

BAPTISM OF THE

*Holy Spirit*

A 10 DAY DEVOTIONAL STUDY

DENNIS SMITH

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# HOW TO USE THIS DEVOTIONAL STUDY

The disciples had spent day after day with Christ for three and a half years. They sat at His feet and listened to His instruction. They saw Him heal the sick, cast out devils, feed thousands with a young boy's lunch and even raise the dead to life. They themselves had been sent out by Jesus to preach the gospel, heal the sick and cast out devils in His name. When the seventy returned they were amazed at what they had just experienced and exclaimed: "Lord, even the devils are subject unto us through thy name.." Luke 10:17.

Christ's disciples had also experienced a devastating disappointment when the mob took Jesus that Thursday night in the garden. They witnessed the mock trial and terrible crucifixion. They had also seen Jesus after He was resurrected, and spent 40 days with Him before He ascended to heaven.

Even though the disciples had experienced all these things and understood what the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus was about in the plan of salvation they were not ready to take the gospel to the world as Jesus had commissioned them.

"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 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.." Matthew 28:18-20

No, they were lacking something very important in order to truly represent Jesus to the world, and preach the gospel with power. Therefore, Jesus commanded them; "For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.... 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." Acts 1:5, 8

Jesus told them to wait to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit before they went forth to preach the gospel and do the ministry of Jesus. So they did what Jesus said; they waited. "These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.." Acts 1:14. They waited in fasting and prayer for ten days. Every day they met in the upper room to study, fast, pray and make all things right between one another. Ellen White described their fellowship with the following words:

"These days of preparation were days of deep heart searching. The disciples felt their spiritual need and cried to the Lord for the holy unction that was to fit them for the work of soul saving. They did not ask for a blessing for themselves merely. They were weighted with the burden of the salvation of souls. They realized that the gospel was to be carried to the world, and they claimed the power that Christ had promised." The Acts of the Apostles, p.37

At the end of the ten days an amazing event happened.

“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. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaens? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?” Acts 2:1-8

Many in Jerusalem who heard and saw what was happening were confused. Peter stood up and explained what they were seeing,

“But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:” Acts 2:14-18

From the Day of Pentecost onward under the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit the gospel went to the then known world. Thousands accepted Jesus Christ (Acts 2:41, 4:4), and the baptism of the Holy Spirit became available to all believers in Jesus Christ. This same Holy Spirit infilling is available to every Christian today. And that is what this 10 day devotional is all about; praying for and experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The following paragraphs are adapted from the book 40 Days – Prayers & Devotions to Prepare for Christ’s Second Coming, Review & Herald Publishing Association, Dennis Smith.

Jesus said, “...if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.” (Matthew 18:19). There is great power in united prayer. There is also encouragement and spiritual strength found in Christian fellowship.

### **Guidelines for Completing the Devotional Study in 10 Days**

In order to receive the greatest blessing it is suggested that you choose a prayer

partner to fellowship with and pray together with either on the phone or in person every day during the 10 days of prayer and study.

This devotional has ten chapters followed by personal reflection and discussion questions, and a prayer focus for that day. In order to get the greatest benefit from this devotional as a church I recommend that your church come together every night for 10 nights to sing, study, pray and share together using this devotional book. As mentioned above, you also need to choose one in the group to become your daily fellowship prayer partner. Each participant in the group needs to do the same in order to receive the greatest blessings during the 10 days.

### **Guidelines for Completing the Devotional Study in 10 Weeks in a Small Home Group**

Many individuals and churches prefer to complete the 10 Days devotional in 10 weeks instead of 10 days. During the 10 weeks the “prayer partner” suggestion above is still strongly recommended. Also, during the 10 weeks those participating meet in small home groups no larger than 10 to 12 individuals once a week to discuss that week’s devotional study and pray together.

At the end of the 10 weeks each participant invites the 5 individuals they have been praying for to join their small group for Bible studies. (Prayer for 5 individuals is described in the next section below). The participants choose a set of Bible Study guides to use for a group study to share the basic teachings of the Bible with the new former and non-Adventist attendees who have accepted the invitation to join the small group. At this point the group will have probably doubled in size. During the Bible studies in the small group many of the new attendees will begin attending church and decide to be baptized.

When the Bible study guides are completed the group must then divide into two groups. Each group then begins the 10 week devotional study again, which now includes the new attendees who have become a part of the group. Each participant once again chooses 5 former Adventist or non-Adventists to pray for and invite to attend the group for Bible studies at the end of the 10 weeks. During each 10 week devotional study period the participants will continue to grow spiritually, experience genuine revival in their lives and many of those prayed for will come to accept Christ as their personal Savior and be prepared for Christ’s second coming. Each group will grow and divide.

Ellen White recommended small group fellowship and evangelism in the following way.

“The formation of small companies as a basis of Christian effort has been presented to me by One who cannot err. If there is a large number in the church, let the members be formed into small companies, to work not only for the church members, but for unbelievers. If in one place there are only two or three who know the truth, let them form themselves into a band of workers. Let them keep their bond of union unbroken, pressing together in love and unity, encouraging one another to advance, each gaining courage and strength from the assistance of the others. Let them reveal Christ-like forbearance and patience, speaking no hasty words, using the talent

of speech to build one another up in the most holy faith. Let them labor in Christlike love for those outside the fold, forgetting self in their endeavor to help others. As they work and pray in Christ's name, their numbers will increase; for the Saviour says: 'If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which is in heaven.' Matthew 18:19." Testimonies, Vol. 7, p. 21.

### Guidelines for Both the 10 Day or 10 Week Small Group Devotional Study

As mentioned in the above section it is recommended that you choose 5 individuals to pray for who are either former church members or non-members in your area. Call these individuals informing them that your church is going to conduct a 10 day or 10 week prayer focus, and that you would like to pray for them during this time. Then ask them what they would like for you to include in your prayer for them. Prayer is the most powerful force on earth. Prayer is essential for one's own personal spiritual growth, and is the most effective means of reaching others for Christ. Concerning prayer and the Christian's spiritual growth Ellen White wrote:

"Prayer is the breath of the soul. It is the secret of spiritual power. No other means of grace can be substituted, and the health of the soul be preserved. Prayer brings the heart into immediate contact with the Wellspring of life, and strengthens the sinew and muscle of the religious experience. Neglect the exercise of prayer, or engage in prayer spasmodically, now and then, as seems convenient, and you lose your hold on God. The spiritual faculties lose their vitality, the religious experience lacks health and vigor." Gospel Workers, p. 254

She also recognized the necessity of prayer in leading others to Christ.

"Through much prayer you must labor for souls, for this is the only method by which you can reach hearts. It is not your work, but the work of Christ who is by your side, that impresses hearts." Evangelism p.525

"The Lord will hear our prayers for the conversion of souls." Messages to Young People, p.315

As you prayerfully consider the suggested ways to reach out to those you are praying for you will not only be praying for them; you will also be working to bring them closer to Christ and His church. God will bless your efforts when you pray for and work for those on your prayer list. He will not only use you to win others to Christ; He will also draw you closer to Himself. Ellen White understood this double blessing when she wrote:

"As you work to answer your own prayers, you will find that God will reveal Himself unto you. . . Begin now to reach higher and still higher. Prize the things of heaven above earthly attractions and inducements. . . . Learn how to pray; learn how to bear a clear and intelligent testimony, and God will be glorified in you." The Upward Look, p.256

"Their persevering prayers will bring souls to the cross. In cooperation with their self-sacrificing efforts Jesus will move upon hearts, working miracles in the conversion of souls." Testimonies, Vol. 7, p.27

In order to facilitate the prayer emphasis in this devotional there is a prayer focus section at the end of each day's devotional. This section gives a suggested prayer focus for the day. By choosing to participate in the 10 days or 10 weeks of study and prayer you are entering into an amazing and blessed adventure with the Lord. You will experience a deeper relationship with Christ, and you will see the Lord use you to draw others closer to Himself in preparation for His soon return. As you fellowship with your prayer partner and the others participating in the 10 days or 10 weeks of prayer and devotional study you will experience a deeper Christian love and unity with your fellow believers, which will also play an important role in your personal spiritual growth. In order to get the most from the 10 days or 10 weeks of study and prayer it is recommended that this be the first thing you do in the morning. It may require rising a little earlier, but the effort will be well rewarded. If you ask the Lord to wake you so you can have some quality time with Him, He will hear and answer your prayer. Concerning Christ's devotional life Ellen White wrote:

"Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others. His words were given Him fresh from the heavenly courts, words that He might speak in season to the weary and oppressed." Christ's Object Lessons, P.140

Christ will do the same for you if you ask Him. He very much desires to anoint you with His Spirit in preparation for each new day. This 10 day or 10 week devotional study is designed to facilitate just that; a daily anointing of God's Spirit for personal spiritual growth, and witnessing for Christ.

### Prayer Fast

Whether you participate in the 10 Days devotional for 10 days or 10 weeks I also recommend one other important activity, which I call a Prayer Fast. In order to get the most out of the first 10 days, which will also powerfully impact the full 10 weeks, I recommend that each participant limit all secular activity as much as possible for those first 10 days. For example; do not watch secular television programs, listen to secular music, play secular games, surf the internet, discuss secular subjects with friends, etc. Try to keep your focus on as many spiritual subjects and activities as possible such as spiritual music, spiritual television programs, Bible study, etc. What this does is clear one's mind so God can better communicate with us. This kind of Prayer Fast will go a long way in greatly enhancing the 10 day and 10 week spiritual experience, and impact on your life.

You may also want to fast from some physical food. Some individuals choose to omit one meal, omit sweets, or eat less food at each meal during the first 10 days. These kinds of limitations will also enhance the spiritual impact of the 10 days and 10 weeks devotional study, prayer and fellowship.

*Day 1*

## INTRODUCTION

In the September of 1999, the Lord began leading me to study the Bible in order to understand and experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, which is also called the “anointing” and “infilling” of the Holy Spirit. In time I had a specific prayer asking God to baptize me with His Spirit. This book is the result of that study and experience, which began several years ago now and has continued in my life to this day.

Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, I was led to a closer walk with Jesus, experienced a return to that “first love” of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Personal changes began happening within me that could only stem from the indwelling of the Spirit of God. In my ministry, I began seeing a power as I had never seen before.

My prayer for all who use this ten day devotional book is the same as Paul’s prayer for the believers in Ephesus:

“That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.” Ephesians 3:16-19

### **The Concept**

The concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that there are two works of the Spirit: the first is to lead us to accept Christ and be baptized in water; the second is to fill us so we can truly live the Christian life and do the works of God. Jesus is our model or example in all things. He was “born” of the Spirit, led by the Spirit from childhood into manhood, and baptized in water. Soon after His water baptism, He was baptized with the Holy Spirit for which He had prayed at the time of His water baptism (Luke 3:21-22). After the Spirit’s infilling, He was prepared to go forth in the power of the Spirit to do battle with Satan as never before (the wilderness temptations, Luke 4:1-13). He was empowered to preach and teach the kingdom of God, carry on a ministry of healing, and cast out devils (Luke 4:14).

Jesus said that all who believe would do even greater works than He (John 14:12). When the believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he or she is empowered to do the same works as Christ because the same Spirit that filled Christ has filled him or her. Before experiencing this Spirit infilling, God is with the believer because He called and led him to accept Christ and be baptized in water. However, he will not have the fullness of the Spirit’s power within him until he receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit. That is why Jesus told the disciples to wait for the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:4-5, 8).

Not every one was present at Pentecost. The book of Acts indicates that God continued to baptize the believer(s) with the Holy Spirit after the day of Pentecost. One means of doing this was by prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 8:12-17; 9:17-18; 19:1-6). This is the model I have followed. However, the laying on of hands is not always necessary. One can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit by earnestly committing his life to God, and by claiming in prayer His promise to give the Spirit in fullness (Luke 11:13, Gal 3:14).

### **Received by Faith**

Receiving the baptism of the Spirit is a matter of faith. The infilling of the Spirit comes from God, not from the one laying hands on the individual. The laying on of hands is simply a ceremonial act similar to ordaining a deacon or elder for their office. One may or may not feel something at the time of infilling. However, in all cases, the Spirit will make His presence known soon after the request is made in faith.

### **What happens when one receives Spirit Baptism?**

What happens when we ask God for the infilling of the Spirit? A few examples of the changes the infilling of the Spirit will bring to the life of the receiver are: 1) a stronger desire to study God’s Word, 2) more earnest prayers, 3) changes in lifestyles and activities, and 4) deeper repentance.

The infilling of the Spirit is necessary for the believer to walk victoriously in Christ. I have come to the understanding that according to the Bible, one does not “know” Christ in the fullest, biblical sense without the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is illustrated in the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-13) as well as in other scriptures where Christ speaks of not “knowing” someone (I have covered this subject in greater detail in another chapter). It appears that the water baptism is similar to the wedding service, while the Spirit baptism is symbolized by the consummation of the marriage when the bride “knows” her bridegroom. Satan will resist this work fiercely; for he is aware that the Spirit’s infilling will break his power in the believer’s life.

Understanding and experiencing the infilling of the Holy Spirit is second in importance only to understanding and accepting Christ as our Savior. Nor

is there any more important work for the believer than to seek the Spirit's infilling everyday and learn to walk victoriously in the Spirit.

Whether seeking this wonderful experience for one's self or seeking to lead others into this experience, one must move prayerfully. Satan will do all he can to cause confusion and prevent it. We must guard against outright rejection of the teaching, which will lead to rejection of the Spirit, We must also guard against fanaticism, holier-than-thou attitudes, pride, a feeling or belief we already have achieved our goal (which is Laodicea's problem), or the attitude of feeling unworthy to receive it. I have found that many who believe they already have the infilling of the Spirit are willing to have special prayer to ask for even a greater infilling. Elisha saw no problem in requesting a greater portion of the Spirit than had his predecessor as evidenced in 2 Kings 2:9.

### Discussion Questions

What prompted the writing of the book?

How did the author come to understand the teaching on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and experience it?

What other terms refer to the baptism of the Holy Spirit experience?

What was Paul's desire for the Ephesian believers? Ephesians 3:16-19

What is the basic concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

How did Jesus model the Christian's experience in the Holy Spirit?

What happens in the believer's life after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Is the Spirit with the believer before he receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What will the Christian be lacking if he does not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What was one method practiced by Peter, John, Ananias, and Paul when they led believers to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (See Acts 8:12-17; 19:1-6)

How does a believer receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What changes begins happening in the life of the one who seeks Spirit baptism?

According to the author why is the baptism of the Holy Spirit necessary?

Water baptism is similar to the \_\_\_\_\_ ceremony and the baptism of the Holy Spirit is similar to the \_\_\_\_\_ of the marriage.

What attitudes can hinder receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

#### Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to:
  - Lead you to understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Bless those on your prayer list

Day 2

## TWO GREAT OUTPOURINGS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today, we are living between two great outpourings of the Holy Spirit. The book of Acts describes the first outpouring. It began with the day of Pentecost and is called in the Bible the “former or early rain” of the Spirit. It is the first widespread manifestation of the Holy Spirit as the church grew to be fully under His direction and control. This experience is available to all Christians today.

The books of Joel and Revelation indicate there will be a second great outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The Bible calls this outpouring the “latter rain.” We are living between these two great outpourings of the Holy Spirit, between two great manifestations of the Holy Spirit.

These two outpourings of the Holy Spirit are similar in many ways. The first occurred in answer to a ten day prayer meeting of believers united in prayer for the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise and began when God answered their prayers by pouring out His Spirit in the early rain on the Day of Pentecost. The second outpouring of the Spirit will begin when God answers the prayers of His people who are claiming the promises of God resulting in the outpouring of the Spirit in the latter rain. In the book of Acts we see the Holy Spirit was in full control of God’s church. During the latter rain the church will once again be fully controlled and directed by the Holy Spirit with even greater power of the Spirit manifest.

What will it be like when the latter rain outpouring of the Spirit takes place? When we closely examine what happened following Pentecost we learn that the latter rain will be similar, except it will manifest more of the Holy Spirit’s power in this earth than the previous outpouring. So let’s take a look at what happened following Pentecost as described in the biblical book, *Acts of the Apostles*.

Jesus had promised a Holy Spirit phenomenon (Acts 1:4-5, 8). The outpouring of the early rain began as the result of a ten-day prayer meeting where all who participated were in “one place” and where of “one accord,” united in their prayerful claiming of Jesus’ promise (Acts 1:14; 2:1). The first outpouring of the Spirit began on the day of Pentecost when “all” who were praying were “filled” with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2-4). Peter interpreted the events when he preached to the great multitude that had gathered in Jerusalem for

this Jewish holy day. Peter indicated that the event being witnessed had been foretold by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:23). Joel had prophesied a “former” or early rain and a latter rain experience of the Holy Spirit. He had also stated in his prophecy that the “I AM” would appear to Israel just before this Holy Spirit event, a reference to Jesus’ first advent (Joel 2:27 and John 8:58). The marvelous news of Joel’s prophecy was that the “former” (early rain) of the Holy Spirit would be available to all believers, (Joel 2:28). This is exactly what Jesus foretold when He promised the Holy Spirit would be sent from the Father after He returned to heaven to minister as our High Priest (John 14:16-17,26; Acts 1:4-5).

### **What Happened Following the Early Rain Experience of the Holy Spirit?**

What happened when the Holy Spirit was poured on the early church? In the book of Acts we see Holy Spirit power accompanying the preaching of the apostles. Thousands of the hearers were converted and accepted Christ as their Savior (Acts 2:37-38, 41; 4:4; 11:21). Jesus had foretold the coming of this Holy Spirit “power” for witnessing (Acts 1:8).

We also see the believers continuing “steadfastly” and persistently in the apostle’s doctrine, in fellowship, in breaking of bread and in prayer (Acts 2:42). They held to the truth and teaching of God’s Word, the Bible. The sweet fellowship that began with the ten-day prayer meeting continued with the united praying.

A spirit of generosity was seen following the Day of Pentecost experience (Acts 2:44-45) with no selfish ambition, no greed or stinginess; these early Christians were anxious to help their fellow believers who were in need.

They also continued in daily fellowship with prayer meetings in the temple and in homes. These early believers had “singleness” of heart, united with one burden—to know and serve Christ as well as win others to Him. God brought them into “favor” with all the people, which resulted in souls being won to Christ everyday (Acts 2:46-47).

The gospel of deliverance was preached and experienced (Acts 5:12-16). The sick were healed, devils were cast out, and many individuals were won to Christ.

One of the most striking phenomena following the Day of Pentecost is the record of the Holy Spirit directing the church in very clear and dramatic ways.

1. He revealed important information to Peter about a deception in the church by two individuals (Acts 5:1-3).
2. Angels intervened for the progress of the church when Peter was delivered from prison (Acts 5:17-20).



3. The angel of the Lord and the Holy Spirit spoke directions to Philip concerning an Ethiopian to whom God wanted the gospel taught (Acts 8:26-29, 39).
4. The Holy Spirit related specific directions to Peter concerning God's acceptance of Gentile believers (Acts 11:12).
5. The gift of prophecy was in operation by the Holy Spirit in the early church (Acts 11:27-28; 21:9).
6. The Holy Spirit told the church to set aside Barnabas and Saul for the work He had called them to do (Acts 13:2).
7. A very important council that had convened in Jerusalem to determine what was to be required of the new Gentile believers was directed by the Holy Spirit (Acts 15:28).
8. The Spirit intervened to stop a planned missionary journey and gave a vision to direct where to go (Acts 16:6-7, 10).
9. The Holy Spirit informed the apostle Paul of the future bonds and afflictions he would suffer (Acts 20:22-23).

Some have stated that the book *Acts of the Apostles* should be called the Acts of the Holy Spirit. I agree. The moving, directing, empowering, and convicting of the Holy Spirit are clearly seen in the experience of the early church following Pentecost.

I am sure that every Christian who has read the book of Acts in the New Testament has longed for the same manifestation of the Holy Spirit to happen in his/her life and church. The good news is that the Holy Spirit wants to manifest His early rain power in the church today. Secondly, the Spirit will manifest Himself in even more powerful ways when the latter rain of the Spirit is poured out on God's church.

### **What Will Happen When the Latter Rain Experience of the Holy Spirit Takes Place?**

Just before Jesus returns, there will be a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit called the "latter rain." Revelation 18:1 describes this event. The earth is described as being lighted with God's glory, which is His character. This prophecy foretells a time when a great revival and reformation will take place among God's people. Christ's character will be fully reflected in their lives. How will this happen? It will happen as a result of God's people being filled with the Holy Spirit (2Corinthians 3:18), with both early and latter rain power of the Holy Spirit.

God has begun moving our Seventh-day Adventist denomination toward the latter rain experience of the Spirit. As with the early rain, the latter rain will begin and continue as a result of God's people unitedly and earnestly

praying to God for the outpouring of His Spirit. In the 1990's, God began moving upon individuals to publish many books on prayer. The North American Division of Seventh-day Adventists established a prayer ministries department. Division-wide prayer conferences are being conducted. Local church and conference prayer coordinators are being determined to promote and instruct in prayer.

