

## THE ENDOWMENT OF POWER

### Part III Acts 2:1-4

Introduction: There is empirical evidence that the stroke indicating the midnight hour is upon us and that we are nearing the coming of the Lord when He will receive us unto Himself. This gives compelling reason to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to do the quick work that is necessary to touch the planet for Christ. The minacious events of the hour tell us that it is imperative for all Christians to take advantage of God's promise and to be filled with the Holy Spirit. With this anointing of supernatural power, we can continue to evangelize our neighborhoods and the world for Christ.

- I. The baptism in the Holy Spirit. (Notice "in", not "of".)
  - A. After the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples along with the 120, Peter rose up and began to preach. Acts 2:14.
    1. Conviction came upon the people who heard. They said, "What shall we do?" Acts 2:37.
    2. After validating the Messiah's ministry as being of God, Peter advised them to repent! Acts 2:38.
    3. Repentance is the pre-requisite to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It means the changing of one's mind. Turning from sin causes reconciliation with God.
    4. After repentance, the new believer becomes a candidate for water baptism. Water baptism demonstrates the inner change that salvation brought. Romans 6:3-5 note that, "... if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection." A new walk is possible through the resurrection life. This makes us a candidate for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
    5. Desire is also a pre-requisite to being filled with the Holy Spirit. Psalms 42:1-3; Isaiah 26:9; Luke 24:49.
    6. Luke 11:13 indicates that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift that must be asked for. While it is received by faith, there must be a desire for it in order to receive it. Galatians 3:2.
  - B. Is this experience for you?
    1. Peter, in his sermon on the day of Pentecost, said, "For this promise is to you..." Acts 2:39. Every born again believer has the opportunity of receiving this gift.
    2. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is like drinking Him in. It is like receiving a cool drink on a very hot day, satisfying your need to have your thirst quenched. John 7:37-39.
    3. Yielding to the Lord leads to receiving a continual flow of His Holy Spirit in us. Romans 6:13.
    4. As we yield to Him, there will be a result. Isaiah 28:11. We give Him our tongue and vocal cords, and in obedience we allow ourselves to speak strange words we never spoke before. The Holy Spirit will never force Himself on us. He is gentle and easily grieved. Ephesians 4:30.
    5. The Holy Spirit has already been sent by Jesus down from Heaven to be with us. He is eager to indwell you and empower you for service. John 14:16-18.
    6. The Holy Spirit will teach us. John 14:26.
- II. Creating a comfortable atmosphere for the Holy Spirit.
  - A. God, the Holy Spirit, loves praise offered up to Jesus.
    1. Practice praising Him as sincerely as you can.
    2. Invite Him into your life.
    3. Brag on Him and let Him know you want Him to empower you for service unto the Lord.
    4. Don't be afraid to speak words that sound strange to you. Your obedience will be rewarded.
    5. Remember that you are in good company. Acts 2:1-4.

Conclusion: The one thing that is better than just hearing about the possibility of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, is actually receiving the gift in your life. I feel like shouting it from the housetops: be filled with the Holy Spirit!