

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE

Don Krow

Mark 16:15-16 is known as the great commission. Jesus said to his disciples, “Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” He is talking about going everywhere, preaching the Gospel to everyone, and those who believe and are baptized will be saved, but those who don’t will be damned. Let’s go to Acts to see how this commission was worked out through the preaching of Philip in Samaria. Acts 8:5, 12 says, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. . . . But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

The question is, were these people believers according to the great commission, according to the words of Jesus that said when a person believes and is baptized he shall be saved, and he that believes not shall be damned? Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached Jesus Christ. The people responded to his preaching concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, and through faith in Christ they were baptized, both men and women. According to the great commission, we could say these people were saved, but the question is, did they receive the Holy Spirit or the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The Bible talks about how John baptized in water, but there would be one coming after him, the Lord Jesus Christ, who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. I can baptize a person in water, but John the Baptist said only Jesus Christ can baptize with the Holy Spirit. According to these scriptures, people believed, were saved, and were water baptized, but they had never received the Holy Spirit. Why do I say that? They hadn’t received the baptism of the Holy Spirit because Acts 8:14-17 says, “Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

We can see this baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” The filling, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to empower an individual so he might be a witness. Where? Jesus said in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth. That’s like saying you live in Colorado Springs, and when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you’ll be a witness in Colorado Springs, and then Pueblo, and then the State of Colorado, and then to the entire world.

We can also see from the scriptures we just read that because a person has believed, been baptized, and is saved, doesn’t mean they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit has come into their life—in John 20:22 we see that the Holy Spirit regenerated the disciples—but it was on the day of Pentecost that they were baptized with the Holy Spirit and empowered by Him. There is a difference between the quickening of the Holy Spirit in salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit when He comes upon an individual. There is an immersion in the Holy Spirit that comes upon individuals and empowers

them. Even though a person has been saved, has believed and been baptized, it doesn't mean they have been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

We see this again in Acts 19:1-2, "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Paul said, "You believers, have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" They said, "We don't know anything about a Holy Spirit." Paul said, "If you weren't baptized with the Holy Spirit when you believed, what were you baptized with?" They said, "We were baptized into John's baptism." I believe Paul explained more perfectly about Christ's death, resurrection, and all these things, and they were baptized in water. Then in verses 6-7 it says, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve."

Even though these people were disciples who believed in the Messiah who was to come, they hadn't been baptized with the Holy Spirit and didn't know anything about Him. A person can be born again, and water baptized, without having been baptized in the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct experience from conversion.

There are two ways a person can receive this baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 10:43 Peter was at the house of Cornelius preaching Jesus Christ to them, "That through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins." Then in verses 44-48 it says, "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord." That was water baptism.

When Peter preached the Gospel, telling them to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and they believed, they were open to the Holy Spirit, to what God was doing. Then in a sovereign way through their faith He baptized them in the Holy Spirit, and they spoke in tongues and magnified God. One way to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit is directly from God Himself. The other way is found in Acts 19:6, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve." So we see in the Scriptures that a person can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit directly from God without anyone else around, or by people laying hands on them like the Apostle Paul did on these converts, and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

A few weeks ago after we taught a lesson on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I said to the young man we were teaching, "Do you want us to lay hands on you right now and pray that the Holy Spirit would come and be imparted to you, so that you will be filled with the Holy Spirit?" I told him there are two ways to receive: through the laying on of hands or directly from the Lord Jesus. Although I can baptize a person in water, I can't baptize them in the Holy Spirit, only Jesus can do that. But through the laying on of hands by a believer, the Holy Spirit can be imparted. Jesus uses the laying on of hands many times to impart the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

This man said, "I'll tell you what, guys, tonight after you leave, I'm going to ask Jesus to baptize me in the Holy Spirit. If I don't receive, next week when you come back, I'll ask you to lay hands on me and pray for me to be baptized with the Holy Spirit." We came back the next week, and this is what had happened. He said, "I asked Jesus to baptize me with the Holy Spirit. I just got before Him and through faith asked Him to impart to me the Holy Spirit to empower me so that I might be a witness to Him." He found himself beginning to speak words in a language he didn't know. Jesus had supernaturally baptized him in the Holy Spirit. According to Acts 2:39, the experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit, "is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