Two key ingredients that brought the early rain experience to fruition were: (1) prayer and (2) receiving the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. Again, two ingredients will enable the latter rain experience to take place during God's end-time work. These two ingredients are identical to those of early rain: (1) prayer and (2) fully receiving the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit, preparing us to receive the latter rain of the Spirit.

### **Serious Warning**

Ellen White has given us a very serious warning about the danger of not being prepared for the latter rain of the Spirit. She directed us to the necessity of receiving the former rain baptism of the Holy Spirit in order to receive the latter rain of the Spirit.

"In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God's grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

"The latter rain, ripening earth's harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

"Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their

hearts to receive it. **They are making a terrible mistake**” (*Testimony to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 506-507 emphasis added).

In this statement Ellen White clearly indicates that all who benefit from the latter rain Holy Spirit outpouring must have experienced the early rain baptism of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

### Pray for the Latter Rain Now!

God doesn’t want us to sit around and simply wait for the great, last day outpouring of His Spirit on the church. We are to play an active role in cooperating with Him to receive this outpouring. Those early Christians followed Christ’s instruction to pray for the promised Holy Spirit outpouring, and God honored their prayers with the Pentecost experience.

Today we are to do the same thing. We are to earnestly pray for and seek the early rain baptism of the Holy Spirit to come into our lives. We are also to pray earnestly for God to pour out His Spirit in latter rain abundance (Zechariah 10:1).

Ellen White clearly instructed us concerning praying for the early rain.

“The descent of the Holy Spirit upon the church is looked forward to as in the future; but it is the privilege of the church to have it now. Seek for it, pray for it, believe for it. We must have it, and Heaven is waiting to bestow it” (*Evangelism*, p. 701).

“The measure of the Holy Spirit we receive will be proportioned to the measure of our desire and the faith exercised for it, and the use we shall make of the light and knowledge that shall be given to us” (*The Faith I Live By*, p. 53).

We are not willing enough to trouble the Lord with our petitions, and to ask Him for the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Lord wants us to trouble Him in this matter. He wants us to press our petitions to the throne” (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 537).

“The revenue of the glory has been accumulating for the closing work of the third angels message. Of the prayers that have been ascending for the fulfillment of the promise—the descent of the Holy Spirit—not one has been lost. Each prayer has been accumulating, ready to overflow and pour forth a healing flood of heavenly influence and accumulating light all over the world” (*Manuscript Release*, Vol. 21:155).

Christians have been living during the time of the early rain since the Day of Pentecost. It is time for the latter rain to begin! However, I warn you, Satan will do everything in his power to keep it from happening; for he knows it will be the “death knell” for his reign on this earth. He will seek to keep us so busy and involved in this world’s cares and concerns that we will neglect to earnestly seek God for His Spirit and receive the early rain in fullness in our life. Jesus warned us of this danger in Luke 21:34.

The question is, are we willing to seek God with all our hearts? Only then will we find Him and “know” Him as the five wise virgins came to know Him (Jeremiah 29:13). First, we must every day earnestly seek the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit. Secondly, with this attitude of self surrender, we must petition Him day and night to revive us individually and as a church (Isaiah 62:6-7; 2 Chronicles 7:14). Finally, we are to pray daily for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in latter rain abundance and power (Zechariah 10:1).

Are we willing to do what the early believers did before the Day of Pentecost? If so, we will, God’s time, experience the latter rain personally and corporately.

## Discussion Questions

What two outpourings of the Holy Spirit are referred to in the Bible? Joel 2:23

What is the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost called? Joel 2:23

The biblical books of Joel and Revelation refer to a second outpouring of the Holy Spirit. What does the Bible call this outpouring?

How are the two outpourings of the Spirit (early rain and latter rain) similar?

When would the early rain of the Spirit take place? Joel 2:27-28

What did Peter say in his sermon to indicate he understood this? Acts 2:16

## Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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What is another phrase used to describe the early rain of the Spirit? Acts 1:4-5

What did Jesus promise to all who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8

What happened when the early church received the early rain, baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:37-38, 41; 4:4; 11:21

According to the following texts what else happened to the Christians who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 2:42  
Acts 2:44-45

In what ways does the Bible indicate that the Holy Spirit was directing the work of the church after the early rain outpouring of the Spirit?

Acts 5:1-3  
Acts 5:17-20  
Acts 8:26-29, 39  
Acts 10:9-14, 28  
Acts 11:12  
Acts 11:27-28; 21:9  
Acts 13:2  
Acts 15:28  
Acts 16:6-10  
Acts 20:22-23

What will happen when the latter rain of the Holy Spirit comes? Revelation 18:1

What is God's glory? Exodus 33:18-19

How will God's glory or character be seen in this earth? 2Corinthians 3:18

## Two Great Outpourings of the Holy Spirit

What two ingredients are common to both the early rain and latter rain of the Spirit?

On page 17 of the book a statement by Ellen White is quoted, which gives the relationship between the early rain and the latter rain. What is the relationship between these two Holy Spirit outpourings?

What does Ellen White say we are doing if we wait for the latter rain and neglect to receive the early rain baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Why did God pour out the early rain of the Spirit? Acts 1:14

Why will God pour out the latter rain of the Spirit? Zechariah 10:1

What must we do to be ready for Christ's second coming?

Jeremiah 29:13  
2Chronicles 7:14  
Ephesians 5:18  
Isaiah 62:6-7  
Zechariah 10:1

### Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to:
  - Lead you to understand the early rain and latter rain of the Holy Spirit
  - Baptize you with His Spirit and prepare you to receive the latter rain
  - Bless those on your prayer list

Day 3

## AN OBSERVABLE DIFFERENCE

As one reads the book of Acts, one fact stands out above all others. The church grew phenomenally and immediately after the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit took charge of the work of God, and thousands were converted to Jesus Christ. Such tremendous growth caused some problems. For example, Acts 6 informs us that some of the widows were neglected in the “daily administrations.” So the Holy Spirit led the 12 disciples to call a meeting of believers. Seven deacons were to be chosen. Their qualifications were simple: “good reputation, full of the Holy Ghost, and wisdom” (Acts 6:3).

### Water Baptism Alone is Not Enough

Such qualifications must have been observable in order to use them as guidelines. Hence, the qualification of being filled with the Holy Spirit must have been observable as well. But one might argue, “Isn’t every believer filled with the Holy Spirit at baptism?” Apparently not, otherwise the qualification of Holy Spirit filling for the position of deacon would have been redundant. For example, if one were choosing men for a job and all men had blue eyes, it would be redundant to tell someone to select only men with blue eyes.

The experience of the Samaritan believers seems to verify the fact that not all baptized believers are filled with the Holy Spirit at their water baptism. In Acts 8, we read that when Philip baptized a number of men and women, the disciples in Jerusalem heard about it and sent Peter and John to Samaria. Luke records what happened next:

“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” (Acts 8:15-17).

In the selection of the seven deacons, men who were not known to be filled with the Holy Spirit were not selected. Hence, being filled with the Holy Spirit was something distinct and observable. What then was this observable difference? It seemed that these Spirit-filled men had developed a reputation among the believers. The qualification of “honest” would appear to indicate that perhaps these men were living exemplary, victorious lives

under the power of the Holy Spirit. Their being asked to “serve” might indicate that under the filling of the Holy Spirit, their lives were a great blessing to others. Their lives were perhaps more of a blessing than the believers who did not have the Spirit’s infilling.

### Christians of the Past Agree

Outstanding Christians throughout the ages have also understood this. Dwight L. Moody wrote:

“God has got a good many children who have just barely got life, but no power for service... The Holy Ghost coming upon them with power is distinct and separate from conversion. If the Scripture doesn’t teach (this statement), I am ready to correct it... I believe we should accomplish more in one week than we should in years if we had only this fresh baptism...”

“A great many think because they have been filled once, they are going to be full for all time after; but O, my friends, we are leaky vessels, and have to be kept right under the fountain all the time in order to keep full... Let us keep near Him” (*They Found the Secret*, p. 85-86).

### Seek Spirit Baptism Continually

Paul indicates that this infilling of the Holy Spirit is also something that the believer can lose. Paul instructs the Ephesians:

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18).

The Greek verb form used for “filled” is a continuous action verb. Paul instructed the believers to “continue to be filled” with the Holy Spirit. Everyday one must ask God to fill them with the Spirit. It is a promise we must keep claiming in order to keep receiving. Perhaps God established this principle of receiving the Spirit so we would continue to be conscious of our daily need of being filled anew.

### A Spirit Filled Church

“Spirit filled” Christians make a church “Spirit filled”. Let’s consider for a moment what a Spirit filled church is not. Revelation 3 describes God’s last-day church. He uses the word “lukewarm” to describe her, (Revelation 3:14-16). “Lukewarm” and “Spirit filled” are not compatible. A believer is either one or the other. Hence, the conclusion is clear. Holy Spirit infilling

is what will change “lukewarm” believers into zealous, obedient followers of Jesus Christ.

The parable of the ten virgins also supports this truth, (Matthew 25:1-12). The wise virgins, who were ready to meet the bridegroom, had the extra oil. I believe this extra oil refers to the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit. Commenting on this parable Ellen White writes:

“The name ‘foolish’ virgins represents the character of those who have not the genuine heart-work wrought by the Spirit of God. The coming of Christ does not change the foolish virgins into wise. The state of the church represented by the foolish virgins, is also spoken of as the Laodicean state” (*Review & Herald*, August 19, 1890).

LeRoy From in the book *The Coming of the Comforter*, page 294, comments on the foolish virgins;

“The foolish think the wise are unduly worked up over this question of the oil” (p. 294).

Observing what happened in the early church in the book of Acts, and comparing that church to the Christian church today, I am forced to admit that I believe the Christian church is not Spirit filled today. I am also forced to admit that the Seventh-day Adventist church is not Spirit filled today either. Does that mean God is not using the Adventist church to carry on His work? No, not at all. It simply means that there is so much more that God could accomplish through us if we were as Spirit filled as He desires us to be.

I think statistics verify the spiritual state of the Christian church today. The majority of members, and even pastors, take little time for personal prayer and devotions. Most active Christians will try to be present for their church’s worship service once a week, but that’s about it. Prayer meeting, which some have said is the barometer of the spirituality of the church, is either non-existent or few attend. Do such facts describe a Spirit filled church or Christians? I think not.

It has been said, if the Holy Spirit were withdrawn today, the majority of the work of the church would continue as usual and most Christians wouldn’t even know He left. As a Christian and pastor I have to admit that it is easy and natural to get so busy in the work of God that one begins doing his own planning and doing, giving little or no consideration as to whether the planning and doing are under the promptings and guidance of the Holy Spirit. I’m afraid that much of our activity in the church is the result of man’s plans and effort, not those of the Spirit.

### What are Spirit Filled Christians Like

The Bible gives us a few descriptions of Spirit filled Christians. Peter is a clear example of the before-and-after experience. Before Peter received the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost he was weak, fearful, and operated in his own strength. Just a few weeks before the Pentecost experience he denied his Lord three times; the last time was with cursing. After receiving the infilling of the Spirit, Peter was a very different man. A powerful change took place deep within him. In Acts 4, we read of the Jewish leaders threatening Peter and ordering him, “not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus” (Acts 4:18). Having been filled with the Spirit, now instead of cowering under the pressure and being afraid, Peter and John answered, “Whether it be right in the sight of God to harken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard” (Acts 4:19-20).

In Acts 18 and 19, we read of two men, Paul and Apollos. One filled with the Spirit and one not. When we read about Apollos we get the impression that he was a very capable minister for Christ. He was eloquent and fervent—a powerful speaker. However, he taught about Jesus and water baptism only. He didn’t understand nor experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In spite of this, he was confirmed by the brethren, and was a powerful public apologist. The results of his efforts were 12 converts.

Paul’s appearance and public speaking was not as polished and appealing as Apollos. We are told that his speech was “contemptible” and his bodily appearance “weak” (2 Cor. 10:10). On numerous occasions the brethren had shunned Paul. However, Paul understood, had experienced, and preached the baptism of the Holy Spirit in addition to the other truths about Christ. The results of his ministry are described with the words, “all they which dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks” (Acts 19:10).

### The Spirit Works in Unpredictable Ways

Perhaps one reason we often hesitate to earnestly seek the fullness of the Spirit in our lives and church is that He often works in unpredictable ways. Things may seem uncontrollable when He begins moving in and through the church. We like things to be predictable and somewhat under our plans and control. We get a little fearful when things seem to be moving too quickly according to our judgment.

The early church didn’t seem to mind this aspect of the Spirit’s working. They had no buildings or facilities, not much organization and few leaders. Yet, in Acts 2:41, we read of 3,000 joining the church and 5,000 in Acts 4:4 which occurred even before there were deacons.

I think if such things began happening today many would become uneasy. I know from personal experience. I have seen members and local church leaders react negatively when the Spirit was clearly moving. The problem was that the Spirit was not moving in a way they had expected. I have seen such reactions in both local church growth and church school situations.

Spirit filled Christians will stir Satan's anger. We see clear examples of his efforts to hinder the Spirit's moving in the experience of the apostles after Pentecost and in Stephen's experience.

### Amazing Results

Nevertheless, Spirit-filled ministry will have amazing results. What appears to man's eyes as a little will amount to much when it is done under Spirit-filled power. Much effort performed in the wisdom and strength of a man or woman who is not Spirit filled will amount to little in comparison.

Jim Cymbala relates the following story in his book *Fresh Power*, a story that wonderfully illustrates the power of Holy Spirit ministry. In 1921, a young couple named David and Svea Flood from Sweden went with their two-year-old son to serve as missionaries in Africa. They and another Scandinavian family, the Ericksons, felt led of God to go beyond the main mission station and serve in a remote area. They went to the village of N'dolera, where they were rejected by the chief who feared they would anger the local gods if he let them minister in his village. So they built a mud hut a half mile up the mountain.

They continued to pray for God to touch the hearts of the villagers in some way, but no apparent breakthrough came. The Ericksons decided to give up the effort, so they returned to the central mission station.

Twice a week a boy from the village was allowed to sell the Floods chickens and eggs. This one boy was their only contact to the villagers. Svea Flood decided to tell him about Jesus. God blessed her efforts, and the boy accepted Jesus as his Savior.

Svea became pregnant and gave birth to a daughter who they named Aina. The delivery was exhausting, and Svea had been stricken with malaria. Her condition worsened, and she died 17 days later. Her husband, David, became very discouraged. He dug a grave and buried his wife, then returned to the mission station and gave his newborn daughter to the Ericksons with the words, "I'm going back to Sweden. I've lost my wife, and I obviously can't take care of this baby. God has ruined my life."

The Ericksons become very sick themselves and both died within eight months. The baby, Aina, was given to an American missionary family who changed her name to Aggie, and took her with them to the United States at age three. This family served the Lord in pastoral ministry in

South Dakota. Aggie grew into young womanhood and attended a Bible college in Minneapolis where she met and married a young man named Dewey Hurst.

The young couple served the Lord in ministry and had two children, a son and a daughter. Dewey became president of a Christian college in the Seattle, Washington, area. The Scandinavian heritage of the area interested Aggie. Not knowing where it came from, Aggie received a Swedish religious magazine one day and was shocked to see a photo of a white cross marking a primitive grave, which read, "Svea Flood." Aggie rushed to a faculty member who could read the magazine in Swedish.

The faculty member told Aggie that the article was about a missionary couple that had gone to N'dolera. The wife had given birth to a baby girl, but died soon afterward. The article told of the young African boy who had accepted Christ, who after the white missionaries had left the area, grew up and convinced the chief to allow him to build a school in the village. With his students this young man shared the Christ that he had learned about from Svea Flood, and they all accepted Christ. The children then influenced their parents to become Christians, even the chief. The article then stated that one village had 600 Christian believers.

A few years later God providentially led Aggie to an evangelism conference in London, England, where she met a man who reported to the conference of 110,000 baptized believers in the nation of Zaire. She couldn't resist asking him if he ever heard of David and Svea Flood.

To her amazement he replied, "Yes. Svea Flood led me to Jesus Christ. I was the boy who took food to your parents before you were born. In fact, to this day your mother's grave and her memory are honored by all of us." After a long, tearful embrace, he told her, "You must come to Africa to see because your mother is the most famous person in our history."

God provided a way for Aggie to visit Africa and her mother's grave, and to see the white cross that had caught her attention in the magazine article. Aggie knelt by her mother's grave and with tears in her eyes thanked God.

As a footnote to this story, God gave Aggie the opportunity to meet her father, David Flood, who was still living in Sweden. He had remarried, had several grown children, but was in failing health. David had become very angry and bitter toward God. However, as a result of Aggie's visit with him, he renewed his relationship with Christ and experienced peace with God. A couple of months after Aggie's visit, he died.

May we each be willing to yield totally, 100 percent to God, withholding nothing. If we in sincere faith ask God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit He will give us what we desire. Then our lives will be a great blessing to others and the results of our service for the Lord will reach into eternity.



### Discussion Questions

What were the qualities listed for the first seven deacons? Acts 6:3

What does the qualification of being filled with the Holy Spirit indicate about Christians and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What does the account of the Samaritan believers teach us about water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 8:12-17

How do you think the Christians could determine if a man was filled with the Holy Spirit so they could choose him as a deacon?

What did Dwight L. Moody write about the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What did Paul say about being filled with the Spirit? Ephesians 5:18

Do you think the Laodicean church described in Revelation is Spirit filled? Why? Revelation 3:14-16

What does God say He will do to the Laodicean Christians if they do not change?

What are some of the indications that the church today is not Spirit filled?

What made the wise virgins different from the foolish virgins in Christ's parable? Matthew 25:1-12

What do you think the extra oil is?



What did Peter do before he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Matthew 26:69-74

How was Peter changed by the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 4:18-20  
Was Apollos filled with the Spirit? Acts 18:24-25

What were the results of Apollos' ministry? Acts 19:7

Was Paul filled with the Holy Spirit? Acts 9:17-18

Was Paul as good a speaker as Apollos? 2Corinthians 10:10

What were the results of Paul's ministry in Asia? Acts 19:10-11

What sometimes appears to happen when the Holy Spirit begins taking charge of God's work?

Did it concern the early church that 1000's were accepting Christ before there were deacons, elders or church buildings to house them?

What does Satan think about Spirit filled Christians?

What does every believer need in order to be successful in living the Christian life and serving the Lord effectively?

#### Prayer Focus:

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Let others see the observable difference in your life
  - Bless those on your prayer list

Day 4

## THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Many non-Pentecostal Christians are a bit afraid of the term “baptism of the Holy Spirit.” It has been equated with experiences that are considered extreme and fanatical. The baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring high emotion to the believer. Many associate “tongues” with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The true gift of tongues is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, but the presence of tongues is not a requirement in order to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### Satan’s Plan

Satan does not want you to understand or experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, he has done much to confuse and mislead concerning this very important Bible teaching. Ellen White was aware of Satan’s devices to hinder the reception of this gift by God’s people.

“Since the ministry of the Holy Spirit is of vital importance to the church of Christ, it is one of the devices of Satan, through the errors of extremists and fanatics, to cast contempt upon the work of the Spirit, and cause the people of God to neglect this source of strength which our Lord Himself has provided” (*The Great Controversy, p.viii*).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit simply describes a special infilling of the Holy Spirit into the life of the believer. This baptism is also called infilling and anointing, and has been available to Christians since the day of Pentecost 2000 years ago. Peter associated the Pentecost outpouring of the Spirit with the “early rain” prophecy of Joel (Acts 2:16-21).

### Jesus’ Experience and Example

Jesus is our example in all things. In His life we see the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a special, separate event following His water baptism. This event empowered Him for His greatest victories over Satan, and equipped Him for ministry.

Christ’s experience is a divine model for every Christian. Christ was “begotten” of the Spirit (Luke 1:35). He was led by the Spirit in His

childhood and early manhood (Luke 2:52). He received water baptism, which was followed by baptism in the Spirit in answer to His prayer (Luke 3:21-22). From that point forward He was filled with the Spirit (Luke 4:1). After this experience of Spirit baptism (infilling or anointing), He was prepared to confront Satan and gain His great victories over this enemy (Luke 4:2-13). He went forward to minister in the power of the Spirit from that day onward (Luke 4:14; Acts 10:38).

### The Believer’s Experience

The experience of every believer is to follow Christ’s example. The Christian is first born of the Spirit and baptized (John 3:5-8). However, water baptism is only the beginning. The believer must also be baptized by the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16, Acts 1:4-5). This Spirit baptism became available from the day of Pentecost onward. The infilling of the Spirit is necessary for the believer to have the power to live a victorious life and successfully witness for Christ (Acts 1:8).

Jesus promised that the Father would give the Spirit to all who asked (Luke 11:13). Paul tells us we receive this gift by faith (Galatians 3:14). The reception of this gift is so important that Paul commands us to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). It is not simply an option. It is a necessity if the believer is earnest about experiencing the full deliverance the gospel of Jesus Christ offers.

Jesus said the believer would do the “works” He did and “greater works” (John 14:12). When Jesus was on earth He could only be at one place at one time. However, when He ascended to His Father He was able to be in many places throughout the earth by indwelling His followers through the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24; John 14:16-18). Hence, Jesus empowers the believer to do the same works He did by the Holy Spirit, and these works will be greater because they are more widespread.

