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THE DOCTRINE OF BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT
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01 -- WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God, the third Person of the Triune God; (Acts 5:3-4 But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart so that you lied to the holy Spirit and retained part of the price of the land? While it remained unsold, did it not remain yours? And when it was sold, was it not still under your control? Why did you contrive this deed? You have lied not to human beings, but to God." Matthew 28:19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 13:14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you.)

He is God in action, the outgoing power of God in Creation and in History -- creating life, revealing truth, giving power, and imparting holiness. It was this Spirit who moved upon the face of the waters in Genesis 1:2 (the earth was a formless wasteland, and darkness covered the abyss, while a mighty wind swept over the waters.) It was this same Spirit who clothed the heroes of the Old Testament with power and inspired the words of the prophets. (Exodus 31:3; and I have filled him with a divine spirit of skill and understanding and knowledge in every craft: Numbers 11:25, The LORD then came down in the cloud and spoke to him. Taking some of the spirit that was on Moses, he bestowed it on the seventy elders; and as the spirit came to rest on them, they prophesied. 2 Chronicles 24:20 Then the spirit of God possessed Zechariah, son of Jehoiada the priest. He took his stand above the people and said to them: "God says, 'Why are you transgressing the LORD'S commands, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have abandoned the LORD, he has abandoned you.'" The same Spirit descended upon Jesus soon after His baptism, and has since Pentecost been filling every believer who seeks God's fullness.

The distinct personality of the Holy Spirit is overwhelmingly stated in the Bible. He creates and gives life, (Job 33:4 For the spirit of God has made me, the breath of the Almighty keeps me alive.) He indwells us, (John 14:17 the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you). He teaches, bears witness, convicts of sin, guides, speaks, imparts gifts as He pleases, and glorifies Christ (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:8,13,14,15 14:26 The Advocate, the holy Spirit that the Father will send in my name-he will teach you everything and remind you of all that (I) told you.

15:26 "When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that proceeds from the Father, he will testify to me.

16:8 And when he comes he will convict the world in regard to sin and righteousness and condemnation:

16:13 But when he comes, the Spirit of truth, he will guide you to all truth. He will not speak on his own, but he will speak what he hears, and will declare to you the things that are coming.

16:14 He will glorify me, because he will take from what is mine and declare it to you.

16:15 Everything that the Father has is mine; for this reason I told you that he will take from what is mine and declare it to you). He spoke to Philip, the evangelist, (Acts 8:29 The Spirit said to Philip, "Go and join up with that chariot."); calls ministers, sends out workers, forbids certain actions. Can be resisted, tempted and grieved, (Acts 13:2,4 While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." So they, sent forth by the holy Spirit, went down to Seleucia and from there sailed to Cyprus. Acts 16:6-7 They traveled through the Phrygian and Galatian territory because they had been prevented by the holy Spirit from preaching the message in the province of Asia. When they came to Mysia, they tried to go on into Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them, Acts 7:51 "You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always oppose the holy Spirit; you are just like your ancestors. Acts 5:9 Then Peter said to her, "Why did you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Listen, the footsteps of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out." Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood). He intercedes, (Romans 8:27 And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will); sanctifies, (Romans 15:16 to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles in performing the priestly service of the gospel of God, so that the offering up of the Gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 6:11 That is what some of you used to be; but now you have had yourselves washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the Spirit of our God.). He searches all things, (Romans 11:33-34 Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! "For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor?"); He has Will, (1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.); Mind, (Romans 8:27 And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because it intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will); thought, knowledge, words, (1 Corinthians 2:10-13 this God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit scrutinizes everything, even the depths of God. Among human beings, who knows what pertains to a person except the spirit of the person that is within? Similarly, no one knows what pertains to God except the Spirit of God. We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the things freely given us by God. And we speak about them not with words taught by human wisdom, but with words taught by the Spirit, describing spiritual realities in spiritual terms). He loves, (Romans 15:30 I urge you, (brothers,) by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to

join me in the struggle by your prayers to God on my behalf,). The Spirit is God's Seal upon the believer, (Ephesians 4:30 And do not grieve the holy Spirit of God, with which you were sealed for the day of redemption) .

