

# The 'Discipleship Check List' Transcript

A GV247.TV Programme presented by Stewart Menelaws

## DCL No7: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This series is for any Christian believer who is either at the very beginning of their journey with Jesus Christ or has been a believer for some years but lacks a sound understanding of the Christian faith. It should also prove to be a helpful aid which interlinks with all our resources for Shepherds, Overseers and Believers reaching out to others.

## The Holy Spirit (Counsellor): (John 16:7)

This can be a very confusing topic for many believers in Christ, with views ranging from a complete dismissal of the spiritual which often leads to a 'works' based belief in God with no outward sign of spirituality, or conversely, the infatuation for every supernatural sign and wonder - often leading to false doctrines and delusional practices.

Having been acquainted with the world of the supernatural before coming to a saving knowledge of The Lord Jesus Christ, my wife and I have witnessed misleading spiritual forces at work within the church itself, brought in through false teaching and impure motives.

These false spiritual practices are warned against throughout the New Testament where we read that we need to guard against a false spirit and false gospel (2 Corinthians 11:4). In 1 Timothy 4:1 the Holy Spirit warns against deceiving spirits that are at work. So, we see the need to make sure that our ongoing journey with Christ Jesus is pure and upright before The Lord. In the book of Acts (Acts 5:1-11) we read about the death of Ananias and Sapphira who lied to the Holy Spirit. Once again – we see the need for purity in all our dealings with The Lord.

In the last programme (DCL-6 Who is Jesus Christ?), we outlined the multi-dimensional or triune nature of God of which The Holy Spirit is one of the 3 persons of the Godhead.

### Question:

1. What or Who is the Holy Spirit? (*A force, a power or a person?*)

We first encounter The Spirit of God hovering over the waters in Genesis 1:2 in the act of Creation; and in the New Testament, The Holy Spirit overshadows the woman Mary so she will give birth to the Saviour (Matthew 1:18).

The Holy Spirit is explained by Jesus Christ to be a person – "He". In the gospel of John, Jesus remarks on a number of occasions that 'He' - The Holy Spirit, also called the Counsellor (John 16:7 - which aligns with Isaiah 9:6) will come and live in you (John 14:16-18) and lead you into all truth (John 16:5-15). This clearly shows an omnipresent ability which God alone possesses. We read in John 3:3 and 1 Peter 1:23 that we need to be born of The Spirit.

In Matt 28:19, before He departs to return to The Father, The Lord Jesus Christ instructs His disciples that they are to go forth and baptise in the-

- **The Name of The Father**
- **The Name of The Son**
- **The Name of The Holy Spirit**

## The Work / Office of the Holy Spirit:

We read that The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus Christ as he was baptised in water (John 1:32) and that The Lord Jesus Christ explained that He had to leave this world so that He could send The Holy Spirit to those who turned to Him (John 16:7).

In Acts chapters 1 and 2, the disciples were to await the baptism of The Holy Spirit that enabled them to speak in foreign languages for the purpose of preaching the gospel of salvation to Jews visiting Jerusalem from other countries for the Feast of Weeks / Pentecost.

Short history lesson. The Jewish people were exiled by the Assyrian and Babylonian Empires centuries earlier, and so these visiting religious Jews now speaking a range of languages would come to Jerusalem for the important Holy Festivals – a perfect time for them to hear the gospel and in their own particular language (Acts 2:8-12). In Acts 2:41 this event saw about 3000 added to the fledgling church.

In the gospel of John we read regarding the work of the Holy Spirit -

- John 16:8-11 to convict and expose guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgement.
- John 15:26 to testify to the humble seeker that Jesus Christ is the promised Saviour
- John 14:26 to counsel, teach and remind the believer of God's Word
- John 16:13-15 to guide the believer into all truth and what is to come
- John 16:33 to bring comfort and peace to the believer in a troubled world

### **In regard to Prayer:**

John 16:7-15 says The Holy Spirit will glorify The Lord Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ instructed His disciples to pray to The Father (Matt 6:9-13) through Christ Jesus (John 16:23).