The fulfillment of Jesus’ promise was seen on the day of Pentecost and following. The gospel was preached, souls were won, unity and joy were seen in the believers and the sick were healed (Acts 2:46-47; 5:15-16). This was the same type of ministry as that of Jesus while He was on earth.

### Receiving the Baptism of the Spirit After Pentecost

Not every believer was present at Pentecost. A practical question might be, how did believers receive the baptism of the Spirit after Pentecost? The answer is found in the book of Acts. On a couple occasions the Spirit fell on a group while Peter spoke to them (Acts 10:44-46; 11:15-17). It appears that God led the church to receive the baptism of the Spirit in a more orderly way by the laying on of hands also (Acts 8:12-17; 19:1-6). Note in Acts 8 the individuals of Samaria were led by the Spirit to accept Christ and be baptized.



Yet, they had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Peter and John came to them from Jerusalem for the specific purpose to lay hands on them and pray for the baptism of the Spirit to come upon them. This is a clear indication that water baptism and Spirit baptism are two separate experiences. The Spirit leads an individual to accept Christ and be baptized in water. This is a different work than the baptism of the Spirit, which must be sought separately when one becomes aware of it. We see in Acts that Paul also received the baptism of the Spirit by the laying on of hands and prayer (Acts 9:17). In Paul's case he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit before his water baptism. The one performing this prayer with laying on of hands should be a believer who has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit themselves.

When a member asks to be prayed for to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit an example of a prayer that might be used with the laying on of hands on the head and shoulder of the requester is as follows:

“Heavenly Father, we come into Your presence in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. When on earth, Jesus said, “If we being evil know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more is our heavenly Father willing to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him.” And your servant Paul said that we receive the gift of the Spirit by faith. So Father, we come before you seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit for (name). In the name of Jesus Christ, I claim the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit for (name). I pray that You will so infill (name) with the presence of Jesus that His character will be fully manifest through (name). I pray that the fruit of the Spirit will be seen in (name) life and that (name) witness for Jesus will be attended as never before by the power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you, Father for hearing our prayer. In Jesus name, Amen.”

A believer desiring the baptism of the Holy Spirit does not necessarily need to have someone pray for him or her with laying on of hands. When I first began sharing this teaching with our church one of the members decided that very evening to seek the baptism of the Spirit. She earnestly prayed for God to fill her with His Spirit. She said later that she felt the greatest peace that she ever felt come over her.

On one occasion I spoke with a Seventh-day Adventist pastor who described a unique experience of his own. One day he was in his garden working and reflecting on God's work, as ministers often do. He stated to me that he heard a voice tell him, “Ask for My Spirit.” Right there he offered a prayer to God asking Him for His Spirit. He told me that at that moment he felt a peace come over him as he had never before experienced.

God has not limited us to only one method of receiving the baptism of the Spirit. I do, however, believe that the special ceremony of praying with

laying on of hands is a wonderful way to seek the infilling of the Spirit. It is always a special blessing to share in this sacred experience with a fellow believer.

### **God Calls Every Christian to Receive Spirit Baptism**

Ellen White stated many years ago;

“What we need is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Without this, we are no more fitted to go forth to the world than were the disciples after the crucifixion of their Lord” (*Review & Herald*, Feb. 18, 1890).

“Impress upon all the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the sanctification of the church, so that they will be living, growing, fruit-bearing trees of the Lord's planting” (*Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 6, p.86).

When one reads Ellen White's statements on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it is clear that she saw its importance and urged every believer to seek it. It was clear to her that the baptism of the Spirit is essential for God's work to be finished in the lives of His people and on this earth.

These statements also indicate that the Christian does not automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion or water baptism. If that were the case, Ellen White would not tell Christians that this is an experience they need.

God sought to again draw our denomination's attention to this very important experience in the Spring of 1928, when Elder LeRoy Froom was led to present this subject to delegates and workers at the quadrennial ministerial institutes held in conjunction with the union conference sessions. The book, *The Coming of the Comforter*, resulted from these presentations.

Referring to our neglect of understanding and receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit, LeRoy Froom stated:

“I am persuaded that this is our colossal blunder. I confess it has been mine. We are not to ‘go’ until we are endued...All true service begins at our personal Pentecost” (*The Coming of the Comforter*, p. 94).

Froom continues:

“For there is an experience beyond and above the initial step by which the Holy Spirit first reveals sin, and begets a new life in the soul, and that is to be filled with the Spirit. For the lack of this, one's testimony is feeble and the spiritual life but partial.

“Alas, many today have gone as far as the baptism of repentance, but no farther” (*Ibid.* p. 142-143).

Froom’s study led him to believe that the “baptism of repentance,” which refers to water baptism was not enough. He concluded that the Spirit’s infilling is also necessary in order for the believer to be victorious through the time of trouble to Christ’s coming.

“It is a relationship into which we may or may not enter, though we are exhorted, yea divinely commanded to, in Ephesians 5; and in order to abide through the time when there will be no high priestly intercession, when mercy ceases and forgiveness for transgressions is ended, we must enter” (*Ibid.* p. 170).

### **Don’t Let Satan Mislead**

There has been much misinformation and confusion about what happens when a person receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Satan fears this experience in the believer more than any other. He knows that the baptism of the Holy Spirit will break his power in the believer’s life, and the resulting powerful witness for Jesus Christ will bring Satan’s work to an end on planet earth. For this reason he has done everything he can to confuse this teaching, and cause many sincere Christians to misunderstand it and even be suspicious of it.

“There is nothing that Satan fears so much as that the people of God shall clear the way by removing every hindrance, so that the Lord can pour out His Spirit upon a languishing church and an impenitent congregation. When the way is prepared for the Spirit of God, the blessing will come” (*Review & Herald*, March 22, 1887).

Receiving the baptism of the Spirit does not necessarily involve a highly emotional experience. One may or may not feel something at the time of seeking the infilling of the Spirit. However, the Spirit will make Himself known to the one He indwells. His presence will begin changing the believer’s life from within. A new power for victory and service will be manifested.

God desires to give His children this wonderful experience of Spirit baptism. However, in order to receive it we must ask in faith believing He will bestow it. Secondly, we must be willing to give ourselves completely to God.

“The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by

earnest prayer, and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost” (*Testimonies to Ministers*, p. 507).

### **Experiences of Those Who Have Received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

There are numerous records of Christians who have sought and experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Douglas Cooper in his book, *Living in Our Finest Hour*, relates a few of these experiences.

John Wesley, founder of the Methodist Church shared:

“Fearful at his own spiritual weakness, disillusioned and dejected, he became acquainted with a group of Spirit-filled Christians who helped him to change his life remarkably...

“Wesley decided to seek the filling of the Spirit for himself. At another meeting he heard a statement read from Luther describing the inner change the Spirit can work on the heart of the believer. At that meeting John Wesley was baptized with the Spirit. He tells of experiencing what was a new dimension of spiritual life. ‘I felt my heart strangely warmed,’ he said.

“Wesley came away with a new vision, a new passion, new power. Virtually unheard of before this time, his preaching went on to shake three nations” (*Living in Our Finest Hour*, p. 76-77).

Charles G. Finney stated:

“Christians are as guilty for not being filled with the Spirit as sinners are for not repenting. They are even more so, as they have more light, they are so much the more guilty” (*Ibid.* p. 78).

Catherine Marshall, who wrote many books including *A Man Called Peter* from which this excerpt is taken:

“She yearned to receive this baptism. ‘Since at that time I had no group to lay hands on me, very quickly and undramatically I asked for the gift of the Spirit. The setting was my bedroom with no other human being present. I knew too that when we accept one of heaven’s gifts like that—so quietly in the now—we cannot demand instantaneous proof that the Lord has heard and answered. For that would be walking by sight, not faith at all...I know that although I should not deny their validity, I should guard against demanding a highly emotional or dramatic experience as initial proof of my baptism in the Spirit.’

“The first day nothing overt happened. ‘I experienced no waves of liquid love or ecstatic joy,’ she says. ‘But then, in the next few days, quietly but surely, the heavenly Guest made known His presence in my heart... Day by day came the evidence that after I had asked the helper to enter and take charge, He had done exactly that.’”

“...She discovered ‘the manifestation of His presence on which the Spirit places highest value is the power to witness effectively to others of Jesus,’ ‘He then entered into my prayer life and began directing that. He became the major creative Agent in my writing. In the months that followed and indeed, on down the years, He would methodically bring one area of life after another under his control—health, finances, ambition, reputation. I soon realized that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was no onetime experience, rather a process that would continue throughout my lifetime’” (*Ibid.* p. 93).

She wrote: “‘Any church that ignores the Spirit is an apostate church’” (*Ibid.* p. 78).

Dwight L Moody shared:

“After he had been filled with the Spirit, Dwight L. Moody wrote: ‘In some sense and to some extent the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer, but there is another gift which may be called the gift of the Holy Spirit for service. This gift, it strikes me, is entirely distinct and separate from conversion and assurance’” (*Ibid.* p. 87).

As can be seen from the examples related above, the baptism of the Spirit does not necessarily involve a highly emotional experience. One may or may not feel something at the time of seeking the infilling of the Spirit. However, the Spirit will make Himself known to the one in whom He dwells. His presence will begin changing the believer’s life from within the soul. A new power for victory and service will be manifested.

God desires to give His children this wonderful experience of Spirit baptism. However, in order to receive it, we must ask in faith believing He will bestow it. We must also be willing give ourselves completely to God.

### Seek the Baptism Every Day

Another very important point is that we must renew this infilling every day. Paul said, “I die daily” (1 Corinthians 15:31). The dying to self and infilling of the Spirit is a daily experience. It is not a “once-and-for-ever” experience.

Paul tells us that the “inward man is renewed day by day” (2 Corinthians 4:16). We need the renewing of the Spirit every day of our lives. Also, Paul’s command to “be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18) is a continuous action verb, which in the Greek means that we are to keep on being filled with the Spirit daily. With the infilling of the Spirit the believer is led by the Spirit. Paul writes of the importance of this being a daily experience when he states;

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14).

Again the verb form in the Greek is continuous action. Paul is saying, “as many as are continuing to be led daily by the Spirit of God.” Hence, we must receive the Spirit everyday to be led by Him everyday. Claiming the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit must become one of the first things we do when we awake in the morning.

Christ is our example in all things. Note what Ellen White writes about the baptism of the Spirit in Christ’s daily life.

“Daily He received a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the early hours of the new day the Lord awakened Him from His slumbers, and His soul and His lips were anointed with grace, that He might impart to others” (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 139).

### Benefits of Receiving the Baptism

The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives power to our witness and brings forth the fruit of Christ’s character in the life. Paul spoke of this when he wrote;

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God’s glory is His character (Exodus 33:18-19). Paul states here that the believer will be growing in Christ’s character, “from glory to glory,” by the Spirit of the Lord that dwells in him.

The infilling of the Spirit of God will “make you perfect in every good work, to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever” (Hebrews 13:21).

Ellen White reaffirmed the development of character the recipient of the Spirit’s infilling receives when she wrote;

“When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love,

humility, and peace takes the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven” (*Desire of Ages*, p.173).

### We Can Grieve the Spirit

We can do things that will grieve the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30). If we do not daily seek Him and cooperate in following where He leads us, His power will wane, and our Christian experience will weaken.

God doesn’t force. When we receive the baptism of the Spirit He will have a greater impact in our lives. We will feel His promptings more strongly. The Spirit will be daily putting the desire in our heart to obey God. He will call us to study God’s Word and pray more. The Spirit will cause us to begin loving righteousness and hate sin. However, we are always free to disregard His promptings. When we do this we begin the process of “grieving” or “quenching” the Spirit. Paul gives very practical advice in many sections of the Scripture on how to avoid doing this. The practical counsels Paul gives to the believer on living the Christian life are aimed at helping us maintain the fullness of the Spirit in our lives. Two examples of such counsel are:

“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbor: for we are members one of another. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. And *grieve not the holy Spirit of God*, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ’s sake hath forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:25-32 emphasis added).

“Now we exhort you, brethren, warn them that are unruly, comfort the feeble-minded, support the weak, be patient toward all men. See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men. Rejoice evermore. Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. *Quench not the Spirit*” (1Thessalonians 5:14-19 emphasis added).

Paul knew that the Spirit of God dwelling in the believer would be prompting him to do the things listed above in these verses. If we refuse to

yield to His prompting, we will be in danger of “grieving” and “quenching” the Spirit.

If you find that you have grieved the Spirit, don’t get discouraged. Instead, ask God to forgive you (1 John 1:9), and He will. Then ask God to fill you anew with His Spirit and He will (Luke 11:13). Ask Him in faith, and you will receive (Galatians 3:14).

David knew God’s mercy. He had committed the sins of adultery and murder. He had walked away from the prompting of God’s Spirit in his life when he committed these terrible acts. Yet when he was convicted of his sin by the Spirit he turned to God in prayer. Note especially these words:

“Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit” (Psalm 51:9-12).

When we find that we have been slipping away from God, we must not let another moment go by without confessing our sin, accepting God’s forgiveness and claiming the promise of the renewing of the Spirit in our lives as David did. Then we will once again be strengthened in the “inner” man to be victorious over Satan (Ephesians 3:16-19).

We serve a wonderful God. When we have failed Him, let us remember:

“The LORD is merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust” (Psalm. 103:8-14).

### We Must Experience the Early Rain to Receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit

It is time for the “latter rain” to fall. If we do not experience the infilling of the Spirit, which is the “early rain” (Joel 2:23), we will not be prepared to receive and participate in the work of the latter rain. I believe God is moving among His people today and leading them into this wonderful experience. Ellen White gave a very important and balanced counsel in the following statement regarding this work.

“As long as individuals are content with a theory of truth, and are yet lacking in the daily operation of the Spirit of God upon the heart, which is manifested in outward transformation of character, they are cutting themselves off from the qualifications that would fit them for greater efficiency in the Master’s work. Those who are devoid of the Holy Spirit cannot be faithful watchmen upon the walls of Zion; for they are blind to the work that ought to be done, and do not give the trumpet a certain sound.

“The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works. Heavenly intelligences will come among us and men will speak as they are moved by the Holy Spirit of God. But should the Lord work upon men as He did on and after the day of Pentecost, many who now claim to believe the truth would know so very little of the operation of the Holy Spirit that they would cry, “Beware of fanaticism.” They would say of those who were filled with the Spirit, “These men are full of new wine.”

“The time is not far off now when men will want a much closer relation to Christ, a much closer union with His Holy Spirit, than they have ever had, or will have, unless they give up their will and their way, and submit to God’s will and God’s way. The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit. When souls long after Christ and seek to become one with Him, then those who are content with the form of godliness, exclaim “Be careful, do not go to extremes.” When the angels of heaven come among us, and work through human agents, there will be solid and substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of Pentecost.

“Now brethren, be careful and do not go into or try to create human excitement. But while we should be careful not to go into human excitement, we should not be among those who will raise inquiries and cherish doubts in reference to the work of the Spirit of God; for there will be those who will question and criticize when the Spirit of God takes possession of men and women, because their own hearts are not moved, but are cold and unimpressible (Letter 27, 1894, *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 56-57).

If you have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, don’t delay another day. His reception should be first and foremost in our lives. For this gift will bring all other gifts to us. The Spirit’s infilling will change our lethargy

to excitement, our weakness to strength, and our witness will be with a power not seen since the day of Pentecost.

### **A Necessity Preparation for Christ’s Second Coming**

In order to be ready for Christ’s second coming we must daily experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Christ lives in us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16-18, 1 John 3:24). This experience will lead us to become just like Jesus in our life and service for Him. The Spirit filled experience is not an option for those ready to meet Jesus when He returns. It is a necessity! Hence, it is my prayer that all who read this book will experience the Spirit’s infilling every day. The baptism of the Holy Spirit must become a consistent part of our life in order for us to have the faith to make it through the time of trouble, and be ready for Christ’s return.

There is no other way to come out of our complacent, faithless, Laodicean condition and be prepared for the final crisis and Christ’s second coming. Ellen White confirms this with the words:

“Nothing but the baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring up the church to its right position, and prepare the people of God for the fast approaching conflict” (*Letter* 15, 1889, Dr Burke).

I pray that you will take God’s instruction seriously. If you are not daily claiming the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, do not let another day go by without seeking this marvelous blessing. For the Spirit’s infilling brings all other blessings to you, and will lead you into the marvelous experience with your Lord, Jesus Christ.

### **Discussion Questions**

How does Satan work to hinder the work of the Holy Spirit?

What other terms applies to the baptism of the Holy Spirit experience?

When did the baptism of the Holy Spirit become available to Christians?

List some of Christ's experiences that model the experience we are to have?

Luke 1:35

Luke 2:52

Luke 3:21-22

Luke 4:1-13

Luke 4:14

Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit an option for the believer or a necessity?

What one thing does the baptism of the Holy Spirit do for the believer? 1John 3:24

What works did Jesus say His followers would do? John 14:12

List some of the works Jesus did that were done by the apostles Acts 2:46-47; 5:15-16

Did the Samaritan believers, Saul and the Ephesian believers automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they were baptized in water? Acts 8:12-17; 9:17-18, 19:1-6

What was a common method used to enable believers to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit after the day of Pentecost? Acts 8:12-17; 9:17-18, 19:1-6

Is water baptism and Spirit baptism two separate experiences?

Is laying on of hands always necessary for an individual to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

How important did Ellen White say the baptism of the Holy Spirit is?

What did LeRoy Froom say in 1928 about our neglect of understanding and experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a denomination?

According to Froom why is the baptism of the Holy Spirit necessary for last day Christians?

What is one of Satan's greatest fears?

List four outstanding Christians from past generations who experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

What must we do to be able to receive the baptism of the Spirit?

How often should we seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 5:18

What are the benefits of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

List the things Paul warns us of that can cause us to grieve the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:25-1Thessalonians 5:14-19

If we find that we have grieved the Holy Spirit what should we do? 1John 1:9

What does Ellen White say many will do when God works as He did after the day of Pentecost.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Keep you from grieving the Spirit by your thoughts, words or actions
  - Bless those on your prayer list

Day 5

## RECEIVING CHRIST IN FULLNESS

When the believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he is actually receiving Christ more fully into his life. Jesus foretold this when He promised His disciples another Comforter would be sent by the Father to “dwell with” them and “be in” them (John 14:17). This Comforter is the Holy Spirit. Then Jesus said “I will come to you” (John 14:18). Hence, through the baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus comes to “dwell with” and “be in” His people. It is through the Spirit’s infilling that Jesus most fully lives within His disciples (1 John 3:24).

### Jesus Lives in the Spirit-Filled Believer

John tells us that the Christians who are living when Jesus comes will be “like” Him (1 John 3:2). How much like Jesus are we to become? The Greek word translated “like” means “just like” Him. How can this happen? Through the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus will live out His life in us. Paul described this when he wrote:

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me” (Galatians 2:20).

Through the infilling of the Holy Spirit, Christ will come and live in each of us. The text quoted above states that the Spirit-filled believer would have the “faith of Jesus.” Why? Because Jesus is living in them.

The Spirit-filled believer will have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16, Philippians 2:5). They will have the likes and dislikes of Christ, the love of righteousness and hatred of sin Christ has. They will have the same desire to obey the Father that Christ has (Psalm 40:7-8), and the same passion for souls Christ has (Luke 19:10). Paul tells us the wisdom—righteousness—holiness of Christ is theirs (1 Corinthians 1:30); every virtue and quality of Christ. They will become more and more like Christ every day as they are changed into His “image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord” (2 Corinthians 3:18).

Christ living in the believer through the infilling of the Spirit causes the character of Christ to be fully developed in them. The Holy Spirit produces

the “fruit of the Spirit” when He dwells within us (Galatians 5:22-23). This wonderful fruit of character will be manifested in the life more and more abundantly as the Spirit takes greater possession of the life. The Spirit will take such control of the believer that they will become like Jesus in every way (1 John 3:2). Ellen White very nicely describes this in the following statement:

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God, as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 668).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit will bring about the fulfillment of Christ’s promise that the believers would do the “works” He did and greater works (John 14:12). Christ will do the same works today through the believer as He did when He walked this earth 2000 years ago. This happens when the believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit and continues to walk in the Spirit. In fact, Jesus said the believers would do “greater works” because Jesus’ works will be manifested through every believer that receives Him fully. In a very real sense every believer becomes as Christ to the world. We become Christ’s mouth, hands, feet, doing the very works He did; preaching, teaching, healing, casting out devils, etc.

It is this full “manifestation of the sons of God” that the whole of creation is waiting for (Romans 8:19). When this occurs in its fullness the earth will then be lighted with God’s character of glory and the end will come (Revelation 18:1).

### Christ’s Character and Works Made Manifest

The character Christ revealed, and the works He did, will be seen in the life of every believer that receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit and continues to walk in that baptism. That is why Jesus could positively state that specific signs would follow those that believe such as healing and casting out devils, (Mark 16:15-18). We see these words of Christ fulfilled from Pentecost onward. His character was manifested through all who received the infilling of the Spirit (Acts 2: 46-47). Thousands were won to Christ through the preaching of the gospel, and the sick were healed (Acts 5:15-16).

