

Lesson 3

Baptism of the Holy Ghost

We have learned how the Lord has made us new creatures in Him. We are washed in the blood of Jesus Christ on the cross and we are born again of His Spirit. Through water baptism, the old man is dead, and the new man is born into life in Christ Jesus. We are His people and His Church. We are made in His image. The full transformation of our lives is not yet completed until we are filled with the power and indwelling of both the Father and Son (Jesus Christ) through the baptism of the Holy Ghost. We are to be full of His power to complete the plan of the Lord. **Matthew 16:18** *“I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

The Godhead: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost

1 John 5:7 *“For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.”* This is a great mystery to many believers. How can God, one Spirit, be three different persons: Father, Son, and Holy Ghost? They are distinct manifestations or beings of the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose and time in God’s plan. They are different, yet all are one! Each has been sent of God to the earth at different times, but they have been together from the beginning. **Genesis 1:26** *“And God said, **Let us** make man in our image, after our likeness: ...”* The “us” referred to in this scripture are Father, Son and Holy Ghost. The Godhead is revealed to us in the scriptures and also in creation. **Romans 1:19-20** *“Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:”*

We see in His Word that the eternal power and Godhead is shown on the earth through three distinct seasons or times in His plan. First, God, the Father, moves from the time of creation until Jesus (Genesis to John, the Baptist). Next, God moves through Jesus’ birth until His ascension into heaven (Matthew to Acts 1). Finally, God moves through the Holy Ghost after Jesus’ ascension into heaven to our present time (Acts 2 to Revelation). There has never been a time since the creation of man and the earth that the Spirit of God has not been present upon the earth. His presence on earth today is in temples of the Holy Ghost where the Father and Son dwell in us to complete the Father’s plan. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20** *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”*

The Promise of the Holy Ghost

The promise of the Holy Ghost to His Church comes by Jesus Christ. This is clearly shown in the scriptures. **John 14:15-26** *“If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.”*

At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” Acts 1:4-5 “And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” Acts 2:1-4 “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Is The Holy Ghost for the Church Today?

Many Christians wonder if the baptism of the Holy Ghost is for the church today. They may believe that it was only for a few disciples from the past or they don't receive it as a separate experience from water baptism. The scriptures show that it is indeed for His church today and that it is different than the new birth and water baptism. **Matthew 3:11** *“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:”* **Acts 2:38-39** *“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”* **Acts 19:2-6** *“He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”* **Acts 8:14-17** *“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”*

Jesus specifically instructs His disciples to baptize believers in the Holy Ghost. **Matthew 28:19** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”*

The Fullness of God's Power for His Church

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is God's plan to equip His Church to complete His plan to redeem or restore souls back to Himself before the return of Jesus. The Holy Ghost is the power of The Father and the Son in us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ in word and in deed. The Holy Ghost is the promise of the Father. **Acts 1:8** *"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 Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* **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."* **1 Corinthians 12:3** *"Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost."*

The scriptures show us that the Holy Ghost is to equip us to complete the building of His church. Here are some other specific works of the Holy Ghost for the Church:

Remember and teach His Word

John 14:26 *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*

Testify of Jesus

John 15:26 *"But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"*

Guide us in truth and future things

John 16:13 *"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."*

Glorify the Lord

John 16:14 *"He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you."*

Give us boldness and Godly authority

Acts 4:29-31 *"And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."*

Reveal sin, righteousness, and judgement to the world

John 16:7-11 *"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. And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged."*

Demonstrate God’s covenant with us

Hebrews 10:15-17 *“Whereof the Holy Ghost also is a witness to us: for after that he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.”*

Show God’s love to the world

Romans 5:5 *“And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.”*

Build up our faith and intercede with a heavenly language

Jude 20 *“But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,”* **Acts 2:4** *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”* **Romans 8:26** *“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.”*

Bring gifts of the Holy Ghost to the church

Read all of **1Corinthians 12**.

Hebrews 2:3-4 *“How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”*

Jesus spoke of our day to His followers. **John 14:12** *“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.”* No man, by his own power or strength, could do the things that Jesus did. **John 3:1-2** *“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”*

God the Father was with Jesus. Now, by the baptism of the Holy Ghost, both God the Father and God the Son are “with us” so that we may complete the plan of God. It is God’s wonderful provision for His church today to perform the “greater works”. His church is to be full of the power and authority of God. When this occurs, His church can enter into the realm of the impossible things that are now made possible. **Luke 18:27** *“And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.”* **2 Corinthians 4:7** *“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.”*

Once again, here is the instruction that Jesus gave us about building His church. **Matthew 28:19-20** *“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”* The fullness of the baptism spoken of in these scriptures is remission of sin (washed in the Blood); death and resurrection life (water baptism); and being filled with the power of the Father and Son, which is the Holy Ghost.

DISCIPLESHIP QUESTIONS

| SCRIPTURES | QUESTIONS |
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| <p>John 14:15-21 (15) <i>“If ye love me, keep my commandments. (16) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. (18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. (19) Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also. (20) At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. (21) He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.”</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the condition to receive the Comforter? 2. What is another name of the Holy Ghost? 3. What things of love are revealed in these scriptures? 4. What is revealed about the abiding of the Holy Ghost? |
| <p>John 14:26-27 (26) <i>“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (27) Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. What is the work of the Holy Ghost? 6. The Holy Ghost is referred to as Comforter. Why? |
| <p>John 15:26-27 (26) <i>“But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.”</i></p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. What is the purpose of the Holy Ghost? 8. What is the connection between the Holy Ghost and witnesses of Jesus? |

John 16:12-15

(12) "I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

(13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

(15) All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it unto you."

9. How is instruction in the Lord carried on after Jesus goes to be with the Father?

10. What is another name for the Holy Ghost?

11. What shall He do and speak?

ANSWER KEY

Read **John 14:15-21**

1. We must demonstrate our love by keeping his commandments.
2. The Comforter
3. Love is keeping his commandments. In keeping his commandments, we will be loved of Jesus. If we are loved of Jesus, we will be loved by the Father. Whom the Father loves Jesus also loves. Jesus is manifest in us through love.
4. He will abide with us forever

Read **John 14:26-27**

5. The work of the Holy Ghost is to teach all things and to bring the Word of the Lord to our remembrance.
6. The Holy Ghost is the peace of the Lord and is given to us. With His peace, we do not need to worry or be troubled; nor be afraid. He will comfort us!

Read **John 15:26-27**

7. The purpose of the Holy Ghost is to testify of Jesus and bear witness of Him.
8. A witness is someone who was there and can give firsthand account. We were not there so cannot truly be witnesses. The Lord's remedy for this is to put in us the Holy Ghost who was there from the beginning and can truly be a witness of Jesus. It is the Holy Ghost in us who shall testify and give witness!

Read **John 16:12-15**

9. The instructions of the Lord are given through the Holy Ghost
10. The Spirit of Truth.
11. He will guide us into all truth. We will not speak of our own things but of the things of the Lord. He will show us things to come. He will Glorify Jesus. He will receive things of the Lord and reveal them unto us.

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