

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Since the “reception” of the Holy Spirit on the pre-Pentecost basis of John 20:22 made little or no improvement in the recipient’s service, it became necessary to seek a second blessing, known as “The Baptism of the Spirit”: an “endowment of power for service and aggressive warfare against Satan and his hosts of darkness”: an “influx of the Spirit.” This experience also has “conditions,” as we shall see.

QUESTION- “Is there such an experience today for the believer, as a Baptism of the Spirit such as the disciples received at Pentecost?”

MRS. J. PENN-LEWIS- “Without hesitation, Yes. For if you have proved it in your own experience, you have no other answer to give. You have passed beyond the region of debate and theory, and you **know**. Some say the term is not a correct one, but there **is the experience**, and in Acts 11:16 the Apostle Peter used the words ‘ye shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit’ in connection with the endowment of power that he and the other men and women received on the day of Pentecost; and I am at a loss to find other words to use for attempting to make clear this crucially important subject.

“There are large numbers of God’s children today, who have definitely received the Holy Spirit as a Person, and who do know Him, but they have no power for service. They have fulfilled the conditions for His indwelling in an absolute surrender to God to do His will; in the cleansing of the heart from the love of sin, and in the faithful obedience up to light, with the resulting ‘fruit of the Spirit.’ To them it has meant inward victory, and fellowship with God, but very little change in service. There is, then, an ‘endowment of power,’ or a ‘Baptism of the Spirit,’ that means power of utterance for witness — an infilling of the Spirit that has to do with service for God, rather than the personal life of fellowship with Him, and victory over sin.” (1912 Overcomer, p. 83.)

“There are a number of conditions connected with the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, or the endowment for service. Those who have received the Holy Spirit as a Person, and who have walked in communion with God for some time, may say, ‘I have no power for service, and I see that I need a real fulness of the Spirit for definite service.’”

“For this enduement of power the man’s spirit has to be separated from the entanglements of the soul, and the lawful things belonging to the natural, or soul-man, have to be surrendered, so that he may become a spiritual man, governed only by his spirit. He must have every trace of an unbending spirit removed, that his spirit may cooperate with the Holy Spirit pliantly; he must lose every degree of an unforgiving spirit, so as to give no inlet to demons, when, by the moving of the Holy Spirit, he may be charged to rebuke sin, or suffer rejection for Christ’s sake; and be freed from a narrow grasping spirit, if he is to be a wide channel for the outflow of the gracious life-giving Spirit of God.

“Moreover, the man who seeks an enduement of power must be willing for the Spirit of God to thoroughly deal with his life, and remove out of it every obstacle to his immediate readiness to fulfil all the will of God; he must be searched in motive, and taught the principles of righteousness, for the enduement of the Spirit which he seeks to know, means an aggressive warfare against sin, and the powers of evil, and how can the Holy Spirit convict of sin by the preaching of righteousness, if the man He equips as a messenger of God is ignorant of the law of righteousness?

“Revival is the outflow of the Spirit of God through the organ of the human spirit, and the Baptism of the Spirit is the influx of the Spirit of God into man’s spirit, whereby it is released from all obstacles and bonds which oppress or hold it down, and closes or reduces its capacity as an outlet for the Holy Spirit. These obstacles may return through the deceptive workings of the Adversary, and the believer become locked up in spirit again, or rendered practically useless to God, and His people.” (War On the Saints, pp. 293-295.)

“If a man becomes spiritual through a very real Baptism of the Spirit, and yet is ignorant of the laws of the Spirit, and especially the tactics of Satan, he is liable to yield to an onslaught of deceiving spirits upon his spirit, by which they (1) force his spirit into strained ecstasy, or elation; or as it were (2) press it down into a vise. In the former he is given ‘visions’ and revelations which appear to be divine, but afterwards are proved to have been of the enemy, by their passing away as smoke, with no results; in the latter the soul sinks into darkness and deadness as if he had lost all knowledge of God.” —J. Penn-Lewis (1912 Overcomer, p. 120.)