

Clothed With Power from God

“And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high” (Luke 24:49).

Jesus spoke these words to His disciples just before He ascended off the Earth to take His just and apt place at the right hand of God (Ephesians 1:20). Jesus told the apostles they were not to leave Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit anointing came upon them with power, and this happened ten days later on the Day of Pentecost. This, Jesus proclaimed, was the ***“power from on high.”*** Jesus also disclosed that this was the promise of His Father. Since Jesus spoke what the Father told Him to speak (John 5:19), and since They are unified and One (John 10:30), whenever Jesus gives us a promise it is also guaranteed and given by the Father Himself. The same is true in regards to the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit: the promise came from **both** the Father **and** the Son. The Source of the power is from on high and comes from the Father.

Everyone who is baptized into Christ is clothed in Christ. That is exactly what the Apostle Paul tells us in Galatians 3:27: ***“For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.”*** That is part of the promise of Acts 2:38-39 given to all obedient believers when the Apostle Peter announced to the crowd of thousands gathered together in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost, ***38. Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your 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 that are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to Him.***

Our God calls us to Him through His word. Jesus said in John 6:44-45, ***44. “No one can come to Me unless the Father Who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. 45. It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.”*** Everyone who has ever lived and came to salvation in Christ has done so because God has taught him. How does God accomplish this? He achieves this by Providentially preserving His word for us. That is how God teaches us. The Apostle John writes in John 1:1 and John 1:14, ***1. In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 14. And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld His glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.*** This Word Who became flesh is none other than Jesus Christ, and it is His word which is the means through which we come to obedient, saving faith. The Apostle Paul writes in Romans 10:17, ***“So belief comes of hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ.”***

Yes, it is true that all who are baptized into Christ **with** the Holy Spirit are clothed with Christ, but not everyone who is clothed with Christ is clothed with **power**. That was a promise which was given to the apostles alone, and we see its

fulfillment in Acts 2:1-4. Luke writes, **1. And when the day of Pentecost was now come, they were all together in one place. 2. And suddenly there came from Heaven a sound as of the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3. And there appeared unto them tongues parting asunder, like as of fire; and it sat upon each one 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.**

This is the baptism of Jesus **with** the Holy Spirit. John the Immerser said in Luke 3:16, **“I baptize you with water; but He Who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of Whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”**

Jesus told the apostles in Matthew 28:18, **“All authority in Heaven and on Earth has been given to Me.”** He told His apostles that He would send the Comforter (John 14:16), and the Comforter was and is the Holy Spirit (John 14:26). When the Holy Spirit came He would come with power (Acts 1:8), and He did just that when He fell upon the apostles and imparted unto them the miraculous ability to speak in tongues. Jesus also promised that the Holy Spirit would come as a Teacher imparting great, miraculous knowledge as well as bringing into remembrance to the apostles all things whatsoever Jesus had taught them during His Earthly ministry (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit would also be the means into which Jesus Christ would baptize His followers, for His disciples would be baptized **with** the Holy Spirit, not **of** the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle John writes in 1 John 2:20, **“But you have been anointed by the Holy One, and you know all things.”** The anointing by the Holy One is performed by Jesus when we are baptized into His body **with** the Holy Spirit, and we are anointed **with** the Holy Spirit at baptism. He will lead us into all truth of God’s will in our lives as we prayerfully study His Word which His apostles have left for us and God has preserved: **“His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness”** (2 Peter 1:3). Nothing regarding our salvation has been left out, nothing has been left to chance, and we can be confident and assured of our salvation when we come to the Lord in obedient, saving faith.

If we deny the Son, then we do not have the Father (1 John 2:23) and we will remain forever lost in our sins, **“since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God”** (Romans 3:23). Only those who come to Christ can return to the Father (John 14:6), for only through Jesus can our sins be forgiven. Paul writes in Colossians 1:13-14, **13. He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and transferred us to the Kingdom of His beloved Son, 14. in Whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.** It is our sins and iniquities which separate us from God as Isaiah said in Isaiah 59:1-2, **1. Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or His ear dull, that it cannot hear; 2. but your iniquities have made a separation between you**

and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you so that He does not hear.