- Do not pray directly to The Holy Spirit
- Do not pray directly to Jesus (only through The Lord Jesus Christ)

Be obedient to God's instruction, and be faithful and hold fast to His Word. Do not be led astray by hollow words from those who would seek to get you to be unfaithful and therefore disobedient.

### **In regard to obedience:**

As mentioned earlier, the scriptures teach that there are other spirits at work and we are instructed to test every spirit (1 John 4:1).

- Obedience and faithfulness to instruction in God's Word trumps any and every so-called supernatural experience that sets itself above God's instruction.
- Self-deception comes when departing from God's instruction. Testings will come.

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit:**

#### **What is it?**

The Holy Spirit comes upon a human being. In Acts 2:1-4 we read that there was a violent wind and what appeared visually to be tongues of fire resting on each disciple - while in Acts 10:46 there appears to be no sound or fire but an outward sign manifested itself in the believers praising God in different languages.

#### **How does it happen?**

We read about the Apostle Peter who was directed by God to go and preach to a gentile (non-Jewish) household. At the preaching of the Word they received The Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44-48).

**Note:** The gentile believers in God, yet to hear about the Saviour Jesus Christ - were already God fearing, devout, generous and prayed regularly to God (Acts 10:1-2). The Lord noticed and sent Peter to explain the gospel and The Holy Spirit came upon them.

We also see that The Holy Spirit is imparted by the laying on of hands from those who are Spirit filled (Acts 8:15-17). The people were already baptised into the name of Christ but it required Peter and John to lay hands on them to receive The Holy Spirit.

### **Can we see any formatted procedure?**

No... As the Word was preached, The Holy Spirit came down on the gentile believers who had possibly not been water baptised (Acts 10:44-45) but came upon believers who **had** been water baptised, with the laying on of hands (Acts 8:15-17)

If there is any condition: the individual who shows humility, contrition and fear of God and His Word (Isaiah 66:2) has the favour of The Lord. The apostle Peter explained that The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God (Acts 5:32)

### **What is the purpose of Spirit Baptism?**

The Spirit is given as a mark, a seal – a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance (2 Corinthians 1:22 & Ephesians 1:13-14). To teach us Spiritual truths (1 Corinthians 2:12-16). It is the power from God to be a witness and ambassador for Christ (Acts 1:8).

### **What are the signs that it has happened?**

A passion for God and His Word, to experience boldness and confidence (Acts 4:31), a heart that magnifies God (Acts 10:46). Tongues and prophetic utterances can be a sign (Acts 19:6) although the Apostle Paul writes that not all speak in tongues (1 Cor 12:30)

### **What is the outward fruit of The Holy Spirit?**

Love, peace, joy, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control (Gal 5:22-23).

### **What are the gifts of The Holy Spirit?**

It is God who determines gifts (1 Cor 12:11 – Hebrews 2:4) but the believer is to desire gifting to serve the body (1 Cor 14:1)

### **To Conclude:**

When it comes to living a life for Christ, we are told that we require help and The Holy Spirit is the one who comes to fulfil that role by living within us. Jesus Christ taught that we must remain in Him and He will remain in us for no branch can bear fruit by itself, it must remain in the Vine, neither can we bear fruit unless we remain in Him (John 15:4)

May the Grace of The Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Corinthians 13:14)

### **Next week (DCL No8) we look at:**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands.

The 'Discipleship Check List' series has been produced with the sole aim of encouraging the hearer / reader to study the Holy Bible so that faith in Jesus Christ will be built on Him alone. Every human work is fallible and whilst every effort has been made to represent the truths of God Almighty's Holy Words, this series is but an aid to help encourage study so that the Christian disciple of Jesus Christ will go onto maturity in the most Holy faith.

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