

Immersed By God

THE PATTERN

Exodus 40

34 Then the cloud [God's visible presence] covered the Tent of Meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle!
35 And Moses was not able to enter the Tent of Meeting because the cloud remained upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle.

1 Kings 8

10 When the priests had come out of the Holy Place, the cloud filled the Lord's house,
11 So the priests could not stand to minister because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord had filled the Lord's house.

Matthew 3

11 I indeed baptise you in (with) water because of your repentance. But He Who is coming after me is mightier than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy or fit to take off or carry; He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Acts 2

2 When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting.

...

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].

- Three different dwelling places of Almighty God. Each one with its own baptism (immersion) of God! Each one filled with His presence and His Glory! Each one with a clear manifestation of God's delight to dwell among his people. God's deepest desire and glory is that He can dwell among His people! Hallelujah, What a Saviour! What a Gospel!
- Moses could not enter in, the priests could not carry out their service, but in Acts 2 God's Glory filled His people! For Moses and the priests there was evident separation from the Glory of God, they could see it but they could not enter in, but under the New Covenant God fills His people!!
- When God fills His House the flesh is unable to continue. God Himself is come in Glory that eclipses all else! What need is there of man to do anything but commune, worship and rejoice in the will of The Lord?! It is nothing less than God's glory that fills and expresses through the dwelling!

Acts 10

42 And He charged us to preach to the people and to bear solemn testimony that He is the God-appointed and God-ordained Judge of the living and the dead.
43 To Him all the prophets bear witness that everyone who believes in Him [who adheres to, trusts in, and relies on Him] receives forgiveness of sins through His name.
44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the message.

Acts 11

16 Then I recalled the declaration of the Lord, how He said, John indeed baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with (be placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit.
17 If then God gave to them the same Gift [equally] as He gave to us when we believed in (adhered to, trusted in, and relied on) the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I and what power or authority had I to interfere or hinder or forbid or withstand God?

- Another significant account of a people immersed by God!
- Understand this that "Israel" are a circumcised people, a mixed multitude of various peoples and nations, much more than just the blood-seed of Abraham. They are a people separated from the world unto God by a circumcision of the flesh and obedience to The Law. However, now Peter is seeing the gift of The Holy Spirit given to those who are not circumcised of flesh, who are not under The Law! Peter is seeing firsthand the work of the cross and the reach of The New Covenant. God has come and filled His church, there is no more need for a temple, for sacrifice for the veil of partition. God has done away with The Law of flesh and is moving, unrestricted, upon His people that are circumcised of heart. This is what was accomplished at Calvary! It is not that gentiles could finally become Israel and come to house of The Lord but that The Lord had come to those who were not under The Law, circumcised of flesh, but who were gentiles under The Law but Israel in heart, sons and daughters of Abraham by faith!
- This faith and circumcision of heart was nothing new. This was The Lord's pattern and desire all along but now the sacrifice for sin had been made. The ransom for sin had been paid! God's people have been redeemed. Now there is simply no need for a physical temple! In fact, it will only be a blasphemy and rebellion against The Lord Jesus when they do finally rebuild that temple. It will not be a holy or hallowed building! It may fulfil prophecy, but it is in no way a blessed building. Peter was seeing the reality of the victory at Calvary and his flesh could not interfere.

Three Houses. Three baptisms/immersions of God. None of these experiences were continuous though. They were symbolic of God's acceptance and delight to dwell in the place prepared! But life and service did go on after these precious moments.

THE PURPOSE

John 16

13 But when He, the Spirit of Truth comes, He will guide you into all Truth. For He will not speak His own message [on His own authority]; but He will tell whatever He hears [from the Father; He will give the message that has been given to Him], and He will announce and declare to you the things that are to come [that will happen in the future].
14 He will honour and glorify Me, because He will take of (receive, draw upon) what is Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.
15 Everything that the Father has is Mine. That is what I meant when I said that He [the Spirit] will take the things that are Mine and will reveal (declare, disclose, transmit) it to you.

- Note well that when Peter spoke at Cornelius' house he was not teaching on the baptism of The Holy Spirit! The Holy Spirit would never allow it! Rather, by the power and leading of The Holy Spirit, he was preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ! In The Holy Spirit, there is no other message!

- The focus, desire, purpose and message of The Holy Spirit is Jesus! JESUS ONLY AND ALWAYS!! It is all through the scriptures!! JESUS!! JESUS ONLY AND ALWAYS!! HE IS THE WAY, THE TRUTH and THE LIFE!! HE IS ALL AND IN ALL!!

- Let me show two other examples:

Acts 4

31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage....

33 And with great strength and ability and power the apostles delivered their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace (loving-kindness and favour and goodwill) rested richly upon them all.

Acts 19

4 And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, continually telling the people that they should believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus [having a conviction full of joyful trust that He is Christ, the Messiah].

5 On hearing this they were baptized [immersed in water] in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke in [foreign, unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesied.

