

10. The Gospel of John—1:30-34

“The Baptism with the Holy Spirit”

(10/29/17)

As we have been studying the gospel of John, we have seen that after his introduction (v.1-18), John starts the narrative of his gospel with the coming of John the Baptist onto the scene.

I have organized the chapter around three main points—**I. The Inquisition of the Jews; II. The Introduction of John; and III. The Invitation of Jesus.**

We have already looked at the first main point, and now move to the second main point (which we started last week)—

II. The Introduction of John—v.29-34

A. John presents Jesus as the Lamb of God

John 1:29 (NKJV)

²⁹ The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

It's interesting that John didn't present Jesus as the long-awaited Messiah of Israel—rather he focused on His mission.

Messiah was His title—*Lamb of God* spoke of His mission.

Notice, that John says of Jesus, “**the Lamb of God who takes away, not the ‘sin’s’, but the sin of the world.**”

Jesus doesn’t just take away the ‘symptoms’—He takes away the disease itself.

It’s interesting that they thought they needed a king—but God knew they needed a Lamb.

They were looking for physical deliverance from the bondage of Rome—God was giving them spiritual deliverance from the bondage of sin.

The natural man is always concerned and consumed with the physical realm—but God knows that man’s spiritual needs (forgiveness from sin) far outweigh the physical.

B. John testifies that Jesus is the Son of God

John 1:30-34 (NKJV)

³⁰ This is He of whom I said, 'After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.' ³¹ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water." ³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

Now look, John isn’t saying that he didn’t know who Jesus was—they were second cousins, of course he knew who He was and no doubt spent time with Him growing up at family gatherings.

John knew Jesus as his *cousin*, but he didn’t know He was the *Messiah* until John baptized Jesus in the Jordan River.

John says here that God told him that he would know who the Messiah (Christ) was when the Holy Spirit, in the form of a dove, descended from heaven and rested upon that person's head whom John had just baptized.

But how did John know that Jesus was the Son of God?

That information could have been given to him by God the Father when He commissioned John to go and baptize—at that time God could have told John that Messiah was the Son of God.

Or possibly, he learned it from his mother—what do you mean?

Luke 1:26-33 (NKJV)

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name *was* Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored *one*, the Lord *is* with you; blessed *are* you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw *him*, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name JESUS. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end."

Then in verse 39, we read that Mary went to visit her cousin Elizabeth and stayed with her for a time.

Of course, Elizabeth was the mother of John (the Baptist) who at that time was sixth months pregnant with John.

It's hard to imagine that Mary didn't share with Elizabeth what the angel Gabriel told her about the baby in her womb—that He was the Messiah and the Son of God.

When John was born, and as he got older, his mom and dad no doubt shared with him what the angel of the Lord had told them would be their son John's ministry (forerunner of the Messiah)—and that the Messiah would be no mere man but the Son of God, as Mary, Jesus' mother, had shared with them.

I believe John knew what his parents told him about Jesus—but now God confirms that this was true, and that Jesus was in fact the Messiah and the Son of God.

John 1:32-34 (NKJV)

³² And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' ³⁴ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

In verses 32-34, John the apostle is recounting the testimony of John the Baptist—after the fact, after he had baptized Jesus and was now going around telling people what had happened.

In Matthew's gospel, Matthew records the event of Jesus' baptism on the day it took place—

Matthew 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting [coming] upon Him. ¹⁷ And suddenly a voice *came* from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

And again, it could be that this *was* the first time John was told that Jesus was the Son of God—thru the testimony of God the Father from heaven after John had baptized Jesus.

Now, John says something that is extremely important, something we absolutely need to understand—

John 1:33 (NKJV)

³³ I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

Remember, as we pointed out last week—the New Testament talks about different kinds of baptism.

The word *baptize* simply means ‘to immerse’—the question is ‘into what?’

Well, to answer that we have to look at the context—let me give you one example that we looked at last week.