The Spirit has been described by symbols characterizing His ministry. He is like the Wind which cannot be seen or handled. He is called the Fire which destroys evil, purifies character and warms the heart with love. He is like the living water of John. 4 and 7. He is the Dove of innocence. He is the Oil of anointing. He is "the Finger of God", Matthew 12:28 But if it is by the Spirit of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you).

Some dear brothers in Christ are erroneously teaching that the Father and the Spirit are none other than Jesus Only. The above scriptures do not uphold this. I dare not think that Jesus was either Himself confused about the matter, or was deceiving us. The trinity of God is seen very specifically in Matthew 3:16-17 After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened (for him), and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove (and) coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased," at the baptism of Jesus, and all through the teachings of Jesus His command is binding upon all disciples that those who believe should be baptized in the Name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit).

With our limited minds, it is not possible for us to fully comprehend the mystery of the Trinity of God. But I already see a nature of trinity in my own being -- the spirit, soul and body. I see a specimen of trinity in the flower plants in little garden -- they have root, leaves and flowers. The water that I drink is the same in essence as the vapor. and ice elsewhere, all H2O. The essence of the Sun I see in its rays and heat also. I am not surprised, therefore, if the Bible teaches that the Creator of all things, God Himself, has a triune pattern, namely the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

My Hindu friends do not seem to have any problem about the Trinity. They understand God as Sat-Chit-Ananda, together as Sachchidananda.

Behind our conscious Mind and Soul, the Holy Spirit is the inner witness, the (a Hindu word not inserted here) who witnesses that we are the children of God and reveals Christ within us (Romans 8:16 The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, Galatians 4:6-7 As proof that you are children, God sent the spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying out, "Abba, Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God. 1 John 5:10 Whoever believes in the Son of God has this testimony within himself. Whoever does not believe God has made him a liar by not believing the testimony God has given about his Son.).

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02 -- WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Baptism of the Spirit was announced by John the Baptist. "After me will come One... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire". (Matthew 3:11 I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:16 John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. John 1:26 John answered them, "I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, 33 I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.').

Our Lord announced it on the greatest day of the Jewish feast: "if a man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink....streams of living water will flow from within him. By this He meant the Spirit whom those who believed in Him were later to receive". John 7:37-39

Jesus promised to send the Holy Spirit after His ascension, which would mean clothing us with power from on high. Luke 24:49. He asked them to wait for the baptism with the Holy Spirit within a few days. Acts 1:5.

All this was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and was repeated thereafter. All of the groups of 120, regardless of class or sex, were filled with the Holy Spirit when this baptism took place. Acts. 2:4

This Baptism, therefore, means the receiving of the Fullness of God through the Holy Spirit. This was a greater experience than their Conversion. Now the Spirit indwelt them in fullness. The Spirit poured on them exceeding joy, holy enthusiasm, and boldness to witness Christ, and the power and authority against works of the Devil. They weren't afraid any more. A spiritual maturity came, upon them.

Certain distinguished evangelists of our day have chosen to lean on a solitary text (1 Corinthians 12:13 For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit), to take an universal view of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The text says

"For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one Body. . and we were all given the one Spirit to drink." These teachers maintain that Conversion itself is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and that the Fullness of the Spirit might happen simultaneously with water baptism, or might follow. This reasoning is influenced by the fear that if Conversion is not the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, then a great part of the present-day church, which evidently has not experienced the Fullness of the Spirit, would not be called a Spirit-baptized Church.

