

Life in the Spirit Seminars Week 6

BAPTISED IN THE SPIRIT

“To set the mind on what is unspiritual is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.”

(Rom 8:6)

Day 1:

Last night you were prayed with. Today is a new day. You may feel a new joy, a new peace, a praise of God welling up within you. You may feel doubt, a feeling that you made a fool of yourself last night, a feeling of confusion or depression. You may even feel all of those things at once. But the life of the Spirit is not based on feelings.

Today is the day to begin a new life in faith. If you committed your life to Christ and asked him to baptise you in the Holy Spirit, then you were baptised in the Spirit. You may feel any number of things, but you made a new beginning last night. Now you must live that new beginning in faith.

Consider the facts. When you are baptised in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is in you in a new way. You are not yet fully controlled by the Holy Spirit, you still have to grow into the life of the Spirit, but he is in you in a new way.

satan is also concerned with you in a new way. Since you now have more spiritual power you are more dangerous to him, and he would like to stop you. After Jesus was baptised he entered into spiritual battle in a new way (Luke 4: 1-13). In the same way, now that you have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, you enter into spiritual battle in a new way.

Suppose a friend of yours wanted to get into a certain room, and he came to you and you gave him a key. Now suppose that someone wants to keep your friend from getting into that room. He has the key, and nothing should stop him from entering. But if he can be convinced that he does not really have the key, then he may never use it, and he would not get into the room. Now that you have been baptised in the Spirit, satan will try to make you think it was not real or that it did not happen. That's his number one tactic.

His number two tactic is just the opposite. His number two tactic is to convince you that now that you have the Holy Spirit you are all set. Your problems are gone, you don't need anything or anyone else. He will try to make you think you do not need to pray, you do not need to learn how to live in the Spirit, you do not need the help of other Christians. If you see a train of thought like that starting to go through your mind, beware. You are being built up for a fall.

Have no fear. Simply put your faith in God. Resist all doubts and anxieties. Let the joy and peace and praise of God fill you. In humility begin to learn from God and from your brothers and sisters how to live the life of the Spirit. Remember that you are only a beginner.

Do not let the gift of tongues worry you. If you did not pray in tongues last night, just look for it to happen. It could happen almost anytime. If you said something last night but are not sure whether it was tongues or not, keep on saying it. If it was tongues, it will grow and develop. If it was not tongues, it can turn into tongues. If you did pray in tongues but it sounds like stuttering, keep on doing it. It will grow and develop. Pray in tongues every day. It will grow in value for you.

You need the Life in the Spirit Seminars now more than you did before. The lessons of the next two weeks are very important. Now

that you have been baptised in the Spirit, you need to grow in the life of Spirit. If you are having any difficulties or are unsure what has happened, satan will tryhard to keep you away from other Christians. Do not let him talk you out of attending the next two seminars.

God loves you. He wants you to live in union with him. Living the life of the Spirit is very simple: listen to God's word, put your faith in it and obey it. He will lead you.

Words of Life

Day 1:

When you were prayed with yesterday, a change was made in your life. You can count on satan to try to confuse you. You can count on God to be with you and to want to lead you to a new life. God's word says:

"Unload all your worries on to God, since he is looking after you. Be calm but vigilant, because your enemy the devil is prowling round like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand up to him, strong in faith."(1 Pet 5: 7-9)

Day 2:

The Lord has given you a new power in the Spirit. Make use of it. It may not seem like much at the moment, or it may seem like a lot, but make use of what he has given you, and it will increase. The Lord commends those who are faithful when he says:

"Well done, good and faithful servant; you have shown you can be faithful in small things. I will trust you with greater; come and join in your master's happiness." (Matt 25:23)

Day 3:

When you live in the Spirit, the Spirit prays in you. Let him pray in you often during the day, sometimes in English, sometimes in the new tongue he has given you. Even if you have only a few syllables in a new tongue or if you are not sure of it, pray in that tongue every day and it will grow. God's word encourages you:

"Pray all the time, asking for what you need, praying in the Spirit on every possible occasion." (Eph6: 18)

Day 4:

Learn to set your thoughts on the Lord and on the things of the Spirit. Think about the Lord. Meditate on the words of life he speaks. Understand how to live his life. If God's truth forms your mind, you will find life and peace. God's word promises you:

"To set the mind on what is unspiritual is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace."(Rom 8: 6)

Day 5:

The Lord wants you to have spiritual gifts, because he wants to give you power to serve him in an effective way. But he wants you to know that the aim of the Christian life is to love God and to love one another. That must be the centre of your concern. God's word says:

"Make love your aim, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts."
(I Cor 14: 1)

Day 6:

How can you tell if you are a spiritual person? Frequently people have the idea that we are spiritual if we have many spiritual gifts. But

spiritual gifts are not a good measure of how spiritual we are. You can tell if you are a spiritual person by how much the fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control) characterise your life. Paul warns us as he speaks to the Corinthians:

“Brothers, I myself was unable to speak to you as spiritual men: I treated you as sensual men, still infants in Christ. What I fed you was with milk, not solid food, for you were not ready for it; and indeed, you are still not ready for it since you are still unspiritual. Isn’t that obvious from all the jealousy and wrangling that there is among you?” (1 Cor 3: 1-3)

Day 7:

God wants us to live with him in heaven. The difficulties we face on earth are small compared with the glory of heaven. The gift of the Spirit is simply a first instalment, a pledge of what is to come. God promises you:

“Yes, the troubles which are soon over, though they weigh little, train us for the carrying of a weight of eternal glory which is out of all proportion to them. For we know that when the tent that we live in on earth is folded up, there is a house built by God for us, an everlasting home not made by human hands, in the heavens. This is the purpose for which God made us, and he has given us the pledge of the Spirit.”(2 Cor 4: 16, 5: 1,5)

Study

This week the two chapters we will read are about growing in our union with Christ and in our life in the Spirit.

John 15, Galatians 5