



## Receiving the Power of the Holy Spirit: “Preparation” Acts 1

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20** Do you now know that your body is a temple for the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body.

**Acts 20:28** Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.

The Scripture is clear we belong to God. God bought us with his own blood. When we received Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior the ownership transferred from the old owner to the new owner Jesus Christ. One absolute design and desire of the new owner is that we should be BAPTIZED with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 1:5** For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

**Luke 3:16** John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the Son of Man, whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Baptism literally means to immerse or soak. In the case of Baptism with the Holy Spirit, according to the two passages quoted above, Jesus Christ does the baptism and the Holy Spirit is the one that He will use where a believer is immersed. Baptism with the Holy Spirit then is a process where

Jesus Christ immerses us with the Holy Spirit so that we will receive the power and become a powerful and effective witness for Jesus. (Acts 1:8)

Jesus commanded His Disciples not to go and witness for Him unless they are endowed with power.

**Luke 24:45** Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. **46**He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, **47**and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. **48**You are witnesses of these things. **49** I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

**Acts 1:8** But if 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 ends of the earth."

Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not a requirement for salvation, it is however a necessity for effective evangelism and victorious holy living. There are two things we need to do before Jesus will baptize us with the Holy Spirit. The first one is the preparation; the second one is the steps in receiving the baptism.

THERE ARE THREE THINGS I FOUND IN ACTS 1 THAT WE SHOULD DO FOR THE PREPARATION:

- I. **STAY IN JERUSALEM** – This is our walk with God. v.4 On one occasion, while He is eating with them, He gave them this command: "DO NOT LEAVE JERUSALEM."

#### **A. Why Jerusalem?**

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel established during the reign of David as king of Israel. Jerusalem was the city chosen by God for His holy name to dwell. That is why it is also called

the holy city of God. The Temple was also built in Jerusalem, thus making it the center of True and Biblical worship. But this was changed when Jesus Christ came especially when He rose from the dead.

**John 4:21** Jesus declared, "Believe me, woman, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. **22**You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. **23**Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. **24**God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth."

**Acts 17:24** "The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands. **25**And he is not served by human hands, as if he needed anything, because he himself gives all men life and breath and everything else. **26**From one man he made every nation of men, that they should inhabit the whole earth; and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live. **27**God did this so that men would seek him and perhaps reach out for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us. **28** 'For in him we live and move and have our being.' As some of your own poets have said, 'We are his offspring.'

**1 Corinthians 6:19** – Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

**Note:** The center of Worship has shifted from the Jerusalem temple to the temple of the Holy Spirit, which is our body. This shift occurred at the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**B. What is the Believer's Jerusalem? The believer's Jerusalem is their daily life with God.**

**Amos 3:3** "Do two walk together unless they have agreed to do so?"

**Zephaniah 3:12** But I will leave within the meek and humble, who trust in the name of the LORD.

**Micah 6:8** He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

Our walk with Jesus is our Spiritual Jerusalem. Jesus said let us not leave our Jerusalem because that is the place where He is going to pour out His power. If we want to receive God's awesome power in our lives we have to stay in Jerusalem. Let us maintain our righteous walk with the Lord.

**C. Illustrations:**

1. Song – "Walking with Jesus"

Walking with Jesus, walking every day, walking all the way. Walking with Jesus, walking all with Jesus alone.

Walking in the sunlight, walking in the shadow  
Walking every day, walking all the way (x2)

2. Direct result of walking with God "Fragrance of His Presence 7142"

Dr. Charles Meigle composed the favorite "No one ever cared for me like Jesus.

One day, he visited Pasadena, California. Early that morning, he had an opportunity to walk through some of the famous rose gardens when the full fragrance of the flowers filled the air. Later in the day, he arrived at the hotel where a Bible conference was being held. As he took his seat, a man turned to him and said, “Dr Meigle, I know where you’ve been. You toured one of our lovely gardens, for I can smell the pleasant aroma of your clothing.

Walking with Jesus enable us to absorb the aroma of His grace and holiness preparing us for our immersion with the Holy Spirit so that we will become powerful and effective witness for Jesus Christ in our Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the uttermost part of the World.

