

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 5.10.09

Intro

1. Next messages: Lawlessness in the End Times; Living with Discernment.
2. Coming upon Pentecost – 50 Days after Passover. Celebration of the first fruits of the harvest; for Christians a time to celebrate the giving of the Holy Spirit.
3. Why did Jesus have to Ascend to Heaven? Why didn't he just stay on earth after the resurrection? He had to give the HS to all – John 16.7. It would be great to have Jesus in bodily form among us, but the message & power would always be limited to his geographical presence...limited to the people he could personally touch. By ascending, we now all have access to the same power Jesus had.
4. This topic of the Holy Spirit's is most important in our day. Christianity in the West is declining (Europe, Canada & N. America). There are three inadequate forms of Christianity:
 - a. Liberalism – denies the Word of God. The major Protestant denominations today if they remain in their current forms in 40 years will be less than ½ of their current membership – Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans, Christian Church. They are dying denominations, b/c they have denied the Word of God. (This isn't true of all. There are good, solid, Bible believing churches w/in these groups!)
 - b. Evangelicalism – downplays the Spirit of God. They believe & teach the Holy Spirit, but their Trinity is the Father, Son & Holy Bible. Baptists, Bible Church, Nazarenes, Independent churches. They too are dying denominations, though not as fast. 2 Cor.3.6 & 1 Cor.2.4f – we're using "wise & persuasive" techniques, but limit the Spirit's power. We're thinking if we change our methods and repackage the message that will be answer. Also, if we can get people to believe the right things then great change will happen. It's helpful, but not the answer. (Same as above)

- c. Pentecostalism – depreciates the Kingdom of God. They absolutely believe in the Word of God and the Spirit of God, but its focus is upon the individual Christian. This is what God will do for you; how He wants to bless you; advance you; prosper you; etc.). There is truth, but it's devoid of the bigger picture. (same as above).
- d. I believe what is needed in our age is Kingdom oriented, Word based, Spirit empowered, love driven Christianity.
- e. What is needed this Mother's Day are Moms who love God & others, have a solid Biblical foundation, understand their role(s) in light of God's Kingdom and who are walking under the Spirit's power in their lives.
- f. Purpose of this message – to press into the fullness of the Holy Spirit. 2 Tim.1.6 – fan into flame. I want to challenge us to seek more of the Holy Spirit.

5. Good people disagree on this topic & this is my viewpoint.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- Scripture
 - Luke 3.16 – John the Baptist: *I baptize you with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Mk.1.8; Mt.3.11)*
 - Luke 24.49 – *And now I will send the HS, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the HS comes and fills you with power from heaven.*
 - Acts 1.4–5 says: ***On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*** Emphasis on the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - Acts 1.8 – Jesus then defines the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is: ***But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in***

Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." The baptism of the Holy Spirit is power to be witnesses for Jesus.

- In the life of Jesus, Peter, Paul & early church
 - Jesus – He was the prototype
 - Prior to the giving of the fullness of the HS to Jesus
 - He had the Holy Spirit (Luke 1.35).
 - He was the Son of God (L.1.35)
 - He was filled with wisdom & God's favor (L.2.40)
 - He understood his relationship with the Father (L.2.49)
 - He grew in favor with God & people (L.2.52)
 - Afterwards
 - The Holy Spirit comes upon him – L.3.21f.
 - Jesus is now full of the HS – L.4.1
 - He enters a time of satanic testing and comes out victorious – L.4.1–13
 - He is walking in the Spirit's power (4.14) & He enters a time of human testing & comes out victorious – (4.16–30)
 - He casts out demons, heals every sickness & preaches the Good News of the Kingdom of God with authority (4.31 – 44).
 - Summary:
 - He had the HS from conception;
 - He knew his calling
 - God's favor was upon him
 - But, only when the HS came upon him did he walk in the power and authority.
 - Peter
 - Prior to Pentecost
 - He was a disciple of Jesus and one of the closest to Jesus.