Jesus told the apostles that they will be baptized shortly ***with*** the Holy Spirit ***“but before many days”*** had passed in Acts 1:5. Now we know that when John the Immerser spoke of the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit, he was not speaking just to the apostles. So this baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit is not just for the apostles. It is for everyone. Many overlook this fact. This is a promise that is given to all who come to the Lord in obedient, saving faith.

After Jesus spoke of the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit, the apostles asked Jesus if He would restore the Kingdom of Israel. They still did not understand that Jesus would establish a spiritual Kingdom of Israel which is open to all and not just to the Jews. Jesus simply told them it was not for them to know times or seasons. That was in God’s province, not theirs. Then Jesus told them that they will receive **power** soon when the Holy Spirit came upon them.

The mistake of many is to think that the Holy Spirit coming upon someone is the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit, although they almost always refer to it as the baptism ***of*** the Holy Spirit. Receiving power from on high through the Holy Spirit coming is actually a separate promise that was given **ONLY** to the apostles, and it was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus told the apostles that they would be witnesses of Him in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria, and even to the very uttermost ends of the Earth. The Spirit Himself would come upon the apostles and give them power. This is not the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit, as I hope you will see. Jesus sending the Holy Spirit into the world is the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit. Remember, Jesus is the One Who does the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit. The baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit was the Spirit being sent into the world, and He was poured out ***“upon all flesh”*** on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:17).

By exploring certain words in the Bible, we have a clearer understanding of how God has dealt with and continues to deal with His creation, **MAN**. Jesus spoke to Nicodemus in John 3:12 and said to him, ***“If I have told you Earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you Heavenly things?”*** The Heavenly things are the spiritual things of Himself.

The only way we can understand the spiritual or the deeper things of God is by the power that comes from on high, or ***with*** the Holy Spirit. We are anointed ***with*** the Holy Spirit (1 John 2:20) when we are baptized ***with*** the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). We are baptized ***with*** the Holy Spirit when we are baptized ***into*** Christ (Galatians 3:27). When we submit to having our sins washed away in that watery grave of baptism we are baptized into the death of Jesus (Romans 6:3) and we are buried with Christ (Romans 6:4). Our old self has been crucified with the Lord (Romans 6:6) and we rise up out of that watery grave to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4). We no longer follow after our own selfish desires

and passions, we live for Christ: ***“I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ Who lives in me; and the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, Who loved me and gave Himself for me”*** (Galatians 2:20).

When Jesus spoke with Nicodemus in John 3:5, He told Nicodemus, ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.”*** When Paul wrote to the congregation in Rome in Romans 6:4 and said, ***“We were buried therefore with Him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life,”*** the ***“newness of life”*** of which Paul writes is the same thing Jesus said of being ***“born of water and the Spirit.”*** It is also the same thing as Paul tells us in Titus 3:4-6 when he calls it the ***“washing of regeneration.”*** ***4. but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, 5. He saved us, not because of deeds done by us in righteousness, but in virtue of His own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, 6. Which He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior. . . .*** This is why Jesus further told Nicodemus in John 3:7, ***“Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born anew.’”*** The transformation is performed by God through the power of the Holy Spirit, and this occurs at baptism. This also explains why John wrote in Revelation 20:6, ***“Blessed and holy is he who shares in the first resurrection! Over such the second death has no power. . . .”*** We share in the first resurrection when we share in the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ when we are buried with Him in baptism (Romans 6:3-4). Hopefully, you can by now see that our burial with Christ in that watery grave of baptism is also the baptism ***with*** the Holy Spirit. They are one and the same.

Therefore, if we refuse baptism, then we are not Christ's, for we do not have His Spirit. Peter said it was at baptism that we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), and the Apostle Paul wrote that if we do not have the Spirit of Christ then we are not His: ***9. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to Him. 10. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. 11. If the Spirit of Him Who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He Who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through His Spirit Which dwells in you.*** (Romans 8:9-11) And only those who have the Spirit of Christ can be called the sons of God: ***“For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God”*** (Romans 8:14).