This wonderful work of Christ continued through the first few centuries of the Christian era. However, as darkness came upon the church through the many false teachings that were accepted and propagated the church lost her power. The great era of apostasy brought with it great weakness in the body of Christ. The character of Christ became obscure, soul winning waned, and the healings all but ceased. A time of great spiritual famine gripped Christendom.

Christians today are not exempt from these woeful influences. In fact, God in His message to Laodicea indicates that this last church of the Christian era is failing to reflect Christ's character (Revelation 3:14-22). Unfortunately, however, it is unaware of its shortcomings. It thinks it has all it needs. It is "lukewarm." This last church needs to be heated and become "on fire" for their Lord. Who has the fire needed? Jesus does. John the Baptist foretold that Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit and fire (Luke 3:16). The baptismal fire of the Holy Spirit is the only hope for the Laodicean church.

When the Spirit filled believer is tempted Christ wants to manifest His victory in his/her life. When a temptation comes the key to victory is to simply turn the mind from the temptation and ask Christ to manifest His victory over the temptation. Always look to Christ for victory (Hebrews 12:1-2). As I have heard it said, "When Satan knocks on your door send Christ to answer it." In my book, *Spirit Baptism & Abiding in Christ*, I explain in more detail how the Christian lets Christ give him/her His victory over temptation and sin. In preparation for Christ's return the Christian is to experience Christ's justifying (imputed) righteousness and sanctifying (imparted) righteousness by faith.

### **Christ Wants In**

Christ is pictured as "knocking" at the door of the Laodiceans for He longs to become a part of the lives of these professed believers which is the only solution to their problem. The indwelling of Christ occurs only through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Hence, the message of Christ to the Laodiceans is a call to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, an experience which brings Christ fully into their lives.

When last-day Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and continue to daily walk in it there will be witnessed a great revival and reformation. Christ's character will be manifest in its perfection through His people. God's last day message will be proclaimed with a power not before seen. Many signs will follow. Ellen White spoke of this time when she wrote;

"In visions of the night, representations passed before me of a great reformatory movement among God's people. The sick were healed, and other miracles were wrought. A spirit of intercession was seen, even as was manifested before the great day of Pentecost...Hearts were converted by the power of the Holy Spirit" (*Testimonies to the Church*, Vol. 9, p. 126).

The great focus of the prayers of God's people at that time will be to receive more of Jesus, more of the infilling of God's Spirit. The earnest desire of the heart will change. Instead of focusing on sin and lamenting their failures they will be pleading "that I may know him" (Philippians 3:10). They have discovered the wonderful truth; to know Jesus is victory. This "knowing" comes through the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Christ will finish His work on this earth. We are all invited to participate in its glorious climax. However, the only way we will be able to work successfully with Christ in this work is to have Him working in and through us by the infilling of the Spirit. This is why Paul so emphatically commands us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

In my book, *Spirit Baptism & Evangelism*, the close relationship between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and witnessing for Christ is presented. Remember, the Spirit-filled believer will receive both passions of Christ; the passion to obey the Father, and the passion to seek and save the lost.

### **Discussion Questions**

What happens in the believer's life when he receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit? John 14:17-18; 1John 3:24

When Jesus comes whom will the believers be like? 1John 3:2

How did Paul describe his relationship with Jesus? Galatians 2:20

When a Spirit filled Christian is tempted how is he/she to get the victory?

Whose desires will the Spirit filled believer develop? Philippians 2:5

What two passions of Christ will the Spirit filled Christian receive? Psalm 40:7-8; Luke 19:10

List other qualities Jesus had that the Spirit filled believer will also have. Galatians 5:22-23



How does Ellen White describe the change that takes place in the believer who receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What did Jesus say His followers would do? John 14:12

How does Paul describe those who allow Jesus to live in them through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and minister through them? Romans 8:19

What happens in this earth when the sons of God are fully manifested? Revelation 18:1

What is God's glory? Exodus 33:18-19, 2Corinthians 3:18

What ministry signs did Jesus say would accompany Spirit filled believers? Mark 16:15-18

What happened to Paul that showed the truth of Christ's words? Acts 28:3-6

Was Christ's prophecy of the believers healing the sick accurate? Acts 5:15-16

What happened in the Christian church that caused miracles to stop?

What is the only hope for last day Christians to come out of their Laodicean condition?

What is Christ described doing in God's warning message to the Laodiceans? Revelation 3:20

How do Laodicean believers open the door of their heart and let Christ fully into their life? 1John 3:24

What does Ellen White describe will happen when Laodicean Christians receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and let Jesus live fully in them?

What will be the overriding desire of last day Spirit filled Christians? Philipians 3:10

Why is "knowing" Christ so important? John 17:3

What did Christ say to those not ready to meet Him when He returns? Matthew 7:23; 25:12

What does Paul command all Christians to do? Ephesians 5:18

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Manifest Jesus fully in your life
  - Bless those on your prayer list

Day 6

## OBEDIENCE FROM THE HEART

There are two purposes for the infilling of the Holy Spirit: to reflect Jesus in our life (1 John 3:24; 2 Corinthians 3:3), and to gain a power for witnessing (Acts 1:8). In my book, *Spirit Baptism & Evangelism*, I present the relationship of Spirit baptism and power for witnessing. In this chapter we will focus on the first purpose; reflecting Jesus' character.

### Jesus and God's Ten Commandment Law

Jesus and God's law are inseparable. In fact, it was Jesus before His incarnation Who gave Moses the Ten Commandments. The God who gave the commandments revealed Himself to Moses as the "I AM" (Exodus 3:14). Jesus claimed to be the "I AM" of the Old Testament (John 8:58). Comparing 1 Corinthians 10:1-4 and Nehemiah 9:12-14, it is very clear that it was Jesus who descended in the cloud on Mt. Sinai and met with Moses.

The Holy Spirit was also very much involved when God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses. In fact, it was the Spirit who wrote the commandments on the tables of stone. This becomes clear when we compare Jesus' statements where He equated the "finger of God" with the "Spirit of God" (Matthew 12:28, Luke 11:20). Hence, the same Holy Spirit who wrote the Ten Commandments on tables of stone will today write God's law on the heart of God's Spirit filled children (2 Corinthians 3:3).

Isaiah foretold that the Messiah would magnify the law, (Isaiah 42:21). Jesus lived and practiced the law of God in His life, clearly stating that His purpose was to fulfill the righteous requirements of the law, not destroy or do away with it (Matthew 5:17).

The professed Christian can participate in two kinds of obedience. First is what I call "external" obedience. This obedience occurs when the believer obeys the law of God simply because God says to obey it. This type of obedience is actually legalism not being from the heart. The second form of obedience is what I call "internal" obedience. This obedience occurs because of a deep, inner desire within the believer to obey God. External obedience without heart obedience is unacceptable to God (Psalm 51:16-17; Matthew 15:8).

I came across an illustration many years ago that I think clarifies the difference between external and internal obedience. Let's say my father died, and I am not sure if I should mourn his death or not, so I go to a friend and

ask his advice. We discuss whether or not I should mourn. My friend finally says; "After all he was your father and you are his son. So I think you should mourn his death." On his advice, I begin mourning his death. I think it becomes obvious that my mourning in this case would not be genuine mourning from the heart. Rather it would be external mourning because it was my obligation as my father's son to mourn his death. True mourning would come spontaneously from the heart. I couldn't help but mourn if it was genuine mourning. The same is true of obedience to God. When one is in right relationship with God through the infilling of the Spirit obedience springs naturally and spontaneously from the heart without hardly even thinking about it. Temptations to disobey will come. However, they will be very much weakened in influence by the strong desire God has placed in the heart to obey.

In the Old Testament God promised to give His children a "new heart" and "caused them to walk" in His statutes (Ezekiel 36:26-27). This promise is fulfilled under the New Covenant where God said "I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts;...", (Hebrews 8:10). Paul further points out that God's law is written in our heart by the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 3:3).

David understood this when he wrote:

"...quicken thou me according to thy word....Make me to understand the way of thy precepts:...strengthen thou me according to thy word...Remove from me the way of lying: and grant me thy law graciously....Make me to go in the path of thy commandments;...Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant,..." (Psalm 119:25-38).

### The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and God's Law

This brings us to the subject under discussion. Through the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit, God's law is written in our hearts and we obey from the heart. This does not fully happen when we accept Christ and are baptized by water. Paul states that we must be "filled with the Spirit". This filling with the Spirit refers to being baptized of the Spirit or being anointed by the Spirit. Spirit infilling, baptism, and anointing refer to the same experience in the Christian's life.

This experience of Spirit infilling is essential for the believer. Paul indicates that if we are willing God will first establish us in Christ, then anoint us with His Spirit, which will result in being sealed by the Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:12-13). Any obedience outside of that coming from the infilling of the Spirit will ultimately result in pharisaical, external obedience rather than from the heart. Why? It is because the law is not being written

in the heart, which occurs when one continues to experience the infilling of the Spirit. The wise man stated; “The desire of the righteous is only good...” (Proverbs 11:23). Paul speaks of the true believer obeying “from the heart” and becoming “servants” or slaves to righteousness (Romans 6:17-18).

Since having God’s law written in our heart is so important, how can we know if this has happened? Let me give a simple example. Most of us have televisions in our homes. Let’s say we are watching a program that has an interesting story line but includes adultery (seventh commandment), foul language (third commandment), murder (sixth commandment), deceit (ninth commandment), and theft (eighth commandment). If I am able, without much difficulty, to overlook these sinful activities and enjoy the program, then the law of God is not in my heart. If the law was there I would be appalled at the sins being displayed in front of me and I could not enjoy the program.

The characteristics that describe those in Zion who are ready to meet Christ at His second coming include “stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil;” (Isaiah 33:14). Those Christians who have received the infilling of the Spirit, and have allowed God to write His law in their heart do not stop watching such programs because the law says not to. Rather they stop watching because they are strongly compelled to from within and cannot enjoy the program because of the evil portrayed. However, if a believer resists this repulsion to sin that the Spirit gives him, and continues to participate in it through any of the senses, the repulsion will weaken. The Spirit will soon be grieved until eventually he returns to the state he was in before having received the Spirit’s infilling.

### God’s Sealing Work

The sealing process is seen in a vision in Ezekiel (Ezekiel 9:1-7). A mark was placed upon the foreheads of all that sighed and cried for the abominations that were done in the city Jerusalem (referring to the world). The word “abominations” refers to things morally disgusting, things that belong to the worship of idols, homosexuality, and other perversions. Those who receive God’s mark have experienced the law of God written in their hearts, which causes the sinful acts in the world to be repulsive to them. This mark in Ezekiel is the same as the seal of Revelation, which is placed in the forehead of those who will be ready to meet Jesus when He returns (Revelation 7:1-3).

All who are ready to meet Christ when He returns will have had God’s law sealed or written in their hearts (Isaiah 8:16). All who have God’s law written in their hearts will have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

If it does not appear that God’s law is in your heart, you still have hope. First, ask God’s forgiveness; second, seek the Spirit’s infilling. By seeking the baptism of the Spirit we heed God’s counsel; “Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness; it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD’s anger” (Zephaniah 2:3). How urgent it is that we follow Paul’s command to be “filled with the Spirit”. This is the only hope if we desire to stand in the great day of Christ’s second coming. Then and only then will we have God’s law written in our hearts. Only by the Spirit of God is His love placed in our hearts (Romans 5:5), which is the only true motive for obedience to His commandments (John 14:15, Romans 6:17). Then, and only then, will we love righteousness and hate sin.

Ellen White described what happens when we choose to be filled with the Spirit and allow God to write His law in our hearts.

“All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His service. When we know God, as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us” (*Desire of Ages*, p. 668)

### Jesus Living in the Believer

When this happens Jesus is truly living His life in us. We will be reflecting His character and doing His works. We will assuredly be experiencing what John described in 1 John 3:24:

“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”

These will truly “know” their Lord for they have experienced His abiding presence every moment of every day. When their Lord comes they will not hear the words spoken to them, which is spoken to the foolish virgins who did not have the extra oil—infilling of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 25:12). Those who allow Christ to dwell in them through the infilling of His Spirit will have experienced the consummation of their marriage to Him. Christ “knows” His true bride.

### Discussion Questions

What are the two purposes for the baptism of the Holy Spirit? 2Corinthians 3:3, 18; Acts 1:8

By what name did God reveal Himself to Moses? Exodus 3:14

Who did Jesus claim to be? John 8:58

According to Paul who was the Old Testament God that led Israel by the pillar of cloud, and was also called the “rock”? 1Corinthians 10:1-4

Who came to Moses on Mt Sinai and gave the 10 commandments? Nehemiah 9:12-14

How did God write the 10 commandments? Exodus 31:18

According to Jesus who is the “finger” of God? Matthew 12:28; Luke 11:20

What does the Holy Spirit do with the 10 commandments today? 2Corinthians 3:3

What kind of life did Jesus live in relation to the 10 commandments? Isaiah 42:21; Matthew 5:17

What two kinds of obedience can be seen in a professed Christian’s life?

Is external conformity to God’s law acceptable to God if it is not written on the heart? Psalm 51:16-17; Matthew 15:8

According to the Bible how do we get the new heart we need in order to obey God from the heart? Ezekiel 36:26-27

What does God promise to do for the Christian under the new covenant? Hebrews 8:10

What did David ask God to do for him? Psalm 119:25-38

How only can God’s law be written on the believer’s heart?

What must happen first before an individual can be filled with the Spirit? 2Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:12-13

What kind of obedience occurs when one is not Spirit filled?

Give an example of how we can know that God’s law is not written in our heart?

What will the Spirit filled believer experience when he sees sinful activities?

Who receives the “mark” or “seal” of God? Ezekiel 9:1-7

Who only will be ready to meet Jesus when He returns? Revelation 7:1-3

What is the relationship between the seal of God, the name of God, the glory of God, and the Ten Commandments? Exodus 33:18-19; Hebrews 8:10; Revelation 7:1-3

How does Ellen White describe the change that takes place in the believer who has the law of God written in their heart by receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit what kind of relationship do we experience with Jesus?

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Write His law in your heart so your obedience will be from the heart
  - Bless those on your prayer list

*Day 7*

## THE SEALING AND SHAKING

The sealing and shaking is of vital importance to those living just prior to Christ's return. Those who are sealed will be prepared for that great event. Those who refuse to receive God's seal, which allows God to prepare them for Christ's coming will be shaken out of His church.

### **The Seal of God**

According to the Bible, God's seal is placed in the forehead (Revelation 7:4). The result of receiving God's seal is to receive His "name" in the forehead (Revelation 14:1). God's name and seal are synonymous. When God spoke with Moses in the mount Moses asked to see God's glory. God said he would proclaim His "name" and then proceeded to reveal His character (Exodus 33:18-19). Thus we see that God's seal, name, character, and glory refer to the same thing. In the new covenant God promises to put His law in our mind (Hebrews 8:10). In the Old Testament, God's commandments were to be as "frontlets between the eyes," which refers to the forehead. Hence, God's commandments are symbolically pictured as being placed in the forehead.

In the chapter "Obedience from the Heart" we saw that the work of the Holy Spirit is to write God's law in our hearts. We have also seen that this work is called the "sealing," which occurs as a result of the infilling of the Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13). Thus, in order to receive the seal, name, character, and law of God in our forehead (mind) we must receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. According to the Bible, there is no other way. This is why the baptism or infilling of the Spirit is essential for the believer. This is why Paul emphatically commands us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

Ezekiel was given a vision of this sealing process (Ezekiel 9:1-7). He saw a man clothed in linen with a writer's inkhorn by his side who placed a mark upon the foreheads of all that sighed and cried for all the abominations that were done in the city Jerusalem, which has application to the world.

As we have previously seen, the word "abominations" refers to things morally disgusting, things which belong to worship of idols, homosexuality, and other perversions. Those who receive this mark have experienced the

law of God written in their hearts and such things in the world are repulsive to them. This mark in Ezekiel is the same as the seal of Revelation, which is placed in the forehead (Revelation 7:1-3). We have previously seen that this sealing takes place as the result of the infilling or anointing of the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:12-13).

### The Shaking

In Ezekiel's vision, those who do not receive the mark or seal of God are pictured as being slain. Seventh-day Adventists have always understood that those not sealed are "shaken" from the church. Ezekiel uses the word "slain" to describe this shaking of those not sealed. This sealing and shaking begins at the "sanctuary" which refers to the church. Hence, God's sealing and shaking work begins in His church and will spread throughout the world and will affect every man, woman and child on earth. Those who refuse to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit will in the end be shaken out of the church and eternally lost.

This is actually the very same scenario given in Revelation in reference to God's message to the Laodicean church (Revelation 3:14-22). Those in Laodicea are offered the opportunity to let Christ into their lives, which occurs through the baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24). They are invited to "buy" the gold, which refers to faith and love—two very important fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23). We receive this love only by the infilling of the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:5). They are also to buy "white raiment," which refers to Christ's righteousness—the opposite of the self-righteousness of those who have external obedience and not heart obedience. They are also counseled to buy "eyesalve," which is spiritual insight given only by the Holy Spirit that they may see their true condition. The problem with Laodicea is that they think they are acceptable in God's sight. They see no need for any more of God's Spirit, which would bring the fullness of Christ into their lives if received. The warning is that God will "spue" them from His mouth if they do not allow Christ into their lives which causes the fruit of the Spirit to be manifested in their lives and God's law to be written in their hearts. This imagery of being "spued" from God's mouth refers to those "slain" in Ezekiel's vision, which is the shaking.

In the book *Early Writings* Ellen White was given a vision of the shaking and asked its meaning. She was told;

"...it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They

will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people" (*Early Writings*, p. 270).

In the book of Revelation Jesus is the "True Witness," (Revelation 3:14). It is urgent that we take serious Christ's counsel to let Him come fully into our lives through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. This infilling will cause His law to be written in our hearts, which will cause us to exalt God's standard in our lives and through our words. Those not receiving the infilling of God's Spirit will look upon those being sealed as extreme in their fidelity to God. The carnal, lawless nature of those not sealed will rise against the experience happening in those being sealed by the Spirit's infilling. They will not understand it and will feel condemned by the exemplary lives of those sealed. Ellen White writes that the world will consider those faithful to God as "strait-laced" (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 289). I might add that it will not only be just the world, but also fellow believers who have not allowed God's law to be written in their hearts will also have this same attitude toward those sealed by the Spirit's infilling.

### Wise and Foolish Virgins

Christ's parable of the ten virgins gives a similar picture of events. Two groups of virgins are depicted, the wise and foolish. The difference between the two groups is that the wise virgins had bought extra oil for their lamps. The term "bought" is significant in the light of Christ's message to the Laodiceans to "buy". One can only "buy" or obtain the oil from Christ. It is not available from another person. Ellen White compares the foolish virgins with the Laodiceans in the following statement.

"The name 'foolish virgins' represents the character of those who have not the genuine heart-work wrought by the Spirit of God. The coming of Christ does not change the foolish virgins into wise ones... The state of the church represented by the foolish virgins, is also spoken of as the Laodicean state" (*Review and Herald*, Aug. 19, 1890).

LeRoy Froom commenting on this parable, states;

"The foolish think the wise are unduly worked up over this question of the oil" (*Coming of the Comforter*, p. 294).

This is typical of the mental attitude of those in Laodicea. They think they are sufficiently spiritual and are totally unaware of their true condition. When they hear a message to be baptized by the Holy Spirit they draw back con-

fidant that they already have the Spirit sufficiently in their life. Ellen White commenting of the foolish virgins states;

“The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy spirit’s working. . . . the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God. . . . Their service degenerates into a form” (*Christ Object Lessons*, p. 411).

### Timely Warning

Ellen White warned:

“The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works. Heavenly intelligences will come among us and men will speak as they are moved by the Holy Spirit of God. But should the Lord work upon men as He did on and after the day of Pentecost, many who now claim to believe the truth would know so very little of the operation of the Holy Spirit that they would cry, ‘Beware of fanaticism.’ They would say of those who were filled with the Spirit, ‘These men are full of new wine.’

“The time is not far off now when men will want a much closer relation to Christ, a much closer union with His Holy Spirit, than they have ever had, or will have, unless they give up their will and their way, and submit to God’s will and God’s way. The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit. When souls long after Christ and seek to become one with Him, then those who are content with the form of godliness, exclaim ‘Be careful, do not go to extremes.’ When the angels of heaven come among us, and work through human agents, there will be solid and substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of Pentecost” (*Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 56-57).

How shocking to the foolish virgins will Christ’s words be, “I know you not”. Jesus describes this group in Matthew 7:20-23. Note both the foolish virgins and those in Matthew 7 say, “Lord, Lord” to Christ. These are definitely professed believers in Him. In fact, they were very active in service and ministry for Him. In His name they had even done miracles, cast out devils, etc. They were sure they were right with God and were ready for Christ’s return. Note carefully what Christ says to them. They had not “done the will of my Father which is in heaven”. They instead worked “iniquity.”

