

## PENTECOST

– A TIME TO REFLECT ON THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT<sup>1</sup>

By Rev. Marie Miller

**The infilling of the Holy Spirit produces freshness and enables a greater flow of life and liberty in enacting the multiplicity of gifts from the Holy Spirit.** In order to receive this infilling, those who come to faith and are ready to move forward in this faith must desire a greater manifestation of God's presence in their lives. That person must desire the baptism of God's Holy Spirit.

**For example, fresh water is refreshing and reviving and has a purifying force. It has the power to renew itself and does not become stagnant.** Fresh water is always flowing out of something and into something. Its purifying force comes from its flow. Any other water is considered stagnant and impure. Likewise, a spiritual flow only comes by the infilling of the Holy Spirit—flowing from the Trinity into us, so we can refresh others.

**There are many believers whose spiritual lives replicate the illustration of a desert riverbed!** Some have been living off old, stagnant experiences of God's presence and don't know how to create a constant flow. Others receive a dramatic inflow of the Spirit but have not prepared their hearts to contain it.



---

<sup>1</sup> This content is adapted from a Holy Spirit (REIGNITE) teaching written by Marie Miller. Consequently, some areas are covered in this extract whereas other areas are further explored in the other chapters of her material.

## **THE EFFECTS OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE**

### **The Water of the Spirit**

Christ likens the flow of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life to water.

*“Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’” (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)” John 7:38-39 (NLT)*

The infilling of the Holy Spirit produces freshness and enables a greater flow of life and liberty in enacting the multiplicity of gifts within the Holy Spirit.

### **The Spirit-Filled Life Eradicates Dryness**

The gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is subsequent to, and separates from, salvation, water baptism and even the process of sanctification.

This empowerment enables God's people to thrive in the fullness of living a Spirit-filled life, in their daily process of serving God.

## **DRY, BARREN LIVES CAUSE DESTRUCTION**

Without the empowering force of God's Holy Spirit renewing lives daily and causing humanity to overflow, there is a propensity to cultivate personal and corporate destruction. When people become as dry, empty and barren as the riverbeds mentioned above, they leave a path of destruction behind them.

Gradually, such a person becomes destructive not only to themselves but to others because the proper functioning of their life is not being accomplished. **It's only through continuous flow that others are refreshed!**

## **HOLY SPIRIT FLOW IS CONTINUOUS**

**What is termed as “the infilling” is the continuous flow of God's power and God's presence in the life of a believer.**

### **Flow Causes Life to Grow**

When believers desire to be baptised in God's Holy Spirit, they desire to overflow with His presence, which means they open up the channels of their hearts as riverbeds for God to flow through. This openness causes a restored and revived

life, which then becomes nourishment to all who encounter this renewed life. One great example of the effects of a restored life can be seen in the story of the woman at the well in John 4, who was restored from spiritual death to life and from sin to service in the Kingdom of God.

### **The Holy Spirit's infilling leaves us with a new mannerism as He:**

**Renews:** Resurrects from a life of sin leading to death to a re-energized, everlasting life.

**Refreshes:** Revitalizes from a life of serving Satan and self to a keen desire to serve God and be of service to others.

**Revives:** Transforms from a life of negativity to a life with positive attributes. These attributes contribute to the growth of the fruit of the Spirit.

### **Sustains Flow**

Receiving the Holy Spirit enables the believer to remain fresh in their lifestyle and relationship with Christ. This freshness does not come because of the hard, laborious works of men, but because the Spirit Himself works along with each person to enable them to enrich their lives on a godly pathway.

In the same manner that God sends rain on the barren lands of Turkana, God desires to send the rain of His presence upon the barren lives of His children. However, the container, or recipient, has to be prepared to hold that which He sends in a wholesome manner. His gifts should cause a transformation of self and others.

### **Enriches Lives**

The Holy Spirit comes to give life. Receiving the Holy Spirit does not hinder the life of an individual. He does the reverse by enriching that life to a **new fullness** with new experiences. He takes what was difficult before and makes it joyful. He takes what seems unnatural and makes it natural and easy to accomplish.