- He healed the sick, cast out demons and multiplied food;
- He walked on water;
- He had the HS (j.14.17) & was saved (J.15.3) & Jesus gave Peter the HS after his resurrection (John 20.21ff.)
- Even after this he was still fearful (J.20.26) and not walking in authority (21.3). this isn't the victorious Christian life.
- After Pentecost
 - The HS comes upon him – Acts 2.1–4
 - He boldly proclaims the message of Jesus – 2.14–41 – and thousands come to faith in Christ.
 - He heals people and he has no fear of the authorities (Acts 2–5).
 - He is now leading this massive move of God only days after he was fearful and possibly returning to a life of fishing.
- Paul
 - Before – 8.1, 3; 9.1f: He's Saul & aggressively resisting and persecuting Christians. Doing all w/in his power to destroy this movement
 - After – 9.3–30: Esp. 9.17–19. He immediately began preaching with power (v.20) & he grew in power (v.22). He was bold in his witness despite the threats of death!
 - Summary: Before the giving of the HS he was...and after the giving of the HS he was....

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- Acts 1.4f, 8.
- Acts 2.1–4 reads, "**When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All**

of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."

The Holy Spirit gave them a foreign language so they could speak in the languages of all those gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks.

- Acts 2.5–11 specifies exactly what languages they were speaking and the people's response. Acts 1.8 is being accomplished in a proto-type way. They were declaring God's activity with power. It was more than an enthusiastic testimony. The hand of God was upon them.
- Acts 2.14–39 records Peter's first message. It is message empowered by the Spirit. **THIS IS CRITICAL: The disciples already had the Holy Spirit. After his resurrection, Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20.22) Peter already had the Holy Spirit, but now he has the Acts 1.8 power of the Holy Spirit. The crowds not only listens, but they are under deep conviction and thousands respond in faith.**
- Acts 2.42–47 summarizes the response of the early Christians. Now consider, these are the same people who days earlier were praying for protection, covering in fear, not wanting to show their faces in the light of day and were afraid the authorities would find them.

Note what happened to the church – 2.42–47 (contrast this with after the resurrection appearances & Acts 1). There is a huge transformation IN 24 HOURS – boldness (they aren't hiding any longer), power (boldly declaring), great love for each other & people want to follow Jesus. WHAT HAPPENED? THEY WERE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!

Jesus tells them they are going to be immersed in the HS in Acts 1.4 and then he tells them what that means in Acts 1.8. If the disciples had gone out & spread the gospel w/o the power of the HS, they would have caved in to persecution and discouragement.

Def of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: *It is a work of the HS subsequent to salvation that gives the believer power for ministry and enables him/her to live the victorious Christian life.*

III – Stephen Olford’s conversation with Billy Graham –

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Then, as a student at the Florida Bible Institute, he knelt and surrendered his life afresh on the eighteenth green of a golf course. But a few years later, he underwent a different kind of spiritual experience .

During his visit to Britain in October 1946, a meeting was arranged at Hildenborough Hall in Kent where Billy was to be introduced to Christian leaders before his evangelistic tour of cities in England, Ireland, and Wales. He arrived in time for the closing service of a youth conference, at which the speaker was **Stephen Olford**.

Olford, born of missionary parents in Angola, had planned to be an engineer, but a motorcycle accident in England brought him face to face with God while he was recovering in a hospital. He attended St. Luke's College and served as World War II chaplain to His Majesty's Forces, who were leaving for the Dunkirk action. Later he became an itinerant evangelist.

At Hildenborough Hall Olford preached a fervent message on the text: "Be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the spirit."¹ When he had finished, he seated himself and rested his head in his hands. He became aware of someone nearby and looked up to see **Billy Graham** standing over him.

"Mr. Olford," said Billy, "I just want to ask one question: Why didn't you give an invitation? I would have been the first one to come forward. You've spoken of something that I don't have. I want the fullness of the **Holy Spirit** in my life too."