Any work done for God outside genuine faith and the Spirit is sin (Romans 14:23). To the outside observer, the works of both the foolish and wise virgins would look very similar. Only God knows the heart. Also one cannot determine the wise from the foolish by signs that follow those who believe, such as casting out devils and healing. For those filled and not filled with the Spirit may have these signs in their ministry (Matthew 7:20-23).

### The True Test of Discipleship

The only true test of those who are filled with the Spirit are by the “fruits” of the Spirit (Matthew 7:20, Galatians 5:22-23). Only those filled with the Spirit will fully manifest the fruit of the Spirit in their life. Only those baptized by the Spirit will fully manifest the character of Christ in their lives. Only those with the extra oil of the Spirit, which refers to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, will be ready for the Bridegroom when He comes. They had “bought” the extra oil needed to endure through the night until the Bridegroom returns. They remain faithful to their Lord to the end. They know Him so intimately, and love Him so deeply, that they would rather die than hurt or disappoint Him.

### Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the Shaking

The Pentecost outpouring of the Holy Spirit is called the “early rain” in the Bible. The baptism or infilling of the Spirit is in reality the early rain experience of the Spirit in the Christian’s life.

The Bible also refers to another outpouring of the Spirit just prior to Christ’s second coming. That outpouring is called the “latter rain.” The latter rain outpouring of the Spirit completes the work of the Spirit in the life of the believer, preparing him to be ready for Christ’s second coming. However, if one does not receive the early rain or baptism of the Spirit, he or she will not be prepared to receive the latter rain. The latter rain will fall, but it will be of no benefit to those who have not received the early rain. Ellen White clearly described the relationship of the early and latter rain with the following words:

“In the East the former rain falls at the sowing time. It is necessary in order that the seed may germinate. Under the influence of the fertilizing showers, the tender shoot springs up. The latter rain, falling near the close of the season, ripens the grain and prepares it for the sickle. The Lord employs these operations of nature to represent the work of the Holy Spirit. As the dew and the rain are given first to cause the seed to germinate, and then to ripen the harvest, so the Holy Spirit is given to carry forward, from one stage to another, the process of spiritual growth. The ripening of the grain represents the completion of the work of God’s grace in the soul. By the power of the Holy Spirit the moral image of God is to be perfected in the character. We are to be wholly transformed into the likeness of Christ.

“The latter rain, ripening earth’s harvest, represents the spiritual grace that prepares the church for the coming of the Son of man. But unless the former rain has fallen, there will be no life; the green blade will not spring up. Unless the early showers have done their work, the latter rain can bring no seed to perfection.

“Many have in a great measure failed to receive the former rain. They have not obtained all the benefits that God has thus provided for them. They expect that the lack will be supplied by the latter rain. When the richest abundance of grace shall be bestowed, they intend to open their hearts to receive it. *They are making a terrible mistake*” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 506-507, emphasis added).

Let us not make the “terrible mistake” about which Ellen White warns us. Let us seek God for the early rain, which is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. If we fail to do this, we will not be ready for the latter rain. We will remain among the group of foolish virgins and the lukewarm professors of truth in Laodicea. If we refuse the early rain baptism of the Spirit, we will most assuredly be shaken out of God’s remnant church.

Praise God, none need to be among those shaken out of the church. All who daily and humbly seek God and the infilling of His Spirit will grow in grace, develop the character of Christ (the fruit of the Spirit), experience the latter rain, and be ready to meet their Lord when He returns.

### Discussion Questions

Why is receiving the seal of God important? Revelation 7:1-3

Where is God’s seal placed on the Christian? Revelation 7:4

When one receives the seal of God what else does he receive? Revelation 14:1

What does receiving God’s name represent in the life of the believer? Exodus 33:18-19; 34:5-7

Under the new covenant where is the law of God placed? Hebrews 8:10

In the Old Testament what did God want to place in His children’s forehead or minds? Deuteronomy 6:8

When we put the above scriptures together what do they teach us?

Which member of the Godhead writes God’s law in the mind of His children and seals them? 2Corinthians 3:18; 1:21-22; Ephesians 1:13

What experience is necessary for the Christian to enter into in order to be sealed?

What does the prophet Ezekiel call this seal of God? Ezekiel 9:1-7

Who receives this mark or seal of God according to Ezekiel? Ezekiel 9:1-7

According to Ezekiel what happens to those who do not receive the mark in their forehead? Ezekiel 9:5-6

What has the Seventh-day Adventist church interpreted this slaying of those without the mark of God to represent?

In relation to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, who will be shaken out of the church?

How does Revelation describe this shaking event? Revelation 3:14-16

In the message to the Laodiceans what is the solution to their problem? Revelation 3:20



How do we let Christ fully into our life? 1John 3:24

What other things are the Laodicean Christians to obtain in order to avoid being “spewed” out of God’s mouth? Revelation 3:18

Note: The gold represents Christ’s character of faith and love, the white raiment represents the righteousness of Christ and the eye salve represent the spiritual insight we receive from experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit

What does Ellen White say will cause the shaking in the church?

Who is the True Witness? Revelation 3:14

How then does one rise up against the counsel of the True Witness?

According to Ellen White what do those who refuse the baptism of the Holy Spirit call those who receive the Spirit’s infilling?

The parable of the wise and foolish virgins gives the same scenario as Ezekiel chapter nine and Revelation’s warning to Laodicea. What did the wise virgins have that the foolish ones did not have? Matthew 25:1-12

Note: The extra oil represents the baptism of the Holy Spirit

What does Ellen White say about the foolish virgins?

What does Christ say to the foolish virgins when He returns? Matthew 25:20-23

Were these foolish virgins involved in apparent marvelous works for Christ? Matthew 7:20-23

What is the only reliable test to distinguish a wise virgin from a foolish virgin? Matthew 7:20; Galatians 5:22-23

Why do the wise virgins have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives? Galatians 5:16; Ephesians 5:18

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is called the “early rain” of the Spirit and began to be poured out on the Day of Pentecost. What other outpouring of the Holy Spirit must the wise virgins experience?

What does Ellen White say the foolish virgins are doing when they refuse to receive the early rain of the Spirit and think they can wait for the latter rain in order to be ready for Christ’s second coming?

Which group of virgins do you want to be among when Jesus comes?

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Seal you with His Holy Spirit
  - Bless those on your prayer list

*Day 8*

## THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

Christ's call in one's life is to bear fruit (John 15:1-2, 5, 16). Here, the abiding of Christ in the believer is the infilling of the Holy Spirit (1 John 3:24). If a Christian bears no fruit, then he does not have the infilling of the Spirit. As we have previously seen, if one does not have the infilling of the Spirit, Christ does not "know" him and he will be lost (Matthew 7:20-23; 25:1-12). Through the infilling baptism of the Spirit, Christ most fully lives in the believer.

The fruit of which Christ speaks is especially the "fruit of the Spirit." Paul described this fruit in his letter to the Galatians.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23).

The initial baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit is vital; however, we must not stop there. The believer must continue to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). We must daily be filled anew with the Spirit and yield our lives to His prompting, allowing Him to bring forth fruit all the days of our life.

### The Greatest Experience

As Christians, we are to continue growing in our knowledge of God and the graces of the Spirit. We are to "go on unto perfection" (Hebrews 6:1-3). Justification by faith, righteousness by faith, etc. is the launching pad for the believer. However, the infilling of the Holy Spirit is the greatest dimension and experience. We experience God's sanctification by the Spirit's indwelling. The believer does not simply copy Jesus life. Jesus actually lives in the believer. Our thoughts, words, and actions become Jesus' thoughts, words, and actions. Christ in us is our only "hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).

"All true obedience comes from the heart. It was heart work with Christ. And if we consent, He will so identify Himself with our thoughts and aims, so to blend our hearts and minds into conformity to His will, that when obeying Him we shall be but carrying out our own impulses. The will, refined and sanctified, will find its highest delight in doing His

service. When we know God, as it is our privilege to know Him, our life will be a life of continual obedience. Through an appreciation of the character of Christ, through communion with God, sin will become hateful to us" (Desire of Ages, p. 668).

Paul tells us that Christ dwells in our hearts by faith, and this is what brings about our being rooted and grounded in love, which is the most prominent fruit expressed in the Bible (Ephesians 3:17). When we receive the infilling of the Spirit by faith, we receive Christ (1 John 3:24; Galatians 3:14). When Christ dwells in us He "walks" in us (2 Corinthians 6:16). He lives His life in us. The life He lived, we will live. The works He did, we will do (John 14:12). This happens as we continue to "walk in the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25).

Water baptism for the believer is similar to the marriage service. It is a public ceremony indicating one's commitment to Christ. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is similar to the consummation of the marriage where the bride comes to intimately "know" her bridegroom. It is through the infilling of the Holy Spirit that the believer comes to intimately "know" his Lord. This is why Christ says to those who refuse this experience in the Spirit, "I know you not" (Matthew 25:12). Of these foolish virgins, Ellen White writes:

"The class represented by the foolish virgins are not hypocrites. They have a regard for the truth, they have advocated the truth, they are attracted to those who believe the truth; but they have not yielded themselves to the Holy spirit's working...the class represented by the foolish virgins have been content with a superficial work. They do not know God...Their service degenerates into a form." (Christ's Object Lessons, p. 411).

### The Fruit of the Spirit

When the believer yields to the infilling of the Holy Spirit he will bring forth fruit. He will become like Jesus in character. So let's take a closer look at these fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23.

The first fruit is "love". This is "agape" love, the highest form of love. It is the kind of love God loves us with. It does what is best for the one loved. Jesus described this kind of love in the following way:

"But I say unto you, love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matthew 5:44).

Paul describes "agape" love with the words:

“Love is very patient and kind, never jealous or envious, never boastful or proud, never haughty or selfish or rude. Love does not demand its own way. It is not irritable or touchy. It does not hold grudges and will hardly even notice when others do it wrong. It is never glad about injustice, but rejoices whenever truth wins out. If you love someone you will be loyal to him no matter what the cost. You will always believe in him, always expect the best of him, and always stand your ground in defending him” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7, Living Bible).

The second fruit is “**Joy**”. This quality of character results in rejoicing and gladness in the heart. The one manifesting this fruit will “rejoice in the Lord always” (Philippians 4:4).

The fruit of “**peace**” refers to harmony among individuals; being able to fellowship and work together for Christ without dissension. We see this fruit manifested following Pentecost (Acts 2:46-47). Peace also includes being content with one’s lot in life. Paul described this attitude when he wrote:

“... for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content” (Philippians 4:11).

This peace will be present in the life of the believer independent of circumstances. Jesus spoke of this peace when He said:

“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” (John 14:27).

This fruit also includes a state of conscious reconciliation with God. When we have received Christ as our Savior, we know that we are accepted of God and have eternal life (1 John 5:11-13).

The fruit of “**longsuffering**” causes its recipient to have forbearance and self-restraint before proceeding to action. This fruit enables the believer to refrain from avenging himself. Jesus gave us a clear example of this when He stood before his persecutors. Peter describes Christ attitude in 1 Peter 2:23:

“Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.”

This fruit brings to the believer patient faith under the pressure of trying circumstances. The infilling of the Spirit leads one to know God so well that he can rest assured that God will see him through the most difficult situations.

“**Gentleness**” is a fruit that includes the quality of kindness. It leads to a mellowing of all that would be harsh. This fruit refers especially to one’s disposition and not necessarily their actions. It gives the believer mildness of temper, a calm, quiet, yet cheerful disposition.

The “**goodness**” referred to as one of the fruit is active goodness. The one in whom goodness dwells will be upright in heart and life, in motive and conduct. However, he does not spare sharpness or rebuke to cause good in others. Jesus manifested this quality when He cleansed the temple of the money changers (Matthew 21:12-13). We also see this quality manifested in Paul when he openly rebuked Peter for showing favoritism to those of the “circumcision” (Galatians 2:11-12).

“**Faith**” brings deep, abiding, firm conviction. It includes faithfulness and sincerity. It leads the believer to avoid “double-mindedness” (James 1:8) and will cause him to be steadfast in his conviction of God’s faithfulness.

The fruit of “**meekness**” produces mildness and forbearance. It is more of an inward grace than an outward expression. It includes calmness toward God while accepting God’s dealings with us. It will cause the believer to consider God’s dealings as good, believing the happenings in life enhance one’s closeness with God. Meekness causes one to truly believe that “all things work together for good to them that love God” (Romans 8:28).

Meekness also encompasses expressing wrath toward sin in man. We see this quality in Jesus’ actions and attitude toward the Jews’ hardness of heart in Mark 3:1-5. It includes active anger toward evil. It is seen in the attitude of those sealed in Ezekiel’s vision when they are described as sighing and crying for the abominations done in the world (Ezekiel 9:4). The believer with this fruit of meekness will not experience uncontrolled, unjustified anger. However, he will experience what Christians call “righteous indignation” over some terrible injustice or offense toward God or man.

“**Temperance**” speaks of self-control. The one with the fruit of temperance will be moderate in all things (1 Corinthians 9:25). He will have complete control over every passion and appetite. Victories will be gained over addictions such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, food, etc.

### **No Fruit Without the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The qualities described in the list of the fruit of the Spirit are impossible to achieve separate from the infilling of the Spirit. We will fail time and again if we try to bring these fruit into our lives by self-will and determination. Only through God’s Spirit will they be manifested as the believer cooperates with the Spirit’s inner prompting. They will only be evidenced in the life when the desire springs from the new heart where God’s law is written. These fruits of character will be seen as the believer learns to let Christ live out His life within them.

God offers marvelous fruit to each of us through the infilling of the Spirit. Many Christians sincerely desire these wonderful fruits and expend great effort to obtain them, not knowing God offers them to us freely through the infilling of His Spirit. It is no surprise that Satan wants to keep this wonderful gift of God from us. For true sanctification is found only in Christ fully dwelling in us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

One may profess to be a believer in Jesus Christ. He may do many wonderful works for God even casting out devils in His name. However, if the fruit of the Spirit are not evident in the life, Christ is not there and he has not experienced the Spirit's infilling. Paul put it well when he wrote:

“If I speak in the tongues of men and angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and surrender my body to the flames, but have not love, I gain nothing” (1 Corinthians 13:1-3, New International Version).

The manifestation of the fruit of the Spirit in our lives is the only real evidence of how genuine our Christianity is. How desperate we need the “eyesalve” Christ counsels us to receive (Revelation 3:18). Jeremiah warns us; “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?” (Jeremiah 17:9). Only by the infilling of the Spirit, which brings the necessary spiritual “eyesight” will we begin to truly see our real condition. With that eyesight comes the grace of the Spirit that enables us to put to death the works of the flesh and bring forth the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:24).

If you have not received the baptism or infilling of God's Spirit, don't let another moment go by until you seek Him. If you have received Him in fullness, continue to seek His renewing every day. This is the only means for Christ to be fully manifested in the life.

### Discussion Questions

When we accept Christ what will be seen in our life? John 15:1-2, 5, 16

How important is it that the Christian bear fruit in his life? John 15:2

How are we to bear the fruit Jesus is speaking of? John 15:5

How does Christ abide in us? 1John 3:24

Which member of the Godhead is especially involved in bringing this fruit in our life? Galatians 5:22-23

List the fruit of the Spirit Christ led Paul to write about. Galatians 5:22-23

Whose character qualities are these fruit of the Spirit? John 15:11; 14:27; Revelation 14:12

Describe in your own words what each fruit of the Spirit listed below is?

Love

Joy

Peace

Longsuffering

Gentleness

Goodness

Faith

Meekness

Temperance

How does Paul describe the Christian who does many wonderful things for God and his fellow man, but does not have the fruit of the Spirit? 1Corinthians 13:1-3

What is the only real evidence that our Christianity is genuine? Matthew 7:20-23

What kind of life does one live who does not have the fruit of the Spirit? Galatians 5:19-21

What are the characteristics that Paul gives of professed Christians who have the “form of godliness” in the last days? 2Timothy 3:1-5

Why do these professed Christians not have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives? 2Timothy 3:5

What will Christ say to the professed Christians who do not have the fruit of the Spirit in their lives when He comes? Matthew 7:23

What does Jesus call these fruitless Christians in the parable of the 10 virgins? Matthew 25:1-12

In the parable of the 10 virgins what makes the foolish different from the wise ones?

Note: The extra oil is the baptism of the Holy Spirit

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Manifest every fruit of the Spirit in your life
  - Bless those on your prayer list

*Day 9*

## WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

Faith is the key factor in all our victories. By faith we receive forgiveness. By faith we receive emotional and physical deliverance from Satan. It is also by faith that we live victoriously everyday overcoming the temptations Satan brings our way.

As we have seen, there are two reasons why God gives the believer the infilling of the Holy Spirit. One is power for witnessing. The second reason is to produce Christ’s character in the life, which is the fruit of the Spirit.

### **We Need the Power**

We do not have the power in ourselves to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Our only power and authority is found in Christ and His Spirit dwelling in us.

The presence of Christ in us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential to manifesting the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. However, this lesson is often hard to learn. We must come to realize our complete dependency on Christ and His Spirit in developing Christ’s character if we hope to be victorious in that area of our lives. The key to developing Christ’s character is to allow the Spirit to produce the fruit of the Spirit in us. If we try to produce the fruit, we are trying the impossible, and attempting to perform the proverbial “pulling ourselves up by our own boot straps.”

No matter how hard we try. No matter how sincere we are, we cannot produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives. Only the Spirit can do that. It is as impossible for the believer to produce the fruit of the Spirit in their life as it would be for me to become an opera singer. I may be sincere. I may go to every rehearsal for the part; yet, no matter how hard I try, and no matter how many rehearsals I attend, I will not get the part. The talent or ability just isn’t in me. It’s impossible.

### **Faith Only Faith**

How, then, are we to manifest the character of Christ in our lives? How are the fruit of the Spirit to appear in our life? One way and one way only! By the Spirit and faith in God’s promises. We are to live the Christian life the same way we entered the Christian life, by faith.

“As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him” (Colossians 2:6).

How are we saved and declared righteous? By the faith we have in Jesus. How do we obtain forgiveness for our sins? By confessing our sins and believing we are forgiven (1 John 1:9). How do we know we have eternal life? By faith in God’s promise (1 John 5:11-15).

The same faith principle applies to our living the Christian life. We live the Christian life by faith.

“...the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God...” (Galatians 2:20).

Faith is simply believing God will do what He says He will do. If God promises to fill you with His Spirit when you ask, then you can believe He will do what He says (Luke 11:13). It is not a matter of feeling or emotion. It is a matter of faith. You will receive the Holy Spirit if you ask Him to fulfill His promise to you and believe He will do just that.

The same applies to living the Christian life. The Holy Spirit will manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our lives if we believe the Spirit will do it.

### **Abide in Christ**

Jesus used the analogy of the vine and branches to describe the believer and Himself (John 15). Jesus said He was the vine and believers are the branches. He also said that if the believers “abide” in Him, then “fruit” will be produced in the believers’ lives. Branch is simply the channel through which the sap flows from the vine to produce the fruit on the branch. The same principle applies to the believers. Christians produce the fruit of the Spirit, Christ’s character, by “abiding” in Christ. How do we abide in Christ? We abide by allowing the Holy Spirit and God’s Word into our lives, (John 15:7; 14:17-18).

How does this work in our lives? Let’s take the example of a Christian who is prone to loose his temper easily. Instead of struggling hard to not loose his temper when something happens that angers him, he simply believes God will manifest the self-control he needs not to loose his temper and acts on that belief. He would begin his day with the prayer, “Lord, fill me with your Spirit today and manifest the fruit of the Spirit in my life. I thank you for manifesting the fruit of self-control so that I will not loose my temper today.” Then, when he is tempted to loose his temper, he immediately turns his mind away from whatever it is that is tempting him to lose his temper, asks Christ to manifest His self-control and peace, and thanks God for giving him self-control and peace. He does not struggle with the temptation or his

temper. He simply trusts God to do what God said He would do, and cooperates by not dwelling on the event that has tempted him to lose his temper.

The self-control that God will manifest is the self-control of Christ, who is living in the believer through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. For a more in depth study of this topic I recommend my book, *Spirit Baptism & Abiding in Christ*.

This is what it means to “walk” in the Spirit.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh” (Galatians 5:16).

To walk in the Spirit is to be “led” by the Spirit (Galatians 5:18). When we are walking in the Spirit or being led by the Spirit, we begin our day by asking the Spirit into our life. We then live the day with a conscious awareness of His presence, a sensitivity to the Spirit’s prompting and have a constant dependence on Him for victory over temptation. This is what Paul means when he writes:

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25).

The Spirit and God’s Word are inseparable in our Christian walk. The Spirit uses the Word of God to enlighten our minds as to what God’s will is for us. The Word of God tells us right from wrong and reveals how we are to cooperate with God in our everyday living. For instance, the Christian described in previous paragraphs who has an anger problem learns from God’s word that selfish anger is wrong and must be controlled. He then recognizes the temptation to get angry over a personal wrong done to him as a temptation from Satan, and then immediately turns to God for the victory. He learns from God’s Word not to dwell on these wrongs or any negative thing that Satan could use to lead him into temptation and sin.

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

### **Mind Wars**

We learn from Scripture that temptation begins in the mind. That is why Paul tells us:

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind...” (Romans 12:2).

