

## 20Church

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# Baptism of the Holy Spirit

June 11, 2023

## Overview

Good morning, the needs, the difficulties, the disappointments, the challenges that members of our congregation face in these hours. Lord, though, for those who are laid aside with illness, we pray that you'll encourage them and comfort them. We pray for healing. We pray for healing in their bodies and in their minds and in every way possible. For those who are going perhaps to financial struggles, we pray, Lord, that their faith in you will rise and they'll continue to trust you, Lord.

For your word says once I was young, now I'm old. I've never seen the righteous forsaken, nor their children begging for bread. So Lord, we give you thanks for all that you do for us. We bless your holy name. In Jesus' name we say, Amen.

I started a couple of weeks ago talking about the Holy Spirit. It's a favorite topic of mine and I'll never run out of thoughts and nuggets to present on this topic. So this morning I want to trace a little bit some of the things that we find in the Old Testament as well as in the New with regards to the Holy Spirit. It's important for especially people that are not schooled in the Word of God to come to an understanding the Holy Spirit is a person so the word it should never be applied to the person of the Holy Spirit. We would never call each other it, that would be discourteous. He is a person. He thinks. He plans. He has feelings.

The Lord Jesus said that there was a sin that would not be forgiven and that's a sin against the Holy Spirit when we grieve Him. So you must be careful to understand He's a person but He didn't just show up as a dove at the Jordan River where Jesus was baptized. He was among people on the planet long before that. Genesis chapter 1 and verse 2. The earth was without form and void and darkness was on the face of the deep and the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. And verse, second verse of the Bible.

John went on to talk about the Holy Spirit's activity in the creation and Job did. Job said by His Spirit He adorned the heavens. Genesis goes on and says God endows people with life, with breath. When it says that the Lord stooped down and breathed into His nostrils of breath of life, that word breath means literally spirit. God breathed into man spirit. There was the Spirit of the Lord imparting.

Then in Genesis chapter 6 we read this word, the Holy Spirit will not always strive with

Man. Speaking of our tendency to go astray and become involved in sin. We must not cross that line where we say, well, God will forgive. God will forgive. That's called cheap grace. Cheap grace. God will not always strive with us. He will not always be pressuring us to get right with Him. But there's promises also then very positive about the Holy Spirit and what was about to come. I found this verse. I forgot. I had found it years ago. I discovered it as I was preparing for today.

Isaiah chapter 32 says, and I like the word poured because then I kind of get a visual. The Spirit will be poured out from on high. This was a word to the Jewish people, but it's also a word for us because when we read in the New Testament, especially through the teachings of the Apostle Paul, we like a branch have been grafted in to God's family. They were naturally in God's family because they're the children of Abraham. But you and I have been imparted with a glorious faith and we have been grafted in to the family of the Lord.

The promise of the outpouring is to all who would receive Him. We read about the workings of the Holy Spirit all through the Old Testament. He came upon the judges and those who were given to going to war when necessary. The prophets were used in an extraordinary way, but it was always at the function and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

Joshua was used by the power of the Holy Spirit in the book of Numbers and then an othnial in Judges and Gideon again in the Judges. Samson again in the Judges saw prophesied when the Holy Spirit came upon him. However the spirit of God departed from Saul because of his disobedience. Saul prophesied that did not make him a never lasting hero. He lost the blessing. He lost the option of being God specially chosen. He lost that option because he grieved the Holy Spirit. David declared that the spirit of the Lord spoke by me, he said, and his word was on my tongue.

The Lord spoke through me, David said. There's a little clue as to what the activity of the Holy Spirit is designed to do, what he designed to do through us in this New Testament church era. David declared the spirit of the Lord spoke by me. So it's important for us to recognize that when there's a speaking forth, it takes two enemies, it takes the function of the Holy Spirit and the cooperation of the man or the woman, the servant of the Lord. So it's not always just the Holy Spirit. I dare to tell you this little story. Some years ago our little church was growing, this is back in our London days. We'd sold our little school house. A new place was under construction so we were renting from a united church.