Matthew 3:11 (NKJV)

¹¹ I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

So here in Matthew 3:11, three different baptisms are mentioned.

1. ***Water** baptism*
2. *The baptism with the **Holy Spirit***
3. *The baptism of **fire**.*

John went on to explain in Matt. 3:12 that the baptism of fire would be a baptism of **judgment** where all unbelievers would eventually be immersed into the Lake of Fire (hell) for all eternity.

And as far as *water baptism* is concerned we talked about that baptism last week.

That leaves us with the third baptism John mentioned—the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

What is the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the baptism of *power* that equips us for *service*.

It is extremely important to note that as the Lord Jesus Christ prepared to begin His public ministry He makes it a point to walk 60 miles from Galilee down to the lower Jordan River to be baptized in the Jordan by John—indicating that this was something that He believed to be very important to launching His public ministry—not just John’s baptism, but the baptism that followed.

Luke 3:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

I want you to notice the wording of verse 22 (and Matt.3:16)—“*And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him...*”

Let me say (and we’ll get into this in detail later on in John’s gospel), that Jesus spoke of three levels of relationship that the Holy Spirit can have with a person.

They are ascending levels—in other words, they build upon each other.

Jesus outlined these levels using three different Greek prepositions, each one corresponding to one of these levels.

John 14:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with (para)** you and will be **in (en)** you. (Explain)

Then we fast forward three days to Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead—

John 20:19, 22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ...As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Who had been with them has now come inside them—in other words they were now N.T. believers—(Explain—Romans 8:9).

All Christians have the Holy Spirit in them—but not all Christians have the Holy Spirit upon them.

This is what the Bible calls the “*Baptism with the Holy Spirit*” which is a separate and often subsequent work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life apart from salvation.

This baptism is absolutely essential for service because it supplies the power necessary for doing the work God has called each of us to do.

Remember these were simple, uneducated men—how in the world could they go and make disciples of all nations?

Who would listen to them? How could they impact their world for Jesus Christ being the simple Galileans that they were?

The answer—God was going to endue them with supernatural power from on high, and was going to do the work through them—and this is where that third Greek preposition comes into play.

Luke 24:49 (NKJV)

⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father **upon (epi) you**; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Acts 1:4-5, 8 (NKJV)

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now... ⁸ But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come **upon you**; and you shall be **witnesses to Me** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat **upon each of them**. ⁴ And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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."

The result? → 3000 men plus woman and young people were saved.

It's very important for us to understand that Jesus, the Son of God, in His humanity waited 30 years until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit and only then did He begin His ministry by saying—

Luke 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ "*The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel...*"

How absurd it is for us to think that we can do anything for God in the way of ministry without the same power Jesus knew He needed to do the work the Father had given Him to do.

I believe that this is one of the greatest needs in the Church today and the single greatest reason the church is so ineffective in the world in its work for God, and why we are losing the culture war to the devil when Jesus clearly promised us that against His Church the gates of hell would not prevail.

We are trying to do the work of God in our own strength, ingenuity and intelligence and not in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You need to understand that the three and a half years of Jesus' ministry on the earth—were not done in *His* power, as the Second Person of the Trinity, but in the power of the Third Person of the Trinity, *the Holy Spirit*.

Peter acknowledged this in Acts 10—

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ ...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

That is how Jesus did the work of God and this is how we do the work of God—in the same power of the Holy Spirit.

The Testimony of D. L. Moody's Baptism with the Holy Spirit

"I can myself go back almost twelve years and remember two holy women who used to come to my meetings. It was delightful to see them there, for when I began to preach I could tell by the expression of their faces they were praying for me. At the close of the Sabbath evening services they would say to me, 'We have been praying for you.' I said, 'Why don't you pray for the people?' They answered, 'You need power.' 'I need power,' I said to myself, 'why, I thought I had power.' I had a large Sabbath school and the largest congregation in Chicago. There were some conversions at that time, and I was in a sense satisfied. But right along these two godly women kept praying for me, and their earnest talk about 'the anointing for special service' set

me thinking. I asked them to come and talk with me, and we got down on our knees. They poured out their hearts, that I might receive the anointing of the Holy Ghost. And there came a great hunger in my soul. I knew not what it was. I began to cry as never before. The hunger increased. I really felt that I did not want to live any longer if I could not have this power for service. I kept on crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit."