Satan wages battle for our minds, so we first attained victory in our minds. If we wait until we face temptation to try to gain the victory over it, only the very strong-willed person might—occasionally—gain the victory, but even that victory is a failure since it is really a victory in the flesh and not in the Spirit. Such victories are dead works. The only true victories are gained in the Spirit, which are attained first in our minds, and then revealed in our lives when the temptation comes.

James recognized the role the mind plays in temptation when he wrote:

“But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:14-15).

The temptation prompts a response in our sinful nature. We have a choice. We can either be drawn toward it and conceive it in our minds, which will result in the sinful act, or we can immediately reject the thought the temptation stirred up and turn our mind to God’s Word thanking Him for the victory over the temptation. The battle always begins in our minds and will be won or lost there.

How does this actually work? Let’s use the example of an alcoholic named Jim. Jim has been enlightened by God’s Word that drinking is wrong and that the alcoholism is destroying his body. The Spirit has put the desire in Jim to stop drinking. So Jim tries very hard not to drink. However, when problems come his way and stress builds in his life, the temptation becomes very strong within Jim to go to the bottle. He sees the ads for alcohol everywhere and thinks about the local bar he often frequents after work. Jim struggles with the alcohol time and again and is defeated time and again. This is all very discouraging for him. He pleads with God for victory, but such victory seems out of reach. His promises to do better are constantly broken and his will to stop drinking seems powerless. The fact is that Jim’s will is powerless. Also, Jim’s promises can’t help but be broken. Why? Jim has not discovered where the battle is actually won—in his mind. Then one day Jim reads the Scripture:

“Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires” (Romans 8:5, NIV)

Jim realizes he has been focusing his mind on the wrong things. He has been focusing on the temptation to drink. He had been focusing on and wrestling with the sinful desire within him to use alcohol as an escape and help him handle the stresses of life. Now Jim realizes that he must begin focusing his mind on the Spirit’s desire for him. Immediately Jim prays:

“Father forgive me for my sin of alcoholism. Thank you for forgiving me. Fill me with your Spirit and manifest the fruit of the Spirit in my life. Especially manifest the fruit of self-control over alcohol. Thank you for giving me the victory over alcoholism.”

Now Jim does more than just pray. He remembers the Scripture that says he must “focus his mind on the Spirit’s desire for him.” So Jim turns his eye away from all advertisements for alcohol. He fills his mind with God’s promises of victory and focuses on them as soon as the thought of alcohol tries to enter his mind. When problems and stresses come Jim’s way, he immediately focuses his mind on God’s promises to see him through the problems of life. He also claims God’s promise to manifest the fruit of self-control in his life and thanks God for the victory. He does not allow himself to think about anything related to alcohol, for those thoughts are of the “flesh” and not of the “Spirit”.

The principle is simple. What we dwell on and think about is what we will do. The mind focused on the sinful nature or flesh will dwell on whatever the temptation is for them. In Jim’s case, it is alcohol; for others, it might be lust, food, or money. However, the mind focused on the Spirit will dwell on biblical truth, and the fruit of the Spirit God desires to manifest through us (Galatians 5:22-23).

### **Faith Again**

Faith is the key for this change to take place in our lives. We must believe God will do what He says He will do. Jim had to believe God would manifest the fruit of self-control in his life. He had to believe Christ lives in him and will manifest His character quality of self-control. We must believe we can be victorious over sin.

“Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof” (Romans 6:11-12).

The victory over temptation and sin can be ours if we believe and win the battle for our minds. Once the victory is won in our minds, the victory is assured as soon as temptation presents itself.

This is why the Spirit’s infilling is so important. Without His abiding presence in fullness, we will never have the victories God desires us to have. This doesn’t mean that the Spirit-filled Christian will never fail. He will. However, failure will not occur as often, and he will get back on his feet quickly. He will not be so easily discouraged. Day by day he will become stronger and

stronger in his walk in the Spirit. In fact, the last generation of Christians will be like Enoch of whom it is written:

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him” (Genesis 5:24).

### Discussion Questions

What is one of the key factors in our victory over Satan in our life? Answer by filling in the blanks:

By \_\_\_\_\_ we receive forgiveness, by \_\_\_\_\_ we receive emotional and physical deliverance, and by \_\_\_\_\_ we overcome the temptations of Satan.

What are the two reasons why God gives the Christian the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What fruit will the baptism of the Holy Spirit produce in our life?

Can we produce the fruit of the Spirit by our own efforts?

According to Paul how is the believer to continue to live the Christian life? Colossians 2:6

How does the Christian receive Christ and receive forgiveness and eternal life? 1John 1:9; 5:11-15; 2Peter 1:4

What does Paul say about living the Christian life? Galatians 2:20

What example from nature did Jesus use to illustrate the Christians relationship with Him? John 15:5

How does Christ continue in this chapter to describe the Christian’s relationship with Him? John 15:5

How do we abide in Christ and He abide in us? John 15:7; 14:17-18

In order to live the victorious Christian life what does Paul say we must do? Galatians 5:25

In order to walk in the Spirit we must do the following every day? Answer by filling in the blanks:

Begin our day asking the \_\_\_\_\_ into our life. We live the day with a \_\_\_\_\_ of the Spirit’s presence, a \_\_\_\_\_ to His prompting, and a \_\_\_\_\_ on Him for victory over temptation.

What does God use to enlighten our understanding concerning His will for us? Psalm 119:105

When we are tempted, instead of dwelling on the temptation what should we dwell on? Philippians 4:8

Where does all temptation begin? James 1:14-15

What do we need God to do to our mind? Romans 12:2

How does God “renew” our mind? Ezekiel 36:26-27

How does Paul contrast those who live a life of sin and the Christian who lives a life of obedience to God? Romans 8:5



What principle is involved here?

What attitude must the Christian have in order to be completely victorious over sin? Romans 6:11-12

What is necessary for the Christian to have this attitude of mind and victory over sin?

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Lead you to walk in the Spirit and not in your own ways
  - Bless those on your prayer list

*Day 10*

## PRAYER AND THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, a deep, inner desire will begin to well up within us to be more in prayer to our heavenly Father. We can either yield to this God given desire or ignore it and continue being more of an active Christian than a praying Christian. However, if we want to experience the deep things of God, the fullness of Christ in our lives we must yield to this desire to pray. If we want to see His deliverance power manifested in our lives over everything Satan tries to bring on us, and see the power of God manifested through us in blessing others with His deliverance, we must spend much time with God in prayer.

### **Too Much Self-Sufficiency**

As Christians, we have known the importance of prayer for years. Many times we have made efforts to take time in prayer, but those special seasons of prayer were motivated by some crisis and didn't continue for very long. Our problem is that we have become very self-sufficient in meeting our own needs and the needs of the church. We have learned to rely on our own efforts to do the work of God. We have been involved in much planning and many programs. We have learned to depend on the "flesh" to do God's work. In mercy, He has blessed our feeble efforts. However, a blessing beyond our greatest expectations awaits us when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and enter the prayer relationship into which He desires to lead us. Only then will our plans, be God's plans and our activities be God's activities.

Jesus had a meaningful, deep and powerful relationship with His Father. In fact, this relationship was so close and intimate that Jesus said:

"I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

Everything Jesus did was under the direction of His Father. His words, His actions were all done under the direction and power of the Father. Jesus emphasized this when He said:

“Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works” (John 14:10).

How did Jesus obtain such a close oneness with His Father? It was through prayer. When Jesus was baptized with water, He prayed (Luke 3:21). In answer to Christ’s prayer, the Holy Spirit descended upon Him. He received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in answer to prayer. Immediately after Christ received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, He spent 40 days and nights fasting and praying in the wilderness. From this special communion with His Father, Christ came forth prepared to do the work He came to earth to do. He was empowered to be victorious over Satan and defeat him.

### Jesus’ Example

Time and again we see Christ in prayer during His ministry on earth. After teaching great multitudes and healing them of their infirmities He “withdrew himself into the wilderness, and prayed” (Luke 5:16). Before calling the 12 disciples he “continued all night in prayer to God”, Luke 6:9. On the mount of transfiguration, he “prayed” (Luke 9:29). Jesus was drawn by the Spirit to be much with His heavenly Father in prayer. He responded to the deep, inner need for prayer that He felt. He knew it was only through such times of prayer that He would be one with the Father and be empowered to do the work He came to do.

Jesus gained His victories over Satan’s works through times in prayer with the Father. When we read of Christ confronting Satan in the lives of men and women and nature in the forms of devil possession, disease, death, storm, etc., we do not see Christ at that moment in deep prayer with His Father praying for the power to deliver. He had already received that power from the Father during the times of intimate prayer seasons. When confronted with Satan and his works Jesus simply spoke the word in the power and authority of the Father and Satan’s power was broken. Christ’s word cast out devils, healed the sick, raised the dead, and quelled the storm.

The lesson is clear. Christ maintained His oneness with the Father and received His power over the enemy during His seasons of prayer with the Father. He then came away from these prayer times taking the Father with Him. He was conscious of the Father’s presence moment by moment and day by day. Christ maintained this conscious and very real oneness with the Father throughout His life. Whenever He was confronted with Satan, He was prepared to meet the challenge and gain the victory because of His prayer life.

### The Disciples’ and Old Testament Examples

The example of Christ’s prayer life was not lost on the disciples. Prayer was a central part of their ministry. When the growth of the church began to demand more and more of the disciples’ time, deacons were established to “wait on tables.” The disciples said of their priorities:

“But we will give ourselves *continually* to prayer, and to the ministry of the word” (Acts 6:4, emphasis added).

God had led His people in the Old Testament to especially pray three times a day. David said:

“Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice” Psalm 55:17).

Daniel followed the same practice.

“Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and prayed, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime.” Dan. 6:10

In the New Testament as in the Old, we find three times that were designated for prayer: the third hour, the sixth hour and the ninth hour, which refer to 9:00 AM, 12:00 noon and 3:00 PM respectively. Throughout the book of Acts we find the disciples praying at these times (Acts 3:1; 10:9).

The early church members were men and women of prayer. It is recorded of them:

“And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers” (Acts 2:42).

These early believers prayed in the Temple, in their homes, and outside in nature.

“And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made...” (Acts 16:13).

The apostle Paul was a man of prayer. He prayed day and night for the believers (1 Thessalonians 3:10). Once, when he was on his way to pray, he cast a devil from a woman (Acts 16:16-18).

The apostles were men of prayer. Because of this, they were men of power in the Lord. The early Christians were men and women of prayer. Because of this, God was able to do mighty wonders and miracles. Because of prayer, the gospel went to the world (Colossians 1:23).

### **Jesus, the Father, and we are to be One**

Do we want the same power and success the apostles and early church had? Then we must become the same kind of men and women they were—men and women of prayer. Not just praying a few minutes once a day. Instead, we must learn to pray formally and informally many times a day. We must learn how to apply Paul’s counsel to “pray without ceasing” (1 Thessalonians 5:17). We must become surrounded by an atmosphere of prayer continually. Then we will have Christ continually with us. Ellen White spoke of this when she wrote:

“We may leave off many bad habits, for the time we may part company with Satan; but without a vital connection with God, through the surrender of ourselves to Him moment-by-moment we shall be overcome. Without a personal acquaintance with Christ, and a *continual communion*, we are at the mercy of the enemy, and shall do his bidding in the end.” (*The Desire of Ages*, p.324, emphasis added).

Jesus had a special “oneness” with the Father. The disciples and early church had a oneness with their Lord. This same oneness is offered to every believer today. Jesus knew this oneness was essential for His followers to be victorious over Satan. That is why Jesus prayed to the Father:

“I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil...Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be *one in us*: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me. And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou has sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me” (John 17:15, 20-23 emphasis added).

Jesus knew that the believer being “one in” the Father and Son was essential if they were to be kept “from the evil.” Jesus was kept from Satan’s power and defeated him at every step because of His oneness with the Father. The same is true of us. We can be completely victorious over Satan in our personal lives and advance God’s kingdom in this earth successfully only to

the degree that we are “one” with Christ and the Father. This oneness will happen in our lives just like it did in Jesus’ life, through much secret prayer.

### **The Necessity of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

The reason the baptism of the Spirit is so essential to the Christian is because without the Spirit’s infilling, the Christian will not have the desire for such intimate communion with God. He will have a desire for communion in prayer, but it will be somewhat superficial and short-lived. The prayer life will be performed as much from a sense of duty as from the deep inner desire to pray. See the chapter “Obedience from the Heart” for a further discussion of the obedience of the Spirit-filled Christian verses the non-Spirit-filled believer.

The infilling of the Spirit will cause the believer to desire more and more of Jesus. This infilling will cause us to declare as Paul did:

“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection...” (Philippians 3:10).

As we draw nearer to the coming of Christ, God’s Spirit-filled children will spend much time with their Lord in prayer—not minutes, but hours. Not hasty one-sided conversations, but a two-way communication. We must learn how to listen for that “still, small voice” so we can better discern God’s will for us. As we go forward to do battle with Satan and advance the gospel we must be under the constant direction of God as Jesus was. This is what Jesus was referring to when He spoke of Himself being the vine and we the branches:

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman....Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth I me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing...If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you” (John 15:1, 4-7).

### **Prayer Motivated by Our Need**

When one enters into the deeper spiritual experience under the Holy Spirit’s influence, he will develop a much keener sense of his own unworthiness. This sense of unworthiness will be the motivating factor leading him more frequently to prayer and to a deeper dependence on Christ. Edward Payson, an early 19th century New England clergyman, commented that a true spiritual view of oneself is essential to earnestness in prayer. Payson stated, “You cannot make a rich man beg like a poor man; you cannot make a man that is full cry for food like one that is hungry:

no more will a man who has a good opinion cry for mercy like one who feels that he is poor and needy." A true view of oneself is at the heart of the Christian experience and is the experience into which the Holy Spirit will seek to lead the sincere Christian. Payson aptly describes this experience with the words:

"As our views of our own sinfulness, and of the abominable malignity of sin, are always in direct proportion to our views of the divine purity and glory, the Christian never appears to himself so unspeakably vile, so totally unworthy of his Saviour's love, or so unfit to enjoy his presence, as at the very time when he is favored with these blessings, in the highest degree. The consequence is that he is astonished, confounded, crushed and overwhelmed by a display of goodness so undeserved, so unexpected. When he has perhaps been ready to conclude that he was a vile hypocrite and to give up all for lost; or, if not, to fear that God would bring upon him some terrible judgment for his sins, and make him an example to others – then to see his much-insulted Saviour, his neglected Benefactor, his injured Friend, suddenly appear to deliver him from the consequences of his own folly and ingratitude; to see him come with smiles and blessing, when he expected nothing but upbraidings, threatenings, and scourges- it is too much; he knows not how to bear it; he scarcely dares take the consolation offered him he sinks down ashamed and broken-hearted at his feet; feels unworthy and unable to look up; and the more condescendingly Christ stoops to embrace him, so much lower and lower does he sink in the dust. At length his emotions find utterance, and he cries, O Lord, treat me not thus kindly. Such favors belong to those, only, who do not requite thy love as I have done. How can it be just, how can it be right to give them to one so undeserving? Thy kindness is lavished upon me in vain; thy mercies are thrown away upon one so incorrigibly vile. If thou pardon me now, I shall offend thee again; if thou heal my backslidings, I shall again wander from thee; if thou cleanse me, I shall again become polluted; thou must, O Lord, give me up – thou must leave me to perish, and bestow thy favors on those who are less unworthy, less incurably prone to offend thee. Such are often the feelings of the broken-hearted penitent" (*Complete Works of Edward Payson*, p. 513-4).

This clearer sense of our own unworthiness in contrast to God's holiness comes only through the infilling of the Spirit of God. A true godly sorrow for one's sin is felt. This is the "sorrow" Paul referred to in 2 Corinthians 7:10. It is a sorrow that draws one closer and closer to Christ causing him to depend totally and completely on Christ for his salvation. Christ described this experience in the "beatitudes" (Matthew 5:3-11). Those who

are "poor in spirit" truly sense their spiritual poverty, which causes them to deeply "mourn" their sinful condition and yield their will to God (meekness). Only those who are brought by the Spirit to these three conditions—"poor in spirit," "those who mourn," and "meekness"—will truly "hunger and thirst for righteousness" and will ultimately develop Christ's character of "mercy," "purity," and that of a "peacemaker" between God and their fellow men. This breaking of self by the deep moving of the Holy Spirit brings the recipient closer and closer to God and prepares him for even greater victories over self, sin, and Satan. These are the ones who become the final generation of Christians who proclaim God's last message to a dying world. These are the ones who are able to stand when Christ returns and are received by Him into glory.

### Prayer Brings Victory

Great personal victories and corporate victories await God's children and church. These victories will actually be gained during intimate prayer times with our God. When we get up off our knees and go out to meet the enemy, the victories will then become a reality.

Such prayer will develop a confidence in God's Spirit-filled children that nothing of Satan will be able to stand before them. The "gates of hell will not prevail against them." They will pull down the "strongholds" of Satan. The gospel of deliverance will go forth with power. Men and women will be delivered from every infirmity Satan has put on them whether it be spiritual, physical, or emotional. The demons of the "lust of the flesh," the "lust of the eyes," the "pride of life", etc. will not stand before them. The demons of anxiety, depression, dissension, anger, bitterness, etc. will not stand before them. The demons of sickness, disease, pain, etc. will not stand before them. The power of the gospel of total deliverance from Satan's power will be experienced and proclaimed. Multitudes will respond to this last great work of God on earth. The power of God as never before seen will be manifest in the preaching of the gospel and great signs and wonders will follow them that believe.

Why will such marvelous things happen? Because those filled with the Spirit have come to know their God so intimately that they know without a shadow of a doubt that He will do what He says He will do. Their faith will become invincible. They will go forward in faith believing His promise:

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 7:27).

The word “save” refers to God delivering spiritually from sin, physically from disease and emotionally from depressions, anxieties, etc. All that come to Him, He will deliver to the “uttermost,” wholly and completely. Those who have been baptized by the Spirit and maintain intimate communion with God will believe this with all their hearts and souls. Their faith will overcome all circumstances that appear impossible to the “natural” eye because they are seeing with the eye of “faith.” Whatever work of Satan confronts them, no matter how impossible the deliverance appears they will not falter.

In my book, *Spirit Baptism & Deliverance*, I present the biblical principles of how the Christian can be delivered from all of Satan’s oppressions and influences: spiritually, emotionally, and physically.

God’s promises are sure. If we do not see them fulfilled it is not God’s fault. It is ours. For Paul tells us:

“Wherein God, willing more abundantly to shew unto the heirs of promise the immutability of his counsel, confirmed it by an oath: That by two immutable things, in which it was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope that is set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...” (Hebrews 6:17-19).

In Galatians 3:29, Paul tells us that the believer in Jesus is the “heir” of the promises of God’s word. Those baptized in the Spirit, who spend much time with God in prayer, have every confidence in God’s promise and oath.

Do you want to experience God’s power as it is your privilege to experience? Do you want to see Satan’s strongholds fall before you? Then seek the infilling of His Spirit. Yield to the Spirit’s prompting to seek God every day in prayer and stay there enclosed with Him separated from the cares of the world. Stay there as long as it takes to hear that “still, small voice” and receive the assurance and power needed to come forth victorious as Jesus did. Keep His presence with you moment by moment, day by day. Then Christ’s words will be fulfilled in your life:

“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).

You will have the same Spirit dwelling in you that Jesus did. You will have the same victories in your life Jesus did. You will have the same power manifested through you that Jesus did. You will actually have Jesus living and ministering through you. You will see Satan’s power broken before your eyes because in prayer you have seen it and believed it with the eye of faith.

Then when confronted with Satan’s power you will believe and speak with the authority of Jesus Christ and Satan’s power will be broken. James wrote the truth when he stated that the devil would flee from us in terror when we resist him (James 4:7).

An in-depth presentation on prayer is presented in my book, *Spirit Baptism & Prayer*. A Spirit-filled Christian who knows the science of prayer is the greatest threat to Satan’s reign on earth. Philip Samaan in his book, *Christ’s Way to Spiritual Growth*, quotes the following statement by Wesley Duewel concerning the vital importance of prayer.

“Satan is more afraid of your praying than of your pure life or zealous witness. One’s life may be a beautiful witness that cannot be silenced, but prayer is a militant force that has the potential of defeating Satan, destroying his works, and driving him out of places and lives he claims for his own (p. 212).

## Discussion Questions

How will receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit affect our prayer life?

What is one of the problems Laodicean Christians have in relation to doing God’s work?

Who did the works in the life and ministry of Jesus? John 14:10

What did Jesus do in order to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Luke 3:21-22

What were the occasions when Jesus prayed listed in the following texts?

Luke 5:16

Luke 6:12

Luke 9:29

Why did Jesus spend so much time in prayer?

What two priorities did the Holy Spirit lead the Apostles to set for themselves? Acts 6:4

How often did David pray? Psalm 55:17

What does the following text tell us about Daniel's prayer life? Daniel 6:10

In the Bible what were the designated times for prayer? Acts 3:1; 10:9

What four things did the early Christians consistently practice? Acts 2:42

Was Paul a man of prayer? 1Thessalonians 3:10

How successful were those early Christians in spreading the Gospel? Colossians 1:23

What counsel does Paul give to us? 1Thessalonians 5:17

What does Ellen White say about unceasing prayer?

