



## THE FIRE OF GOD TO HEAL AND EMPOWER

By Bill Subritzky

John the Baptist said, “I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

“His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”  
(Matthew 3:11-12.)

This speaks of two vital truths; being baptised in the Holy Spirit and being baptised with fire. It also speaks of burning out the sin in our lives and the cleansing power and fire of the Holy Spirit.

**Many of us understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit. When we are born-again the Holy Spirit comes to live within us, to guide us and to help us. The Bible describes Him as the Helper, the Comforter and the Strengtheners.**

When the ten disciples met Jesus after His resurrection (the other two disciples weren't there because Judas was dead and doubting Thomas was not present.) Jesus breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” (John 20:22.) So they were born-again and received the Holy Spirit.

After that Jesus was seen by over 500 disciples for 40 days and spoke of the things relating to the kingdom of God.

He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem until they received the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me.” (Acts 1:4.)

“For John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” (Acts 1:5.)

**“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”  
(Acts 1:8.)**

Clearly ten of His disciples had already been born-again, and received the Holy Spirit but there was something further for them to receive, which is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many Christians stop at the point of being born-again, thereby entering the kingdom of God. However, through ignorance or misunderstanding or wrong doctrine or whatever else, they do not move on to receiving the power of the Holy Spirit. This is an essential aspect of our walk with the Lord.

Praise God that the 120 disciples obeyed Jesus and waited in Jerusalem for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

We read in Acts 2 the result of them waiting in Jerusalem before they went out and spoke about the Lord:

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

**Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4.)

This was the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

Not only did they speak in tongues, thereby speaking in the spirit with the help of the Holy Spirit, but also tongues of fire were on their head.

What does this signify? This is the baptism of fire spoken about by John the Baptist.

**As we submit to God and receive His Holy Spirit fully into our lives not only is there a cleansing of sin but also an empowering of fire into our lives.**

After they had received this experience then the disciples went out and preached Jesus as Messiah and the kingdom of God, calling people into repentance. They had the power and fire of the Holy Spirit.

We all need the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives. It is a gift of God and we can receive it as we submit absolutely to Him.

**It changes our lives. It has an immediate impact on our power to testify about Jesus and to act in the power of the Holy Spirit as we pray for the sick, cast out demons and do the works of God.**

In my own experience, 42 years ago as I was born-again, baptised in the Holy Spirit and turned from darkness to light, from the power of Satan to the power of God. I felt an immediate impact of the presence and power of God come into my life.

A fire came into my soul which has never left me. It was the fire of the Holy Spirit. I felt a burning out of sin in my life, things that I had previously desired to do, lusts that were affecting my whole life were burnt out and I never felt the same desires ever again.

As I have prayed for many people over the years, many times I have seen the fire of God fall upon the sick. They have fallen to the floor, crying out about the fire that was engulfing them. This is gone on for anything up to 10 minutes and then suddenly they have jumped to their feet shouting they have been healed.

We neglect the fire of God. But it is an important part of our walk with God.

**How do we receive it? Simply by believing the Word of God and acting upon it. The keyword with God is “repentance”.**

I know in my case I was under such oppression and wrong thinking prior to being born-again. I was so impressed when I saw the healing power of God operating in a meeting that I knew that this was what I wanted.

As I turned to Jesus, it was a 180° turn. Not 70° not 50°, but 180°. It was a turn, from darkness to light. I wanted all I could get. I repented from every sin I could think of and as further sins came to my mind, I continued to repent. The power of God grew within me and the fire of God came into my soul.

In every waking moment since, 42 years ago, I have felt the empowering of the Holy Spirit and the fire of God. The things of the world have not really interested me. The only thing that has interested me is to tell others about my wonderful experience of knowing Jesus which has continued for 42 years. I know that He dwells within me and is at my right hand at all times.

Everything else has fallen away. As I have read His Word, He has taught me to trust Him at all times and as I have sought to obey His Word He has changed me from the inside out. The fire of the Holy Spirit is always burning within me. I know that when I begin to pray for a person I don't have to wait 5 or 10 minutes or an hour for the presence of God to fall upon them. That presence is instantaneous and God is beginning a work of healing as I pray.

I'm not boasting of what I can do. Simply that as I became like a little child and believed the Word of God completely, I began to know His love, His presence and His power at all times.

**This is within the grasp of all of us who are called by God into salvation. It simply means that to receive it we must absolutely surrender to God completely at all times. We must read His Word every day as food for our spirit and soul, enabling us to act upon His Word. Then we will find His presence with us and His power working in a mighty way.**

Compiled by Bill Subritzky and produced by Dove Ministries  
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