

060719

- I. My Notes.... WWC message 6/9
- II. Series: Gifted to Serve
 - a. Title: Baptized Again?
 - b. Text: 1 Cor. 12:1-3
 - c. Quote: "The Spirit is the first power we practically experience, but the last power we come to understand." – Oswald Chambers
- III. Introduction
 - a. We can learn something from everyone... Too often, we miss it because it comes from unexpected places. The other night, in Bible study, I was mentioning the essentials of Christian Belief. It was amazing how much disagreement and misinformation there was about things that should be basic to our core beliefs. Let me ask you a question, do you think there will be anyone in heaven who doesn't agree with what you believe? Or here is another thought... Is there something that you can learn from someone you don't agree with?
 - b. Have you ever wondered why there is more than one "Christian" church? I mean, we serve One God – who is above everyone and present in everyone and works through everyone (cf. Eph. 4:6). And if it is One God that we worship and serve, then shouldn't there be a specific or at least consistent way to serve Him? There are thousands of groups of churches (denominations: organizations that exercise some sort of authority over the local church). But most fall into one of 5 Divisions (Sects): Roman Catholic (50%) – (Historic) Protestant or Anglican (18%) – Orthodox (Eastern Orthodox, Oriental Orthodox, Church of the East) (12%) – Pentecostal [Holiness, Church of God, Assemblies of God, etc (12%)] – Evangelical [(8%). I think, in the

bigger picture, there can be take-aways from each group that may help us become more united (together) and find creative ways to serve and love each other.

- c. I guess there are times that I get into a teaching mode. This may be one of those times along our journey. We are going to talk about something that many (especially some believers) may find controversial. I ask that you listen, pray, and hold off making a judgement until the entire picture is before you. The Holy Spirit is a teacher, He is a comforter, He is the indwelling presence of the Lord God. Another Comforter, the giver of strength, our guide and helper. The role that Jesus fulfilled, while on Earth, needed to be continued so that believers could thrive – serve – worship. In John 14, Jesus told the Disciples that He would ask the Father to send a Comforter, a Guide (Paraclete) (see vs. 16). The presence of the Holy Spirit is one that “dwells” (resides, lives, lodges) in us. Now, in faith, we do our best to understand our interaction with the Holy Spirit. If you remember from September/October from last year I brought an introduction to our relationship with the Holy Spirit and explained that the Holy Spirit is God – He is part of the Trinity (which is a challenging idea to get one’s head around). He takes up residency (if you will allow) in us – see 1 Cor. 6:19 – and then, there are times that He pours over us and brings extraordinary power and signs... I know this is sounding a bit mystical and hyper-religious (bear with me) ... this is known as the “baptism of the Holy Spirit”. There are reasons for this. We will get to those.
- d. Today is Pentecost Sunday. It is the 7th Sunday after Resurrection Sunday (Easter) and it is the day when the Holy Spirit fell on the believers who were following the instruction of Jesus prior to His Ascension (ref. Acts 1:4). In Acts 2, we see a group of believers – Christ followers – disciples, waiting in prayer for a promise. It takes place in an incredible manner. The result is confidence (power) in sharing the Good News of the Gospel and being together (unity). This is due to this outpouring of the Holy Spirit. [Note: I’m trying to be careful

in my explanation of this... there are so many misconceptions and misunderstanding. Maybe I'm being too cautious (I trust the Holy Spirit to minister to your spirit).] Let me share a story that may help. Some time ago, D.L. Moody (he preached from 1855 to 1899) was explaining to his audience the truth that we are unable bring about spiritual changes in our lives on our own strength. He posed this thought: "Tell me," he said to his audience, "how can I get the air out of the tumbler I have in my hand?" One man said, "Suck it out with a pump." But Moody replied, "That would create a vacuum and shatter it."

There were many other suggestions – and after some time he picked up a pitcher and quietly filled the glass with water. "There," he said, "all the air is now removed." Moody explained that victory for the child of God does not come solely by working hard to eliminate sinful habits, but rather by allowing Christ to take full possession."