If you have never asked Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit, why don't you be really honest with Him? It's a gift. When you receive a gift, you just reach out for it, say, "I'll receive the gift," and take it in your hand. Jesus is here right now, and He wants to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Why don't you let Him do that today? Why don't you cooperate with Him and let Him baptize you with the Holy Spirit? Don't be afraid. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman. He won't overpower you and make you do something you don't want to do, but He is there to empower you. If you have the proper heart, saying, "God, I want to worship you and witness for you. I want to be empowered, to be victorious in living the Christian life and being a witness to You," He's there to give you that today. Why don't you ask? God bless you.

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE (Outline)

Mark 16:15-16, “And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. ¹⁶He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”

Acts 8:5 and 12, “Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.” “¹²But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”

Were these people believers? Yes. Had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Jesus is the only One to baptize in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8, “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to empower you to be a witness of Jesus Christ.

John 20:22, “And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”

Here we see the regeneration of the disciples’ spirits. But in Acts 1:8 we see the empowerment of the disciples for preaching and witnessing of Jesus. It’s an immersion in the Holy Spirit that comes upon a person to empower him.

Acts 19:1-6, “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ²He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. ⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

These disciples needed the Holy Spirit baptism. It is a separate and distinct experience. There are two ways to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. By a sovereign act of God - Acts 10:44, “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.” Once these people became believers in Jesus, they were open to the Holy Spirit. God sovereignly baptized them in the Holy Spirit. This experience came directly from God.
2. By the laying on of hands - Acts 19:6, “And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” A person already baptized in the Holy Spirit lays his hands on the one desiring to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Both of these experiences are supernatural.

Acts 2:37-41, “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? ³⁸Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. ³⁹For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. ⁴⁰And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation. ⁴¹Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”

This promised Holy Spirit is for you—for empowerment to witness what Jesus has done for you. If you haven’t been baptized in the Holy Spirit, ask Jesus right now to do so. The Holy Spirit is a perfect gentlemen; He won’t baptize you with His power without your permission.

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE (Teacher's Guide)

1.
 - A. According to the Mark 16:16 definition of salvation, were the people of Samaria saved?

Yes. See Acts 8:5,12.
 - B. Had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

No. See Acts 8:14-16.
 - C. What about those in Acts 19:1-5, were they saved?

Yes.
 - D. Had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

No. (See Acts 19:6-7).

NOTE: This shows this experience to be distinct from salvation.
2. What are the two ways to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
 - A. Directly from God (See Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-47).
 - B. Through the laying on of hands (See Acts 8:14-19; 9:17; 19:6).
3. When a person speaks in tongues, what is he doing?
 - A. Speaking mysteries to God (see 1 Corinthians 14:2).
 - B. His spirit is praying (see 1 Corinthians 14:14).
 - C. Giving thanks to God (see 1 Corinthians 14:16).

4. Are you willing to come to Jesus now and ask Him to baptize you in the Holy Spirit? Read Luke 11:9-13.

A. Since God is going to do His part and baptize you in the Holy Spirit, are you going to do your part and speak in tongues?

Yes.

B. When you speak in tongues, who will do the speaking, you or the Holy Spirit?

You. (See Acts 2:4).

Have the person you are discipling pray and ask Jesus to baptize them with the Holy Spirit.

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE (Detailed Teacher's Guide)

Note: The following information may be read out loud (a numbered section at a time) with the person(s) being discipled. After each numbered section is read, pause and ask the question(s) that correspond to the paragraph(s), and then discuss them.

¹ In Acts 2:4, this filling of the Holy Ghost was subsequent to their born-again experience. Paul later revealed in Romans 10:9 that a person had to confess with his mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in his heart that Jesus was raised from the dead before he could be saved. These disciples had already done this. In John 20:28, Thomas specifically confessing that Jesus was both Lord and God. No doubt all of these disciples had already been saved, yet they had not received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This same thing was true of the people who believed on Jesus in Acts 8:12-17 and Acts 19:2-7.

