**The Holy Ghost is For All**

**By Rev. Mark Baughman**

An old-time preacher from Florida had a flat tire while on his way to a debate with a Church of Christ minister. He got a little sweaty and dirty and his clothes were somewhat wrinkled and dusty when he arrived. As the debate began, the other minister made fun of his appearance. He quickly responded, "My dad always taught me that when you do a dirty job you need to put on old clothes and I'm getting ready to skin a skunk."

Now, I didn't come here to clean a skunk. I've come here to preach from God's Word and that will save you!

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Joel declared the word from the Lord saying, "I will pour out my spirit on all flesh." When he said all flesh he didn't leave out any color. He didn't leave out any tongue or nation. He included everyone when he said all flesh. Various nationalities of people were filled with the Holy Ghost in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. The occasion was the Day of Pentecost and this chapter records the outpouring of the Spirit and the beginning of the New Testament church. This is where it all began. This was the first order of business in the New Testament church! In the initial business meeting the Holy Ghost came upon them individually. Cloven tongues as of fire sat upon each of them and they began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance.

In Acts 2:17, this prophecy of Joel was quoted, "I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy."

There are those today who believe that only the twelve apostles received the Holy Ghost like this. But God promised to pour out his spirit on ALL flesh, not just the twelve. Some strange ideas are devised when people ignore the Scriptures concerning the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the New Testament church, and the deity of Jesus Christ and his fullness. Many reject the events of the book of Acts as relevant to our day and they refuse to preach the message that Peter preached.

It is my intention to preach the message right as it is written. We are going to preach and believe the message just like we have received it. This message is a promise for all flesh!

A personal experience of the promises of Scripture is the greatest evidence that the Bible is true. God has given me what the Bible said I could have.

Ezekiel 36:26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And 1 will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

In Revelation 22:14 John said, "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." We have a wonderful promise.

If this salvation had a cost attached to it I could not have obtained it. But he gave it to me when I responded in obedience to his word. It came without cost.

Jeremiah 31:31 Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:

32 Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD:

33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Through the prophet Jeremiah God said that he would make a different covenant with Israel and Judah. They broke the original covenant and they were judged in the exile. But God said he would make a new covenant with them. He said he would put this new covenant within them. It is a living covenant and is less likely to be broken because it is a covenant of the heart. He will not just write the laws on the wall or on a stone like the Ten Commandments, but he will make another covenant written in the heart.

When you receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost it is not a matter of "Thou shalt not." You can go out and drink all the booze you want to and steal all the chicken coops you wish. But, when God fills you with his Spirit it takes the desire away from you. You don't want to curse anymore; you don't want to covet. You have something inside that takes the place of, "Thou shalt not!"

God planned to have a people with whom he can have a special relationship. He said, "I will be their God, and they shall be my people." In the hearts of this people he will write his law. This is the people that he gave one heart and one spirit.

You can become a part of the people of God through a born again experience. It is a brand new life. You don't join this group just by signing a card. You don't become a part of this church just because you feel sorry for your sins. You don't become a member because you shed tears. You get into it by birth. You are born into it.

Psalm 87:5 And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her.

6 The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this

man was born there. Selah.

7 As well the singers as the players on instruments shall be there:

all my springs are in thee.

The Psalmist said the Lord would count those who were born in Zion. It was noted that the worshippers were there. He wants you to worship with all you've got. I have only seen one ten-stringed instrument... your hands! Use them for worship! Worship is there in that city. The man or woman that is born there will know how to worship.

The Lord will take account of who is there. It is not so much your name and your natural lineage but rather your identity with him. Are you a Son of God? He may not recall or write down who you are but he will take notice of those who are born-again. He will remember each one who has received the Holy Ghost.

God will allow you to use the talents that you have been given. He will use you. If you have more ability, you may have been given five talents. He will let you use them. If I only have one talent, I want to add to that one. I don't want to dig a hole in the ground and bury it. That's bad digging!