Billy told his biographer John Pollock, "I was seeking for more of God in my life, and I felt that here was a man who could help me. He had a dynamic, a thrill, an exhilaration about him I wanted to capture."²

They arranged to meet in Wales where Billy was scheduled to preach in a town named Pontypridd, eleven miles from the home of Olford's parents . In a room in a stone hotel in Pontypridd, Stephen and Billy spent two days together. Billy told Stephen. "This is serious business. I have to learn what this is that the Lord has been teaching you."

The first day was spent, according to Stephen, "on the Word and on what it really means to expose oneself to the Word in the quiet

time." They spent the hours turning the pages of the Bible, studying passages and verses. Billy prayed, "Lord, I don't want to go on without knowing this anointing You've given my brother."

That night Billy preached to a small crowd. The sermon was "ordinary," according to Stephen, and "not the Welsh kind of preaching." Billy gave an invitation, but the response was sparse.

The next day they met again, and Stephen began concentrating on the work of the **Holy Spirit** by declaring, "There is no Pentecost without Calvary," and that we "must be broken" like the apostle Paul, who declared himself "crucified with Christ." He then told Billy how God completely turned his life inside out. It was, he said, "an experience of the **Holy Spirit** in His fullness and anointing." He explained that "where the Spirit is truly Lord over the life, there is liberty, there is release — the sublime freedom of complete submission of oneself in a continuous state of surrender to the indwelling of God's **Holy Spirit**."

According to Stephen, Billy cried, "Stephen, I see it. That's what I want." His eyes filled with tears — something rare with Billy. It seems he had no appetite that day, only taking a sip of water occasionally. Stephen continued to expound the meaning of the filling of the Spirit in the life of a believer. He said it meant "bowing daily and hourly to the sovereignty of Christ and to the authority of the Word."

From talking and discussing, the two men went to their knees praying and praising. It was about midafternoon on the second day that Billy began pouring out his heart "in a prayer of total dedication to the Lord." According to Stephen, "all heaven broke loose in that dreary little room. It was like Jacob laying hold of God and crying , 'Lord, I will not let Thee go except Thou bless me.' "

They came to a time of rest from prayer. Billy exclaimed, "My heart is so flooded with the **Holy Spirit!**" They alternately wept and laughed, and Billy began walking back and forth across the room, saying, "I have it! I'm filled. I'm filled. This is the turning point of my life. This will revolutionize my ministry."

Said Olford, "That night Billy was to speak at a large Baptist church nearby. When he rose to preach, he was a man absolutely

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anointed." Billy's Welsh audience seemed to sense it. They came forward to pray even before the invitation was given. Later when it was given, Olford said, "The Welsh listeners jammed the aisles. There was chaos. Practically the entire audience came rushing forward."

Stephen drove back to his parents' home that night, deeply moved by Billy's new authority and strength. "When I came in the door," he said later, "my father looked at my face and asked, 'What on earth has happened?'

"I sat down at the kitchen table said, 'Dad, something has happened to **Billy Graham**. The world is going to hear from his man. He is going to make his mark in history.' "³
The heavenly reservoir had overflowed.

A close colleague of Billy's before Pontypridd, Chuck Templeton, heard the young preacher after that experience. Astonished, Templeton remarked that Billy's preaching had taken on "a certain magnificence of effect...fascinating...really impressive."

