



2017 Q1 Lesson 5. The Baptism and Filling of The Holy Spirit

SABBATH

The thief cometh not but to steal and to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly. John 10:10. 21KJV.

According to the same author [John] what is the definition of “abundant [read eternal] life? John 17:3.

Where / when did the process of Baptism begin? Did it originate with Heaven or elsewhere?
Consider the following:

“And the devils, indeed, having heard this washing published by the prophet, instigated those who enter their temples, and are about to approach them with libations and burnt-offerings, also to sprinkle themselves; and they cause them [the pagans] also to wash themselves entirely, as they depart [from the sacrifice], before they enter into the shrines in which their images are set.” [Justin Martyr, First Apology, Ch 62].

This seems to indicate that “the devils”, having read Old Testament prophecies, came up with the “ritual” of baptism for pagan rites, knowing of a coming Messiah and the eventual symbolism of baptism.

How did Christianity get from Baptism by water [repentance] to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?
What’s the whole point of Baptism by water?

This was quoted last week, but it bears repeating:

It is the Spirit that makes effectual what has been wrought out by the world’s Redeemer. It is by the Spirit that the heart is made pure. Through the Spirit the believer becomes a partaker of the divine nature. Christ has given His Spirit as a divine power to overcome all hereditary and cultivated tendencies to evil, and to impress His own character upon His church. DA 671

The preaching of the word is of no avail without the presence and aid of the Holy Spirit; for this Spirit is the only effectual teacher of divine truth. Only when the truth is accompanied to the heart by the Spirit, will it quicken the conscience or transform the life. A minister may be able to present the letter of the word of God; he may be familiar with all its commands and promises; but his sowing of the gospel seed will not be successful unless this seed is quickened into life by the dew of heaven. Without the co-operation of the Spirit of God, no amount of education, no advantages, however great, can make one a channel of light. Before one book of the New Testament had been written, before one gospel sermon had been preached after Christ's ascension, the Holy Spirit came upon the praying disciples. Then the testimony of their enemies was, “Ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine.” Gospel Workers 286



“The Christian’s life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit.”—Ellen G. White, *The Desire of Ages*, p. 172.

From the teacher’s lesson:

“This week’s lesson should help members of your class to be aware that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not for a select few or a small group of spiritually elite Christians. The baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit is for all believers in every generation. When we become insensitive to the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we live the Christian life in our own strength, powerless to overcome temptation. We live in frustrated defeat rather than in joyous victory. Our decisions are based on human wisdom rather than divine guidance. We are caught in the grip of seemingly unbreakable habits rather than enjoying the freedom that the Spirit of Christ brings.”

AMEN.

SUNDAY

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Why the baptism by water? Why not just wait on the baptism of the Holy Spirit? What’s the purpose of the baptism by water? What are the similarities? What are the differences? What is a baptism of repentance?

From the Lesson:

“John, however, in contrast to the other Gospels, does not use the future tense when speaking about the baptism of the Spirit. Instead, he uses a present participle, indicating that this is something that has continuing validity (see John 1:33). The same tense is used by John just a few verses earlier in John 1:29, when he talks about another important work of Jesus: the taking away of the **sins** of the world.” Emphasis added.

Following are 25 versions of John 1: 29. One out of the 25 uses the term “**sins**”. The remainder use the term “sin.” Which makes more sense? Sin? or sins?

New International Version

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

New Living Translation

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

English Standard Version

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes



away the sin of the world!

Berean Study Bible

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Berean Literal Bible

On the next day, he sees Jesus coming to him and says, "Behold the Lamb of God, the *One* taking away the sin of the world.

New American Standard Bible

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

King James Bible

The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.

Holman Christian Standard Bible

The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Here is the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!

International Standard Version

The next day, John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

NET Bible

On the next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

New Heart English Bible

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

Aramaic Bible in Plain English

And the day after, Yohannan saw Yeshua Who came to him and Yohannan said: "Behold, The Lamb of God who takes away the **sins** of the world!" Emphasis added.

GOD'S WORD® Translation

John saw Jesus coming toward him the next day and said, "Look! This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

New American Standard 1977

The next day he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God who takes



away the sin of the world!

Jubilee Bible 2000

The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him and said, Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

King James 2000 Bible

The next day John saw Jesus coming unto him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

American King James Version

The next day John sees Jesus coming to him, and said, Behold the Lamb of God, which takes away the sin of the world.

American Standard Version

On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!

Douay-Rheims Bible

The next day, John saw Jesus coming to him, and he saith: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who taketh away the sin of the world.

Darby Bible Translation

On the morrow he sees Jesus coming to him, and says, Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.

English Revised Version

On the morrow he seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold, the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world!