What Holy Spirit insight about ourselves will cause us under the Holy Spirit's motivation to want to pray more?

In the Sermon on the Mount what did Jesus say was the first step in becoming like Him? Matthew 5:3-11

How only can this happen?

When do our victories over Satan begin?

What areas of our life will be affected by our prayer life?

What does the Bible say the devil will do when we submit ourselves to God, draw near to Him through prayer and resist Satan in the name of Jesus? James 4:7-8

Do you think the devil is afraid of your prayers? Why?

Do you think he will try to keep you from having a meaningful prayer life? Why?

List any changes in your prayer life you have decided to make.

**Prayer Focus:**

- Ask God to:
  - Baptize you with His Spirit
  - Lead you to always pray in the Spirit every day
  - Bless those on your prayer list

## Appendix 1

# ONE CHURCH'S EXPERIENCE

Since seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the fall of 1999, the Lord has led us into many and varied experiences. I have sought to share this important teaching with the churches I have pastored since then as well as at churches and conferences around the world. The following is an experience the Lord gave us when we sought Him during a series of revival meetings in New Haven, Connecticut, USA. I will never forget what happened, and pray that God will continue to lead us into deep, meaningful experiences with Himself.

As part of the New Haven church's plans for the year, we scheduled two coinciding events. One event was a 10-day prayer fast. The second was a six-night series of revival meetings. The prayer fast and revival meetings both began on a Sunday night. The revival meetings were to end the following Friday while the prayer fast ended on a Tuesday, the tenth day of the prayer fast. Hence, the prayer fast was to extend four days beyond the revival meetings.

### 10-Day Prayer Fast

The concept of the 10-day prayer fast was to follow the pattern in Acts 1, when the disciples prayed for 10 days before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. The goal was to eliminate media distractions—TV, radio, secular magazines, computer surfing and games, etc.—and seek God as much as possible during this time. During the 10-day prayer fast, the members were encouraged to pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), and for revival in their personal lives (2 Chronicles 7:14, Psalm 85:6) and in the church. They were also to ask God to pour out His Spirit on the church (Zechariah 10:1) and meetings we were having.

The revival meetings began the same night the prayer fast began. The focus was the same at each meeting: seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit, revival, and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. I had never conducted revival meetings like this, so I wasn't sure what to present or what would happen.

### The Results

The results of this effort of earnestly seeking God and asking Him to revive us far exceeded my expectations as pastor, and the expectations of those attending. During the first six days of the revival meetings we experienced the presence of God as I have never previously experienced Him. This encounter

is difficult to describe in words. One would have to be there to understand. His presence and blessing seemed to grow from meeting to meeting. The moving of the Spirit in personal lives, the joy, and the fellowship were wonderful. One lady described it as "falling in love with Jesus again." Night after night I would hear individuals making comments about the renewed experience they were having with God.

God led in the format of the meetings since I didn't know exactly what He wanted. We participated in praise singing from contemporary praise songs and hymn singing from the hymnal. Those attending participated in two sessions of prayer. The attendees were instructed to pray "unitedly" (Acts 1:14) and not for every need that came to mind. Instead, all were to pray for (1) revival, (2) the personal baptism of the Holy Spirit, (3) the outpouring of God's Spirit and (4) the special prayer focus I had presented from God's Word for that night. This united focus in prayer proved to be a great blessing. I believe it played a major role in what we experienced. We came to understand more clearly what Christ meant when He stated, "...if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 18:19).

The Lord led in a very direct way concerning the subject to be presented each night. My personality is to have everything planned well in advance. Normally I would have had my sermons outlined and prepared well before the first night of the revival meetings. The Lord didn't allow that this time. I was unable to determine what to give beyond each upcoming meeting. Then each night following the meeting as I began praying about what the Lord wanted presented the next night the subject would clarify in my mind. By the next meeting, the message for that night was complete. This happened every night except for Friday night. On Friday the Lord gave me the message for both Friday and Saturday night, which I very much appreciated, knowing how busy I would be all day Sabbath with little or no time to prepare for the Saturday night meeting.

### Outline of Subjects

The general outline and order of the subjects the Lord led us to study follows.

1. *Laodicean Warning*—Laodicea was known for its therapeutic hydrotherapy, which implements hot and cold treatments. The Laodicean church is neither "hot" nor "cold." Hence, she is of no therapeutic value to God in her present condition. Therefore, revival is urgently needed. The prayer focus was the three requests we made to God every night: (1) the baptism of the Holy Spirit, (2) revival, and (3) the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. There was no additional prayer focus the first night.

2. *Our Part in Seeking Revival* (2 Chronicles 7:14)—Prayer and complete surrender to God are necessary if we are to experience revival. The additional prayer focus was to ask God to make us willing to submit 100 percent to Him.
3. *In Revival New Life is Found Only in Jesus*—Revival is not seeking some feeling, emotion, or ecstatic experience. Rather, revival is seeking Jesus and letting Him into our lives more fully (Revelation 3:20). The additional prayer focus was to ask God to remove anything blocking the door that is hindering us from letting Jesus into our hearts.
4. *In Revival We Exchange Our Lives for Jesus Living in Us*—We are to become just like Jesus. The additional prayer focus was to give our lives to Jesus in exchange for Jesus living in us.
5. *A Passion for Lost Souls*— We looked at the passion Jesus and the early church had for souls. The additional prayer focus was to ask God to give us the same passion for souls that Jesus has.
6. *The Deliverance Jesus Offers*— We studied how Jesus made it possible for us to be victorious over all known sin. The additional prayer focus was seeking God for complete deliverance.
7. *Walking in the Spirit*— Learning how to walk in the Spirit is essential to our lives. We discussed how we keep walking in the Spirit everyday. The additional prayer focus was to ask God to subdue every sinful and wrong desire in us, and bring our lives into conformity to His will.
8. *The Power and Authority We Have in Jesus*—We must understand the power and authority we have in Jesus. We discussed the power and authority Jesus has given the believer over Satan. The additional prayer focus was to ask God to give us understanding of our power and authority over Satan.
9. *The Fruit of the Spirit*— We discussed what the fruit of the Spirit is and how Jesus living in us will manifest the fruit of the Spirit in us. The additional prayer focus was to ask God to manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our life.
10. *The Gifts of the Spirit*— We studied the gifts of the Spirit the last night of the revival meetings. The additional prayer focus was to ask God to manifest the gifts of the Spirit He has chosen for us and to give us the courage to begin ministering in those gifts.

One lesson the Lord had for me was the importance of earnestly seeking Him to direct in the entire program, including the subjects and their sequence. He also revealed how essential personal and corporate prayer is for a deeply spiritual and meaningful relationship with Him.

### Unexpected Experience

Several things happened that I had never experienced before. First, we savored the sweet presence of the Spirit every night. Second, obvious changes took place in the hearts of all who were present through a quiet moving of the Spirit.

The revival meetings were originally planned to continue Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. As we approached Friday night, members started asking if we could extend the meetings for the remaining 10 days of the prayer fast. They were experiencing God's presence in their lives in such a dramatic way that they didn't want it to end that Friday. So we decided to continue through the following Wednesday, which was one day past the 10-day prayer fast time period. This was also something I had never experience—members asking for more nightly meetings.

The blessings of God were so pronounced that we decided to have a testimony service for the Sabbath worship service. Several shared the experiences they were having in the Lord. We invited the church to come to the meeting that night. We had been having about 40 in attendance through the week, which was very large compared to the usual number who attended prayer meeting. I didn't know what would happen that Saturday night, especially since the worship service had continued much longer than usual and many who had been attending the revival meetings participated in witnessing activities in the community around the church during the Sabbath afternoon hours. Hence, many had already spent all morning and afternoon at the church. To my astonishment, around 60 members came to that Saturday night revival meeting. I knew that had to be the power of God to draw Adventists to a prayer meeting on Saturday night after such a busy Sabbath schedule. One thing this exceptional turnout told me was that our people very much desired more than they had in their present relationship with God. We felt the need, but we didn't know how to get it met.

The prayer fast continued through the following Tuesday, and the revival meetings continued to Wednesday. The blessings of God didn't stop. Each night brought more depth and breadth to what we were experiencing from God.

The last meeting of the 11-night revival series ended Wednesday. I once more wondered how many would attend since this was the eleventh consecutive night of meetings. Again, I was amazed. We had the largest attendance of all except for the Saturday night meeting. The sense of God's presence and the joy we all felt are indescribable. We planned to continue the revival meetings every Wednesday night.

One side note: a man from Africa of Islamic faith, who had been attending our church for several weeks and was taking Bible studies, attended the revival meetings. During the ninth night of the meetings he gave a testimony that he had given his life to Jesus Christ. A thrill of godly joy surged through everyone present.



### The Future

I didn't know what God's plans were for the weeks and months ahead. One thing I do know, I would never forget what God did in New Haven and how He revealed Himself during this special time. I asked myself, "Will we lose the experience we have had?" It all depends on us. If we continue to personally and earnestly seek God and avail ourselves of future times of prayerful fellowship and study of God's Word we will not lose the experience. Such fellowship can take place at the church or in homes.

### Lessons Learned

I personally feel the baptism of the Holy Spirit in each of our lives is essential to achieving the relationship we desire to have with God. Seeking the Spirit's infilling was a major focus during those 11 days. Ellen White strongly encouraged us to daily seek this experience. God heard our request during those 11 days and His answer far exceeded our expectation. We should not have been surprised.

He always blesses abundantly. Paul knew this when he wrote, "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

There is a solution to the Christian's last-day, Laodicean condition. That solution is revival. Of this Ellen White wrote:

"A revival of true godliness among us is our greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work" (*Selected Messages*, Vol. 1, p.121)

She also understood the relationship between receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and revival.

"The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and the performance of many wonderful works." *Selected Messages*, Vol. 2, p. 57

Another essential lesson I have learned since these meetings is the importance of continual fellowshiping together of Spirit-filled believers. If we want to keep the flame of revival burning in our lives and church, continual fellowship is necessary. It is in the context of this genuine Christian fellowship that the gifts of the Spirit are most effectively manifested for the personal spiritual growth of the participants. Such fellowship will also play a significant role in winning others to Christ.

## Appendix 2

# ELLEN WHITE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

The following quotes are taken from the writings of Ellen White on the subject of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It should be evident from our study that the changes she describes the Holy Spirit accomplishing occur only when the believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### Christ's Example of Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

"Christ labored for his vineyard. The Prince of heaven, he was yet the intercessor for man, and he had power with God, and prevailed for himself and for his people. Morning by morning he communicated with his Father in heaven, receiving from him daily a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Lord awakened him from his slumbers in the early hours of the new day, that his soul and his lips might be anointed with grace which he should impart to others. His words were given him fresh from the heavenly courts, words that he might speak in season to those that were weary and oppressed. Of Christ we read, 'The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know to speak a word in season to him that is weary; he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned'" (*Signs of the Times*, November 21, 1895, paragraph 3).

### We Need the Spirit's Baptism

"The Holy Spirit is wanting [lacking] in our work" (*Selected Messages*, Book 1, p. 411)

"How greatly do the workers need a baptism of the Holy Spirit, that they may become true missionaries for God" (*Counsels on Sabbath School Work*, p. 156).

"God's work is to be carried forward with power. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit" (*Evangelism*, p. 66).

"There needs to be a waking up among God's people, that His work may be carried forward with power. We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit" (*Evangelism*, p. 559)

"Those who bear responsibility as managers in the work need to place themselves where they can be deeply impressed by the Spirit of God. You should have as much greater anxiety than do others to receive the baptism of

the Holy Spirit and a knowledge of God and Christ, as your position of trust is more responsible than that of the common worker" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 7, p. 188).

### **Teach Your Children about Holy Spirit Baptism**

"Teach your children that it is their privilege to receive every day the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Let Christ find you His helping hand to carry out His purposes. By prayer you may gain an experience that will make your ministry for your children a perfect success" (*Child Guidance*, p. 69).

### **God's People Should Better Understand the Holy Spirit**

"Just prior to His leaving His disciples for the heavenly courts, Jesus encouraged them with the promise of the Holy Spirit. This promise belongs as much to us as it did to them, and yet how rarely it is presented before the people, and its reception spoken of in the church. In consequence of this silence upon this most important theme, what promise do we know less about by its practical fulfillment than this rich promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, whereby efficiency is to be given to all our spiritual labor? The promise of the Holy Spirit is casually brought into our discourses, is incidentally touched upon, and that is all. Prophecies have been touched upon, doctrines have been expounded; but that which is essential to the church in order that they may grow in spiritual strength and efficiency, in order that the preaching may carry conviction with it, and souls converted to God, has been largely left out of ministerial effort. This subject has been set aside, as if some time in the future would be given to its consideration. Other blessings and privileges have been presented before the people until a desire has been awakened in the church for the attainment of the blessing promised of God; but the impression concerning the Holy Spirit has been that this gift is not for the church now, but that at some time in the future it would be necessary for the church to receive it.

"This promised blessing, if claimed by faith, would bring all other blessings in its train, and it is to be given liberally to the people of God. Through the cunning devices of the enemy the minds of God's people seem to be incapable of comprehending and appropriating the promises of God. They seem to think that only the scantiest showers of grace are to fall upon the thirsty soul. . . . The power of God awaits their demand and reception" (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 174-175).

### **The Importance of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Needs to be Impressed Upon All**

"Impress upon all the necessity of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the sanctification of the members of the church, so that they will be living, growing,

fruit-bearing trees of the Lord's planting" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 6, p. 86).

"This instruction is of the greatest importance to us; for we are living in the last days of this earth's history. Soon we shall enter upon the fulfillment of the events which Christ showed John were to take place. As the messengers of the Lord present these solemn truths, they must realize that they are handling subjects of eternal interest, and they should seek for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that they may speak, not their own words, but the words given them by God" (*Signs of the Times*, July 4, 1906, paragraph 3).

"I would that we had the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and this we must have before we can reveal perfection of life and character. I would that each member of the church would open the heart to Jesus, saying, 'Come, heavenly Guest, abide with me'" (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 2, p. 26).

"I entreat of the church members in every city that they lay hold upon the Lord with determined effort for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Be assured that Satan is not asleep. Every obstacle possible he will place in the way of those who would advance in this work. Too often these obstacles are regarded as insurmountable. Let every one now be soundly and truly converted, and then lay hold of the work intelligently and with faith.—Letter 148, 1909. (To Brother and Sister Starr, December 2, 1909)" (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 7, p. 108).

"It is this baptism of the Holy Spirit that the churches need today. There are backslidden church members and backslidden ministers who need re-converting, who need the softening, subduing influence of the baptism of the Spirit, that they may rise in newness of life and make thorough work for eternity. I have seen the irreligion and the self-sufficiency cherished, and I have heard the words spoken, 'Except ye repent and be converted, ye shall never see the kingdom of heaven.' There are many who will need rebaptizing, but let them never go down into the water until they are dead to sin, cured of selfishness and self-exaltation; until they can come up out of the water to live a new life unto God. Faith and repentance are conditions essential to the forgiveness of sin."—Letter 60, 1906, pp. 4-6. (To S. N. Haskell, February 8, 1906)" (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 7, p. 267)

### **We Need to Pray for the Holy Spirit**

"Why do we not hunger and thirst for the gift of the Spirit, since this is the means by which we are to receive power? Why do we not talk of it, pray for it, preach concerning it? The Lord is more willing to give the Holy Spirit to us than parents are to give good gifts to their children. For the baptism of the Spirit every worker should be pleading with God" (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 8, p. 22).

“Will we carry forward the work in the Lord’s way? Are we willing to be taught of God? Will we wrestle with God in prayer? Will we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? This is what we need and may have at this time. Then we shall go forth with a message from the Lord, and the light of truth will shine forth as a lamp that burneth, reaching to all parts of the world. If we will walk humbly with God, God will walk with us. Let us humble our souls before Him, and we shall see of His salvation” (*Fundamentals of Christian Education*, p. 532).

“We need to cry to God as did Jacob for a fuller baptism of the Holy Spirit. The time for labor is short. Let there be much praying. Let the soul yearn after God. Let the secret places of prayer be often visited. Let there be a taking hold of the strength of the Mighty One of Israel. Let the ministers walk humbly before the Lord, weeping between the porch and the altar, the crying, ‘Spare thy people, O Lord, and give not thine heritage to reproach’” (*Historical Sketches of the Foreign Missions of the Seventh-day Adventists*, p. 294).

“If we know God, and Jesus Christ whom He has sent, unspeakable gladness will come to the soul. Oh, how we need the divine presence! For the baptism of the Holy Spirit every worker should be breathing out his prayer to God. Companies should be gathered together to call upon God for special help, for heavenly wisdom, that the people of God may know how to plan and devise and execute the work” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 169).

“God’s faithful messengers are to seek to carry forward the Lord’s work in His appointed way. They are to place themselves in close connection with the Great Teacher, that they may be daily taught of God. They are to wrestle with God in earnest prayer for a baptism of the Holy Spirit that they may meet the needs of a world perishing in sin. All power is promised those who go forth in faith to proclaim the everlasting gospel. As the servants of God bear to the world a living message fresh from the throne of glory, the light of truth will shine forth as a lamp that burneth, reaching to all parts of the world. Thus the darkness of error and unbelief will be dispelled from the minds of the honest in heart in all lands, who are now seeking after God, ‘If haply they might feel after Him, and find Him’” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 459).

“We need to pray as we never have prayed before for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, for if there was ever a time when we needed this baptism, it is now. There is nothing the Lord has more frequently told us He would bestow upon us, and nothing by which His name would be more glorified in bestowing, than the Holy Spirit. When we partake of this Spirit, men and women will be born again. . . . Souls once lost will be found, and brought back” (*The Upward Look*, p. 346).

“The truths opened to John are of the greatest importance to us, for we are living in the very last days. Soon we shall enter upon the fulfillment of the events which Christ showed John were to take place. As the messengers of the Lord present these solemn truths, they must realize that they are handling subjects of eternal interest, and they should seek for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that they may speak, not their own words, but the words given them by God” (*Pacific Union Recorder*, “The Study of Revelation,” January 14, 1904, paragraph 4).

“This is a small part of that which the Lord has revealed to me. Our lack of faith is the reason that we have not seen more of the power of God. We exercise more faith in our own working than in God’s working for us. God designs that everything possible shall be done to enable us to stand heart to heart, mind to mind, shoulder to shoulder. This lack of love and confidence in one another weakens our faith in God. We need to pray as we never have prayed before for the baptism of the Holy Spirit: for, if there was ever a time when we needed this baptism, it is now” (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 7, p. 388).

“Satan is trying to fix upon every one that he can influence, all the discouragement possible. Lord, I pray Thee, let the baptism of the Holy Spirit come into this congregation. I pray Thee, for Christ’s sake, to sweep back the mist and the cloud that Satan interposes here. He is here; his followers are here; there are those here who are listening to his words; and I ask Thee, Lord, to break the spell; I ask Thee that there may be such marked consecration before God, that Christ can say, ‘I will clothe thee with change of raiment’” (*Sermons and Talks*, “Lessons from the Fifteenth of Romans,” p. 382).

### Preparation for Receiving the Holy Spirit

“The heart must be emptied of every defilement and cleansed for the indwelling of the Spirit. It was by the confession and forsaking of sin, by earnest prayer and consecration of themselves to God, that the early disciples prepared for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 507).

“Today you are to have your vessel purified, that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit . . .” (*Evangelism*, p. 701).

### Don’t Call God’s Spirit’s Work Fanaticism

“We are to pray for the impartation of the Spirit as the remedy for sin-sick souls. The church needs to be converted, and why should we not prostrate

ourselves at the throne of grace, as representatives of the church, and from a broken heart and contrite spirit make earnest supplication that the Holy Spirit shall be poured out upon us from on high? Let us pray that when it shall be graciously bestowed our cold hearts may be revived, and we may have discernment to understand that it is from God, and receive it with joy. Some have treated the Spirit as an unwelcome guest, refusing to receive the rich gift, refusing to acknowledge it, turning from it, and condemning it as fanaticism.

“When the Holy Spirit works the human agent, it does not ask us in what way it shall operate. Often it moves in unexpected ways. Christ did not come as the Jews expected. He did not come in a manner to glorify them as a nation.....

“This is the danger to which the church is now exposed - that the inventions of finite men shall mark out the precise way for the Holy Spirit to come.... The Holy Spirit flatters no man, neither does it work according to the devising of any man....” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 64-66).

#### **God Will Move Upon His People to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

“As long as individuals are content with a theory of truth, and are yet lacking in the daily operation of the Spirit of God upon the heart, which is manifested in outward transformation of character, they are cutting themselves off from the qualifications that would fit them for greater efficiency in the Master’s work. Those who are devoid of the Holy Spirit cannot be faithful watchmen upon the walls of Zion; for they are blind to the work that ought to be done, and do not give the trumpet a certain sound.