Intro for 5.17.09 Message

1. Books that have influenced my thinking - Joy Unspeakable by Martin Loyd-Jones; Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians; The Baptism with the HS by RA Torrey; AB Simpson.
2. Why do we need the baptism with the HS
 - a. Tired of toiling like the children of Israel looking for the PL
 - b. To live like Jesus. I J.4.17 - And as we live in God, our love grows more perfect. So we will not be afraid on the day of judgment, but we can face him with confidence because we live like Jesus here in this world."
 - i. Js was the first normal Christian. People need to see in us the same power, love and focus he had.
 - ii. We can know who we are in Christ, but we need to experience Christ in us.
 - c. aa

The confusion around the baptism of the HS:

1. It isn't a one time event. It is ongoing - Peter had the HS pre-Resurrection; he had the HS post-res; he was empowered with the HS on Pentecost; he was empowered again in A.4.29-31. He didn't stay in a constant state of fullness; he needed recharging. ?

- a. I believe the baptism of the Spirit is probably the same as the filling of the Spirit in Eph.5.18 – the vs of the month. It is ongoing and must be sought. You aren't drunk automatically. You make choices to remain in a state of drunkenness and it's the same with the filling of the HS. You must make choices to be filled and remain filled.
2. Why you can't equate being baptized with the HS & speaking in tongues? Acts 2.4, 11 & Acts 9.17f., 20, 22 First, in both cases it's called the "filling" of the HS (2.4, 9.17; even with Jesus in Luke 4 "filled with...full of).) Second, They did not **share** the same initial manifestation of the HS, but they did **share** the same power of the HS to be witnesses of Jesus! Paul didn't speak with tongues, but he did speak with power.

Speaking in tongues (foreign languages) was necessary in Acts 2 b/c of the crowd gathered in Jerusalem for the Feast of Weeks were from all over the world; it wasn't necessary in Acts 9 b/c they all spoke the same language.

You aren't drunk automatically. You make choices to remain in a state of drunkenness and it's the same with the filling of the HS. People often equate the baptism of the HS with speaking in tongues, but the baptism of the HS isn't "have you spoken in tongues – Acts 2.4" but rather "have you rec'd power to be Jesus witness – Acts 1.8?" It's not, "Did you get the HS the way they did in Acts 2?" but "are you operating in the same power they had?" Jesus didn't say, "You will receive tongues when the HS comes upon you", but, "You will receive power when the HS comes upon you."

I'm for speaking in tongues, but not as the confirming sign of the baptism of the HS. I praise God for the Pentecostal movement b/c it brought back to the church gifts that had been either forgotten or disregarded as a whole. The confirming signs are boldness in your witness and victorious Christian living. Tongues may or may not

accompany the baptism of the HS, but power & victory always will. You can sense it as can others.

III – My experience as a 14 year old and being baptized. Afterwards there was a greater release; working at a Christian camp at the end of senior year in HS & freshman year of college. It's not about outer manifestations, but inner transformation.

The gift of tongues is a tool, but it's not the power. It's not "Do I speak in tongues or not speak in tongues?", but is there power being demonstrated in your life?. The power isn't contained in the gift of tongues, the power is contained in the gift of the HS – Acts 1.8. "You shall receive power when the HS comes on you to be my witnesses", which looks like 2.42–47 , 4.32–35, 5.12–16, 8.4–8, Mk.16.17–18 in your life!

One of the clear confirming signs that the Pentecostal movement was from God was the huge mission movement it inspired. People had been empowered by the Spirit and they went forth to spread the gospel. It is an absolute fact, that had Pentecostal movement not occurred that the advance of God's Kingdom around the world would have been greatly reduced. It is a fact the most aggressive mission sending movements overseas are Pentecostal in nature. It is a fact that the largest, most Kingdom minded churches in the world, with the exception of N.America, are Pentecostal in nature. They maybe Presbyterian or Anglican but they are charismatic in their beliefs. The places where the gospel is radically advancing is thru the Pentecostal witness. **When the Spirit baptizes you, you naturally want to advance God's Kingdom.**

I know of the confusion and doctrinal error of some Pentecostal/charismatic leaders & movements. We, as evangelicals, mistakenly believe that God can only really use people who have their beliefs/truth all together. We assume correct belief therefore

means God's favor. God will use anybody who is willing & available regardless if they have correct doctrine.