This expediency of interpretation does not, however, find good scriptural support. The apostle Paul was able to say that they were all baptized by one Spirit, because that was very true in the apostolic times. The normal Christian then was a Spirit-baptized Christian, which however is not true today. But the New Testament anticipates the Church as a Spirit-filled Church. It holds that promise to everyone who would ask. The apostles manifested that primary concern. No sooner reports came that Samaritans had been converted and baptized with water, the apostles rushed to

the spot to lead them into Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:16 (for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus) clearly shows that water baptism and conversion is not the same thing as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The question in Acts 19:2, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" would have been meaningless if they were already baptized in the Spirit at the time of Conversion.

In the case of our Lord too, it was after He came out of the water of baptism, and was praying, that the Holy Spirit fell upon Him (Mark 1:10 On coming up out of the water he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit, like a dove, descending upon him. Luke 3:21 After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened). Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, but wasn't baptized by the Holy Spirit until Ananias visited him three days after.

The following analysis may further clarify. The candidate for water baptism is baptized by a disciple of Jesus Christ, but the candidate for Baptism of the Spirit is baptized by Christ Himself (John 1:33 I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.'). Secondly, the experience of Conversion makes the non-Christian into a Christian, whereas the experience of Pentecost makes the Christian into a powerful Christian. Thirdly, Conversion recruits people, whereas Pentecost equips and empowers them.

God's provision for a Spirit-filled Church must not be watered down by any means. Rather, we should insist that every believer be ushered into baptism of the Holy Spirit as soon as conversion takes place. God has promised to do this, (Mark 1:8 I have baptized you with water; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." Luke 3:16 John answered them all, saying, "I am baptizing you with water, but one mightier than I is coming. I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. John 1:33 I did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'On whomever you see the Spirit come down and remain, he is the one who will baptize with the holy Spirit.' Acts 1:5 for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 11:16 and I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.').

Let the question of Acts 19:2 be repeated over and over unto every member of the Church. "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

It is interesting that in the home of Cornelius the Spirit-baptism took place before water-baptism.

* * * * *

03 -- WHAT SIGNS ACCOMPANY BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

At the NT Pentecost, a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire, resting upon each of them. All were filled with the Spirit. All began to speak in other languages (Gk. glossa, tongues or languages). Other nationals in the

city at that time were amazed at hearing their own languages. The apostle Peter, who previously had denied the Lord three times, now stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, saying among other things; "God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ". The message was so powerful in the Spirit, that people began to say "Brothers, what shall we do?". (In Acts 4:31, the place too was shaken).

When people in the home of Cornelius suddenly received baptism of the Holy Spirit while Peter was still preaching, they spoke in tongues (languages) and praised God (Acts 10:44-46). While Peter was still speaking these things, the holy Spirit fell upon all who were listening to the word. The circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit should have been poured out on the Gentiles also, for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. Then Peter responded, 11:16 and I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'. At Ephesus, believers were baptized of the Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:5-7). When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid (his) hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Altogether there were about twelve men.)

We do not read of such phenomena-taking place at all times. The Wind and the Fire and Tongues did not occur at Samaria (Acts 8), nor in Acts 4:31, nor at the baptism of Paul in the Spirit. Neither had Jesus spoken in Tongues at his baptism in the Spirit. If so, "it is enough for the disciple to be like his Guru." Matthew 10:25 (Sanskrit translation). The phenomena had a purpose in certain situations and are not necessary always.

I was interested in a reasonable explanation given by Maharshi Dr. E. Stanley Jones, in regard to the three manifestations at Jerusalem, Caesaria and Ephesus. I quote:

"What was the point in the Pentecost type of tongues? Was it not this : People were gathered from all that ancient world on this festival from Europe, Asia and Africa. A new movement of redemption was being launched. Would it be a Jewish phenomenon, so that if you accepted it you would become a Jew, with the Jewish language and Jewish culture? No, that Jewish mold was broken. 'Every man heard in his own language the wonderful works of God'. Acts 2:6-8. God was going to use all languages and all cultures to express this New Life. Here the Gospel was emancipated from Jewish national narrowness and universalized. The mold was broken. This was a special miracle for a special occasion and for a special purpose -- universalization.