To the one who failed to use his talent God said, “Depart from me." God rejected the man that took his single talent and buried it.

God wants you to be born brand new. There are many benefits as you grow in this new life with him. He will load you down with benefits. He will make a specialist out of you in the New Testament church. He will fill you with the Spirit, Holy Ghost power, and equip you for the calling he places in your heart.

Revelation 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

If a man will respond when the Spirit says, "Come" God will welcome him. God is no respecter of persons. You may not feel worthy to even be called of God to sit on the church pews. You may feel out of place and that nobody cares. Let me remind you that Jesus Christ cares and he welcomes you. He is saying, "Whosoever will, let him come." It doesn't matter where you come from, what your family is like, or who you are; He said come and take the water of life freely.

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

There was a river of the spirit flowing wherever Jesus was. He was talking to the lepers who came by and Jesus cleansed them all. Only one returned to thank him for it. You may be the one who will return to him and be made whole.

This river flowed out to the man who was laid by the pool of Siloam and was unable to get to the water when it was troubled. Jesus came by and healed him. You can come and find healing in his presence.

The river flowed under the tree where Zacchaeus was waiting to see Jesus come by. Jesus invited him down from his perch and said I'm going to come to your house today. Even the despised tax collector was welcome to drink of his water. He is no respecter of persons.

The waters flowed to a woman who was unclean, living with a tarnished reputation. She came and knelt before Jesus and washed his feet with the tears that flowed from her eyes and wiped his feet dry with the hair of her head. He said, "You can come to."

It didn't matter what walk of life they traveled or what sin tarnished their past, they were welcome to come to him and live!

There will come a river of living water. Don't stifle the flow of worship. Let the river flow. Let it clean out the trash of your life. While someone else is worshiping it may flow through your life and clean out the barriers to the blessing of the Spirit!

In Arkansas close to where we live there is a spring that flows year around. We have never seen it stop. It may be four feet wide in places and perhaps a foot deep. It flows with fresh clear water the year around. It furnishes water for farms and chicken houses; it furnishes water for a lake and for a creek that flows out of the lake. They don't try to stop it. If they built a dam to hold it they would have to add to it everyday to keep it from flowing over the top. You can't stop it! It just keeps flowing every day!

God wants us to have that continual flow of living water everyday. He wanted running water that will pour out of our lives and out of our church and flow down the streets of our communities. He wants the flow of your influence to reach down the street to someone else who needs the river of blessing.

I remember preaching on the street in Bristol, Oklahoma. No one was with me at the time so I strapped on my old guitar and began to sing by myself. A large crowd gathered and I began to preach on the oneness of God, the plan of salvation, and about receiving the Holy Ghost speaking with tongues. The river of the Spirit began to flow down the street.

One lady stepped up and said, "Would you pray for me? I'm sick."

I said, "Sure." I laid my hands on her and prayed,

"Jesus heal her." She went down the street shouting the victory.

Another backslider came up and asked for prayer. I told him to kneel down on the street right among the tobacco spit and prayed for him. He went on his way rejoicing.

Another preacher came up and said, "Would you come and preach in my church?" I said, "I'd be delighted to!" This water flowed down the street and stirred the town.

When you preach Jesus it will bring results! The Holy Ghost will bring a flow of the Spirit in your life if you will let it!

Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

The Holy Ghost is for you! The Holy Ghost is for your children. There need not be a question as to whether the Holy Ghost is for you. It is for all who are "afar off!"

When your children are sick you do whatever is necessary to take care of them. You may even keep them home from church when they aren't feeling well. Taking care of your children is good and right. However, if it's so important to see that they are clothed and cared for, why not see to it that they are saved! Some children don't know anything about being saved because they never hear anything about it at home. You need to teach it to your children!

Be assured that the promise of the Holy Ghost is for you and your children. It is for your neighbors. It's for the missionaries to preach among the heathen. It is for everybody!

