

Lesson 63

The baptism of the Holy Spirit (final)

- The world is tired of religion. People go to Church on Sundays, sit down, and wait to be blessed. Was the Church of Jesus Christ made for this? To sit in a pew every Sunday and receive blessings? Then, during the week, they ask the pastor for advice. Year after year, many people never change. On the other hand, there are many people who pursue the blessings of others. What is this?
- The Church must begin to adhere to the standards of God's Word. Every member of the Body of Christ must be clothed in the power of God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the doorway to walking in God's power; it is not the ultimate goal. We must study this subject well in God's Word so that we are not deceived by the devil or the doctrines of men. For many years, the Church was deceived by the devil and failed to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit. However, renewal has come. Renewal means restoring to the Church what was lost because of the devil's lies. It means restoring the gifts of the Holy Spirit to the Church, one by one.
- When Jesus walked the earth, he exercised all the gifts of the Spirit. However, when he left, the Holy Spirit came to act directly within the Church, the body of Christ. In order for the Church to walk as Jesus walked, all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit must be manifested. There cannot be a Church that '*only talks about salvation*', another '*that only preaches physical healing*', and yet '*another that only talks about deliverance*'. No, it must be as it was with Jesus.

⇒ **Luke 4:18~19:** '*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me...*'

- The Church must act according to the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The Reformation, around 1500 AD, revived the idea that '*the just shall live by faith*.' From then on, the Holy Spirit began to reveal all the hidden truths in stages. It was a dark period in the history of Christianity when the devil nearly succeeded in eradicating the Bible. First came the Baptist movement, '*identifying with the Lord Jesus*'. Then came the Methodist movement, '*promoting sanctification of life*'. Next came the modern missionary movement, followed by the Pentecostal movement. Through these stages, God gradually restored revelation, one by one, '*light upon light*'.
- But what happened? The Lutherans did this, the Baptists did that, and so on for the Methodists, Presbyterians, Pentecostals, and Charismatics. These were years of struggle in which the devil caused separation and division and blocked the action of the Holy Spirit in the Church.
- But today, renewal is here, and it begins with each one of us – with each member of the Body of Christ. The moment the Church understands that it is Jesus Christ on earth, everything changes. The Church is Jesus, so '*walk as he walked*' and '*as the Father sent me, I send you*.'
- God has a plan for each of us, and it is already prepared. However, how can we walk in a world that lies in evil (⇒ **1 John 5:19**) where the devil has gained so much ground because the Church is '*asleep*' and lacks the power of God? It's like fighting with unequal weapons: the enemy has '*machine guns*,' while we have '*pocketknives*'.

- What are our weapons like? The source of your power is the Holy Spirit. Our weapons are spiritual gifts with which we are clothed. Think about it for a moment: a soldier is given weapons and ammunition and receives training. What will he use them for? Will he use them for himself? Where will he use them and for what purpose? To defend his territory, destroy the enemy, put the enemy to flight and take back what has been stolen. Weapons are not for passing the time. They are gifts from the Holy Spirit, given to us so that we may be equipped for battle. We must learn how to use them, as it says in the Bible.
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers us for 'war.' When we receive it, we transition from the realm of blessing to the realm of power. However, first we must pass through the desert, as Jesus did. The devil comes to confront us in the desert because a ministry is about to begin in our lives. This is a dangerous time when you may become complacent and unwilling to face the challenges ahead. Don't be discouraged. Go ahead; you have the necessary tools. Just analyze what Jesus did in the desert and do the same. It takes an act of faith.
- The church is timid and paralyzed because it believed the devil's lies. We must be bold and ask the '*Father for resources and spiritual fulfillment*'. We must leave behind stagnant spirituality and ask the Father to fill us with the Holy Spirit.

⇒ John 7:37

- '*If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.*' Notice that Jesus did not say, '*Come to Me and drink.*' There is a condition, and that is where we come in: '*If anyone thirsts.*' Ask yourself: Are you thirsty for God?

A student came to his teacher and said, '*I really want to know God. What should I do?*' The teacher took the young man and submerged his head in a river for a long time. Then, he took the young man out and asked, '*What did you want most at that moment?*' The young man replied, '*Air.*'

The teacher said, '*You will know God when you desire him in your life as much as you desire air.*'

- Do you desire God in your life in this way? David once told God, '*Your grace is better than life.*' This means that if God's grace were to leave my life, then so should I. This already happens in many areas of our lives, but in others, we are still very far from it. Don't listen to the devil's lies: '*That's too fanatical!*' God doesn't accept anything less than all of your heart. Jesus didn't die half a death; he died completely. The Passover lamb, which typified the sacrifice of the law and the death of Jesus Christ, had to be eaten whole. Whatever was left over had to be burned. This means that when you accept Jesus and live in him, He must be inside you completely. We cannot keep telling God, '*Not in this area. I don't need to change that yet. This yes; that no.*' The Bible does not accept that, and God does not accept it either. He said, '*Either you are hot or you are cold. Lukewarm, I will vomit you out of my mouth.*' Those who are hot are warmed by the Holy Spirit. Those who are cold do not want to know God. However, if they still hear the Word of God, they have a chance to know God. The lukewarm are those God does not want. They stay in the middle of the road.

- The Bible is black and white. There is no gray. Gray is what the devil has instilled through the great philosophers whom the world reveres. We are at 'war'. God doesn't ask, 'Now that you've accepted Jesus, do you want to go to war?' You were already at war when you became a child of God, and you will continue to be at war. But now, God will empower you to win the battles. What was once an inglorious struggle and defeat is now a glorious struggle and victory.