This happened in Jerusalem, the center of Jewish exclusiveness; it also happened at the house of Cornelius, a Roman Gentile in Caesarea and it happened in Ephesus, the center of Greek and pagan culture in Asia Minor. So at the heart of Jewish culture, Jerusalem, at the heart of Roman culture in Caesarea, and at the heart of Greek and pagan culture in Ephesus the gift of tongues was connected with the gift of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:46 for they could hear them speaking in tongues and glorifying God. 19:6 And when Paul laid (his) hands on them, the holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied). This was a strategically imparted gift to break the narrow local conceptions and universalize the Gospel. Just as "Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews" was written in Roman, Greek and Hebrew on the Cross, to let all

nations and tongues know He is king, so in these three centers of culture the Gospel spoke directly in their languages. In Caesarea it says they spoke "in tongues extolling God". It was not an unknown, tongue, the people knew they were "extolling God" and at Ephesus they spoke "in tongues and prophesied" -and prophecy was not foretelling events, but forth-telling the Good News the people understood."

Over the years, I have met very many Spirit-filled Christians, many called Pentecostals, but none of them ever had received or manifested the signs of the Day of Pentecost. They did not speak in any other known language as of Pentecost.

* * * * *

04 -- MUST EVERY SPIRIT-FILLED BELIEVER SPEAK IN OTHER TONGUES? OR UNKNOWN TONGUES?

Let the Scriptures answer this question, 1 Corinthians 12:29-30 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work mighty deeds? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

The implied answer to every question is No! Everyone doesn't. Every believer possesses different gift or gifts as the Holy Spirit dispenses. While the principal Gift is the same -- the Holy Spirit -- other gifts vary according to the need of the community. The unknown tongue of I Corinthians is just one gift out of many. Whenever I hear someone speak in unknown tongues, I praise God for that gift too.

* * * * *

05 -- WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE "OTHER TONGUES" OF THE DAY OF PENTECOST AND THE "UNKNOWN TONGUES" OF I CORINTHIANS?

The Greek word for tongues, in both Acts and I Corinthians is "glossa," meaning tongue or language. Scholars and Bible translators have sensed a difference between the tongues of Acts and the tongues of I Corinthians. They render it as follows:

* * *

A.V.
Other Languages -- Acts
Unknown Tongues -- 1 Corinthians

* * *

R.S.V.
Other Tongues -- Acts
Tongues -- 1 Corinthians

* * *

N.E.B.

Other Tongues -- Acts

Tongues Of Ecstasy -- 1 Corinthians

* * *

N.IV.

Other Tongues -- Acts

Tongues -- 1 Corinthians

* * *

GOOD NEWS

Other Tongues -- Acts

Strange Tongues -- 1 Corinthians

* * *

Let us observe the difference more closely:

IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

The tongue was a real language

Everyone heard them speak in his own language, Acts 2:6

There was no restriction on speaking.

* * *

IN THE EPISTLE TO CORINTHIANS

It was not any known language, but a tongue of ecstasy

Was not understood by others (without interpreter)

This was restricted (1 Corinthians 14:28)

The unknown type appearing in Corinth and also appearing today was one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. But the gifts of the Spirit are not to be confounded with the principal Gift of the Spirit. The Gift of the Spirit is for all but the gifts the Spirit "divides severally as He wills " (1 Corinthians 12:11 But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes.)

Incidentally, this discussion of tongues contained in I Corinthians chapters 12, 13 and 14, is the only mention of tongues in the whole of the Epistles of Paul, John, Peter and all the rest. And it was only raised in these three chapters of one Epistle because it was causing division and confusion.