“The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works. Heavenly intelligences will come among us and men will speak as they are moved by the Holy Spirit of God. But should the Lord work upon men as He did on and after the day of Pentecost, many who now claim to believe the truth would know so very little of the operation of the Holy Spirit that they would cry, ‘Beware of fanaticism.’ They would say of those who were filled with the Spirit, ‘These men are full of new wine.’

“The time is not far off now when men will want a much closer relation to Christ, a much closer union with His Holy Spirit, than they have ever had, or will have, unless they give up their will and their way, and submit to God’s will and God’s way. The great sin of those who profess to be Christians is that they do not open the heart to receive the Holy Spirit. When souls long after Christ and seek to become one with Him, then those who are content with the form of godliness, exclaim ‘Be careful, do not go to extremes.’ When the

angels of heaven come among us, and work through human agents, there will be solid and substantial conversions, after the order of the conversions after the day of Pentecost.

“Now brethren, be careful and do not go into or try to create human excitement. But while we should be careful not to go into human excitement, we should not be among those who will raise inquiries and cherish doubts in reference to the work of the Spirit of God; for there will be those who will question and criticize when the Spirit of God takes possession of men and women, because their own hearts are not moved, but are cold and unimpressible.” (*Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 56-57).

#### **Pentecost Available Today**

“As the disciples, filled with the power of the Spirit, went forth to proclaim the gospel, so God’s servants are to go forth today.

“What the Lord did for His people in that time, it is just as essential, and more so, that He do for His people today. All that the apostles did, every church member today is to do. And we are to work with as much more fervor, to be accompanied by the Holy Spirit in as much greater measure, as the increase of wickedness demands a more decided call to repentance.

“A work similar to that which the Lord did through His delegated messengers after the day of Pentecost He is waiting to do today” (*Review and Herald*, June 13, 1903).

#### **The Latter Rain**

“But near the close of the earth’s harvest, a special bestowal of spiritual grace is promised to prepare the church for the coming of the Son of man. This outpouring of the Spirit is likened to the falling of the latter rain; and it is for this added power that Christians are to send their petitions to the Lord of the harvest ‘in the time of the latter rain.’ In response, ‘the Lord shall make bright clouds, and give them showers of rain’ (Zech. 10:1). ‘He will cause to come down... the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain.’ (Joel 2:23).

“But unless the members of God’s church today have a living connection with the Source of all spiritual growth, they will not be ready for the time of reaping” (*Acts of the Apostles*, p.54-55).

#### **What the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Brings**

“Let every church member kneel before God, and pray earnestly for the impartation of the Spirit. Cry, ‘Lord, increase my faith. Make me to understand Thy Word; for the entrance of Thy Word giveth light. Refresh me by Thy presence. Fill my hart with Thy Spirit that I may love my brethren as Christ lives me.’

“God will bless those who thus prepare themselves for His service. They will understand what it means to have the assurance of the Spirit, because they have received Christ by faith. The religion of Christ means more than the forgiveness of sin; it means that sin is taken away, and that the vacuum is filled with the Spirit. It means that the mind is divinely illumined, that the heart is emptied of self, and filled with the presence of Christ. When this work is done for church members, the church will be a living, working church.

“The baptism of the Holy Spirit, and nothing less, can bring us to this place.

“We may talk of the blessings of the Holy Spirit, but unless we prepare ourselves for His reception, of what avail are our works”... Are we seeking for His fullness...” (*Review and Herald*, June 10, 1902).

“We must have a living connection with God. We must be clothed with power from on high by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that we may reach a higher standard; for there is help for us in no other way” (*Review and Herald*, April 5, 1892).

“With deep interest, and grateful, wondering joy, the disciples listened to the words of Paul. By faith they grasped the atoning sacrifice of Christ, and acknowledged him as their Redeemer. They were then baptized ‘in the name of Jesus;’ and as Paul laid his hands upon them, they received also the baptism of the Holy Spirit, by which they were enabled to speak the languages of other nations and to prophesy. Thus these men were qualified to act as missionaries in the important field of Ephesus and its vicinity, and also from this center to spread the gospel of Christ in Asia Minor.” (*Sketches from the Life of Paul*, p. 130)

“Those who are under the influence of the Spirit of God will not be fanatical, but calm and steadfast, free from extravagance in thought, word, or deed. Amid the confusion of delusive doctrines, the Spirit of God will be a guide and a shield to those who have not resisted the evidences of truth, silencing every other voice but that which comes from Him who is the truth” (*Sons and Daughters of God*, p. 29)

“The baptism of the Holy Spirit will dispel human imaginings, will break down self-erected barriers, and will cause to cease the feeling that ‘I am holier than thou.’ There will be a humble spirit with all, more faith and love; self will not be exalted. . . . Christ’s spirit, Christ’s example, will be exemplified in His people. We shall follow more closely the ways and works of Jesus. . . . The love of Jesus will pervade our hearts.” (*That I May Know Him*, p. 114).

“In much of the service professedly done for God, there is self-emulation and self-exultation. God hates pretense. When men and women receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they will confess their sins, and, pardon, which means justification, will be given them. But the wisdom of the human agents

who are not penitent, not humbled, is not to be depended on, for they are blinded in regard to the meaning of righteousness and sanctification through the truth. When men are stripped of self-righteousness, they will see their spiritual poverty. Then they will approach that state of brotherly kindness that will show that they are in sympathy with Christ. They will be able to appreciate the high and elevated character of the work of Christian missions” (*This Day with God*, p. 326).

“Oh, that the baptism of the Holy Spirit might come upon you, that you might be imbued with the Spirit of God! Then day by day you will become more and more conformed to the image of Christ, and in every action of your life, the question would be, ‘Will it glorify my Master?’ By patient continuance in well-doing you would seek for glory and honor, and would receive the gift of immortality” (*Review and Herald*, May 10, 1892).

“Oh, when we come to the pearly gates, and have an entrance into the city of God, will anyone who enters there regret that he devoted his life unreservedly to Jesus? Let us now love Him with undivided affections, and cooperate with the heavenly intelligences, that we may be laborers together with God, and by partaking of the divine nature, be able to reveal Christ to others. Oh, for the baptism of the Holy Spirit! Oh, that the bright beams of the Sun of Righteousness might shine into the chambers of mind and heart, that every idol might be dethroned and expelled from the soul temple! Oh, that our tongues might be loosened to speak of His goodness, to tell of His power!” (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 163).

“We are to seek most earnestly to be of one mind, of one purpose. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, and nothing less, can bring us to this place. Let us by self-renunciation prepare our hearts to receive the Holy Spirit that a great work may be done for us, so that we can say, not ‘See what I am doing,’ but ‘Behold the goodness and love of God!’” (*Ye Shall Receive Power*, p. 318).

“The Spirit of God, as it comes into the heart by faith, is the beginning of the life eternal. With the baptism of the Holy Spirit upon the teacher of truth, he can talk of Christ and him crucified in language that savors of heaven. The mind and spirit of Christ will be in him, and he can present the will of God to man because his own heart has been brought into submission, and has been glorified by the Spirit of God. The Sun of Righteousness is risen upon him, that he might reflect its brightness to the world, and he will give evidence in a holy life that the truth he has received has been a sanctifying principle, and not a mere theory” (*Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*, “The Truth with Power,” March 1, 1892, paragraph 6).

“We must have the holy unction from God; we must have the baptism of the Holy Spirit; for this is the only efficient agent in the promulgation of sacred truth. Yet this is what we most lack. The divine power combined with human effort, connection first and last and ever with God, the source of

our strength, is absolutely necessary in our work. We must hang our whole weight on the world's Redeemer; he must be our dependence for strength. Without this, all our efforts will be unavailing. Even now the time has come when we must recognize this fully, or we shall be outgeneraled by a powerful, cunning foe. We must connect more closely with God; and all our plans and arrangements must be in harmony with his plans, or they will not prove effectual." (*Review and Herald*, December 15, 1885, paragraph 2)

"This work is given to all who have had Christ set forth crucified among them. By the baptism of the Holy Spirit, God's people are to do, through the instrumentality of their Master, the work that Christ did. They are to represent the benevolence of God to our world. Partakers of the divine nature, they are not only to save their own souls, through faith in Jesus; but Christ says of them, Ye are laborers together with God. As his witnesses, he has given to each his work. As his representatives, they are to bear to the world the message of invitation and mercy" (*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1898, paragraph 3)

"Nothing but the baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring up the church to its right position, and prepare the people of God for the fast approaching conflict. Why is there not individual growth in the church? Why is not every member of the church growing up into Christ our living head? This growth does not mean growing earthward, but heavenward; not downward, but upward. We are living in the dispensation of the Spirit. We hold in our hands the promise of His Spirit, and ministers may be qualified to give the trumpet a certain sound, to arouse the sleeping people and set them at work for themselves and for others out of the fold."—Letter 15, 1889, p. 5. (To Dr. Burke, Dec. 20, 1889)" (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 2, p. 30).

"He will impart His Holy Spirit in the plenitude of His reviving, and there shall not be room enough to receive it. Nothing but the baptism of the Holy Spirit can bring up the church to its right position, and prepare the people of God for the fast approaching conflict.—Letter 15, 1889" (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 4, p. 329).

"When you have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then you will understand more of the joys of salvation than you have known all your life hitherto. 'Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses to Me . . . unto the uttermost parts of the earth.'—Letter 33, 1890, pp. 9, 10. (To 'Dear Brethren and Sisters in Norwich, Massachusetts,' December 4, 1890)" (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 5, p. 231).

"There is nothing the Lord has more frequently told us He would bestow upon us, and nothing by which His name would be more glorified in bestowing, than the Holy Spirit. When we partake of this Spirit, men and women will be born again. There will be a firm pressing together. A firm, unwavering

faith in God will be seen. The Sun of Righteousness will be in our midst, with healing in His wings." (*Manuscript Releases*, Vol. 7, p. 389).

"One reason that there are not more conversions now is because you yourselves need to be converted. Just as soon as you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit you will see of the salvation of God. Let the breaking-up plow do its work in the heart. We desire to see everyone drawing strength from Christ by eating His flesh and drinking His blood. May God help you. May He cleanse you from all unrighteousness, and let His light shine upon you. May we see the salvation of God before this meeting closes. (Manuscript 77, 1902. Sermon at Petaluma, California, Campground, Sabbath, June 7, 1902)" (*Peter's Counsel to Parents*, p. 34).

### **No Specific Time Known When Latter Rain Will Come**

"I have no specific time of which to speak when the outpouring of the Holy Spirit will take place - when the mighty angel will come down from heaven, and unite with the third angel in closing up the work for this world; my message is that our only safety is in being ready for heavenly refreshing, having our lamps trimmed and burning" (*Review and Herald*, Mar. 29, 1892).

### **Spirit Not Under Man's Direction**

"The Holy Spirit is a free, working, independent agency. The God of heaven uses His Spirit as it pleases Him: and human minds, human judgment, and human methods can no more set boundaries to His working, or prescribe the channel through which He shall operate, than they can say to the wind, "I bid you to blow in a certain direction, and to conduct yourself in such and such a manner" (*Signs of the Times*, March 8, 1910).

### **Why the Spirit is Rejected**

"The Holy Spirit is often rejected because He comes in unexpected ways. Evidence upon evidence that the apostles were speaking and acting under divine inspiration had been given the Jewish priests and rulers, but still they firmly resisted the message of truth" (*Signs of the Times*, September 27, 1899).

### **Danger if We Do Not Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

"The atmosphere of the church is so frigid, its spirit is of such an order, that men and women cannot sustain or endure the example of primitive and heaven-born piety. The warmth of their first love is frozen up, and unless they are watered over by the baptism of the Holy Spirit, their candlestick will be removed out of its place, except they repent and do their first works. The first works of the church were seen when the believers sought out friends, relatives, and acquaintances, and with hearts overflowing with love, told the

story of what Jesus was to them and what they were to Jesus” (*Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 167).

“Our faith is weak, our sense of God’s requirements feeble. We must awake to duty. We must be endued with power from on high; we must have a baptism of the holy Spirit before we leave this place. Instead of resting satisfied with our present attainments, let us cherish a longing desire that our unclean lips may be purified, and touched with a live coal from off the altar. The words of God to us must come to the people, not in a hesitating, doubting manner, but with earnestness and power. We must pray more fervently, more perseveringly, that God may work in us and by us. In these days of multiplied popular fables, there is no way to reach the people only as God works through our efforts. Angels are commissioned to be our helpers. They are passing between earth and heaven, bearing upward the record of the doings of all the children of men” (*Review and Herald*, June 24, 1884, paragraph 14).

“Christ is our refuge; and it is only through faith in him that we can form characters that God can accept. We may add knowledge to knowledge, strength to strength, and virtue to virtue, and yet fail in the soul-testing conflict just before us, because we do not make Christ our strength and righteousness. No outward forms can make us clean; they cannot take the place of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. All who have not experienced the regenerating power of the Spirit of God are chaff among the wheat. Our Lord has his fan in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor. In the coming day he will discern ‘between him that serveth God, and him that serveth him not’” (*Signs of the Times*, July 14, 1887, paragraph 9).

#### **Danger of Doubting the Manifestation of the Holy Spirit**

“It is a dangerous thing to doubt the manifestations of the Holy Spirit; for if this agency is doubted, there is no reserve power left by which to operate on the human heart. Those who attribute the work of the Holy Spirit to human agencies, saying that an undue influence was brought to bear upon them, are cutting their souls off from the fountain of blessing” (*Review and Herald*, February 13, 1894).

#### **Danger of Fanaticism**

“There is constant danger of allowing something to come into our midst that we may regard as the workings of the Holy spirit, but that in reality is the fruit of a spirit of fanaticism.

“...I have long known that fanaticism will be manifest again, in different ways.

“How afraid I am to have anything of a fanatical nature brought in among our people” (*Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 43-44).

“No greater harm could be done to the work of God at this time than for us to allow a spirit of fanaticism to come into our churches, accompanied by strange workings which are incorrectly supposed to be operations of the Spirit of God.

“I have been instructed that when one offers to exhibit these peculiar manifestations (tongues), this is a decided evidence that it is not the work of God” (*Selected Messages*, Book 2, p. 41-42, parenthesis added).

#### **Spontaneous Praise**

“Praise the Lord in the congregation of the people.

“There is too much formality in our religious services... When the church is walking in the light, there will ever be cheerful, hearty responses and words of joyous praise” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 5, p. 317-318).

#### **The Spirit’s Preserving Strength During the Time of Trouble**

“As the members of the body of Christ approach the period of their last conflict, ‘the time of Jacob’s trouble,’ they will grow up into Christ, and will partake largely of His Spirit. As the third message swells to a loud cry, and as great power and glory attend the closing work, the faithful people of God will partake of the glory. It is the latter rain which revives and strengthens them to pass through the time of trouble.” (*Testimonies for the Church*, Vol. 1, p. 353-354).

#### **Danger of Being Unprepared**

“Those professed believers who come up to the time of trouble unprepared, will, in their despair, confess their sins before the world in words of burning anguish, while the wicked exult over their distress. The case of all such is hopeless.

“Those who have delayed a preparation for the day of God cannot obtain it in the time of trouble, or at any future period” (*Signs of the Times*, Nov. 27, 1879).

## ABOUT COLIN HONE DISTRIBUTOR OF THIS 10 DAY DEVOTIONAL



Colin Hone, associate speaker and International Director for Holy Spirit Ministries and distributor for this 10 Days devotional was 29 years old when he was walking down Bondi Beach in Australia. A young Christian handed him a book on the prophecies of Daniel and Revelation. After reading the book he was convinced there was a God who could declare the beginning to the end. Then after reading the books, The Great Controversy and Desire of Ages, and taking Bible studies he was baptized six months later. Colin is married with 5 children and has a financial planning business on the Central Coast in Australia.

After attending a revival weekend in 2009 with Pastor Dennis Smith and reading the books by Pastor Smith on the topics of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and righteousness by faith and experiencing God's love Colin began seeking and praying for the daily baptism of the Holy Spirit. Soon a new spiritual life began for Colin. He experienced a greater desire to read God's word and to pray for others. A strong desire also grew in his heart to witness to others about the love of Jesus and His plan to rescue us from sin and eternal death.

God then led Colin to start preaching on the teachings he had experienced. He is now serving in ministry as a national and international associate speaker for Holy Spirit Ministries with Pastor Dennis Smith since 2009. He has conducted many revival meetings at Church's in Australia, Borneo Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, USA, Philippines, Ethiopia and Zambia. In the Philippines 319 people were baptized at the end of the meetings. In Ethiopia 3000 people came to the meetings each night with many hundreds committing to baptism and nearly all recommitting their lives to Jesus and praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Colin has seen God lead many thousands of people to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit and experience the abiding

presence of Jesus in there lives, which has led to many victories over the besetting sins in there live, and experience God's love more fully.

The small group concept presented in the How to Use this 10 Days Devotional section of this book is being used mightily by God in many churches and countries around the world to bring spiritual revival and to lead others to Christ. Colin has and is teaching church members and denominational leaders in Asia, the Pacific Islands, Europe, Africa and America how to establish small groups using this book for church growth, revival and soul winning.



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## Books By: Pastor Dennis Smith

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### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

This book presents the biblical teaching on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the benefits of receiving this Gift in fullness, and why it is necessary for the Christian to receive this special Spirit infilling in order to become like Jesus.

### **Spirit Baptism & Evangelism -**

The relationship between the baptism of the Holy Spirit and witnessing for Christ is presented along with Christ's method of evangelism. The spiritual problems last-day Laodicean Christian's face and the solutions to those problems are discussed.

### **Spirit Baptism & New Wineskin Fellowship -**

This book gives a biblical and historical study into; how the early Christians "did church", the historical "falling away" from God's original plan for His church, the implications of how this apostasy is still influencing the church today, and why "new wineskin" fellowship is necessary for the Christian to grow into the fullness of Christ.

### **Spirit Baptism & Deliverance**

It is God's will to deliver His children from every influence and oppression of Satan in the Christian's life; spiritually, emotionally and physically. Along with powerful testimonies of deliverance, the biblical principles of how these deliverances took place are presented in a manner that every Christian can apply to their own life.

### **Spirit Baptism & Prayer**

Prayer is the most powerful force on earth. Prayer moves the arm of God on behalf of His people. In this book the necessity and method of intercessory prayer for the unsaved and fellow believers.. The question: "Why does God need our prayers?" is answered. What it means to pray in the Spirit, persevere, unite and fast I prayer are presented.

### **Spirit Baptism & Christ's Glorious Return**

This book gives the characteristics of those who are ready for Christ's return. The question is answered; what do I have to do to be among that final generation whom God is calling into existence today?

### **Spirit Baptism & Abiding in Christ**

This book explains how the Christian is to obtain victory over every temptation and sin by allowing Christ to live out His life in and through them. When this is experienced one's life will never again be the same. Victory is no longer a struggle and joy in Christ is experienced as never before.

### **Spirit Baptism & Waiting on God**

This book presents the biblical teaching about waiting on God for everything: prayer, guidance, service, Christ's character, and why God allows trials and difficulties to enter the Christian's life.

### **Spirit Baptism & the 1888 Message of Righteousness by Faith**

In 1888 God brought the message of righteousness by faith to the Seventh-day Adventist Church. This book presents what that message was and why it is essential we experience righteousness by faith in Christ alone today in order to be ready for His second coming.

### **Spirit Baptism & Earth's Final Events**

This book unveils Satan's last-day prophetic deceptions, and reveals the role the baptism of the Holy Spirit and righteousness by faith plays in preparing God's people for earth's final events.

### **Spirit Baptism & the Latter Rain**

The latter rain of the Spirit has been long prayed for and earnestly desired by Christians for centuries. This book presents what the latter rain is, why it has not been poured out in fullness, and the spiritual condition necessary for God's people to receive this powerful Holy Spirit experience.

### **Transformed by the Spirit**

The true story of Juan Cubero, a young man who went from serving Satan in gangs, drugs and prison to being a minister for God. Juan's inspiring story will be a blessing to all who read it.

### **40 Days – Book I (English & Spanish Editions)**

A 40 day study and prayer devotional focusing on the needed relationship God's people must have in order to be ready for Christ's second coming. A daily prayer focus is provided with an emphasis on reaching others for Christ. It can be used individually, in a small group or by a church. It is an excellent preparation for evangelistic meetings.

### **40 Days – Book I NKJV**

This is a smaller, black and white, NKJV edition of the original, larger, full color 40 Days - Book I.

### **40 Days – Book 2 (Revival),**

A daily devotional focusing on revival, God's sovereignty, how God uses the difficult times in the Christian's life to bless, how God works in one's life to strengthen their relationship with Himself, and much more.

### **40 Days - Book 3 (Health)**

A 40 day devotional focusing on God's principles to achieve spiritual, physical, and emotional health; and the role these principles play in preparing for Christ's second coming.

### **40 Days – Book 4 (Earth's Final Events)**

A daily devotional focusing on earth's final events and the spiritual experience God's people must have in order to remain faithful to God through these events and be ready for Christ's return.

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#### **Pastor Smith's books can be ordered from:**

Adventist Book Centers

or

Dennis Smith

Phone: 203-389-4784

Email: smith06515@msn.com

Websites: www.spiritbaptism.org

www.40daysdevotional.com