



## **Receiving the Power of the Holy Spirit: “Guidelines” Luke 11:19-13**

### **STEPS IN PREPARING TO RECEIVE THE POWER OF GOD**

- I. STAY IN JERUSALEM -Our Holy Living**
- II. WAIT FOR THE GIFT – Our Patience**
- III. FIXED THE BREACH – Our Obedience**

**After the needed preparation is done, it is now time to move to the essential Guidelines in receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

### **WHAT ARE ESSENTIAL GUIDELINES IN RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

- I. GET IN LINE WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE POWER**

#### **A. Purpose of the Power**

- 1. Power for Evangelism – Gifts of the Spirit**

**Acts 1:8** But 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."

A Powerful Witness is a witness who sticks to his gun and will not change his position and conviction even if it means suffering and death. This is the witness who does nothing for himself and all for his master. The witness who cares only for one thing and that is to obey the master. If you are this kind of witness, then you are in line with the purpose of the power.

## **2. Holy Living -Character (Fruit of the Spirit)**

**Galatians 5:16** So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. **17**For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want. **18**But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under law.

**Romans 13:13** Let us behave decently, as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and debauchery, not in dissension and jealousy. **14**Rather, clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ, and do not think about how to gratify the desires of the sinful nature

### **B. The Design the Power is going to accomplish**

The Power of the Holy Spirit is not made available by God so that we can use it for a personal gain, for a selfish end, not even to make a name for ourselves.

The Power of the Holy Spirit is designed to accomplish the purpose that God intends it to be. Thus if our heart is not in lined with the purpose why God gave the Holy Spirit, there is no way that you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit.

If we want to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit from Jesus Christ, we must be in agreement with the purpose of His power otherwise He will give it to us. Agreement is the trigger that causes that spark of God's power to flow into our lives.

Acts 8:18 **18**When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money **19**and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." **20**Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! **21**You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. **22**Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. **23**For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin." **24**Then Simon answered, "Pray to the Lord for me so that nothing you have said may happen to me."

Failure to understand and align our lives in the purpose of power results to our failure to receiving the Power of God.

## II. PURSUE THE GIVER NOT THE GIFT

- A. **Matthew 6:33** But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- B. Jesus Christ is the Giver because He is the one who is going to baptize us the Holy Spirit.

Two Eternal blessings that comes through Jesus Christ

1. The blessing of Relationship – John 1:12-13; Ephesians 1:5
2. The blessing of Fellowship – 1 John 1:3-7

- C. God knows if we are after the Giver or the gift because He sees our hearts.

**1 Samuel 16:7** But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."

**Psalm 73:1** Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

**Proverbs 27:19** As water reflects a face, so a man's heart reflects the man.

**Mark 7:6** He replied, "Isaiah was right when he prophesied about your hypocrites; as it is written: 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. 7 They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.'

#### **NOTES:**

1. If the heart is not right, even the worship is not acceptable to God. Let us pursue the Holy Spirit and not His power so that we will not fall under the category of worshippers who honor God with their lips but their hearts are occupied by greed and selfishness.
2. Many believers instead of receiving the Holy Spirit, they received a lying spirit because they were after the gifts not the giver, they were after the experience not the truth.
3. Let us follow the example of Abraham Genesis 22:2-18, "The Sacrifice of Isaac."

### **III. BE SPECIFIC IN YOUR REQUEST**

- A. The number one rule of communication is clarity.** No matter how good your point is, if it is not understood it brings nothing but confusion. To be clear it must be specific.
- B. When asking for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, don't bring any other request with it. Concentrate on that one request and don't stop until you received it.**
- C. Luke 11:11** Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12**Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13**If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how

much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

### **NOTES:**

When we ask God for something, he knows what it is whether we tell him or not. But God want us to verbalize clearly what we need and want from him because He wants to hear it. After all, it is when we express it verbally that the equation of sincerity is complete.

## **IV. BE PERSISTENT**

- A. Persistence means continuity.** Keep asking until you receive it.
- B. Luke 11:9** “So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks find; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.
- C. Examples of persistence.**

### **Astronomic Discovery**

Persistence paid off for American astronomer Clyde Tombaugh, who discovered the planet Pluto. After astronomer calculated a probable orbit for this “suspected” heavenly body, Tombaugh took up the search in March 1929. Time magazine recorded the investigation: “He examined scores of telescoping photographs each showing tens of thousands of star images in pairs under the dual microscope. It often took three days to scan a single pair. It was exhausting, eye-cracking work-in his own words, ‘brutal, tediousness.’ And it went on for months.

Star by star, he examined 20 million images. Then on February 18, 1930, as he was blinking at a pair of photographs in the constellation Gemini, ‘I suddenly came

upon the image of Pluto!' It was the most dramatic astronomic discovery in nearly 100 years.

### **Luke 18:1-8** "The Wicked Judge and the Persistent Widow

**1** Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. **2** He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about men. **3** And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' **4** "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care about men, **5** yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually wear me out with her coming!' " **6** And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. **7** And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? **8** I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

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**God has His own schedule when He wants to give us what we are asking. The only problem is that we do not know His schedule. And persistence is the only way to bring us to God's schedule. That is why it is not advisable to give up praying specially if we are praying for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

## **CONCLUSION**

One of the issues that complicated the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the issue of the gift of tongue. Many people say that unless you speak in tongues you are not filled with the Holy Spirit. This pushed many people to pursue the gift of speaking in tongue instead of the Holy Spirit just so they would be classified as people who are filled with the Holy Spirit, exposing themselves unnecessarily to lying spirits. Many of these people developed spiritual pride and arrogance; they become judgmental of others who do not share their conviction and experience, sad to say that many of them ended up in depression and living un-Christ attitudes and character.

The best gauge if a person is filled with the Holy Spirit is not in the fruit that will last as stated by Jesus in John 15:16. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. This fruit that will last are: The fruit of the Spirit (Character), the fruit of our lips (Worship), the fruit of discipleship (soul winning).

Jesus knew that in order for His Disciples to continue in the work He trained them to do, they need first to be endowed with power. That is why we made it clear that they should not start unless they first received the promised baptism with the Holy Spirit. And after they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, they were eternally changed.

**Remember this:** It is not how much we have of the Power of the Holy Spirit that counts. It is how much of our life is controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is the essence of Baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is the Holy Spirit's control over our lives.