Then came the great Chicago fire. On the evening of that memorable night in 1871 when one-third of the city was laid in ashes and thousands were left homeless, Moody had preached in Farwell Hall. With the institutions which he had founded in ruins, Moody went east to appeal for funds, but he said,

"My heart was not in the work of begging. I could not appeal. I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the City of New York—oh, what a day!—I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name... I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths, and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world—it would be as the small dust of the balance."

The sermons were not different; but the servant was!

The truths were not new; but now they were pungent and penetrating!

A few had been converted before; now converts came by the hundreds!"

Now let me say that if Jesus needed the power of the H.S. to be effective in ministry, and Peter and Paul and D.L. Moody—then who do we think we are that we can live the Christian life and be involved in ministry without the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

"How do I receive this baptism with the Holy Spirit?"

How do you receive anything from God? You simply ask in faith—

Luke 11:9-13 (NKJV)

⁹ "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

But often the Baptism with the Holy Spirit doesn't come upon a Christian's life until there is a brokenness.

I'd like to share with you just a little from the life of Dr. Walter Wilson as recorded in the book, *"They Found the Secret."*

The author tells us that Dr. Wilson was converted to Christ on a December night in 1896, afterward,

"...he became a lover of the Scriptures and became diligent in teaching, preaching and distributing tracts. Much effort, however, seemed to produce little result, and no apparent success followed his labors. This ineffectiveness troubled him, but he was told by others 'not to look for results, but only to be busy at seed sowing.'"

This went on for 17 years until January 14, 1914 when he heard a message given by Dr. James Gray, who later went on to become the president of Moody Bible Institute, on the need to surrender our lives fully to the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work.

Upon hearing this message, Dr. Wilson went home and there laid on the floor of his room, utterly heartbroken over his fruitless life, he cried out to the Holy Spirit and said,

"My Lord, I have mistreated You all my Christian life. I have treated You like a servant. When I wanted You I called for You; when I was about to engage in some work I beckoned You to come and help me perform my task. I have kept You in the place of a servant. I have sought to use You only as a willing servant to help me in my self-appointed and chosen work. I shall do so no more. Just now I give You this body of mine; from my head to my feet, I give it to You. I give You my hands, my limbs, my eyes and lips, my brain; all that I am within and without, I hand over to You for You to live in it the life that You please. You may send this body to Africa, or lay it on a bed with cancer. You may blind the eyes, or send me with Your message to Tibet. You may take this body to the Eskimos, or send it to a hospital with pneumonia. It is Your body from this moment on. Help yourself to it. Thank you, my Lord, I believe You have accepted it..."

(If you think that that is bizarre or fanatical it's because you've never experienced brokenness—explain)

The author goes on to say from that day on Dr. Wilson's life was dramatically and forever changed—might I say he was *"turned into another man!"*

He went on to become a tremendous soul winner, all because he came to a place of brokenness and surrender—coupled with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

R.A. Torrey—

“The lack of this absolute surrender is shutting many out of the blessing today. People turn the keys of almost every closet in their heart over to God, but there is some small closet of which they wish to keep the key for themselves, and the blessing does not come.”

What are you holding back from God and refusing to surrender to Him?

Is it a relationship? Is it a dream? Is it an object? (For the Rich Young Ruler it was his wealth)

The Lord Jesus is inviting you to follow Him completely—will you accept His invitation?

The only way you will ever experience the fullness of God in your life is if you are broken, surrendered, plugged into a local church and using your gifts in ministry.

Then pray for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit—and a fresh filling every day!