There are so many people I know who work hard to remove bad habits from their lives. They act and believe that their holiness, their worth comes from effort – not grace. And those in the world believe much the same. Just look at all the self-help books out there. One of the most popular for some time has been "The Secret". Millions of people are reading it to change their lives. But trying to remove sin is like pulling weeds. What is seen on the surface (above ground) is just the tip. There are roots that reach into all kinds of areas and come up at up in unexpected ways at inconvenient times.

If we try to remove the results without doing anything about the cause, we only frustrate ourselves. The need is to remove the root and replace it with the Holy Spirit.

- e. It is my hope that we can learn that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is part of growing in grace (2 Peter 3:18). It is part of daily life. Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is one of worship, of truth, and of daily interactions. There are many things that occur that can be explained by life or by some common

place occurrence. And there are some things that can only be explained by God's mercy and grace and the work of the Holy Spirit in our life.

IV. Text

- a. There are many things we learn in our journey of faith
- b. The Apostle Paul wrote to help believers learn many important truths
- c. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are one of these truths
- d. 1 Corinthians 12:1-3 (CSB)

Now concerning spiritual gifts: brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be unaware. You know that when you were pagans, you used to be enticed and led astray by mute idols. Therefore I want you to know that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus is cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.

- e. This is a moment of instruction
- f. We must become aware, informed, with understanding
- g. We are not who we used to be, we are different, marked, set apart
- h. All because of the Holy Spirit

V. A Question

- a. In Acts 19, Paul had an encounter with some believers
- b. He asked them... "... Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" (19:2 CSB)
- c. Their response... "We've never even heard of that—a Holy Spirit? God within us?" (19:2 MSG)

- d. These believers were ignorant (unaware, uninformed) of their relationship with the Holy Spirit. They held to OT teachings
- e. Let me say something here... some spiritual gifts come upon a believer almost immediately, there are others that are developed – that come with maturity and wisdom
- f. Spiritual things are things that concern God, His Kingdom, and the Family
- g. Here's the thing. Now, if you haven't before, you have heard of the Holy Spirit
- h. Because of that you and I have some responsibilities that come with this knowledge

VI. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. Galatians 5:25-26 (Phillips NT)
- b. If our lives are centred in the Spirit, let us be guided by the Spirit. Let us not be ambitious for our own reputations, for that only means making each other jealous.
- c. Jesus said that a Comforter would come and guide us toward “all truth” (ref. John 16:13)
- d. Here's the truth – God loves each of us and desires a deeply intimate relationship with each person
- e. We can't get there on our own. And when we understand we need help it changes us
- f. It isn't about my wants or desires but about learning what authentic love is and choosing to live that way
- g. When we don't live that way, we become selfish and hurtful toward others

- h. Becoming in step with the Lord means that we learn what His love means through experience and knowledge and then find ways to share that with others around us.

VII. Let's Try to Understand

- a. In the lives of believer's, sin is a power that we face and struggle with
- b. We overcome them by God's grace and the guidance (strength) that comes by the Holy Spirit
- c. So, let's address the baptism thing
- d. Baptism = immersion. It means that we become changed.
- e. Symbolic of our acceptance of Jesus as Savior and death to our old self is Water Baptism
- f. As I said earlier, when we become born again, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in us. We become immersed in the Spirit.
- g. Remember, it is because of our relationship with the Lord God that these things take place. He desires the best for us
- h. Psalm 84:11 (NCV)

The LORD God is like a sun and shield; the LORD gives us kindness and honor. He does not hold back anything good from those whose lives are innocent.

- i. Once we become justified, He gives us all good things
- j. Matthew 7:9-11 (NLT2)

“You parents—if your children ask for a loaf of bread, do you give them a stone instead? Or if they ask for a fish, do you give them a snake? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

- k. The best He can give is Himself. By the Holy Spirit we have access to all the gift we need.

VIII. How Does It Happen?

- a. John 1:33 (ESV)

I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'

- b.