

UNSTOPPABLE POWER

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS

“THE BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH”

(PART I) ACTS 2:1-II

DR. ROBERT JEFFRESS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Introduction: Today, we are going to look at the birth of the Church of Jesus Christ and why every Christian can celebrate the priceless “birthday favor” that was distributed that day to every true follower of Jesus Christ.

I. The Promise Of The Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8)

Acts 1:4-8 ⁴ “Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; ⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.’ ⁶ So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, ‘Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?’ ⁷ He said to them, ‘It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; ⁸ but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.’”

II. The Fulfillment Of The Promise Of The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-3)

Acts 2:1-3 ¹ “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.”

Understanding the “Baptism with the Holy Spirit”

Acts 1:5 “John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

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Acts 11:15-17 ¹⁵ “As I [Peter] began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning, ¹⁶ and I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ Therefore if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

Jeremiah 31:33 “‘This is the covenant which I will make with the house of Israel after those days,’ declares the Lord, ‘I will put My law within them and on their heart I will write it; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.’”

A. Definition of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the supernatural act of God by which Christ immerses believers with the Holy Spirit, joining them to Himself and to other Christians.

1 Corinthians 12:13 “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.”

B. Recipients of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

C. Timing of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

1. Acts 2:1-4

Just as there was one point in history when Christ was born and another point in history when He was raised from the dead, there was also one unrepeatable moment in time when the Holy Spirit came in fulfillment of the long-anticipated promises.

2. Acts 8:14-17

God was demonstrating to these new Samaritan Christians (who hated and were hated by the Jews) that they were under the authority of Peter, John, and the other Jewish leaders of the church in Jerusalem.

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3. Acts 19:1-7

The apostle Paul found a group of people who appeared to be Christians in the upper region of Ephesus.

Paul probed a little further and discovered they weren't believers in Christ at all, but followers of John the Baptist. After the Gospel was explained to them, they believed in Christ and were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

III. The Sign Of The Baptism With The Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4-11)

Acts 2:4-8 ⁴ “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance. ⁵ Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷ They were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸ And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?’”

A. The Original Meaning of the Gift of Tongues

B. The Purpose of the Gift of Tongues

1. The propagation of the Gospel

Acts 2:6 “And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language.”

2. The authentication of the apostles

2 Corinthians 12:12 “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance by signs and wonders and miracles.”

1 Corinthians 14:4 “One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church.”

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C. The Perversion of the Gift of Tongues

IV. Timeless Truths For Today

A. As a Church, We Have Been Given the Same **Mission** As the Early Church

B. As Individual Believers, We Have Been Baptized With the Same **Spirit** As the Apostles

2 Peter 1:3 “God’s divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.”

Conclusion