- The apostles did not teach any doctrine of "tarrying until you be endued", no warning that "God won't fill an unclean vessel". None of that blasphemous, damaging, false teaching of Satan! That kind of unbiblical teaching is so damaging to the children of God and so misleading! It's awful and wicked and needs to be called out for what it is! The Devil comes to condemn and accuse; to steal, kill and destroy! He comes to steal our Joy in Jesus, Kill Jesus testimony of love and life in our lives and destroy the Glory of God by destroying His people. There is NOTHING you can do to earn The Holy Spirit! There is nothing that you can accomplish in the flesh that will please The Lord. It is The Lord who sanctifies! It is The Lord who cleanses and prepares His dwelling place!

Exodus 29

43 There I will meet with the Israelites, and the Tent of Meeting shall be sanctified by My glory [God's visible presence].

44 And I will sanctify the Tent of Meeting and the altar; I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons to minister to Me in the priest's office.

45 And I will dwell among the Israelites and be their God.

46 And they shall know [from personal experience] that I am the Lord their God, Who brought them forth out of the land of Egypt that I might dwell among them; I am the Lord their God.

- It is by faith that we seek and ask, and in faith we receive. It is our faith in the completed work of The Lord Jesus Christ that qualifies us for the immersion of The Holy Spirit for TODAY! (Not for tomorrow!) All focus and attention is on The Risen Saviour, Jesus Christ, and His Sovereign, completed work!

- Just as with the Tabernacle and with the Temple man brought the building BUT GOD BROUGHT THE GLORY!! Man prepared and presented the furnishings BUT GOD SANCTIFIED!! Under The Old Covenant man brought shadows and types of Christ, under the new covenant we bring to The Lord ourselves. We bring our temples to The Lord and present them to Him in submission, humility, confession and faith!

- We are not encouraged anywhere in scripture to seek to have the experience of the upper room. There is no teaching in the bible on how to attain an experiential baptism of The Holy Spirit. There is no formula to follow or standard to attain. Peter was preaching on Christ, the gathered believers in Jerusalem were praying, Paul simply prayed for the believers in Ephesus, and they received!

- As The Lord saw fit, He gave and so they were gifted. The experience of Acts 2 is never mentioned again with longing. They never looked back at the physical experience of the upper room wishing they could have that again, but they walked with a forward focus and taught us obedience, joy and boldness to walk in The Holy Spirit and to be FILLED with HIM!

The purpose and message of The Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ! In all His teaching, in all His giving, in all He does He will lift up high the name of Jesus. His focus will be on Jesus Christ, His word, His life, His coming again. He will rejoice in Jesus, lift Him up and praise Him above all else!! There is no lack in The Holy Spirit! There is no Holy frustration or Holy lack!! There is no death or depression or sorrow in The Holy Spirit!! If you find that you have those then you desperately need to repent, confess your sin, surrender all that you are doing and confess your lack, your flesh work, your own understanding and humble yourself before The Lord in full surrender! Hallelujah for Godly sorrow that leads us to repentance and restored communion with Jesus! One prayer time of confession and repentance and we can one again rejoice in communion and fellowship with THE LIVING GOD! THE LIVING CHRIST!! HE IS ALIVE!!! IS HE ALIVE IN YOU???

THE PROOF

Ephesians 3

19 to know [practically, through experience for yourselves] the love of Christ, which far surpasses mere knowledge; that you may be filled [through all your being] unto all the fullness of God [may have the richest measure of the divine Presence, and become a body wholly filled and flooded with God Himself]!

Ephesians 5

18 ... ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit.

19 Speak out to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, offering praise with voices [and instruments] and making melody with all your heart to the Lord,

20 At all times and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

- In Acts Luke tells how they were filled but Paul commands, over and over, that we keep on being filled; To continue moment by moment in a state of being completely filled with God! To continue in FAITH! This is not an emotionally charged state. It is no mere feeling or sense! It is faith that receives, and it is faith that walks! Faith that seeks, faith that obeys, and faith that, through obedience and submission, gives way to "the greatest of these" ... love of God in experiential knowledge! Love for God is born of and matured in faith.

- Whatever your doctrine or teaching on the immersion of the Holy Spirit, one thing is irrefutably certain... The Life of Christ in a Born-Again believer is constantly yearning to be filled and refilled by His Holy Spirit. If we perceive no hunger or thirst for more of God's power and evidence in our lives, then there is something vitally wrong!

- When God fills His House there is a manifestation! There is clear evidence that the house is filled with The Glory of God! Just on that note... There is no teaching in scripture that the singular evidence of this is the gift of other tongues, the gift of prophecy was also present but is usually

overlooked. There are several other gifts and signs, tongues being the least of all, but there will be no doubt about The Glory of God filling and sanctifying His Temple! And let me make this abundantly clear!! The most tangible manifestation of God in a believer's life, so much more than the evidence of any gift, is the heart and character of Jesus Christ! A heart of humility will be evident, a patient grace and long suffering with people, a teachable and listening heart... The Holy Spirit is CHRIST'S Spirit and will characterise JESUS!! NEVER BE DISTRACTED BY GIFTS FROM THE HEART AND PRESENCE OF GOD! Oh Lord, forgive your people for looking for gifts rather than looking at the giver!!