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06 -- WHAT IS THE HARM IN TEACHING THAT UNKNOWN TONGUES ARE THE INITIAL SIGN OF BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Look what happens: Please study the placement of tongues in the following gifts of God to the Church through His Spirit

* * *

EPHESIANS 4:11

Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastor-Teachers

* * *

ROMANS 12:6-8

Prophesying, Serving, Teaching, Encouraging, Helping, Leadership, Mercy

* * *

1 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healing, Miracles, Prophecy, Discernment, Tongues Interpretation

* * *

1 CORINTHIAN 12:28

First Apostles, Second Prophets, Third Teachers, Then Workers Of Miracles, Healers, Helpers, Tongues

The list in I Corinthians 12:28 definitely indicates which are the first, second, third and the other gifts. You notice that tongues are the last mentioned gift of the Spirit.

Now when you lift the last gift and bring it topmost, as the crown of all you can imagine the amount of division and confusion that is created in the Church-Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit who is the most unifying power in the Church is man-made into becoming the most divisive factor.

"To bind up the possession of the Holy Spirit with the possession of the gift of tongues is, to my mind, perhaps the greatest spiritual disaster that has struck this confused and groping age" (E. Stanley Jones).

The error brings boasting and pride in some, and depression and discouragement among others. Many saints caught in the error waste their years trying to induce others to speak in tongues.

The apostle Paul had to devote a whole chapter (I Corinthians 13) to tell Corinthians that Love, and not Tongues, was the greatest of grace, to be sought after. God is Love, and therefore the greatest sign of the Baptism of the Spirit is the fullness of divine love in the believer.

We doubt not that some people today, who are filled with the Spirit, also speak in tongues as a part of their experience. We believe this happens. But not necessarily. Millions filled with the Spirit have never spoken in tongues.

Let us teach that the signs that accompany the coming of the Holy Spirit are love, joy, peace, etc., resulting in transformation of character. Our pattern of the Spirit-filled person is Jesus Christ.

* * * * *

07 -- HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT?

Every conversion or new birth is an operation of the Holy Spirit. At conversion, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer (John 14:17 the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you, and will be in you.). If any have not the Spirit of Christ, He does not belong to Christ (Romans 8:9 But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him).

But it is the will of the Father that the believer will not only be indwelt by the Spirit, but will also be filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Conversion is the turning point into new life. Holy Spirit Baptism is the overflow of that new life. It is the victorious Christian life, possessed of power from on high.

The Father gladly gives the Holy Spirit "to those who ask Him" Luke 11:9, 13. Ask and ye shall receive, Luke 11:9. There is no hindrance on the part of God, whatsoever, in giving the Holy Spirit, because it is His standing promise. He is faithful in all that He has promised.

Just as every experience in Christian life is a grace or gift of God -- such as repentance, new birth, regeneration, adoption, forgiveness, sanctification, baptism of the Spirit -- this baptism of the Spirit too should be received by faith (Galatians 3:2 I want to learn only this from you: did you receive the Spirit from works of the law, or from faith in what you heard?). Lay hold on it until you receive the Gift. If things were right on our side, the Baptism would be immediate (Acts 8:15-17 who went down and prayed for them, that they might receive the holy Spirit, for it had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

19:6 And when Paul laid (his) hands on them, the holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.). It is not a matter of weeks and months.

Laying on of hands of faithful elders in prayer would hasten the experience (See above Acts 8:17; 19:6 and Acts 9:17 So Ananias went and entered the house; laying his hands on him, he said, "Saul, my brother, the Lord has sent me, Jesus who appeared to you on the way by which you came, that you may regain your sight and be filled with the holy Spirit.").

The Holy Spirit is likened to overflowing water (John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the feast, Jesus stood up and exclaimed, "Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: 'Rivers of living water will flow from within him.'" He said this in reference to the Spirit that those who came to believe in him were to receive. There was, of course, no Spirit yet, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.) Water fills only what is empty. Our flower-vases sometimes are of odd or queer shape. Strangely enough, water would take the exact shape of the jar or vase, and will leave no empty corners. The Holy Spirit is also like that. When a believer lifts up to Him the bowl of his or her soul, the Spirit flows in and fills every corner, no matter how curiously shaped that soul may be. Who else can enter into human longings, dreams and needs, into all time twisted warpings the man's heredity has given him? When we empty self into the presence of God. The Spirit inevitably fills.