² Therefore, it is possible to be saved, yet not have the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus spoke of (John 7:37-39; Acts 1:4-5). Since the Holy Spirit is now given and we do not have to tarry for His coming, we can receive salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit at the same time, but it is not automatic. We must ask and believe (Matthew 7:7; Luke 11:13) for the baptism of the Holy Ghost just as we believed for salvation.

¹ (a) According to the Mark 16:16 definition of salvation, were the people of Samaria saved?

Yes. Acts 8:5, 12.

(b) Had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? No. Acts 8:14-16

(c) What about those in Acts 19:1-5, were they saved? Yes.

(d) Had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? No. Acts 19:6-7

NOTE: This shows this experience to be distinct from salvation.

² (a) What does Luke 11:13 say we need to do to receive the Holy Spirit?

(b) How is He received according to Galatians 3:2?

³When a person speaks in tongues, his new born-again spirit is speaking (1 Corinthians 14:14), not his mind. Before salvation, our spirits were the part of us that was, “dead in trespasses and sins.” Therefore, until we received new spirits (2 Corinthians 5:17), the Holy Ghost could not give us this supernatural communication with the Father. However, this experience was prophesied in the Old Testament. Joel prophesied about it in Joel 2:28-29, which Peter refers to in Acts chapter 2:16-18. Isaiah spoke very specifically of speaking in tongues in Isaiah 28:11-12, and Jesus also said believers would speak with new tongues (Mark 16:17). There are two kinds of speaking in tongues, which are clearly spoken of in 1 Corinthians 13:1. They are called “the tongues of men and of angels.” The tongues of men are the known languages and the tongues of angels are heavenly languages. Most instances of speaking in tongues (Acts 8:18 [implied]; Acts 10:45-46; Acts 19:6) were evidently the heavenly languages unknown to men.

⁴Speaking in tongues is not as many envision it. The Holy Spirit does not take possession of a person to the point that the individual has no control over what is happening.

Paul makes a special point of this in his letter to the Corinthians about how the gifts should be properly administered. He tells the Corinthians to control themselves and not speak in tongues in church unless there is an accompanying interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:27-28). He would not have told them this if they had no control over the gift.

The gift of speaking in tongues is no different than the ministry gifts listed in Ephesians 4:11. A true minister of God is also operating in a supernatural gift when he preaches or teaches. Peter was being used of the Holy Spirit just as much when he preached to this crowd as when he spoke to them in tongues. Yet no one expects him to simply open his mouth and have God supernaturally control it.

The Holy Spirit inspires and anoints a preacher, but the minister’s will is still intact, and the degree to which the Holy Spirit uses the minister is largely dependent on how much the individual yields to His control. This is how it is with speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit gives the individual the utterance, but the individual must exercise his faith to speak (Mark 16:17) and believe that the result is inspired of God (Luke 11:9-13). Failure to understand this one truth has caused many people to ask the Lord for the gift of tongues and then wait for the Lord to supernaturally move their mouths. If nothing happens, they say that the Lord must not want them to speak in tongues or it would have happened.

This is no more true than to say that every person the Lord has called to preach is preaching or every person He has given a prophecy to has prophesied. We have to step out in faith.

³When a person speaks in tongues, what is he doing?

1 Corinthians 14:2 Speaking mysteries to God.

1 Corinthians 14:14 His spirit is praying.

1 Corinthians 14:16 giving thanks to God.

⁴(a)In Acts 2:4, who did the speaking in tongues?

(b)Who gave the utterance?

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE
(Discipleship Questions)

Read Mark 16:16-18

1. What must you do to be saved?
2. Once you believe, what signs will follow you?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____
 - C. _____
 - D. _____
 - E. _____

Read Acts 8:14-17

3. In verse 14, what had Samaria received?
4. Why were Peter and John sent to them? (v15)
5. Whom had not yet fallen upon them?
6. What had they only been baptized in? The _____ of the Lord Jesus.
7. What did Peter and John do to the Samaritans in verse 17?
8. What did the people receive?
9. Can you see from these verses that you can be born again but not have the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts 19:1-5

10. What question did Paul ask the Ephesians in verse 2?
11. What was their response?
12. How did the Ephesians get baptized in Jesus' name?
13. Were the people born again at this point?
14. What did Paul then do in verse 6?
15. What came upon those whom Paul laid hands on?