- When the Holy Spirit truly inhabits a person there will be no more dependence on senses. There will be no more defeat. There will be no more pride or envy. There will be no more division or frustration! There will be no more longing for feelings... There will be CHRIST, ALL IN ALL!
- And if we find that we feel empty, if we find that we hunger for more of Him, if we find that we feel a thirst and a dryness, we do so rejoicing in all that He has given us! By faith we come confessing, crying, asking and believing that we are praying in His will! Hallelujah! There is no formula given for the filling or immersion of The Holy Spirit. There is only a principal and a promise that God will fill the hungry soul and give water to the thirsty! If we are thirsty, PRAISE THE LORD, we can drink from the waters of life! If we hunger, PRAISE THE LORD we shall be filled!! OH HALLELUJAH! There is never a reason to ever stop praising The Lord!!

It is a shame and a travesty to claim to be filled with God and walk without the evidence of His Character. In doing so we live a lie and damage His testimony and take His name in vain. It is wickedness to claim to be filled in The Spirit and not have the manifestation of a heart of Christ; His conversation; His patience and His patient, gentle, gracious wisdom!

It is also dangerous to focus our teaching on dramatic signs and gifts. This has caused so much bondage, defeat and stumbling amongst God's children. More than any sign, this world needs to see Jesus and the power of The Gospel to transform lives from deathly flesh to be born of HIS Living Spirit! The Holy Spirit empowers us to be witness unto Jesus Christ with power and authority. The greatest witness this world can see is Jesus living in His people!!

THE PRINCIPLE

Exodus 35

5 Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing and generous heart, let him bring the Lord's offering: gold, silver, and bronze;

...

21 And they came, each one whose heart stirred him up and whose spirit made him willing, and brought the Lord's offering to be used for the [new] Tent of Meeting, for all its service, and the holy garments.

22 They came, both men and women, all who were willinghearted, and brought brooches, earrings or nose rings, signet rings, and armlets or necklaces, all jewels of gold, everyone bringing an offering of gold to the Lord.

...

26 And all the women who had ability and whose hearts stirred them up in wisdom spun the goats' hair

...

29 The Israelites brought a freewill offering to the Lord, all men and women whose hearts made them willing and moved them to bring anything for any of the work which the Lord had commanded by Moses to be done.

- In Exodus 35 God sets the principle that His dwelling place be built by those who give freely. Not just Abraham's seed, but "Israel", that mixed multitude. Not those only circumcised of flesh but those who walk by faith, circumcised of heart!! Those whose heart was stirred to give willingly. Nothing but the willing offerings were used to build and prepare the house of The Lord!

- Throughout scripture our God is so clear about His desire for our willing hearts. He does not desire forced obedience and grudging service. He is not pleased with our extravagance; He abhors our fleshly efforts. His desire is for man to willingly yield and accept HIS love and to willingly use it to enjoy Him and love Him in serving Him.

- So, if we desire for God to fill His dwelling place again, we must bring all of our self, freely and willingly to The Lord. Present your body to be His Temple. Surrender your body and its furnishings of gifts to The Lord for His habitation and Glory! Sanctify yourself by separating from all that you know to be unclean and dedicate yourself to The Lord, His service and His presence.

Romans 12

1 I appeal to you therefore, brethren, and beg of you in view of [all] the mercies of God, to make a decisive dedication of your bodies [presenting all your members and faculties] as a living sacrifice, holy (devoted, consecrated) and well pleasing to God, which is your reasonable (rational, intelligent) service and spiritual worship.

2 Do not be conformed to this world (this age), [fashioned after and adapted to its external, superficial customs], but be transformed (changed) by the [entire] renewal of your mind [by its new ideals and its new attitude], so that you may prove [for yourselves] what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God, even the thing which is good and acceptable and perfect [in His sight for you].

- But we MUST do this in FAITH! Believing that this is according to HIS will! Believing that He will be pleased to come and dwell. Believing that He will come and abide, THE I AM, The Creator God, The One who is above all things!! He will come and abide in us!! It is HIS greatest desire and more than that, it is HIS greatest glory!! He has given you that desire?! He WILL fulfil it!!

- Oh, Let us have faith to believe what The Holy Spirit has been teaching us! Let us have faith to present ourselves wholly for His presence and service and believe that He will delight in our willingness to give and our willing sacrifice! Hallelujah!

The principle set to be immersed in God is simply a presentation of the dwelling place. The Lord has set in order a process of repentance, obedience and faith. In those is the preparation of the temple and its furnishings. Then let us in faith present our bodies a living sacrifice, a living temple for The Lord to come and fill. Let us be careful to pray in faith, nothing wavering, knowing that we are praying according to God's will and that He WILL fill HIS HOUSE!

Mark 8

33 But turning around [with His back to Peter] and seeing His disciples, He rebuked Peter, saying, "Get behind Me, Satan; for your mind is not set on God's will or His values and purposes, but on what pleases man."

- What is your mind set on? The work of your flesh or the immersion of His Spirit? Is your mind focused on the dramatic signs and wonders or the giver of the gifts? Is your mind focused on the fleshly experience or the reality of faith?