

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

HOW TO CONDUCT SPIRITUAL WARFARE

RLJ-1077

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PART 4: HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

UNDERSTANDING IS THE KEY

Most Christians do not know that there is a baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was one of these Christians, who after my coming to Christ in the month of May in 1965 had no such knowledge. When I became a member a Southern Baptist Church in Salt Lake City in January 1966, I was quickly taught of my need to be baptized in water. When I realized that this was taught in the Bible, I said yes, and was baptized in water.

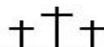
My pastor was happy with me for this decision and then enrolled me in a disciple program on how to study the Bible, witness and lead people to Christ, work in Sunday school, and clean and repair the church building. But the Book of Acts was more or less avoided, and no emphasis was placed upon it, I did not pay to much attention to it.

One Saturday, when I was trimming the lawn outside our church building, a lady came up to me and talked to me. I became excited and invited her to church. The pastor came and asked to talk to me, and after he took me aside, he told me that he did not want that woman in the church. When I questioned him, he told me in a stern voice that she was a Pentecostal and they were not welcome in our church. I never bothered to ask the pastor why Pentecostal Christians were bad.

One question that I put to people in the church was, "If Jesus healed people, why are we not praying for the sick today?" The reply was that Jesus had to heal people to establish His church, once the church and the Bible were completed, there was no more need for healing. **1 Corinthians 13:8-13** was cited to prove this point.

YOU HAVE TO BE THIRSTY

Some four years later we had moved to California and I was enrolled as a seminary student. We got invited to attend and work at a Billy Graham crusade in Anaheim, and a group of us drove down to the Los Angeles area. We were lodged in the home of a family, where the wife had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, and we were her mission field. For five mornings, she had breakfast ready for us at 5:30 AM, and while we were eating a hearty southern style breakfast, she told us about the Power of God, her trips to the Kathryn Kuhlman meetings and the moving of the Holy Spirit at Calvary Chapel and Melodyland. When we came home around 11 PM, she had a snack ready for us, and more to say about the Holy Spirit. This woman created a thirst in us. **John 7:37-39**



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GOD MADE ME EVEN MORE THIRSTY

There were two other students from the seminary who came with me and my wife, and as we drove back, we discussed the baptism of the Holy Spirit, wondering who would be the first to receive it.

In January 1970, my wife and I received \$20 from our lady friend in L.A. with strict orders to use that money to attend a Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship convention in Berkley. The opening night we saw for the first time a man with Cerebral Palsy, who had suffered for 20 years and was basically skin and bones, healed in just a few seconds. I began to cry and sobbed out to God, *"I believe now in the Holy Ghost and I want all you have for today."* But I was not to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost in the meetings; it was done in our studio apartment with just me and the Holy Ghost.

I HAD TO SURRENDER ALL TO JESUS

It had been pointed out to me that I was oppressed by demons, but pride had hindered me from accepting the truth that I could have such a problem. It was not until I surrendered and cried out to God, that the Holy Ghost chased out the demons and filled me with the power and fire of God. **Acts 2:1**

Did I speak with tongues at this time? No, the only manifestation I felt very clean and there was a new joy.

WHY DID I SEEK THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

I was in love with God and his Son, Jesus, and my desire was to be with God, read the Bible, witness for Jesus and walk with Him. My focus in life had changed and the world had lost its hold on me with money and other earthly things. Once I heard that there was more to the Christian life than previously known, I wanted it all so I could know Christ more fully and use the power of God to do the work of God. The Apostle Paul describes it powerful. **Hebrews 11:8-37**

Paul loved God with all his heart and his life was geared for one thing, to please the Father and Son. **Galatians 2:20**

WHAT ABOUT THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

In my life, power was the first manifestation. I noticed that when I preached after my encounter with the Holy Spirit, there was a power manifested in my preaching, not in me, but in the people who heard the message. There was conviction of sins and repentance in people. More people were saved and many were called into service for God. I had power to pray, power to work, power in my daily life. **Acts 1:8**

Gradually more and more of the gifts began to manifest in my life as I walked with God. **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

IS THERE A SPECIAL FORMULA TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

No, the promise is for all people who come to Christ. **Acts 2:38-39**

It is all by faith after the Word of God is loosed. **Acts 10:34-48**

Sometimes it is done through prayer and the laying on of hands. **Acts 8:14-17, 19:1-7**

Salvation is received through faith in Christ; the baptism of the Holy Spirit is also received in faith. Luke 11:9-13

Know this: God is not going to waste His power and resources on Christians who are living in sin, mocking the Holy Spirit, living a life to satisfy sinful desires of the flesh. For Christians like this there will be judgment. **Hebrew 10:26-31**

Jesus is standing outside every believer in Christ asking for permission to come in and abide with them. He is knocking on your door and asking for permission to come in. He will not force the door open; you must open the door from the inside! **Revelation 3:19-22**

ARE YOU WILLING TO OPEN YOUR DOOR TODAY?

DO YOU HAVE AN EAR TO HEAR WITH?