

LIFE IN THE SPIRIT SEMINAR
SEMINAR #3
THE NEW LIFE

- I. The Father wants everyone to have new life. He sent His only son, Jesus into the world so that we could be given the Holy Spirit (the source of new life).
- A. Often the Christianity we have come in contact with is not spiritually alive, but today God is renewing his Church by pouring out his Holy Spirit.
 - B. The Father wants everyone to have new life in Him.
 - C. The Father sent Jesus into the world to bring us new life.
JESUS IS LORD If we accept His lordship we can experience a new freedom, and a new life.

.... In Him all our sins can be forgiven (no matter what we've done !), and every barrier between us and the Father can be taken away.

Jesus promises to send the Holy Spirit (Jn 14:16, 14:26, 16:7-15)

.... After Jesus rose from the dead and ascended to the Father, He sent the Holy Spirit to bring us new life. (Acts 1:4-5)

- II. When the Holy Spirit comes to someone, he/she becomes a changed person. After being baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, 19:1-7), other people should see a noticeable change.
- A. The person becomes a son/daughter of God – everyone moved by the Spirit is a son or daughter of God.
 - B. The person comes to know God by experience.
 - 1. They experience God's presence in a new way (Peace, Joy, Love).
 - 2. They experience God speaking, teaching, and guiding them, through Scripture, other people, etc.
 - C. The person can pray in a new way.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit prays in them (Acts 19:1-6, Rom 8:26-27)
 - 2. The gift of tongues is a gift of prayer, a means of spiritual growth, it is the Spirit within us praising God. When we can't pray adequately, the Spirit prays for us, for our edification.
 - D. The Bible comes to life, Scripture seems to speak to your heart.
 - E. The *Fruits of the Spirit* develop : love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, self-control, and gentleness.

F. The person can receive the *Gifts of the Spirit* to serve God : prophecy, healing, discernment of spirits, inspirations to speak in tongues, interpretation of tongues (utterance), faith, wisdom, knowledge, and miracles (1 Cor 12)

1. Tongues- There are times when the anointing for the ability to speak in tongues is greater than others, but a person's will is in control at all times. The speaking is not supernatural, but what is spoken is. St. Paul says : If I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays.(1 Cor 14:16) The Holy Spirit miraculously gives the words, but the person speaks by an act of will. When tongues is followed by interpretation, the two combined serve the same purpose as prophecy.

3. A prophet is one who speaks forth on the behalf of God through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The prophecy denotes the exercise of the spiritual gift of prophecy.

All true prophecy is to build up, admonish, and to encourage the people of God. True prophecy ; edifies, exhorts, and comforts, it agrees with the letter and spirit of scripture, it centers on Christ, both exalting and giving Him glory. In addition, it produces fruit in character, liberty not bondage, life not death, and is attested to by the Holy Spirit within each believer who hears it. *The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth.*

(Receiving the gifts of the spirit does not signify holiness, they are given freely by God, not earned.)

III. Full life in the spirit begins when we are baptized in the spirit; the indwelling of the Spirit brings life (water baptism), the fullness of the Spirit brings power (spirit baptism)

A. When we are baptized in the spirit, the Holy Spirit comes to us in away that we can experience and see the results of. For many of us, it will not be our first reception of the Spirit, but the release of what is already there. Jesus gives us the new life, He is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

B. Different people see different changes within them as a result of being baptized in the Spirit.

1. Those who were not already Christians will be given a full working of the Spirit, those who have already experienced something of the Spirit's presence in their lives can receive what is lacking. Everyone can experience a new presence and working of the Spirit.

2. Those of us that were already Christians will find that our years of Christian living have provided us with many resources that will be brought to life by the Spirit's new presence in us.

3. There is no reason to be a Christian who is powerless and not in contact with God. Beginners in the Christian life can be baptized in the Spirit.

IV. Baptism in the Spirit is only the beginning of new life.

- A. In a Christian community, we can grow to spiritual maturity.**
- B. We can develop a daily communion and friendship with Christ.**
- C. We can begin to experience a new peace and joy, see ourselves becoming healed and become more loving people.**
- D. We can develop better relationships, and become a full part of a genuine community.**

Discussion :

What kind of personal changes are you expecting as a result of this seminar?

What questions do you have concerning baptism in the Holy Spirit and/or on the previous teaching?

Next week we will discuss how to turn to Christ so that we can receive the fullness of the new life He is offering.