Here's another thing: We evangelicals mistakenly assume that we have all the right doctrine. I guarantee when we get to Heaven God will straighten out some of our orthodox beliefs. There will not be one person who gets to heaven and God will give him an A+ for correct beliefs. Nobody believes correctly. God's favor doesn't rest upon the correct in doctrine, but on the humble in heart. Don't get me wrong, correct belief is important & in some cases it is critical, that's why we have the Word.

3. What about 1 Cor.12.13 & Eph.1.13?

I believe that every person who confesses Christ has the HS – Rom.8.9, 15–17 – and is joined to Christ. I believe we are all sealed with Spirit –Eph.1.13f.– & joined to the Spirit according to 1 Cor.12.13 into the body of Christ. Jesus told his disciples in John 14.20 – “When I am raised to life again, you will know that I am in the Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.” Every believer has the HS and is joined to Christ.

The traditional Baptist understanding of 1 Cor.12.13.

The normal Baptist belief is that the baptism described in Acts 1.8 is now experienced at the moment of salvation. At this baptism, we are joined to Christ and His body. He now abides in us and we abide in Him. At conversion, we are all joined to Christ and we are made one with His body.

I believe the baptism described in 1 Cor.12.13 & Gal.3.26–29 are the same. The church at Corinth had been experiencing divisions as people claimed to be disciples of this person & that. The church in Galatia had been disagreeing about who really had Christ, Jewish

Christians or Gentile Christian. In both cases, Paul is stating you have each received Christ and been bonded together into His body. No one is better or lesser. Everyone is the equal in Christ. We are all unique in our gifting, and everyone is needed.

I do not see the baptism described in these passages similar to the one described in Acts 1.4f, 8. There are many different baptisms described in the NT – baptism of repentance (Mt.3.11); baptism into Christ (Gal.3.27); baptism into His death (Rom.3.11); baptism in the name of Father, Son & Holy Spirit (Mt.28.19f.); baptism with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1.5) baptism by/in the Spirit (1 Cor.12.13) even the baptism of Moses (1 Cor.10.2); baptism for a pledge of a good conscience (1 P.3.21).

In my opinion, I believe that 1 Cor.12.13 is not synonymous with Acts 1.8. The regenerating & uniting & sealing work of the HS of 1 Cor.12 & Eph. 1 is not the same as the empowering work of Acts 1!

Peter & the early disciples had the HS. They were united to Jesus; they were saved; they were sealed but they weren't supernaturally empowered.

4. How will the baptism of the HS be demonstrated in your life?
 - a. Acts 2.42–47 – unity, love, sharing, joy, generosity, worship, miracles, boldness...significant change.
 - b. In Acts 6.1–7: serving, wisdom, power.
 - c. In Acts 9.36–38: doing kind things, helping the poor.
 - d. In Acts 10.38: doing good and healing.

The outworking of the Spirit's fullness in our lives will not look the same for everyone. There are some clear indicators in Scripture, but God loves diversity. He created both the Redwoods and the Lemon trees. They are vastly different, but each glorifies him in the way he designed them.

We can't get caught up in the comparison game or try to imitate how he manifest himself in others. Unfortunately, Christian leaders, especially those with national ministries, can unintentionally mislead people into believing the fullness of the Holy Spirit has certain outward manifestations. People unwittingly assume that until these characteristics (i.e., speaking in tongues, extroverted behavior, powerful experiences, complete healing, continual victory) occur they don't have the fullness of the Spirit.

5. How you know you need the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

No real desire to serve God; not living in consistent victory; tired of your Christian walk. If you think Christianity is boring, you got the wrong kind!

The major hinderances to the baptism of the Holy Spirit are ignorance and contentment. Ignorance is no longer an excuse for you. Contentment becomes the barrier. You become content with the clutter around your house.