## **II. WAIT FOR THE GIFT – Our Patience.**

A. Wait means to hang around, to remain. This requires patience because waiting is only possible through patience.

### **B. Benefits of waiting**

Waiting enable us to take a second look at our motives why we want the Power of God. Waiting allows the Holy Spirit to show us some flaws in our lives that we could not see otherwise. Waiting enable us to look more of Christ and less of ourselves. Waiting prepares and makes us more ready to receive God’s power. Waiting develops patience and humility.

### **C. How are we to wait?**

We wait in silent meditation, silent prayer, and we wait in reverent submission.

V.13 they went upstairs to the room (prayer room) 14 they joined together constantly in prayer. I order for the church to

experience God's power, the believers in a congregation should joined together constantly in prayer.

D. What happens if we do not wait?

**1 Samuel 13** – a case in the life of Saul. He lost his blessings because he failed to wait.

E. What happens if we wait? We will receive the awesome power of God?

**Psalm 37:34** Wait for the LORD and keep his way. He will exalt you to inherit the land; when the wicked are cut off, you will see it.

**Psalm 130:5** I wait for the LORD, my soul waits, and in his word I put my hope. **6** My soul waits for the Lord more that watchmen wait for the morning, more than watchmen wait for the morning.

**Proverbs 20:22** Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

**Isaiah 40: 31** But they wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

### **Still Waiting by JD Smith**

Waiting! Yes, patiently waiting! Till next steps made plain shall be; to hear with the inner hearing, the voice that will call for me.

Waiting! Yes, quietly waiting! No need for an anxious dread; shall He not assumedly guide me, who giveth me daily bread?

Waiting! Yes, hopefully waiting! With hope that needn't grow dim; the master is pledged to guide me, and my eyes are unto him.

Waiting! Yes, trustfully waiting! I know, though I've waited long, that while he withholds his purpose, his waiting cannot be long.

Waiting! Yes waiting. Still waiting! The master will not be late he knoweth that I'm waiting for him to unlatch the gate.

By all means let us wait patiently, quietly, reverently, hopefully, expectantly, trustfully, and prayerfully, until we are immersed with God's awesome power. As you tarry in prayer, the Holy Spirit will reveal in your mind the area in your life that needs to be fixed this will lead us to the next step.

### III. **FIXED THE BREACH** v. 15-26 Our Obedience.

- A. A breach is an opening, a tear, or a rupture, a gap or rift, especially in or as if in a solid structure such as a dike or fortification.
- B. While the Disciples were spending time in prayer and waiting for the coming gift (Baptism of the Holy Spirit), the Holy Spirit reveals to them that they first have to find a qualified replacement for Judas to complete the number according to the scripture. Apparently, Judas created a breach amongst the Disciples and it has to be fixed first before God fills them with the Holy Spirit and they did.
- C. What are the breaches that we need to fix in our lives? As we wait upon the Lord and spend time in prayer, the Lord will reveal to us in our minds some sins or issues that we need to address and fix before He will baptize us with the Holy

Spirit. This is a challenge of obedience. If we cannot obey God, if we are powerless, more so if we have the power.

**1 Peter 2:1** Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. **2** Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, **3** now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**Ephesians 4:29** Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. **30** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. **31** Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. **32** Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

As the Holy Spirit reveals an area in your life that needs to be fixed, be quick in doing it. Don't delay, obey the Holy Spirit. Never ignore it. Because failure to fix it would mean missing the blessing which is the awesome power of God.

There is a story of two bible students who were praying. One student earnestly prayed for God to fill him with the Holy Spirit. In Midst of this pleading, the other student blurted, "Please Lord don't do it, he is leaking." This story may seem funny but there is a certain truth to it. God will never fill us with His Holy Spirit if there is a breach in our lives that remained unfixed because the power will leak.

Haggai 1:5 Now this is what the LORD Almighty says: "Give careful thought to your ways. **6** You have planted much, but have harvested little. You eat, but never have enough. You drink, but never have your fill. You put on clothes, but are not



warm. You earn wages, only to put them in a purse with holes in it."

## **CONCLUSION**

Preparation is the key to the success to any endeavor. Jesus before He ascended to heaven, He commissioned first His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations. But before they leave, Jesus told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait for the promise Holy Spirit before they will start their ministry.