

100 BIBLE LESSONS

Give these lessons to people you visit, youth groups, hospital patients, church visitors and new members. Use them in Sunday School, bus ministry, jail services, nursing homes, Christian schools, small discussion groups and many other places. God's Word will answer your questions and help solve your problems.

LESSON 39 – BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are many different ways to describe the experience of being "saved" in terms that the Bible uses. For example in John 3:3 it is referred to as being "born again"; in Matt.18:3 as "conversion"; in Mark 16:16 as "believing and being baptized"; in Col. 2:13 as having been "forgiven" of all trespasses; in Rom. 6:23 as having received "eternal life"; and in Rom. 8:9 as having received "the Spirit of Christ." Although many terms are used, they all basically mean the same thing.

In like manner, the experience which is subsequent to and distinct from salvation is described as: "the baptism with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5); being "filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4); "the Holy Spirit falling on" someone (Acts 11:15); and having "received the Holy Spirit" (Acts 19:2). These are synonymous terms referring to one and the same thing.

There are many examples in the New Testament of the difference between salvation by the quickening of the Spirit, and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. For example: In John 20:22, Jesus' disciples received the Holy Spirit but a few days later were actually baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4). The Samaritans, in Acts 8:12, believed upon Christ and were baptized and saved, yet were baptized with the Holy Spirit several days later (See Acts 8:16-17). In Acts 19:1-7, the apostle Paul found several disciples who had believed upon Christ, but had not received the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Verse 6 states that "...when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

Dr. R. A. Torrey, the first president of Moody Bible Institute, wrote: "It is evident that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit distinct from and additional to His regenerating work...A man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and still not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration, there is the impartation of life by the Spirit's power, and the one who receives it is saved: in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is the impartation of power, and the one who receives it is fitted for service...(The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit, by R. A. Torrey, pgs. 174, 176).

Now that you've received Jesus as Lord, Master and Ruler of your life, are you willing to receive what He has for you? Do you believe this promise is valid for you today? (If not, read Acts 2:38-39 and 1 Cor. 1:7, which states that the Holy Spirit and His gifts are all valid and in operation for us today until the second coming of Jesus Christ.) Do you need power to witness? (Acts 1:8 states that you "shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you.) Are you afraid of manifestations of the Holy

Spirit? Mark 16:17 says, "Signs shall follow them that believe..." " Do you believe this is for you? (Luke 11:13)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Dr. R. A. Torrey, the first president of Moody Bible Institute, wrote: "In regeneration, there is the impartation of life by the Spirit's power, and the one who receives it is saved: in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is the impartation of power, and the one who receives it is fitted for service." How does Acts 1:8 explain this?
2. Explain the message that Peter gave in Acts 10:34-43.
3. Explain what happened in the rest of the story from Acts 10:44-48.
4. The events that happened in Acts 10:34-48 and Acts 11:13-18 were referred to as what? (Acts 11:16). Is this similar to Acts 2:4? Why, or why not?
5. Read and comment on Acts 11:15. How does this verse describe the activity of the Holy Spirit?
6. Read and explain in your own words what happened in Acts 19:1-7.
7. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be in operation until what happens? 1 Cor. 1:7.