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We had Sunday school on Thursday evenings.  
That was the only time that we could function that way.  
Sunday was at one o'clock, that was our first service, one o'clock because the United Churchmen were there at 11.  
And we'd be standing at the door kind of drumming our foot and wrapping our knuckles, waiting, waiting, waiting for them to leave because we wanted in there and to get going.  
On the clock was our morning service and six o'clock at night was our evening service.  
People just had time to go and chew down some rubber duck at the Swiss chalet and get back to church.

And then Thursday nights we would have our Wednesday night Bible study.  
And on one particular Thursday night we were gathered in a room that we were allowed to use, a little smaller than the big sanctuary.  
And the Lord was really moving in a very beautiful and gentle way.  
And I had just indicated that I would like us now to stand together, join hands and let's sing a particular chorus.  
And a lady broke in with speaking in tongues.  
And I let her finish speaking in tongues.  
But I knew this lady's routine.  
She would speak in tongues, but she didn't want somebody else to interpret.  
And I knew that's what was coming.  
But she jumped in with her message in tongues at an inappropriate time.  
Who's the maestro?

Who's the conductor of this symphony?  
Who's the conductor of the orchestra?  
You've got to rely on the person leading.  
You have to rely on them.  
So when I'd said, well, I'm asking all join hands and let's do this.  
And so she broke into tongues.  
I let her complete it.

And then I said, thank you, sister, and after we sing this song, we're going to wait upon the Lord for the interpretation.  
That was a door open for her to wait a few moments and then she could give the interpretation.  
Well, she gave her interpretation when it was finished and moments later, another person spoke out in English.  
And needless to say, the wheels were coming off.  
So at any rate, I got a call from her husband said, you better come over.  
My wife is pretty fussed.  
So I went over to visit them.  
Very lovely people.  
They were all time members of the Pentecostal Church.

Been there forever in the day.  
And she said, I'm pretty upset with you, pastor.  
I said, I guess I should anticipate that.  
You want to speak and tell me exactly what your challenge is.  
You'd wonder why I would even speak of this.  
Well, I'm encouraging you as a congregation to not be afraid to manifest and to speak,  
because that's what the Holy Spirit's all about.  
He's all about speaking.  
Speaking. And when I tell you a story like this, you're all going to get afraid and say, oh, he'll  
stop me. He'll stop me?

No, not if we just kind of go along with what the Lord seems to be doing in a service.  
She said, you didn't stop me the other night.  
You stopped God.  
I said, how do you figure that?  
When the Holy Spirit starts to move, even the preacher's got to get out of the way.  
I said, what about the person who thinks they're the spokesman?  
So I'm going to get out of the way because it's your turn now.  
She said, well, I'm the one that had the anointing for the moment.  
I thought, I'm not going to win this one.  
I said, let's just agree to disagree and let's just move along.  
But please, please be willing to just follow my leadership.

And you know, the whole congregation flowed in a nice way.  
And we saw some wonderful things happen.  
Eventually in that church, it exploded in numbers.  
We had a new brand new church.  
We had to go to two Sunday morning services.  
Sunday nights were full.  
But almost in every service, there was, not outbursts, but there was words that were  
spoken. And oftentimes it was so dead on. It was so glorious. It was so wonderful.

So I had taught the people, don't be afraid, but wait for the Spirit's prompting and make  
sure that you flow along with what's happening in the service.  
So David declared, the Spirit of the Lord spoke by me.  
He recognized that it was the function of the Holy Spirit, but it was he who had to do  
the speaking.

And he said, his Word was on my tongue.  
Ezekiel reported that the Spirit entered me.  
He said, when he spoke to me, Ezekiel again promised that a day would come when God would  
put his spirit in the people in a way that would cause them to live according to his  
statutes.

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I believe that that has several interpretations that work just fine for me.

One interpretation would be that with the cross, the resurrection, and the old pouring of the Holy Spirit in the day of Pentecost, there was the Lord pouring into people's hearts, taking away their stony hearts.

It was all Jews who got saved in the first place, took away their stony hearts, gave them a new heart, and put his spirit within them.

What we see Israel even to this day, stiffening their back, the number of followers of the Lord in the Jewish tradition in Israel is a very small, it's a very small number.

