

...and with Fire

by Sonny Bowman

Slide Notes

Two Most Important Events in My Life

- **Salvation**
- **Baptism with the Holy Spirit**
- **Luke 3:16 — John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

Wait...

- **Acts 1:4 — And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me;**
- **Don’t leave Jerusalem**
- **Wait for the Promise from Father**
- **That I told you about**

Imagine Waiting...

- **Jesus with them 40 days after the resurrection**
- **But now He was gone (ascended to heaven)**
- **It was about 7 days until the Feast of Weeks or Day of Pentecost**
- **What would you be thinking?**
 - **How long do we have to wait?**

- **Will they arrest & kill us, too?**
- **What's for dinner?**
- **What is the Promise of the Father?**
- **What did Jesus tell us about the Promise?**

What Else Did Jesus Say?

- **Acts 1:5-8 — for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. ... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”**
 - **Baptized with Holy Spirit in a few days**
 - **Receive power**
 - **Be witnesses everywhere**

Jesus uses something they were familiar with—baptism in water—to help them understand something that had never happened before. Immersion. John's baptism symbolized turning to a new purpose and direction—repentance (Acts 19:4). The Promise seems to have something to do with immersion with the Holy Spirit. Maybe at this point, someone in the group would remember a promise that God the Father made about the Holy Spirit in the Book of Joel.

Father's Promise

- **Joel 2:28-29 — “Then, after doing all those things, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants—men and women alike.**

Upon ALL people. This promise was given over 800 years before the disciples were waiting in the upper room. In the days before Jesus, the Holy Spirit only came upon people such as prophets, priests, and kings in a limited way so they could serve as God's representatives. Jesus had not yet paid the price for our sins, so

the Holy Spirit was not available for the average lover of God. But God promised a radical change!

What Jesus Said Earlier

- **John 14:16-17, 26 — And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ... But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.**
- **John 15:26 — “But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.**
- **Makes Jesus known to us...**
- **And to the world**

Imagine yourself in the upper room with the other 120 believers. Now you are beginning to get a clearer image of the importance of the Holy Spirit and why you need to wait around until you are baptized with Him.

- Will live with you forever –
- Help you – We definitely need help
- Teach you – As I study, meditate, or discuss Scripture, the Holy Spirit has given me new insights and understanding that bring the Word of God to light in amazing ways.
- Remind you – Often, when I am asked a question about Christianity, the Holy Spirit will bring to my mind verses that I have read that help understand God’s will in the situation.

Suddenly, No More Wait!

- **Acts 2:1-4 — On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other**

languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.

Not just the 12 Apostles! ALL the believers were included, which included about 120 people (Acts 1:15).

This Is the Promise

- **Acts 2:15-18 — These people are not drunk, as some of you are assuming. ... No, what you see was predicted long ago by the prophet Joel: ‘In the last days,’ God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on my servants—men and women alike— and they will prophesy.**

Peter boldly spoke out to the people in the streets.

Got What They Needed

- **God fulfilled His promise**
- **All believers in room baptized with the Holy Spirit and Fire**
- **Everything changed!**
 - **Went from meeting behind closed doors to declaring the truth in public streets**
 - **Preached with God’s Power – 3,000 people saved that first day**
 - **Now bold and willing to suffer persecution**

New Boldness

- **Acts 5:40-42 — ... when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name. And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.**

Imagine if the police in your town beat you and demanded that you quit talking to people about Jesus... What would you do?

Just the Beginning...

- **Others baptized with the Holy Spirit**
 - **Samaritans – Acts 8:14-17**
 - **Cornelius and Romans – Acts 10:44-47**
 - **Some New Disciples – Acts 19:1-6**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was not just a one-time event.

For You, Too!

- **Acts 2:38-39 — Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”**

Is It Really Necessary?

- **Jesus told early Christians they needed the Baptism with the Holy Spirit...**
- **So what makes us think we can successfully fulfill His purpose for us without it?**
- **We all need the Holy Spirit and fire of God to...**
 - **burn out the junk**
 - **empower us for ministry**

So Ask...

- **Luke 11:13 — “If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”**

We have a part to play—ask the Father for the Holy Spirit. The only requirement is to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is that you are born again into God’s family through faith in the sacrificial death of Jesus on the cross and forgiveness of your sins.

Ready for God’s Fire?

We need the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and the fire... Not just a little candle flame but the raging forest fire type fire can spread rapidly and cannot be squelched.

More Information ...

Lessons 3 and 4 in *The Building Blocks of Life* study series cover this topic in more detail. It can be downloaded for free at www.life4square.com .