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

Acts 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

When we preached the word the Holy Ghost will be given. It's for whosoever will!

Hebrews 13:8 Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.

Jesus is the same. He did yesterday what he will do today. He will do today what he will do tomorrow. The Day of Pentecost was in our yesterdays. Mary, the mother of Jesus, received the Holy Ghost. Yesterday, he healed the withered hand. Yesterday, he opened the blind eyes and unstopped the deaf ear! He caused the lame to walk. Can he do it today?

On the Day of Pentecost there were about 120 that received the Holy Ghost. When it was noised abroad there were about 3,000 that responded and were filled with the Spirit. Can he do that today?

Can we feel that God will do today what he has done in the past? I believe that he can and he will. Just believe it.

Tomorrow, he will do it again. There is a Kingdom Age coming. God will use the Kingdom Age to further his purpose in the world. He will do it again!

Malachi 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

The Lord said, "I don't change!" If he was to change then the sons of Jacob have had it. He is a consuming fire. He would destroy them without mercy. But, the Lord does not change.

There are some things we may not understand but one thing we may be sure of, the Word of God is always the same. Stand on the immutability of the Word.

John 14:17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Some people think that they cannot receive the Spirit. I want to show you why you can. This verse says the world cannot receive because they don't know him and they don't receive him.

2 Corinthians 6:16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath

said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate,

saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,

The world doesn't get it. The sinner doesn't get it. No sinner can receive it until they are ready to leave their sins.

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

What agreement has a temple with idols? What is the reason why some people feel that they cannot receive the Spirit? Some say I don't know why I can't receive the Holy Ghost. I believe you do know the reason if you will look at yourself and be honest with yourself.

One reason that people don't receive the Holy Ghost is because you must forsake the world to receive him. "The world receiveth not the Spirit of God." You've got to come out of the world. If you have abused and defiled your temple with the world, the Spirit will not dwell in it. Your body is a temple of the Holy Ghost.

We would clean out our altars if folks would get rid of sin and get rid of things of the world. You don't receive the Holy Ghost just because you merely want it. You don't get it because you have made a surface repentance. You don't get the Holy Ghost just because you have been baptized in Jesus' Name! You received the Holy Ghost because you have surrendered your body, your life, you mind completely to God!

I was just a sinner and had begun attending the brush arbor meeting during the summer nights in Oklahoma depression days. Every day I was working in the prairies baling hay. Because of the conviction of sin I was feeling I started crying so much that I couldn't see what I was doing. I was so hungry to receive the Holy Ghost. I had been seeking God in the revival services. I was dirty and I didn't know any better.

One day we had to quit baling because of a light rain. We had other work to do so I took the team and wagon to the cotton field and began to cultivate the rows of cotton behind the horse drawn cultivator. I begin to cry and pray going down the cotton rows. We were going to church every night and working everyday and I was seeking the Holy Ghost. I was doing everything I knew to do at that time. Finally, I fell down between the plow handles in the middle of the cotton row prayed, "God I don't know anything about this, but I've got to have the Holy Ghost!"

After a bit I got up and finished the row, which about a quarter of a mile long, and I let the team loose on some grass by the fence while I crawled under the shade of the wagon and begin to seek the Holy Ghost!

Isaiah 59:12 For our transgressions are multiplied before thee, and our sins testify against us: for our transgressions are with us; and as for our iniquities, we know them;

We know our iniquities! You know more about what prevents you from receiving the Holy Ghost than anyone else does. You know why you can't pray and the reason you are not broken in his presence. You are the one that needs to get stirred and lay it all on the altar.

In my own pursuit of God I had been seeking the Holy Ghost night after night when one night a backslidden man came to the altar and prayed. As he prayed he reached in his pocket and pulled out a package of cigarettes and placed it on the altar. He even pulled out a package of chewing gum and put it on the altar.