Israel in many, many ways is resistant to even following the biblical patterns that the Lord has called out.

So we say, well, now, wait a minute.

Does that mean that God's finished with Israel?

No.

I believe that the promise of Ezekiel 36 and 27 is yet to come when the Lord promised through Ezekiel that the day would come when he would take away their heart of stone, that brittleness, give them a new heart and that new heart, he'd put a spirit within them and they would follow his statutes.

When's that going to happen, David?

I don't know. I don't know. But I believe it's coming. I believe it with all my heart.

Then in Isaiah chapter 61, I love this, the spirit of the Lord God is upon me, Isaiah prophesies.

The spirit of the Lord God is on me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor.

He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prison to those who are bound.

If you know the story of Isaiah, if you know his ministry, how many of these thoughts, how much of this promise was fulfilled in his life?

So consider who is the me.

I'll read it again.

The spirit of the Lord God is on me.

Why?

Because the Lord has anointed me so far, okay, to preach good tidings to the poor.

Isaiah's focus was not the poor who were living in Israel at the time.

He sent me to heal the brokenhearted.

No, he was sent to call the sinful, reckless people to repent of their sin to get right with God.

He sent me to heal the brokenhearted and to proclaim liberty to the captives.

No, Isaiah was saying, if you don't straighten up, you're going to become captives for a long time.

There was trouble brewing if they didn't get right with God.

He said, I've come to proclaim liberty to the captives and the opening of the prisons

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to those who are bound.

Isaiah in no way, shape, or form opened up any prison doors.

Now listen to that, you know what's coming.

Luke chapter 4, and Jesus returned from His time in the wilderness being tempted by the enemy.

Jesus returned after that time.

He returned in the power of the spirit in Galilee.

Hold the phone right there.

We think of Jesus as all powerful person indeed He was.

We take nothing, nothing away.

He was the God-man in every sense.

100% God, 100% man.

But He relied on the Holy Spirit.

He relied on the Holy Spirit.

Jesus returned how?

Because He was the all powerful alpha and omega, the beginning and the end.

You know, He returned in the power of the Holy Spirit which had come upon Him in the river Jordan when John baptized Him.

And there went out fame of Him throughout the region all throughout.

So before we read of any of His miracle, before we read of any of His miracles, He's become famous already.

Why?

Because of what came out of His mouth and what came out of His virtue.

But He was raving about Him in every town where in Galilee Galilee Galilee was the most responsive to Jesus.

The people of Judea, they were the high-minded ones.

You only read of hot, burning words towards people when He was in Judea.

Samaria, all their songs I believe were in the minor key.

They were feeling sorry for themselves.

But the people who responded readily to Jesus were the Galilean.

Of all of the twelve apostles, the twelve disciples that Jesus chose, eleven were from Galilee.

One was from up in Judea.

So here's Jesus.

He comes home.

It says He taught in their synagogues being glorified of all.

Verse 16, and He came to Nazareth.

We should put the little word back in.

He came back.

He came to Nazareth where He had been brought up, where He had heard the rabbis teach the word from the particular spot that was reserved for reading of the word.

It was in that very synagogue that Jesus would wait for the rabbi after reading the law, reading from the pen it took, Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. After the rabbi read that, he would sit in what was in every synagogue. When they built a synagogue, in every one of them there were certain pieces of furniture, and there was always a chair put there that was named the chair of Moses. Well Moses was the one who gave us Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. So it was only fair that this chair on the side, not the chair of authority where the Word of God is spoken, but now the Word of God is being interpreted by the same rabbi. He doesn't stand in this place to give His thoughts. No, He sits in the chair of Moses.

So it is a chair of elevation. It's a chair of some authority, less the authority than the preacher than the red Word of God. He's now sharing the Word of God, Jesus on a regular basis would hear the reading of the Word and then He would listen to the rabbi who would sit and say, now this is how we interpret what Moses said. Jesus went back to that very synagogue where He had listened to the rabbi. This is so intriguing to me. It says, and there was delivered unto Him the book of the prophet Isaiah. Why did someone pass on to Him the book of Isaiah? I suggest to you two reasons. Number one, Jesus' fame went through all Galilee because the power of the Spirit was on Him and He was speaking glorious truths in ways that the people of Israel had never heard them spoken before. And secondly, His fame was out there. And secondly, He was noted as one who when He would speak as one sitting in the chair of Moses or standing anywhere that you want to think of Him standing, teaching, the Word was out there.

