

# 18

## Unit 5 – Tapping into the Power

The Power of Holy Spirit Baptism/Surrender to Jesus  
The Importance of Being Empowered by the Holy Spirit  
How to Receive the Spirit Baptism/Infilling/Sanctification in the  
Holy Spirit, or How Jesus Becomes Your Lord and Master  
Preparation and Prayers to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

“...the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the birthright of every believer.” – R. A. Torrey  
(Torrey, *The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit* p. 151)

After salvation, the baptism/infilling/sanctification in the Holy Spirit is the most important event in a Christian's life and the starting point of an expanded Christian ministry. I'll use the term *baptism* in this lesson (Acts 1:5). Another way to phrase it is, “The day I made Jesus my *Lord* and *Master*, not just my *Savior*.” Jesus did not start His public ministry until after His water baptism and Spirit baptism. What people may not realize is that human or earthly Jesus only operated with the power of the Holy Spirit, just like we do. Jesus could heal because He was filled with the Holy Spirit, not because He was God. Jesus said we would do greater works (John 14). To be a son of God is to be filled with the Holy Spirit and led by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8).

As lay ministers, we want to grow up, mature, and be used in ministry to make a difference in the kingdom. Lesson 18 is about receiving the Holy Spirit. You have had the Holy Spirit residing in you since salvation day, but does He really have you? Spirit baptism is when He gets all of you! You have learned why believers need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit. You have learned why controversy surrounds the empowerment. Now, take another look at how prevalent this concept is in the New Testament and read the words of three great evangelists and pastors who were gloriously filled with the Spirit and wanted that same empowerment for all believers.

Remember, past membership in cults, dabbling in the occult and non-Christian experiences could prevent a person from receiving the baptism and must be renounced aloud in sincerity. Lessons 3 and 7 covered breaking free from past experiences. If you did not take that lesson seriously or fully come clean from the past, you can go back and repeat the prayers with more sincerity.

This lesson includes all the teaching, steps, and example prayers to lead you through the process. Then, you can make copies and use them over and over to help others receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, “*He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water*” (John 7:38 NASB). Are you ready to learn about your birthright and receive it? Are you ready for the living water, ready for the Spirit baptism?

## The Importance of Being Empowered by the Holy Spirit

The concept of being baptized *in/with* the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5, 8; Luke 24:49) is a controversial doctrine already discussed in Lesson 16. The enemy has been highly effective in stirring up controversy over the work of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because that is what gives us power! Dwight L. Moody, an American preacher, evangelist, and publisher in the 1800s was said to pray every day to be re-filled with the Holy Spirit. Someone asked him why he prayed that daily. He said, "*Because I leak.*"

Thoughts on Spirit empowering from some great pastors and thinkers:

"...The one thing needful for the Church, and the thing which, above all others, men ought everywhere to seek for with one accord and with their whole heart, is to be filled with the Spirit of God" wrote Andrew Murray, a nineteenth-century evangelical Dutch Reformed pastor and writer (Murray, *Needful* p. 1). "It is only in a life full of the Holy Spirit that the true power to ask in Christ's name can be known...the ordinary Christian life cannot appropriate these promises. It needs a spiritual life, altogether sound and vigorous, to pray in power" (Murray, *Intercession* p. 7; emphasis added).

R. A. Torrey said, "The baptism with the Holy Spirit was not merely for the apostles, nor merely for those of apostolic age, but for 'all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call' as well. That is, it is for *every believer* in every *age of the church's history*. If any believer in any age does not have the baptism with the Holy Spirit, it is solely because he does not claim his privilege in Christ" (Torrey, *What the Bible Teaches* p. 331, with emphasis; Acts 2:39).

"Satan has opposed the doctrine of the Spirit-filled life about as bitterly as any other doctrine there is" wrote A. W. Tozer. "He has confused it, opposed it, surrounded it with false notions and fears. He has blocked every effort of the church of Christ to receive from the Father her divine and blood-bought patrimony [inheritance from your father]. The Church has tragically neglected this great liberating truth—that there is now for the child of God a full and wonderful and completely satisfying anointing with the Holy Ghost.... The Spirit-filled life is not a special, deluxe edition of Christianity. It is part and parcel of the total plan of God for His people" (Tozer, *Holy Spirit* pp. 18-19).

Selah: Why do some not want to surrender to Jesus / Holy Spirit?

Why do some not want to use God's power to heal and deliver?

Why do some not want to have their faith built up or to read His BOOK?

In A. W. Tozer's book, *The Pursuit of God*, the author explained that some have a veil over their hearts. "It is the veil of our fleshly, fallen nature living on, unjudged within us, uncrucified, and unrepudiated" (p. 44). The veil is woven with the "fine threads of the self-life"; Tozer lists the self-life as, "self-sins, self-righteousness, self-pity, self-confidence, self-sufficiency, self-admiration, self-love" (p. 45). He makes it clear, "Self is the opaque veil that hides the face of God from us" (Tozer, *Pursuit* p. 46). God wants to rend the veil of our heart. Laymen: ready to surrender, yield, and trust? Ready to repudiate and crucify the self-life? Ready to get to work?

## Signs of the Spirit Baptism

Signs of the Spirit baptism/infilling/sanctification of the Holy Spirit/surrender to Jesus

Abner and Mester are listed in this lesson

received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and here is the report of changes they noticed in their lives.