When I saw that man cleaning out his pockets I begin to search my heart and asked, "Is that what I've got to do?" I didn't have any cigarettes or chewing gum, but I did have a plug of Horseshoe Chewing Tobacco in my pocket, and I really liked it. That was my comforter all day long. I even took a chew before breakfast! I chewed it all day (except for meals). What a comforter when you are driving a team, to be able to chew and spit!

Suddenly, I knew what why I had been unable to receive the Holy Ghost. I had been praying about a year without victory. When God began to convict me of my habit, that plug of tobacco became a large as a wagon box. I couldn't get over it, under it, or around it. It blocked my path to God. It was a brand new plug of tobacco. I had just bought it that night before church. When I left the altar that night and started home I bit the corner off of it.

When I got home I stood out in the yard across the field from the hog pasture near the woods. There was a cotton patch across the road in the other direction. I walked down the road toward the hog pasture. I carried my tobacco in a leather pouch to keep it dry from sweat.

As I reached the right location on the dark road that night I pulled the tobacco out of the leather pouch. I reared back and threw that new plug of tobacco as far as I could in the cotton patch. I turned the other way toward the hog pasture and threw the leather sack that direction.

In the next night or two I received the Holy Ghost! I whipped that addiction not only by getting rid of the tobacco but also by letting it go in my mind. You may ask if it ever bothered me... It like to have killed me! I completely died to that old habit and God gave me victory.

I'm convinced that you will know the things that are bothering you and keeping you from receiving the Spirit. You can surrender it to the Lord, if you will. It is up to you. Whosoever will let him come!

Isaiah 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he

make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.

10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:

11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

12 To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

If you want rest, this is it. If you want refreshing, this is where you will find it.

When you come to the knowledge of this truth and if you are unwilling to make this consecration, you will join something else. You may even join another church. You don't have to give up cigarettes just to join a church. There are plenty of choices out there. But, if you want to be saved, you have to give them up.

You can join a church and continue to be a whoremonger. But, you have to give it up if you come into this salvation. You can't get what I'm talking about and continue to give in to the works of the flesh. Completely surrender yourself to God. You can do it!

The book of Acts, chapter 2 gives you the pattern and plan of how to receive the Holy Ghost. Peter stood and preached on the Day of Pentecost. Many in the multitude were convicted in their hearts and asked, "What must we do?"

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Peter fulfilled all the commissions of the Lord in that one passage. He fulfilled Matthew 28:19 by baptizing in the "name of Jesus Christ." He fulfilled Matthew 26:28, "for remission of sins," because the shedding of his blood was for remission of sins in the name of Jesus. Nowhere else could it be applied, only in his plan in the name of Jesus Christ. Baptism in Jesus' name is for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. They all received it speaking in other tongues.

In Acts the eighth chapter the Samaritans received the Holy Ghost when Peter and John prayed for them. They spoke in tongues.

Acts 10:44, the Gentiles received the Holy Ghost, spoke in tongues and magnified God. In Acts 19:6, Paul laid his hand on the followers of Apollos, there were about twelve men, and they received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues and prophesied. God will do it again!

I Corinthians 14: 21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

22 Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

The tongues are for a sign to the unbeliever. On the Day of Pentecost there were several different nationalities gathered in Jerusalem that heard the Galileans speak many of their languages. They knew they would not be versed in so many languages and yet they heard them plainly speak of the wonderful works of God.

Tongues are for a sign. They are the evidence of God's power and they accompany his presence in a life. Tongues are available in the body of Christ today. Tongues accompany the Spirit of God. It becomes prophecy through interpretation to the church and tongues and prophecy are given to edify the church.

Even if tongues are not interpreted you can speak to yourself and to God and be edified. Paul said, "Forbid not to speak in tongues, but rather to prophesy." Tongues that are interpreted become prophecy to the church.

We need the New Birth experience. You need to be reborn and filled with God's Spirit. Some say that they are saved without the Spirit infilling but let me remind you that without the Spirit of Christ you are none of his.

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

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