When you hear somebody who can make the Word come alive, it's this Jesus. And Jesus walks in to a synagogue where everybody in the house knows Him. The children that He sat in this synagogue with were now adults sitting there, married and having their own children most likely. Jesus is now 30 years of age. Here were the old grandmas. Here were the old mothers.

He was everybody who knew Jesus when He was in a diaper. You don't like to think about Jesus in a diaper. I think He was, otherwise we've got to mess everywhere. Here's the people who know Him. And so the rabbi who was in charge that day recognized Jesus and said, won't you come and won't you stand in this place and read to us?

And He literally handed him the book of Isaiah.

Please read for us.

Jesus rolls out the scroll and I believe that He looked for a specific passage.

Okay?

He reads these words.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because He's anointed me to preach the gospel.

What's the anointing for?

What's this Pentecostal message all about?

It's not to give you the spiritual heebie-jeebies.

It's not to give you some sense of, I got it.

You didn't get it.

I'm above you.

There's a reason why the Holy Spirit comes upon us, fills us, enables us, empowers us that we can speak.

David, we can't all be preachers.

No, but we can all be his spokesman.

I was visited this week by a missionary.

I learned so much from him.

We had a coffee.

It was supposed to be a half hour meeting.

It went on for a couple of hours.

I sat there listening, just listening, listening.

He said so many profound things.

I just got truly blessed.

I said, you got to come and share with our church at some point and I'm sure He will.

Yeah, it doesn't matter where He goes to church.

I forget what it was.

He's not of our stripe, but I'll tell you what, He's one of us.

It was absolutely wonderful.

It was beautiful.

What He said was that when He goes in churches and He tells people what God's doing around the world, He said, there's probably, inevitably, some people come up and say, wow, it must be wonderful.

I've always thought I'd like to be a missionary.

He said, others have come up and said, where do I sign up?

I want to become a missionary.

He said, the first question that should be asked by all of these people is, what are you doing now?

What are you doing in the garden that you've already even planted in?

He said, we hold the missionary up in some high regard and He said, that's bad optics.



That's not a good picture.

He said, I believe every one of us is called to function as a missionary.

Christian and missionary should fall within the same parameters.

It's true.

It's true.

Well, how can I be a spokesman for the Lord?

When the Spirit of the Lord is upon you, He will anoint you.

He will anoint you to speak out the gospel of the Lord.

How can I do that pastor?

You know, I can't quote all these people.

Just do what I do by times.

Where was I?

I was in a place of commerce a few days ago.

And I remember where it was.

We're going to leave it out.

But I came to the conclusion, I went to the till to pay for the little bit of nourishment that I had received.

And as I went out to go out the door, the young lady said, who just took my money, she said, now you have a good day.

I spun around. I had this loose piece of paper in my pocket. I had the picture of some important person in Canada's history. The color was blue. It was a \$5 bill. My bill came to five and a quarter. But I turned and I held out the, I'm not trying to impress you with anything. I'm just telling you, it's not hard to be a light. It's not hard to speak a word. I handed her to the \$5 bill.

And as she took it, I said, God bless you.

She was awestruck.

She was awestruck that in a place of commerce in a restaurant, this man dared to say, she didn't know who I was. Maybe I worked for the fire department. Maybe I drive a taxi.

She didn't know who I was, but this man not only said, God bless you, he became a part of the blessing in the moment. What's you going to do with a \$5 bill? You can't buy, I'm McDonald's burger anymore for that, I guess, if you're foolish enough to buy one of those things. I don't know what's in between, between the sesame seed, but I'm not convinced. I think that if Justin manages to shut down all the oil in Canada, we won't be able to get patties anymore for our burger.