16. What two things happened to those baptized in the Holy Spirit?

A. _____

B. _____

17. Do you see the distinction between being baptized in the name of Jesus and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts 2:1-4

18. The people were with _____ when the Holy Spirit filled the room (verses 1-2)?

19. What happened afterward?

20. Who gave them utterance to speak in tongues?

21. Did anyone lay hands on them or was it directly from God?

Read Acts 10:42-47

22. What was Peter preaching to the people?

23. What happened while Peter was still speaking?

24. Why were the Jews, or those of the circumcision, surprised?

25. What did they hear (verse 46)?

26. Had the people been baptized in water yet?

27. What did they say they had just received?

28. Do you see that there is a difference between water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

29. Did anyone lay on hands or was this directly from God?

Read Acts 8:17

30. How did the people receive the baptism in this verse?

Read Acts 9:17

31. Did Ananias lay hands on Saul or did it come directly from God in order for Paul (Saul) to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts 19:6

32. What did Paul do so that the Holy spirit came upon the people?
33. In referencing the scriptures above, what two ways can you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 - A. _____
 - B. _____

Read 1 Corinthians 14:2, 4, 14

34. To Whom are we speaking to when we pray in tongues? (verse 2)
35. What are we speaking in the spirit? (verse 2)
36. What else happens when we speak in tongues? (verse 4)
37. Who is praying when you speak in tongues? (verse 14)

Read Acts 2:4

38. Who is giving the utterance or language?
39. Who is speaking it?

Read Luke 11:13

40. What do we need to do to receive the Holy Spirit?

Read Galatians 3:2

41. Do you receive the Spirit by works of the law or the hearing of faith?

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE
(Discipleship Answer Key)

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| 1. Believe and be baptized | 20. The Holy Spirit |
| 2. A. Cast out demons
B. Speak with new tongues
C. Take up serpents
D. Protected
E. Lay hands on sick and they shall recover | 21. Directly from God
22. The Gospel
23. The Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard the word |
| 3. The Word of God | 24. Because the gift of Holy Spirit was poured out on Gentiles |
| 4. To pray they might receive Holy Spirit | 25. They heard them speaking with tongues |
| 5. The Holy Spirit | 26. No |
| 6. Name | 27. The Holy Spirit |
| 7. Laid hands on them | 28. Yes |
| 8. The Holy Spirit | 29. Directly from God |
| 9. Yes | 30. Laying on of hands |
| 10. Did you receive Holy Spirit when you believed? | 31. Lay hands on |
| 11. We didn't know there was a Holy Spirit! | 32. Laid hands on them |
| 12. By hearing the Gospel | 33. A. Directly from God
B. Laying on of hands |
| 13. Yes | 34. To God |
| 14. Laid hands on them | 35. Mysteries |
| 15. The Holy Spirit | 36. We edify ourselves |
| 16. A. Spoke in tongues
B. Prophesied | 37. Our spirit is praying |
| 17. Yes | 38. The Holy Spirit |
| 18. One accord | 39. We are |
| 19. They were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues | 40. We need to ask
41. Hearing of faith |

THE POWER OF A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE (Additional Information)

John 16:7: “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”

(John 16:7) The Greek word translated “expedient” is “sumphero,” which means “to be an advantage; profitable.” How could any situation be more advantageous or profitable than having Jesus physically with you?

When Jesus walked on this earth in His physical body, He was subject to many physical limitations. For instance, He could not always be with every one of His disciples all the time. Through the ministry of the Holy Spirit, He could. Instead of Satan getting rid of Jesus, 120 “little Christs” (that is literally what the word “Christian” means) came out of the upper room on the day of Pentecost.