Webster's Bible Translation

The next day John seeth Jesus coming to him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sin of the world.

Weymouth New Testament

The next day John saw Jesus coming towards him and exclaimed, "Look, that is the Lamb of God who is to take away the sin of the world!"

World English Bible

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

Young's Literal Translation

on the morrow John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, 'Lo, the Lamb of God, who is



taking away the sin of the world;

MONDAY

Being Filled With the Holy Spirit

From the lesson: “If we yield to the influence of alcohol, our walk, talk, and thoughts will be affected negatively. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we yield every part of our life to His transforming influence with the result that our walk, talk, and thoughts will reflect Jesus.”

Which Law is being described here?

Again, from the lesson:

“In the Greek of Acts 13:52, the term filled with the Spirit is in the imperfect tense, signifying continuous action. It literally means: “being [continuously] filled.” Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time event. It is something that we should seek and receive every day. This filling has to be repeated so that every part of our lives is filled with His presence, and so we are empowered to live as we should.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit does not so much mean that we possess more of Him but that He possesses more of us.”

I think this is very well said.

TUESDAY

Conditions Part I

The lesson suggests that “repentance” is one of the first conditions for being baptized by the Holy Spirit. Any thoughts? Does it matter which Law lens you are viewing “repentance”? What constitutes “repentance”? Is it the same as “forgiveness”?

From the lesson:

“True repentance is more than just feeling sorry for the dire consequences of our sins. It is a thorough change of heart and mind so that we see sin for what it really is: an ugly evil and rebellion against God.”

To be sure, “sin” is ugly, evil, and rebellion, but is that all? Why is humanity in “rebellion against God?”

Remember the cascade? Lies believed lead to the broken circle of Love and Trust, which leads to self seeking behavior.

Which Law lens are we viewing sin with?

Sin is “Lawlessness” [I John 3:4] Which Law?



I'm happy that the lesson uses "trust" synonymous with "faith", however, can we receive the Holy Spirit without "trusting God's Word?" How much Scripture was written when Abraham was on Earth? Scripture tells us Abraham "trusted God", not just His Word. And he didn't always trust, did he? Was he bereft of the Spirit?

The lesson asks: "Why does persistent intercession make a difference?" I would ask, "Upon whom does persistent intercession make the difference?"

WEDNESDAY

Conditions Part II

From the lesson:

"Then, as now, the Holy Spirit is granted to all who obey God. In the Bible, love and obedience go hand in hand, and true faith is expressed in obedience."

Is this accurate? Which comes first, the obedience – leading to the indwelling Spirit, or the indwelling of the Spirit – leading to obedience?

What about Balam? He said only what God told him to say [obedience], but was his heart full of love for God?

4 He that saith, "I know Him," and keepeth not His commandments, is a liar and the truth is not in him. 5 But whoso keepeth His Word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in Him. I John 2: 4, 5 21KJV.

Consider, again, which comes first – the keeping His commandments or the indwelling Spirit leading the character to want to live in harmony with God's Design Law?

A mechanical obedience may hide the smoldering fire of rebellion, but it is ready to break out at any time against restraint. In the service of such there is no peace or light or love. The atmosphere surrounding their souls is not fragrant. The influence of their words and actions is felt by others, and this influence is a harm even to those who are trying to do their best in any position in which they are placed. Self-pity is deteriorating to the characters of those who cherish it, and it exerts an influence that spoils the happiness of others. MM 173 – 1932.

17 But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ, 18 how they told you that there would be mockers in the last times who would walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These are they who **separate themselves**, sensual, having not the Spirit. Jude 17-19 21 KJV. Emphasis mine.



Again, look at the mechanics of the problem. God doesn't withhold His Spirit, they "separate themselves" by their thoughts, choices, and behaviors, searing their own consciences.

THURSDAY

Self-Centered Living versus Christ-Centered Living.

6 You will know these people because of what they do. Good things don't come from people who are bad, just as grapes don't come from thornbushes, and figs don't come from thorny weeds. 17 In the same way, every good tree produces good fruit, and bad trees produce bad fruit. 18 A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. Matt 7: 16-18. ERV.

But the fruit that the Spirit produces in a person's life is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these kinds of things. Galatians 5: 22, 23. ERV.

From the Lesson:

"We cannot transform ourselves. We possess no real power to change ourselves, for sin is too deeply ingrained in us. The renewing energy must come from God. The change from within can be successful only through the transforming work of the Holy Spirit. No mere external change, such as correcting this or that bad habit, makes us Christians. The change has to come from a heart renewed by the Holy Spirit.

This is the work of a lifetime, a work that will have its up and downs, but a work that God promises to do in us if we surrender to Him, "being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:6, NKJV)."

AMEN. Very well said.