Being baptized ***with*** the Holy Spirit means we have been anointed with the Holy Spirit. John says in 1 John 2:23-29, ***23. No one who denies the Son has the Father. He who confesses the Son has the Father also. 24. Let what you heard from the beginning abide in you. If what you heard from the***

beginning abides in you, then you will abide in the Son and in the Father. 25. And this is what He has promised us, eternal life. 26. I write this to you about those who would deceive you; 27. but the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need that anyone should teach you; as His anointing teaches you about everything, and is true, and is no lie, just as it has taught you, abide in Him. 28. And now, little children, abide in Him, so that when He appears we may have confidence and not shrink from Him in shame at His coming. 29. If you know that He is righteous, you may be sure that everyone who does right is born of Him.

I believe it is significant and important that we understand this anointing of the Holy Spirit we receive when we are baptized *with* the Holy Spirit. When we come to God, we must know that He is God (Hebrews 11:6) and that **“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”** (John 4:24). God encompasses the whole spiritual realm of light: **“This is the message we have heard from Him and proclaim to you, that God is light and in Him is no darkness at all”** (1 John 1:5). When the Spirit moved upon the face of the deep at creation (Genesis 1:2), it was the Holy Spirit of God that moved.

To bring more understanding of the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we must begin with the Old Testament. The word for *anoint* in the Old Testament is the Hebrew word **MASHIAH** which is better understood by us as being Messiah. Messiah means “to anoint, to smear or to consecrate.” Consecrate means “to set aside,” especially for a particular purpose or reason.

When anointing was accomplished in the Old Testament, the people would use oil or ointment. The oil was poured to anoint. The ointment was smeared or spread.

All the instruments used in Moses' tabernacle were anointed. These were anointed after first being sprinkled with blood. The sprinkling of blood cleansed it. The anointing was a sign that it was going to be used for the service of God. When we are baptized *with* the Holy Spirit and anointed *with* the Holy Spirit we similarly are marked to be in service to the Lord: **“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service”** (Romans 12:1). When a person is anointed by the Messiah, he belongs to the Messiah.

In the Old Testament, God always used man to anoint with the ointment or oil. In the New Testament this anointing was no longer in the hands of man. God has reserved this anointing power unto Himself.

The first mention of anointing in the Gospels occurs when God anointed John the Immerser in Elizabeth's womb. The next anointing was on the banks of the Jordan River, approximately 30 years later, when John baptized Jesus and the

Father spoke, saying, ***“This is My Beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased”*** (Matthew 3:17). When God's voice spoke to Jesus and said, ***“This is My Beloved Son,”*** the question arises: “Who was Jesus' Father, or Who was it that fathered Jesus?”

Over 700 years before the birth of Jesus, Isaiah prophesied in Isaiah 7:14 that a virgin would give birth to a Son: ***“Behold, a young woman shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”*** This young virgin lady was going to conceive a Child and this conception was to be by God Himself. This Child that she was going to bring forth would be known as the Son of God. In Luke 1:32-33, the Angel tells Mary ***32. “He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give to 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.”***

The Angel further revealed unto Mary how this would happen in verse 35: ***“The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the Child to be born will be called holy, the Son of God.”*** Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit, the same power from on high Who fell upon the apostles on the Day of Pentecost.

So when the Father spoke and said to Jesus on the day He was baptized by John, ***“This is My Beloved Son,”*** He truly was His natural Son because it was the Spirit of God that had conceived Jesus in Mary's womb. This was all attested to in Matthew 1:18-20: ***18. Now the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When His mother Mary had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with Child of the Holy Spirit; 19. and her husband Joseph, being a just man and unwilling to put her to shame, resolved to put her away quietly. 20. But as he considered this, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream, saying, “Joseph, son of David, do not fear to take Mary your wife, for That which is conceived in her is of the Holy Spirit. . . .”***

Three times God said that the Holy Spirit fathered (conceived) Jesus. God's number of completeness is three. By this revealing, we know that the Holy Spirit and the Father are One. Jesus was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit, He was anointed at His baptism through the power of the Holy Spirit, and He was raised from the dead through the power of the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:11). He then sent the Holy Spirit to clothe His apostles with power on the Day of Pentecost. When we submit to be baptized ***with*** the Holy Spirit as we are clothed in Jesus Christ then we, too, will experience the power of the Holy Spirit when we are resurrected to eternal life on the Day of Judgment!