After the Spirit baptism...

1. They knew Jesus was real and they had a peaceful assurance of their salvation.
2. The Bible Scriptures came to life and became clearer and more understandable.
3. They wanted their old ways and the old life gone; they requested daily for the Holy Spirit to conform them to the image of Christ (Rom. 8:29). They were hungry for God.
4. They would ask the Holy Spirit to pray through them, and He would. Their prayers became much more powerful. They felt the assurance of His presence. They became bolder.
5. In travel, many reported that they felt like they were in a "safety bubble," and protected.
6. They experienced more feelings of trust. For example, they felt as if they were hearing:
  - "You will be safe and secure" and "Your loved ones are going to be okay."
  - "It's all going to work out all right."
7. Daily inner experiences and observances:
  - Life seemed worth living; inner joy filled their heart.
  - They knew God loved them unconditionally and felt His mercy every morning.
8. Physical scene:
  - The grass looked greener, the trees looked taller, and the flowers looked beautiful.
  - Babies, children, and senior citizens seemed more precious.
    - They started praying for ambulances, news, TV, and magazines stories of crisis.
9. They wanted others saved and were overjoyed when God used them to minister the gospel.
10. They wanted their life, every word and deed, to glorify Christ; they gave up their vices.
11. Their discernment was heightened, and they knew when things were not as they seemed. They knew when the bad guys (devil, demons) were stirring up trouble.
12. The Lord guided them through dreams, visions, and the still small voice, as well as the Word.
13. They felt His presence and power during ministering and *laying on of hands*.
14. They entered real worship during praise and worship at church and at home.
15. While watching TV, they were quickly convicted if the show was not godly.
16. Their eyes were opened to the reality of the devil and his power, his strategies, his tricks.
17. They became quick to repent, wanting to keep short accounts with God and man.
18. They saw God in a more awesome way; they respected the power of God more.
19. They saw Christianity as much bigger and more exciting than they originally thought.
20. They quickly called on His name when sick or when others were sick or in trouble.
21. They felt their heart leap for joy when good things happened, or truth was spoken.
22. They felt a cloud of darkness and a foreboding feeling leave their life.
23. Some reported that they felt like they were partners with God in kingdom work.
24. And, the most controversial change in some people's lives was a new language—a private prayer language—made up of words from heavenly languages and sometimes earthly languages not learned. (For example, there were stories of missionaries going to foreign lands and speaking in English, with the audience hearing Japanese or Chinese. How exciting! That modern miracle, a miracle of language, could happen to anyone!)

## Instructions Regarding the Gift of a Prayer Language

What it will personally be like if a believer gets a prayer language/tongues?

- The believer must use his tongue and voice box.
- The believer must open his mouth and allow the air to pass over the voice box.
- The believer must not talk in English or even think in English, for a few moments.
- The believer may hear or feel syllables come up from his abdomen, which do not sound like full words, but he should speak them out anyway.

For example: If teaching a child how to say the English word salvation, one would break it up into syllables like this: sal-va-tion. When the child puts these syllables together, it makes the word *salvation*. When the Spirit first gives a prayer language, it will sound like syllables. Just repeat the syllables said by the Spirit...whatever comes up out of the believer's spirit man.

- If it sounds dumb at first, maybe like "yab-a-dab-a-do," just go with it!
- As the language kicks in, the prayer will have more flow, with more and more words.
- Sometimes it will sound like warfare; sometimes it will sound like flowing praise.
- The believer can start it at will and stop it at will. (See 1 Cor. 14:15-16.)
- The believer can pray in English, switch to tongues, then switch back (1 Cor. 14:15).
- The believer can sing in English, switch to the prayer language, and switch back.
- The believer can just make a joyful noise to the Lord!

How this is different from praying in English?

- A person must think up the words, content, sentence structure, grammar, and subject/verb agreement, but in the prayer language the Spirit prays through the person.
- Most can hardly pray for 15 minutes in English, but using the prayer language, a person can easily pray for hours, because it is no work on the believer's part.

How is this similar?

- As in English, when praying in prayer language, one can pray the personal list, the national or international needs, or give the Lord an hour of praying the Spirit's agenda.

How a prayer language helps in prayer counseling, ministry, deliverance, or healing:

- Praying in the Spirit is like putting money in the bank. One prays in his prayer language before a service or session, and then during the ministry time, the Lord will download wisdom, knowledge, discernment, supernatural faith, miracles, and healings and give the diagnosis from the throne room on how to set the captive free. The believer banked the wisdom like money; now he can make a withdrawal.
- The prayer language edifies and builds up; it revs up the motor, so to speak.
- Even if the minister is tired, he will be empowered and energized by the new language.
- Pray every day. Start with two to five minutes, then more. Pray in the car, in the shower, while doing chores, while mowing the lawn, and while sorting, washing, and folding the laundry. Pray on long trips. Pray during the week; watch God work in Sunday morning service. (If energy comes from the prayer language, stop before 10:00 pm.)
- It is the perfect prayer to Abba Father without mixing carnality or our thoughts of what God *should* do in a situation.

Any questions or concerns before the Spirit baptism, refreshing or infilling prayer session?