When the Holy Spirit flows in a believer's life, He enriches that life into greater productivity and a greater service to all of humanity.

*“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. And you shall be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere — in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria and to the ends of the earth” Acts 1:8 (NLT).*

What the Great Commission (Mark 16:15-18) requires of every believer cannot be accomplished in its fullness without the power of the Holy Spirit. **The baptism of the Holy Spirit, and in particular, the distinctive gift of tongues, gives confidence to the believer to operate in the anointing which God imparts upon His people at the time of salvation.** God equips humans with the gifts of His Holy Spirit in order to accomplish His will on earth, and He endues them with the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues to grant assurance that He is with each person uniquely, personally and effectively.

### **Empowerment for Kingdom Service**

- Believers should expect to be endued with power to serve God more faithfully (Acts 1:8).
- The blessings of Spirit baptism upon the believer’s life was promised by prophets (Acts 2:14-35).
- A by-product of Spirit baptism is the testimony of salvation, which is then extended to others by the believer (Acts 2:36-41) .

### **THE ESSENCE OF SPIRITUAL GIFTS**

**Spiritual gifts** are those contributions given by the Spirit of God for the accomplishment of God’s purpose in the world. It is for the growth of God’s children, for the edification of the Church, the body of Christ, and a witness to the unsaved world of God’s greatness.

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, is to be received (John 20:22, Acts 1:8, Acts 8:17, Acts 19:2).
- When the Spirit comes upon a person, He is the empowering agent. However, the recipients of the Spirit’s gifts are in full control and are responsible for the usage of the gifts (1 Cor. 14:32 NIV).

## **THERE ARE BLESSINGS IN YEILDEDNESS WHEN WE:**

- Embrace the atmosphere
- Sense His presence
- Engage in His dialogue
- Heed His instructions
- Grow in faith
- Rejoice in community
- Accept His empowerment

## **YIELDEDNESS LEADS TO RECEPTIVITY**

***“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (Acts 19:2)***

Since the time of the upper room experience in Jerusalem (Acts 2), God, the Holy Spirit, has been equipping and empowering believers openly, down to this very generation.

There have been many decades (for example, the Dark Ages) when He has been ignored or suppressed, but the Holy Spirit’s presence cannot be eradicated. He is here on earth! As He indwells the hearts of all those who believe and then awaits the invitation to not only inhabit but to continually infill the lives of those who truly believe in Him, His power is then fully demonstrated. The Holy Spirit will continue to do His work in the lives of believers until Jesus returns as predicted in the many prophetic passages of Isaiah, Matthew, Revelation and in Acts 1:6-7.

Inviting the Holy Spirit to become active in our lives when we believe is not only a mandate from the book of Acts, but is also a requirement of every believer who desires to fulfil the Great Commission (Matt 28:18-20). Nevertheless, this mandate or requirement, which requires firm faith and absolute trust, is still a choice! God has never regulated any believer to become a robot. His Spirit grants both life and freedom, therefore He requires a personal choosing on how the believer lives out their life and liberty.

The encouragement today is for every believer. Have faith in the work, wonders and words of the Lord Jesus Christ. What He did was for everyone who chooses to believe. What He demonstrated was for everyone to know the superior powers of God and then to live with such empowerment upon their own lives. What He promised in Acts 1:8 must be fulfilled. For God’s promises are *yea and amen!*

There are many reasons why people have chosen to stay away from the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Their reluctance may stem from fear, skepticism, trauma by past abusive behaviors from people zealous for the Holy Spirit without knowledge, anti-Holy Spirit militants, and many others. However, regardless of people's attitudes, the promise, purpose and power of God's Holy Spirit remains the same!

His Holy Spirit came to indwell humanity and to continually empower us in accomplishing the tasks of winning the world for Jesus. It shall be done!

**Adapted from REIGNITE Teaching Guide**

**By Rev. Marie A. Miller**