Okay. So, well, I don't know, I'm just saying, I don't know what's in there. I don't know. Sorry, Mac. Oh, super size me. I want bigger fries. So this is going over the internet. We got to wait, get away. Oh, we got to erase that. I'm going to get sued. Oh, no, I can't afford it. Okay. Anybody can be a light. Anyone can speak. And let Jesus just shine out through you. How can I do that, pastor? Pray that God will anoint you with His Holy Spirit. Pray that He will do that. Don't be afraid to say, God bless you. You'll get, you know, something to get a shiver. They don't know how to deal with that. I love that. I love it that they don't know how to deal with it. I don't do it for cause and effect like that.

It's not like, oh, let me scare this person. It's not like that. I just love it when a person is taken back because I'm thinking, when's the last time they heard that? And when's the last time they heard that? If they have heard it, when is the last time they heard that, that it really, really resonated and they receive something? I take, there's not a week goes by that I don't say to a person on the street, in a restaurant, wherever I am. I say, oh, oh, oh, I'm a preacher and I've got to give you a little nugget. Can I do that? And you know what? They never say no. And I tell them about the word blessing. I said, have you ever heard the term God? But yes, you know what that means?

That's a prayer that God will stoop down right to where you are and lift you up.

There's never been a person who's looked at me and said, that's a silly idea.

And veryably the person will say, thank you, I never understood that before.

It's so easy to be a spokesman.

Well, Pastor, do we all have to do it?

Yeah, you do.

He said, stay in Jerusalem until you receive the promise of the Father.

And having received the promise, you will be my spokesman.

You will not find it hard to speak out the Word of God.

Peter got up on the day of Pentecost.

He was not a graduate of a seminary.

He was not a school man in the depths of the Word of God.

I've gone over this with you.

He never stayed in school beyond the age of 12, if he even stayed up to 12.

Because all the children of every village attended the synagogue where a rabbi would teach them the Word of God probably five days a week.

The textbook in every so-called school in every synagogue, the textbook, was the Word of God.

And at the age of 12, if you were enamored with the Word and you wanted to learn more, you would have the option of staying on, studying under the rabbi with the hopes that you'd learn more and more and more.

That meant you would not go out with your Father and go fishing in the Sea of Galilee.

You can't do both.

If you're going to sit under the rabbi who will be teaching you, that's a way of life for you. You've given up the option at this point in life of following the footsteps of your Father.

You're not going to become a carpenter. You're not going to become that. Peter was not a seasoned Bible man. He studied with all the rest of the little ankle biters until he was 12.

Then he went with his daddy fishing. I guess he loved to fish. But on the day of Pentecost, stay, Jesus said, and you'll receive a promise from God. Who doesn't want a promise?

Who doesn't want a gift? Who doesn't want to receive something? You may not want this little bucket of peas today, but you want a blessing from God. Who would say, I don't want a blessing.

If you want a blessing from God, it's available.

Stay in Jerusalem until you receive the blessing, the promise of the Father.

The Father one more time only now in the person of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is going to come down among you and he's going to bless you.

What does that mean, Pastor Day?

The Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost descended into the upper room.

And there he knelt before every one of them.

And they experienced something, not unlike what Adam experienced in the garden.

But as Adam laid there, he was just a piece of humanity.

But God stooped down. God was there to bless him. God stooped down and breathed into his nostrils. And man became a living soul. And there in the upper room, the Holy Spirit came descended, knelt down and breathed on every one of them.

And they were empowered with the Holy Ghost.

And what was the evidence? Their mouths began to speak.

And as they were speaking, they were speaking glorious things in the vernacular of the thousands

of people who were out on the street.

Pastor How is it?

You know, there were 120 in the upper room and they affected 3000.

My experience is this.

I've been in prayer meetings where people were allowing the Holy Spirit to speak through Them.

If you were to pause for a few moments and be a lurker, without a doubt, you will hear people's language changing and changing and changing.

Like I told you last week, a couple of weeks ago, but my not skinny friend, David, and I told you on a Sunday night, he's at the altar, I told you I left the church at 20 minutes after six to go and fetch my family.

Exactly 20 minutes later, when I came back in the church, David's at the altar, the altar in front of the church.

His arms up, he's talking like a Dutchman.

