

Th122 Foundation Doctrines

Lesson Th122 - 13 Baptism: Holy Spirit

It was the dry season and the countryside had turned brown. Most vegetation had disappeared. Everywhere one looked it was brown and dry, except for a single line of green trees and bushes growing by the river. Water continued to flow in the river during the dry season. Where did the water come from? There was no lake at the head of the river feeding it during the dry season. The water had to be coming from somewhere. A closer examination of the slow-moving river revealed the source of its continual flow. There were places in the river where it bubbled and swirled, revealing that great underground springs were the source of the river's water. Powerful underground forces propelled the water upwards until it burst through the surface bringing the life-giving water to a dry and barren land.

In this lesson we will learn about a spiritual spring of living water. Each fall the Jewish people have a celebration called the Feast of Booths. This was an important festival that all Jews were required to attend. It came at the end of the harvest season. It was given to the Jews to help them remember how God had provided for them. During their 40-year pilgrimage to the land of Israel from Egypt, God had given them food, water, and shelter. It is called the Feast of Booths, because during the week-long celebration families would construct simple booths from branches. They lived in them and ate the feasts that were prepared for the festival (Lev 23:33-43).

In the Gospel written by the disciple John, we learn about Jesus going up to Jerusalem to celebrate the Feast of Booths. Jesus had been ministering in Galilee. News of his miracles had spread throughout the land. People were in constant conversation about him. Some called him a prophet of God. Others considered him to be a heretic. In the midst of the Feast week Jesus went up to the temple to teach. The Jewish temple was divided into courtyards. The large outer court was called the court of the Gentiles. Gentiles are anyone who is not a Jew. This large courtyard was the place where people from many nations came. The inner courtyards were restricted to Jews only. Any Gentile who entered the inner courts could be executed.

Jesus entered into the courtyard and began to teach. A crowd quickly gathered. They were astonished at his teaching saying, "How did this man get such learning, without having been taught?" Jesus, hearing their whisperings, replied. "My teaching is not my own. It comes from the one who sent me. Anyone who chooses to do the will of God will find out whether my teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own" (John 7:15-17).

Now the Jewish leaders were jealous of Jesus and felt threatened by his teaching. They sought to arrest him. Jesus slipped away, only to return on the last day of the feast. He stood in the midst of the courtyard and proclaimed, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from his innermost being." The crowd listened in disbelief. What did Jesus mean by this statement? The disciple John said that Jesus was referring to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-38).

After Jesus was raised from the dead he appeared to his disciples over a period of 40 days. Finally he gathered them together and commanded them not to leave Jerusalem. They

were to wait there for what the Father had promised. Then Jesus made his final statement before ascending into heaven. Jesus said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the remotest parts of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is one of the most important aspects of the Christian life. When a person repents, the blood of Christ washes away all sins and the Holy Spirit enters a person. This is salvation. Baptism in the Holy Spirit should happen next in the new Christian's life. Whereas water baptism happens on a person's outside, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit happens on the inside. Jesus said that out of our innermost being will flow a river of living water. This river is the Holy Spirit welling up inside of us and pouring out of us.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit often comes as a Christian is praying or worshipping God. The worshipper experiences spiritual pressure building within. It is like the underground pressure that pushes water from deep within the earth, until it finally bursts out as a spring. In the same way, a person feels a spiritual pressure building inside. This often evokes powerful emotions. Joy and praise and worship overwhelm you. You feel like you will burst if you don't speak. You suddenly hear yourself speaking to God in words you do not know or understand.

The apostle Paul describes this speaking in tongues by saying, "Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words" (Rom 8:26, RSV). Speaking in tongues is the outpouring or overflowing of the Holy Spirit from within the Christian. It is a baptism that does not happen on the outside. It starts on the inside and flows outward.

This story is **important** because it explains the teaching and instruction of Jesus about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The **main truth** of this lesson is that any believer who is thirsty for more of Jesus, should pray to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Not only will the person's thirst be satisfied, but the Spirit will flow from him or her and give them new power to witness. Others around them will be blessed.

Let us **review** what we have discovered in this lesson:

1. Today we have learned that Jesus taught about a river of living water flowing out of us. What is this river of living water? [Pause]
 - A. If you said that the river of living water is the Holy Spirit, you answered correctly.
2. What is it called when the Holy Spirit wells up inside of a Christian and overflows out of them? [Pause]
 - A. If you said that this is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you are right.
3. Should every Christian be baptized in the Holy Spirit? [Pause]
 - A. If you said that Baptism in the Holy Spirit is very important for every Christian, you are correct.

Your **assignment** for this lesson is to listen to it at least three times until you fully understand the teaching. If you have not yet received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, spend time praying, worshipping, and asking Jesus to fill you.