* * * * *

08 -- WHAT MAY HINDER RECEIVING THE GIFT?

The Baptism is hindered:

a. when proper teaching is not given in the Church on this subject. Pastors, church elders, and the Christian Education department are responsible for it before God. Acts 20:28 Keep watch over yourselves and over the whole flock of which the holy Spirit has appointed you overseers, in which you tend the church of God that he acquired with his own blood.

b. when there is an unconfessed sin persisting.

c. when worldliness has crept in, and the believer has no time to pray for the blessed Gift.

d. when there is lack of obedience to some known truth, Acts 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, as is the holy Spirit that God has given to those who obey him."

e. when there is lack of emptiness and full surrender. Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

f. when there is lack of strong will and receptivity, so that the believer is unable to exert faith and lay hold on the Gift. Matthew 11:12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven suffers violence, and the violent are taking it by force.

g. when there may be a wrong goal in prayer, to speak in tongues; that is, a desire for the lesser gift.

h. when the Gift of Baptism is desired for self-glory, as did Simon the sorcerer, Acts, 8:18-ff.

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09 -- THE HOLY SPIRIT CAN BE GRIEVED

"Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God", Ephesians 4:30. He is grieved when we refuse to respond and obey His impulses in us.

The Spirit can be quenched, 1 Thessalonians 5:19 "Do not quench the Spirit", when we resist Him.

He is grieved, when we politely silence Him by forcing Him out of our committee meetings and decision-making.

He can be blasphemed against, Matthew 12:31 Therefore, I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven people, but blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven.

He is grieved when our worship and prayer is cold, stiff and formal, leaving no room for the freedom of His Working through us.

Criticism and controversy within the fellowship is fatal to the functioning of the Holy Spirit.

We can grieve Him by our doubts, or when we refuse to make unqualified surrender.

We can disappoint Him when we fail to seek the Fullness of the Spirit, relying upon our own strength and ability.

He can be grieved when in prayer we talk and talk and do not allow Him to talk to us in silence.

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10 -- THE FRUITS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Every gift of God has a purpose, that we may bear much fruit to glorify Him. John. 15:8.

"You did not choose Me, but I chose you to go and bear fruit-fruit that will last." John. 15:16.

"The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law". Gal. 5:22-23. This list of fruits is by no means complete. Someone has counted 17 fruits in the writings of the apostles.

We certainly are in God's will, if we ask Him to baptize us with the Spirit, in order that we go out and bear fruit for Him.

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11 -- SIMILARITIES AND CONTRASTS OF PENTECOST IN THE OLD AND THE NEW TESTAMENTS

The Christian festival of Pentecost has its root in the Jewish Feast of Weeks -- (Exodus 23:16 You shall also keep the feast of the grain harvest with the first of the crop that you have sown in the field; and finally, the feast at the fruit harvest at the end of the year, when you gather in the produce from the fields.

Numbers 28:26-31 "On the day of first fruits, on your feast of Weeks, when you present to the LORD the new cereal offering, you shall hold a sacred assembly, and do no sort of work. You shall offer as a sweet-smelling holocaust to the LORD two bullocks, one ram, and seven yearling lambs that you are sure are unblemished, with their cereal offerings of fine flour mixed with oil; offering three tenths of an ephah for each bullock, two tenths for the ram, and one tenth for each of the seven lambs. Moreover, one goat shall be offered as a sin offering in atonement for yourselves. You shall make these offerings, together with their libations, in addition to the established holocaust with its cereal offering; See also Leviticus 23 and Deuteronomy 16.

The Day of the New Testament Pentecost was the same as of the Old. The new was the fulfillment of the old. The first took place after the people of Israel had been redeemed from the bondage of Egypt; the second after the redemption of sinners was accomplished at the Cross.

