

Subj: JESUS, THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTIZER

The coming of the Spirit was dependent upon the ascension, the exaltation, and the glorification of Jesus Christ. For this reason Jesus said, *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).

His departure prepared the way for the coming of the Spirit. He could not be with them in the fullest sense unless He departed from them. The choice lay between Christ in a bodily fashion or the divine Spirit, capable of being universally present at all times. In the day of His flesh He was limited to space and time. But His departure made possible the coming of the Spirit.

The Comforter, unbound by flesh, could be in an unlimited number of places at once, working miracles and doing the work of Christ. By His departure His local presence was changed into a universal presence. Therefore He said, "It is... (better) for you that I go away." It is to your advantage. It is profitable for you. *"For if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you."*

THE EXALTATION OF THE BAPTIZER

In His humiliation Christ longed for His original glory. He prayed, "And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the ^{World}~~word~~ was."

(John 17:5)

This was not a selfish desire because He knew what it would mean to His disciples. He said, "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you" (Luke 24:49)...and, "If I depart, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7)

He speaks of sending the Spirit, of giving the Spirit, and of praying for the Spirit.

The culmination of Christ's exaltation was the authority or power of baptizing with the Holy Ghost. He gave gifts unto men. The Spirit was Christ's ascension gift to the Church.

It was this point that Peter drove home to the multitudes on the Day of Pentecost. "Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost he hath shed forth this which ye now see and hear." (Acts 2:33).

THE EXALTATION OF THE FATHER

Luke 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Isa. 32:15 "Until the spirit be poured upon us from on high, and the wilderness be a fruitful field, and the fruitful field be counted for a forest."



Christ is now ascended at the right hand of God, above all principality and power, and above every name. He has ascended on high because He had promised to pour out the Spirit from on high (see Luke 24:49 - Isa. 32:15).

➔ It is from this lofty position that He pours forth the promise of the Father. It is from this exalted and elevated seat that He dispenses the Holy Ghost.

The outpouring of the Spirit was direct evidence that Jesus was with the Father. It was a witness of the Resurrection. It was a testimony of the lordship of Christ. It was the divine fulfillment of the promise which could not find its accomplishment until the Son of Man had been glorified.

THE BAPTISM AND THE BAPTIZER

The purpose of the advent of the Spirit was to empower believers to continue the ministry and works of Jesus Christ. The Spirit who equipped Jesus for His mission equips His disciples to carry on. *"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do because I go unto my Father."* (John 14:12).

What Jesus began through the Holy Spirit He continues through us. He did not leave us as orphans but has come to us through the Spirit to give us equipment and power to fulfill the task He has given to us to do. The Spirit makes us adequate for each task. When we fail, it is because we have not relied upon His Spirit.

There is no need for any Spirit-filled Minister or member to feel inadequate as long as he leans upon the Spirit. *"We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us" (2 Cor. 4:7).*

EQUIPMENT FOR SERVICE:

So important was this new baptism that the disciples were not to begin their work without it. They were to tarry and wait until they were equipped with, or clothed with it.

The infilling of the Spirit means an overflowing of witness.

We receive an infilling that we might overflow in testimony.

The Holy Spirit is to teach us what ~~that~~ Jesus would have done if He was still here.

"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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

This power is the ability to accomplish.

The Spirit is not come to give a new revelation, but an interpretation of the old revelation of the mystery of Christ's birth, and wonder of His life.

CONCLUSION:

The Spirit is the Lord of the harvest, and He is in the world calling out people for His own, gathering them together for the last day.

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