Experience the cleansing and forgiveness which God promises



## **ASK AND YOU WILL RECEIVE**

**OPEN** yourself to God: ask for the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow upon you.

**FOCUS** your attention on Jesus and on your heavenly Father, then be open to receive all that He gives you.

**LET** the Holy Spirit saturate you through and through; spirit, soul and body. Let Him fill your life with God's power.

**RECEIVE** from Him the gifts He brings and learn how to praise, worship and witness in the power of God.

**HOW DO WE RECEIVE FROM GOD? BY FAITH. WE SIMPLY BELIEVE**

## **LAYING ON OF HANDS**

**Acts 19:6** " When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, "

The person praying with you may or may not lay hands on you. If they do, don't be afraid, because this is the way the early disciples prayed for many to receive the Holy Spirit. You can also pray on your own. Your heavenly Father will hear you and answer you.

### **A SIMPLE PRAYER ASKING TO BE BAPTISED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT**

"Dear Father, thank you for the promise that whoever asks will receive, and whoever seeks will find. I know that I need more of your power in my life. I know that I need more of the fruit of your Holy Spirit in my life. Father, I confess my sin before you, I forgive all those who have wronged me, and I ask you for your cleansing in my life through the blood of Jesus. I open my life completely to you. Please pour out the Holy Spirit into my life in power right now. I ask you to baptise me in the Holy Spirit in Jesus' name,

**MEMORY VERSE**

**Luke 24:49**

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

## QUESTIONS

1. Write down how you see the TRINITY (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) being displayed at Jesus Baptism? Matthew 3:16-17

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2. What did John the Baptist say about Jesus and the Holy Spirit? Luke 3:16

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3. What exactly does baptism of the Holy Spirit give you?

John 7:37-39 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 1:8 \_\_\_\_\_

Acts 2:4 \_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Matthew 21:22 say about asking?

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5. Read Ephesians 5:18 What are we to do Daily?

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## NOTES & QUESTIONS