At the Old Pentecost, the Law was handed over to Moses alone. At the Christian Pentecost, the Spirit of Grace was given to all men and women who were tarrying for the Gift.

At the Jewish Pentecost of old, there was Earthquake and Lightning. At the Christian Pentecost there were a great Sound, and Tongues of Fire, and Power to witness Christ. There was no class or sex distinction.

At the first Pentecost, 3000 people died as they came too close to the mountain of the Law. At the New Testament Pentecost 3000 were saved by the grace of God.

As the Jewish Pentecost was the beginning of the Jewish Age; the Christian Pentecost was the beginning of the Church Age.

It was my thrill, some years ago, to enter the small Upper Room on Mt. Zion where the Holy Spirit had fallen upon the 120 men and women. Moslems have been in possession of the house since the 8th century, AD, for they say, the prophet Jesus had broken bread there with the twelve disciples.

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12 -- CELEBRATION OF PENTECOST

I quoted earlier Dr. E. Stanley Jones as being critical of tongues as a sign of Holy Spirit baptism. I must also quote how he received the Baptism of the Spirit.

"For a year after conversion, I lived under cloudless skies; the sun of my happiness seemed to have risen in the heavens to stay there for ever... But after a year I found some-thing alien began to rise from the cellar of my life.... I was puzzled, confused". He began to read The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life, by Hannah W. Smith, a Quaker. As he read, the Lord said: "Will you give Me your all? "Yes Lord," responded Stanley. "Then take My all, the Holy Spirit", the Lord affirmed. Brother Stanley was kneeling then. Now he got up and walked around the room repeating his hearty acceptance of the Holy Spirit. Doubts began to close in on him but he showed them away, as Abraham did when the birds came to scatter his sacrifice. Then "suddenly I was filled -- filled with the Holy Spirit. Wave after wave of the Spirit seemed to be going through me as a cleansing fire.... I could do nothing but praise Him."

This Baptism of the Spirit turned Dr. Jones into a most traveled missionary in the world, of all times. Literally, in India and around the world, this servant of God brought many thousand of souls to the feet of Jesus. His round-table conferences in India became famous, and his ashram movement, as a means of renewal within the Church, has taken root in 15 countries of the world.

I recently spent a week ministering to Church of the Nazarene congregations in and near Delhi. I stayed in the home of the Rev. and Mrs. John W. Anderson and while there Sister Doris shared with me her spiritual testimony.

After her conversion in youth, she was eager to receive further blessing and God met this need four days following her conversion at a church where special services were being held, several miles from her hometown. In the months following she sought some external sign, but the Holy Spirit had His own way. Four months after conversion, she was attending a camp meeting, still asking God to bless her with some external sign in the realm of feeling. She testified:

"God's presence came mightily on the service and I witnessed something I have not seen too many times -- everyone was affected and we were all in the aisles praising God with arms upraised. After the service, I stepped outside, walking on air, when I suddenly became aware that Jesus was walking at my left side. He spoke "From now on, we will walk by faith and not by feeling ", and He was gone. The growth in grace is still going on and when He gets through to me with one lesson well learned He is ever there with another one -- my wonderful and very patient Lord!"

Soon after my own conversion in 1938, friends urged upon my wife and me to join tarry meetings to receive baptism of the Spirit. We were instructed that tongues were the sign of baptism. Often we prayed, and were prayed upon, and fasted. In one meeting, my wife came under the absolute power of the Holy Spirit and also did speak in strange tongues. Long after that, one night in another tarry meeting, I got baptized in the Spirit. The Spirit possessed me. My mouth ceased not to praise Him in the Trinity. I rose up and began to speak words of exhortation. But I did not speak in tongues of any kind, which was disappointing to my well-wishers. I was very stiff, they thought.