Jesus had taught His disciples as no teacher ever had, yet they had very little understanding because they had not been born again yet (1 Corinthians 2:14). However, when the Holy Spirit came, He would lead them into all truth (John 14:26; 16:13) and even show them things to come (v.13).

The list of advantages of having the Holy Spirit in us as compared to having Jesus with us in His physical body, goes on and on. The advantages can all be summed up in that Jesus’ power is now complete (Matthew 28:18) and no longer confined to one physical body.

John 16:13: “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

(John 16:13) A guide doesn’t do everything for us but rather leads us. The Holy Spirit will lead us into all truth, but we have to follow. We have to go through the effort of studying, and trust that the Holy Spirit is leading us.

This is the fourth time Jesus emphasized the Holy Spirit as being the one to reveal the truths of God to the believer. In this instance, Jesus said the Holy Spirit would guide us into ALL truth. During this same night, Jesus said, “thy word is truth” (John 17:17). Therefore, the Holy Spirit is specifically given to give revelation knowledge of God’s Word.

Jesus had spoken of the ministry of the Holy Spirit many times before, but here He reveals that the Holy Spirit will show us things to come. Foreknowledge is one of the distinct characteristics of God alone (Isaiah 42:9; 45:11; 46:9-10; Jeremiah 1:5; Matthew 6:8; 24:36; Acts 15:18). Therefore, this is another witness to the Holy Spirit being part of the Godhead. Part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry is to make this foreknowledge available to the believer. This does not automatically operate, but every Spirit-filled believer through faith can appropriate it. This is one of the most miraculous and beneficial ministries of the Holy Spirit, but also one of the least used.

Acts 1:8: “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

(Acts 1:8) The Greek word used for “power” is “dunamis” and denotes miraculous power, ability, might, or strength. It is the root word from which we derive our words “dynamic,” “dynamite,” and “dynamo.” This clearly speaks of the presence and anointing of the Holy Spirit as being the power source in a believer’s life.

It was this anointing power of the Holy Spirit that worked miracles in the life of Jesus (Acts 10:38). We receive the same Holy Spirit power and we can expect to see it accomplish the same miraculous works that Jesus did (John 14:12), IF WE WILL BELIEVE.

Acts 2:14-18: “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ¹⁵For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; ¹⁷And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: ¹⁸And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

(Acts 2:14) These events on the day of Pentecost give us a good example of the purpose of the miraculous manifestations of God’s power or presence. The miraculous manifestation that accompanied the coming of the Holy Spirit acted like a bell to draw the attention of thousands of people to the disciples. The disciples then explained what was happening and preached Jesus to the people. The results were that about three thousand people were born again.

Likewise today, miracles still draw men’s attention to those having received the miracle and provide a perfect opportunity to proclaim Jesus as the one who can work miracles in their lives.

(Acts 2:16) Peter here exhibits a perception and understanding of the Scriptures that had not been characteristic of him or the other disciples before. This came as a direct result of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said that the Holy Spirit would lead us into all truth and teach us all things (John 14:26, 16:13), and this is exactly what was happening to Peter.

Receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost is the single most important key to receiving revelation knowledge from God.

(Acts 2:17) This promise of the Spirit being poured out on “all flesh” is speaking of all manner of flesh or mankind. It is evident that not everyone has the Holy Spirit. Rather, this reveals that the door of salvation and the infilling of the Holy Spirit is opened unto Jew and Gentile, male and female, adult, and child.

This scripture clearly states that prophesying, seeing visions, and dreaming God-inspired dreams

are associated with the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the doorway into the miraculous realm of God.

This baptism of the Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost, but it was not only for these few individuals. Peter said in verse 39, “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.” This same power is available to all believers today (Luke 11:13; Mark 16:17).

Acts 4:8: “Then Peter, filled with the Holy Ghost, said unto them, Ye rulers of the people, and elders of Israel.”

(Acts 4:8) Peter had denied Jesus in front of a servant girl just a few weeks before (Mark 14:66-68; Luke 22:56-57). Now he fearlessly proclaims the Lord Jesus in front of the high priest and the council. The difference is being filled with the Holy Ghost, which Jesus said would empower them to be witnesses (Acts 1:8).

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