The older we get in our faith the more settled we become with the clutter in our lives. Early on in our walk with God we wouldn't tolerate the clutter; we would make the necessary changes. The older we get the more we tolerate the junk. It's like living in a house with 70's furniture, carpet and drapes. We are content to live with the past. We know it doesn't look great, but it's not that bad, we reason. Plus, we don't want to pay the price. You aren't drunk automatically. You make choices to remain in a state of drunkenness and it's the same with the filling of the HS.

What motivates you to remodel your house? Someone who has remodeled his/her house. What motivates me to pursue the baptism of the HS? Others who have it! The people in Scripture, history and those I know who have the baptism are my motivators.

We have to get out of our houses and start comparing ourselves to the standard of Scriptures and the lives of others and decide we want more.

Summary:

Call it the baptism of the HS, filling of the HS, second blessings, I don't care, just get it! Let's not get hung up on the terminology, but filled up with the power of the Holy Ghost. The question is not are you speaking in tongues, but rather, are you walking in power & victory?

This is it in a nutshell – look at the Book of Acts and ask yourself do you see HS power being exhibited in your life and in this church (or any church – not talking about more enthusiastic worship or louder preaching) the way he exhibited himself here. I realize the HS works in different ways in different seasons & what he did in one place he might do something different in another. We can't fixate on the outer activity of the HS, but we can't let go of Acts 1.8, "you shall receive power!!!" Not so people can say, "that's cool...aren't you great", but they will glorify God and we can bust out of this nominal Christian experience and see the transforming power of God in our lives and community.

Message: 5.24.09

Introd.

1. Summarize – what is it; def.; why we need it; confusion.
2. Pentecost Season: Giving of the Law we couldn't keep; giving of the Spirit so we can follow God's laws.
 - a. Ezek.36.25–30 shows three steps. 1 – we receive a new heart (salvation); 2 – The Spirit gives us the ability to keep God's ways (baptism of the Spirit); 3 – we produce much fruit!

Walking In The Power of the Holy Spirit

After the fullness of the Holy Spirit came upon Peter's life and he preached his convicting message, the crowd responded, "What are we supposed to do?"

Peter responds, "Repent and be baptized every one of you, in the name of the Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Within Peter's response, are several keys to walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. He calls them to set themselves apart, to be obedient and he ensures them that they will receive the Holy Spirit.

What is necessary to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

1. Surrendering yourself to God – Icon of making Jesus your Leader
 - a. A holy lifestyle (Points 1 & 2 could be combined)
 - i. A true changing of your mind about sin & Jesus. You not only confess your sin, but you turn from it. Confession & repentance are not the same. One says, "Forgive me I did wrong" and the other says, "I'm not walking the wrong way any longer."
 - ii. You see yourself as truly set apart for God. It's a genuine desire to be consecrated to the Lord. It's a desire to be clay in his hands. You wholly give yourself to him.
 1. Ill – Use of boxes to demonstrate the ever increasing impact of God gaining greater & greater access into all of our lives. It begins with salvation (one box) and then we realize there's another box (unforgiveness) and another (finances) and another (area of woundedness) and another (stronghold) . We continue to submit one portion after another & His influence grows stronger in our lives.

- 2. We limit his activity when we don't submit & give the next box to Him. We are boxing Him in – limiting God – or releasing Him by our choices to surrender.
 - 3. Some boxes we give & take back
 - iii. You want more of him in your life and less of yourself. It's the John 3.30 mindset – “He must increase & I must decrease.”
 - iv. Genuine holiness (being set apart) isn't focused primarily on getting rid of the darkness, but rather being filled with the light. Legal holiness concentrates on getting rid of the darkness by rules and looking inside, whereas liberating holiness concentrates on being filled with Light.
 - 1. Genuine holiness is life giving and full of grace & freedom. There's humility and pleasure.
 - 2. It's living out of the new you – new nature. Romans 6 – the old nature has been put to death and the new nature has control. The old you is gone and the new you is empowered to walk in victory.