I'm sorry.

No, he was talking like a Frenchman.

No, it doesn't matter.

He's speaking in some language.

And the thing that astounded me is Margaret, who I have yet to meet, who by her own testimony, and declaration, she was a dyed-in-the-wool Greek Orthodox.

She came to our town to rescue her husband, who had called her from this funky old-fashioned telephone, tried to tell her about Jesus and spoke in tongues over the line, scared to live in daylights out of the operator who's listening.

She unplugged him and stopped him.

So Margaret has been encouraged to come into the church that night and take in the service

and the thing that he convinced her with was it was a picture up on the wall of Jesus,  
a picture I had threatened to take down.  
I would watch the people worshiping in the service.  
They were staring at the picture.  
Tears were in the door.  
I'm thinking, no, no other gods before.  
No graven image.  
No, no, no, no, that's not Jesus anyway.  
I'm glad I left the picture up.  
Because when Margaret saw the picture, he said, see, they love Jesus too.  
And when I came in the door, not only was David up here speaking in tongues, but so was  
Margaret, bent my theology in half. And I went on to tell you a couple of weeks ago, if you were  
here, if you weren't, this is worth retelling, that as I'm kneeling up near the front, I just lost.  
I was so blessed myself. I was so blessed.

I missed the whole service.  
I was the guy in charge of it.  
And I never said, let's stand, let's sing.  
And I never said, amen.  
I was there till 11 o'clock at night when I got up.  
The place was empty.  
I don't know when they left.  
I didn't care.  
But during that time that I was kneeling there, David was speaking some kind of a distinct  
language.  
All of a sudden his language changed.  
I remember it distinctly.  
It changed.

Following day a deacon called me and said, we've got to have a talk.  
I went, we're having coffee in a little Chinese restaurant, downtown Española.  
And Cal said to me, you know that new little guy?  
Did you notice when he was praying up there?  
He said he was rattling away and some lingo.  
And he said, did you hear his language change?  
I said, yeah, what you think of that?  
We're in a, we're in a Chinese rush.  
I said, I'm pretty sure it was Cantonese.  
He said, do you think so?  
I said, oh.  
I'm going to the cook back there.  
That had to be Cantonese.  
Later that afternoon I found out, no, she, he was speaking Ojibwe.

David was speaking Ojibwe.  
 Day of Pentecost, 120 people, thousands of people are listening in and they're saying,  
 we do hear those Galileans.  
 How would we know they're Galileans?  
 How do you know somebody's from New Brunswick?  
 How do you know they're from, how do you know they're, they're an Okey from Muscogee?  
 When they say, y'all all come back now, you say, you're not from Newfoundland.  
 So you see, these people knew somehow that these were Galileans, but they heard their  
 Language. How did thousands of people hear something in their language?  
 Those little, intimidated, sweet, innocent Mary, the mother of Jesus, probably baptized  
 in the Holy Ghost. Her language was changing and changing and changing.  
 For a moment she's speaking Spanish.  
 For a moment she's speaking in Greek.  
 For a moment she's, you get the drift of Adoncha.  
 This is not an impossible scenario.

They all heard them speaking of the wonderful works of, when the Holy Spirit is allowed  
 to work in your life and in mine, our tongue is loosed, our tongue is loosed.  
 And glorious things are spoken.  
 I have so much more.  
 I must quit.  
 John 7 and 18, then John's disciples informed him about the things that Jesus was doing.  
 John's in prison.  
 John's in prison.  
 He's going to lose his head soon.  
 He got in trouble because he took on the government.  
 It can be very dangerous to say something political.  
 John's disciples came to the prison and informed him of the things that they'd seen and they'd  
 heard about Jesus.  
 I find this so intriguing.

So John called his disciples and sent them to ask of Jesus, are you the one who has come  
 or should we look for somebody else?  
 Why did he ask that?  
 First of all, we know that when he was in the river Jordan and when he saw the Spirit  
 descend on Jesus, he is testimony to the crowd wise.  
 When I saw the Spirit descend on him and remain, I knew he was the Messiah.  
 Listen now, John's now in prison for preaching whatever he was preaching.  
 He's in jail for it.  
 The disciples of John come and they say, he's healing the sick.  
 He's been raising the dead.  
 He's opening blind eyes.  
 And John bewildered said, I'm nervous.