⇒ **Romans 8:31–39;** *'If God is for us, who can be against us?'*
 ⇒ **2 Corinthians 2:14–17;** *'Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ.'*
 ⇒ **1 Corinthians 15:57;** *'But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.'*
 ⇒ **1 John 4:4;** *'He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.'*

- Christian life is not a 'picnic'; it is a war. Some songs confuse us by saying that we are going to heaven or the land of Canaan. But Canaan is not heaven; heaven is the New Jerusalem. Canaan is war. What happened when the Israelites entered Canaan? War broke out. When evangelizing someone, don't promise them a 'rosy life.' Don't say, 'Look, everything is wonderful. You don't have to change anything. You just have your name on the Church membership list, and that's it.' How can you not change anything? You're entering a war where Satan will come at you with everything he's got, yet you won't have to change anything? Our reality is different. We are victorious; we join the 'winning team.' We are more than conquerors. But it is war – a war that has already been won – nonetheless.
- The Christian life is not easy. The devil has lost another one. Do you think he will just sit quietly? Glory to Jesus, who leads us to victory! With Jesus, we progress from one level of glory to the next. If you are not at war, then something is wrong in your life. The closer we get to the end, the more strength we need to endure the struggles.
- 'God has given to the children of men.', but man handed it over to Satan with full legal authority. However, Jesus, the man sent by God, conquered the earth and gave it back to the Church. Do you understand? Satan no longer does what he wants on earth because the Church is here. However, he continues to do many things because the Church is silent and does not assume its role. The Church is powerless to do so. It is the same in our lives. The devil does many things against us because we do not assume our position in Christ Jesus.

⇒ **Luke 4:5~19;** *'The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me.'..*

Today, each one of us can take this passage and apply it to our lives. Just as the Father sent Jesus, Jesus sent us.

- There are two figures of speech in the Bible that Jesus used in reference to the Holy Spirit.

⇒ **John 4:5~14**

➤ **V.14:** *'But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.'* When Jesus uses a metaphor, we must pay close attention. Consider water to drink. When you drink water, where does it go?

Goes inside. Jesus said, '*Whoever drinks this water (which is me) will have a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.*' Where is eternal life? In God, in heaven. Therefore, there is a vertical fountain inside me that connects me to the Father. This is a symbol of the Holy Spirit.

⇒ **John 7:37–39**

➤ **V.38:** '*Whoever believes in me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.*'

Now, imagine a river flowing from your belly. Picture it, but note that it is not just one river, but rather '*rivers of living water.*' Rivers flow horizontally.

- The well (*the fountain*) is vertical, and the rivers of living water flow horizontally. When the Holy Spirit comes upon me, a fountain springs forth within me to eternal life, to the Father, and to the Throne of God. But there is something else: '*horizontal rivers*' of living water flow from my womb to reach many other people. When the Holy Spirit comes upon me, these rivers flow, and anyone who approaches me will be touched by them. The Church of Jesus Christ and every member of the body of Christ must be like this. Someone who is dead and separated from God comes close to one of these rivers of living water and says, '*Ah! Something has touched me. What a thing! I come close to this person, and it seems that there is something different. I want that, too.*'
- But today, many people in the world want to run away from the Church because it seems strange. It is a religion of no, sadness, self-pity, defeat, sad faces, gossip, and division. Nothing will happen as long as you remain this way. However, when you expose yourself to God and the Holy Spirit descends and baptizes you, taking charge of your life, you will be clothed with the power of God. Your life will change dramatically, and you will have the power to be a true witness of Jesus on earth. Supernatural manifestations will also occur, such as speaking in tongues and receiving other gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- Now, how do you receive this? How do you enter through this door? The first thing we saw Jesus say was, '*Whoever is thirsty.*' Are you thirsty? Do you believe you want it? Bring all your doubts to God. Sometimes supernatural manifestations take time, but don't lose heart. Don't miss this opportunity. Ask the Holy Spirit to demolish everything in you that stands against the knowledge of God. But be careful. After entering this blessing, read the Bible and put this manifestation in biblical order. Those of you who have already been baptized by the Holy Spirit should do the same. It is a blessing, but don't just stay in it. Move on to the area of power. Remember, Jesus was baptized and went into the desert. What is the desert? It is your problem with God. Read the relevant passages in the Gospels, learn from them, and follow Jesus's example.
- Just as he walked, do not seek power for its own sake. Be aware that God offers it to you because he has already given it to you. Some people keep seeking, but it has already been given. There is no need to seek; just receive it by faith.

⇒ **Acts 19:2;**

'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?'

⇒ **Acts 2:39;**

'For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.'

- When you accepted Jesus Christ into your life, did you do anything? You simply believed without knowing what you were receiving. When you learned that He had already done everything, you simply said, 'I accept Him as my Lord and Savior,' and you were sure that you were saved. You simply received it because it was a gift.
- After receiving this gift, is it necessary to speak in tongues? Speaking in tongues is a manifestation or demonstration. Why was this given? As we have seen in the Bible, it was given to edify our spirit. However, there are cases where a person is baptized and receives the Holy Spirit but does not speak in tongues. This happens because the person's mind is blocked. Remember that our minds are outside of this manifestation. Surrender your vocal cords and allow the Holy Spirit to work. We must overcome the barrier of our mind. Receive by faith.
- Now, the Spirit will not speak through you; you must speak. Open your mouth and don't think. But how? I don't know the mechanism. That's up to the Holy Spirit. When you are sincere and understand God's purpose, want it, believe, and put yourself in God's hands, the Holy Spirit is poured out on your life. This was normal at the beginning of the Church. We must pray to God for this to happen in our lives. Pray without restrictions. Pray believing. It is your faith in the Word of God. If you are sincere, pray and receive; it is for you today. Jesus said, '*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.*' Jesus did not tell you to ask; he told you to receive. Think about it: He did not tell you to ask. He told you to receive. Amen?