But I was completely surrendered to the Lord. Although I was a government employee at that time, I was not ashamed to preach downtown on the roads on Sunday. A Moslem youth was converted and baptized by me in water since there was no minister in town. It brought an angry

mob at my door, but it made no difference to me. "Ask Hafeez", I said, "he has confessed Christ of his own accord". A medical student was converted in my Bible class and also got baptized in water. It seems God gave me the gift of teaching. A new Magistrate came to town. Although a son of a Pastor in Ranehi, he said all Christianity was hypocrisy. He would never read his Bible, nor attend any church service. In my next round, I presented him with a book called "An Alarm to Sinners" (I laugh at myself now at what I did with a senior Magistrate). I guessed he would throw away the book after I was gone, but I suggested to him he would have a different opinion if he read through it. The next week I called on him again, and behold, he was a converted brother. He became a keen Bible student in life. One time, lawyers in Bhabua Sub-division reported against him to the Government of Bihar for indulging in Christian testimonies at the Court bench.

The hand of God was upon me. Healings happened in the Name of Jesus. Tuberculosis was a dread disease at that time. A youth in our compound had chronic T.B. and was abandoned by doctors in the advanced stage. My friend Jaswant and I called on him in sympathy and said we believed in divine healing. The youth constrained us to pray over him. Healing began to take place in him in the next few days, much to everyone's surprise. For twenty years later on, he served in the rural health department. I do not know where he is at present. A pretty young girl was reported dying, and the parents sent word to me to come and pray. Jaswant and I went and prayed for her healing in the Name of Jesus. After two months, at a church convention in Samastipur, I heard the parents testify in public that their daughter was healed the same night of our visit.

After a few years, in 1946 I had a definite call to resign my job and become a preacher. Those were hard times towards the close of World War II. We had five young children. No one other than my wife agreed with my decision to resign, but it was the wisest thing that we ever did. No Mission or Church would take me, so I became a free-lance preacher for two years, until I was called to a Methodist pastorate. After 26 years. I was again led to resign my good post in the Church in order to give more time to Evangelism. I had already landed into public satsang with educated Hindus in many cities of India.

The baptism of the Spirit made life worthwhile. Brought up in the dust of a remote village, never passing through College, and not possessing any theological degree, this little life has been a testimony of what God can do with one whom He possesses. I am in my 75th year now by God's grace, but not yet out.

"Grow old with me.
The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made" (Browning).

Pentecost being the Birthday of the Church of Christ, the Church has apparently celebrated the occasion ever since the beginning. The apostle Paul seldom missed being present in Jerusalem for witness at Pentecost, (Acts 18:21 but as he said farewell he promised, "I shall come back to you again, God willing." Then he set sail from Ephesus. 20:6 We sailed from Philippi after the feast of Unleavened Bread, and rejoined them five days later in Troas, where we spent a week.

20:16 Paul had decided to sail past Ephesus in order not to lose time in the province of Asia, for he was hurrying to be in Jerusalem, if at all possible, for the day of Pentecost).

During the Middle Ages, many curious customs were associated with Pentecost. Doves were released from the roof into the assembly of the Church, symbolizing the descent of the Spirit in the form of a dove. Balls of fire were dropped from the ceiling, symbolizing the descent of the Spirit as tongues of fire. Roses were scattered upon the congregation. Trumpets were blown during the singing of the canticle Veni Creator Spiritus, and "Come Holy Ghost, our souls inspire".

Just as we prepare our children for Confirmation and Full Membership on Palm Sunday or Easter Day, we should also celebrate Pentecost vigorously, as the Birthday of the Church, and prepare our families to thank God for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

"Thou canst fill me, gracious Spirit,
Though I cannot tell Thee how ;
But I need Thee, greatly need Thee,
Come, O come, and fill me now.

Fill me now, fill me now,
Jesus come and fill me now ,
Fill me with Thy hallowed presence,
Come, O come, and fill me now."

This fullness of the Holy Spirit is not for once only, but should be experienced in life again and again (Acts 4:31 As they prayed, the place where they were gathered shook, and they were all filled with the holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness. Ephesians 5:18 And do not get drunk on wine, in which lies debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,).

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THE END