Go and ask him, are you the real McCoy?  
 I promised that a Messiah was coming whose shoes I was not worthy to on loose.  
 He will baptize you with a Holy Ghost and fire.  
 Go and ask him, is he that man?  
 Hold the phone.  
 Why was John asking that?  
 Because at that point, listen, listen, listen, Jesus was not baptizing with a Holy Ghost and fire.  
 He was opening blind eyes.  
 He was raising the dead.  
 He was speaking glorious things, but he was not baptizing with a Holy Ghost and fire.  
 Back up a little bit and remember, Jesus appears at the Jordan and says to John, baptize me.

John says, no, no, no, no.  
 He's just said to the people, I only baptize with water, but somebody else is near.  
 I know he's here somewhere.  
 I haven't identified him yet.  
 I don't even know what he's saying.  
 I don't even know his name, but I know he's here.  
 I say to him, he's here among us.  
 He's here somewhere.  
 And when he comes, he will baptize you.  
 Holy Ghost and fire.

Jesus said, baptize me with water.  
 And John replies, surely not.  
 Why are we messing around with water?  
 Please, Jesus, you baptize me.  
 Not in water.  
 You baptize me with your baptism.  
 Why would he want that baptism?  
 He wants me to be.  
 Me thinks that John was very familiar with all testament things and that when the Holy Spirit came on Saul, he prophesied.  
 When the Holy Spirit came upon the elders under Moses' leadership, they all prophesied.  
 David's testimony, when the Spirit of God came on me, I spoke.  
 Ezekiel's testimony, when the Spirit of God came on me, by him, I spoke the Word of God.  
 The Word of God was in my mouth when the Holy Spirit and John is saying, Jesus, I want more authority.

I want to be able to speak divine truth.  
 You please baptize me.  
 Holy Spirit's been working from Genesis chapter 1, verse 1.

We could deal with that. But Genesis 1 verse 2, and the Spirit of God was active, then and there. When the Holy Spirit is active today, every which way you can anticipate. I'm hearing things from all over the world. I'm so excited about what God's doing today. There's no army, no potentate, no dictator can stop what God is doing around the world. You know there are thousands of missionaries in countries where missionaries are not allowed. They go in there under other identifications.

Our church back in the day supported a photographer to go to a country I won't name. He went into that country as a photographer and he had opportunity to share the gospel of Jesus with people. If he'd gone as a missionary, they would have turned him back to the border. And right now it's even against the law to try and lead somebody to Jesus in Israel. And we're not here this week, there's a country, it's against the law to proselytize, but it's also against the law for anybody to surrender their heart to Christ. It's against the law to give your heart to Jesus. It's against the law.

But God is doing things and there's revivals going on we don't even hear about. Because if somebody reports a revival, it gets out. The revival is going on in Iraq or in Iraq. Did you hear about what's going on in Egypt? And in a moment that happens, then the local KGB closes in on them, tries to shut them down. So we don't hear the things that God's doing, but there's people's tongues all over the world who are still speaking. The wonderful works of God. So how are we doing? How are you doing? How are you doing?

We have such glorious opportunity to speak of Jesus. You're not required to lead a person to the Lord every week. It was the apostle taught us in one of the epistles. I'm closing.

He said, one plants the seed, another waters it, and somebody else gets to do the reaping. Plant seed, God bless you. You don't have to give him a five dollar bill. You don't have to do that, but you could say, God bless you. You'll shake him up. Something special will happen in that person's life.

Do it.

Heavenly Father, thank you for the opportunity to serve you in so many wonderful ways.

Thank you, Lord God, that there are people from this church on a very regular basis.

They go out in the highways and the byways and they speak.

There are those who speak in their place of employment, those who speak in the grocery stores, in the post office, wherever they go.

Lord Jesus helped every one of us to be more expressive.

And may we recognize that our expression could be more powerful and deliver far more when we do it under the unction, the authority and the empowerment of the Holy Spirit.

In Jesus name.