b. Yielding to the Spirit & the Lord's will

- i. This is the obedient dimension. Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem until the HS came upon them (L.24.49). Peter told the people in Acts 2.38 to repent and be baptized. This was necessary for the release of the Holy Spirit.
- ii. This involves the Lordship of Jesus in your life. You submit everything to him and his agenda. You understand your role as a steward and not an owner. You don't decide the terms of the relationship, but rather you let him decide how you are to live.
 - 1. Romans 12.1
 - a. Initial surrender

- b. Ongoing surrender. You want God first place in every place. When He reveals an area, you submit it to Him.
 - i. Such as: Tithing, forgiveness, letting go of past hurts, serving, etc.
 - iii. You are constantly listening for the Father's voice...not wanting to move away from His will for your life...you want to be obedient to His word. It's John 14.21.
 - iv. The early believers, pre-Pentecost, followed Jesus' instructions and were earnestly seeking Him together and in prayer. They knew there was more and they didn't have all God wanted, so they sought for the HS. They were setting themselves apart (holiness) & following Jesus' directives (obedience). What if they had not submitted themselves to His will and stayed in Jerusalem as he commanded? They would have missed the giving of the HS.
 - v. The same is true in Acts 19. They submitted themselves to the truth & what followed was an explosion of God's power over a region.
 - 1. Appl - What is the Lord pinpointing right now that must be submitted to His will?
2. Asking for the fullness of the Holy Spirit - Luke 11.9-13.
- a. Luke 11.9-13. Yieldedness alone isn't enough. You must ask. We overlook this truth and think the filling of the Spirit is automatic. This was key to me!
 - b. Matt.5.6 says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst after righteousness for they will be filled."
 - c. Is.44.3-5: God will pour out His Spirit on those who are thirsty and want more of the Spirit.
 - d. Seeking the fullness of the HS can't be a casual pursuit or a Sunday worship experience endeavor. It must be something

that we recognize as a great need and pursue with much diligence.

- e. The fullness of the HS isn't given to the casual Christian, but only to those who ask, seek & knock with a persistent spirit. It's not with an uncertain spirit that we are persistent, but with a hungering spirit.
- f. As long as you are content to get along w/o the fullness of the HS, you will. You will be like a car stuck in first gear. You'll move forward, but slowly. You must decide you want more.

3. Faith – Mk.11.24; 1 John 5.14–15

- a. It is God's will that we walk in the fullness of the HS (Acts 2.39). It isn't just for a few but for all.
- b. Once you ask for the fullness of God's Spirit receive it in faith. Don't worry about how you feel, trust God's word. You are asking for something that is God's will and if you are walking in obedience, submitting yourself to God's will, diligently seeking the Lord then the promise of the Spirit's fullness is yours!
- c. Just like salvation, you trust God's promises not your feelings.
- d. There may be some manifestations of the Spirit (joy, wind, light headed, fire, laughing, falling down, healing, tongues, etc.), but these are not the things to focus on but rather the reality that God will keep His word.
- e. If you have submitted yourself completely to the Lordship of Jesus and have repented of every known sin, the fullness of the Holy Spirit is for you. Ask for his fullness and receive it in faith.

4. Expect there to be confirming signs!

- a. Surrender
- b. Ask
- c. Faith
- d. Expect

Indicators You Are Walking In the Fullness of the Holy Spirit

Based upon the summary statements of Acts 2.42–47, 4.32–35, 5.12–16 and 8.4–8, the Holy Spirit manifested Himself among the early believers through these means:

- Deeper love for God & the things of God. You hunger after spiritual truth. Study, prayer, worship, and serving others are practices you not only do but enjoy. Your thoughts are on the Lord and how to please him. The Christian experience isn't drudgery, but joy. You are more sensitive to the activity of God both in and around you. There is a deeper hunger for spiritual development and intimacy with God. Your spirit is stirred.
- Power for ministry & life. You and others see tangible evidences of God's activity in and through your life. God is using you to facilitate change in others. Imparting hope, joy & encouragement to others; Healings & miracles, salvations & deliverances are a part of your walk with God. The gifts and fruit of the Spirit are evident. There are clear signs of God's activity in your life. There is an expectation in your spirit that God will do something great. You have great faith in God's ability to do the impossible. Challenges and obstacles don't discourage or impede your love for God. You see victory over personal issues. Divine strength is there to overcome sin. You're living from the new nature rather than trying to control the old one.
- Boldness for Christ. You openly declare the praises of God and you seek opportunities to share His love with others. You don't hide your faith. You really want to share it. You will take an unpopular stand despite the outcome. There is a complete confidence in God. The anger of others doesn't dissuade you. You have every confidence that God will pull you through life's most difficult challenges. Remember, these were people who were extremely fearful and intimidated. They weren't living the victorious Christian life, but the very opposite. When the Holy Spirit came in power,

they weren't shy or afraid of their faith. The Holy Spirit changed their perspective and attitude.

- Greater love for others. You enjoy fellowshiping with other believers. You freely give. You are living out the attributes of love in 1 Cor.13 – patience, kind, doesn't envy, isn't proud, not rude, not self-seeking, not easily angered, keeps no record of wrongs, trusts, protects, hopes and perseveres. Christian unity is an important value. You don't let broken relationships fester, but rather work aggressively to have them restored..
- Holy lifestyle. You deal harshly with sin and will not accept compromise. You want your life to be a reflection of Jesus. You are both avoiding sin and pursuing righteousness. You use your resources, spiritual gifts and talents in an honorable way. You are following the teachings of Scripture and the promptings of the Holy Spirit. When he highlights something we are to do or stop, we obey.

Special Considerations:

1. How often should I seek the baptism of the HS? Every day. We are clay vessels who are cracked and we leak the presence of God. We need a continual flow, like a river.
 - a. I believe the baptism of the Spirit is probably the same as the filling of the Spirit in Eph.5.18 – the vs of the month. It is ongoing and must be sought. You must make choices to be filled and remain filled.
 - b. You aren't drunk automatically. You make choices to remain in a state of drunkenness and it's the same with the filling of the HS. You stay drunk by constantly drinking.
2. When does the baptism of the HS happen: can happen at the point of salvation, but likely happens throughout a person's life. It's like entering a mansion. You can be content to stay in the foyer or eventually move to other rooms and explore.
3. What about tongues? It may or may accompany, but what always does is power. Not all the early disciples spoke with tongues, but they all did speak with power.
4. Biggest barriers: contentment & yieldedness.

Conclusion:

I hope this message has messed you up and made you terribly uneasy & discontent!

Here's a prayer that might be helpful:

Dear Lord Jesus,

I thank you and praise you for your great love for me. I thank you that when you ascended to heaven you did not leave us as orphans, but sent the Holy Spirit to guide and direct us.

Father, you promised that you would give us more of the Holy Spirit if we asked. I want more of the Holy Spirit in my life. I want to be your witness in the world.

I turn from every known sin in my life. I submit my will to your will. I choose to follow you with complete devotion.

I now ask for the Holy Spirit's fullness in my life. Take absolute control of me and use me as a tool to extend your Kingdom around the world. Fill me with your life and let my life reflect the character and ministry of Jesus.

Thank you Lord. I receive the Holy Spirit's fullness in faith. Make yourself manifest in me - for your glory and praise.

It says that after Paul was filled with the Spirit he began proclaiming the gospel (Acts 9.18-20). Luke records, "Saul grew more and more powerful." I believe that means the Holy Spirit's power intensified in his life. In other words, the fullness of the Holy Spirit grew after the initial impartation.

For us, we should expect to see the activity of God increase in our lives. It may not begin with a mighty flood, but over time we will see more of the Spirit's presence working in and through us.