

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Archives Transcript**Dr. Ron Kydd****Broadway Tabernacle, Vancouver,****Holy Spirit Seminar, Part 2:****How does one receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?****17 Oct. 1982, PM Service**

Amen. I'm not sure who arranged the special music for today but it's been like old home week, with the Browns ministering in special music this morning and then having Paul sing now. I've guess we've known Paul for about a decade and a half from Saskatoon. It was great, Paul, to receive your ministry.

I want to express my gratitude most sincerely to Pastor Hornby, the Staff and Board of Broadway, and to you folks, for the warmth, hospitality and generosity with which you have received my wife and myself during these few days. It's really been a pleasure to be with you. I'm very grateful to the Lord for the opportunity.

Would you bow with me in prayer, please?

Father, how we thank you for the privilege once again of being able to gather together like this and devote some time to lifting our hearts in worship to you and being able to gather around your word and wait for you to speak to us from it. And Lord I would pray that your spirit really would grip our hearts tonight, that your spirit would give a sense of what is really available through his work in our lives Father, so that we might become more and more like the people you want us to be. Lord, I would pray that the words of my mouth and the meditations of our hearts might be acceptable in your sight O Lord, for you are our Rock and our Redeemer. In Jesus' name. Amen.

In May, 1981, Ryan, sixteen, had a row with his parents. They kicked him out of their home in Etobicoke, Ontario. Two weeks later, Ryan contrite and repentant, returned home. A note was posted on the door. We have moved to Alberta. Have a nice life. As I look at Canadian society and as I attempt to find the pulse of what is happening

around us, I have the distinct impression that the world in which we are living is staggering a bit. In fact I would go just a step farther than that. It seems to me that in the time in which we are living some very fundamental characteristics of life as we know it are being challenged perhaps in ways they have never been challenged before. To illustrate my point, let me just remind you of some of the things that are happening within the home. This particular clipping came out of an article from *The Ottawa Citizen* on November 8, 1981. It talked about a new phenomenon in Canadian society. It wasn't talking about children running away from home. That's old news. Kids have been doing that a long time. This article was talking about homes that were running away from children. It was talking about parents, particularly of adolescents, who were simply saying to kids who were a little bit difficult to handle, get out of our lives. We don't want you. The author of this particular article made the point very clearly that this was not an isolated case but in fact there were case after case after case after case, young people, fellows and girls, who were finding the people they should have been able to trust, depend upon, receive guidance from and people whom they should have been able to look to in the first place for help and assistance were in fact deserting them.

We're living in a society that is racked with the problem of divorce. Again, last year my daughter Emily came home after playing at some friend's place. I was sitting reading in the living room and she got up on my knee and we had a little chat. Then she was quiet for a moment. Then she said, "Daddy, are you going to divorce mommy?" I thought good grief. What a question? I said, "No, I'm not going to divorce mommy." She said, "Oh." The mommies and daddies of none of my friends live together. I thought what is this child saying? Obviously her perception was wrong because the parents of some of her friends were in fact living together. But as she looked at her classmates in school what she observed was that there were a great many of those kids; six years of age, whose parents had indeed split. That is becoming a common situation in the world in which we are living. The home is under pressure.

The church is under pressure. I look at this congregation tonight and I see radiant life. I rejoiced with you in the singing of the choir and the playing of the band and worshipping

the Lord in hymns and joyful songs. It has been marvellous. But do you know that across Canada today there is a turning away from organized religion that is absolutely unprecedented in the history of our country. There have been several surveys done since 1975 which have attempted to measure the amount of commitment that people have to organized Christian religion, to organized religion period, Christian or not. They are coming up with amazing statistics. These studies are showing that between fifty and sixty percent of Canadians have no allegiance whatsoever to an organized religious group. They may subscribe to some religious ideas like the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments but fifty to sixty percent of Canadians are for all practical purposes irreligious. When I look at these sorts of things, when I look at what is happening in the home and I look at what is happening in the church I get the impression that our society is under siege. I get the impression that something pretty profound is happening. I have the feeling that our society is turning a corner but I'm not at all sure which direction our society is going. And certainly society has no idea.

I almost get the feeling that society is like a waterfront with a tidal wave rushing toward it. As the wave comes in smaller waves are already starting to beat against it. Society's foundations are starting to tremble. And when I look at that I find myself saying, "Lord, you've got to help us in the church to stand. You've got to help us to find whatever it is we need to withstand the pressures of society." But as I think about that I sometimes see the church as a surfer 'shooting the tube'. I'm no surfer. I'm not even a swimmer. But I saw a film on surfing last winter. That's the closest to surfing I've ever gotten. This film showed pictures of these fellows 'shooting the tube'. It was one of the scariest things I had ever seen. These guys were off Australia and the coast of California and as the great waves came in and rolled over, these fellows would ride their surfboard underneath the top of the wave that was rolling. The idea was to get through the tube before the water crashed down on them. Lots of guys didn't make it. The film said that some people died.

Well I sometimes think that we, born again Bible believing conservative evangelical Christians – whatever you want to call us – are like that fellow riding his surfboard through the tube. There's this wall of water waiting to crash down upon us. I find

myself asking the question: How are we going to stand when it really hits us? From where are we going to get the power to withstand this terrific force that is slamming against us?

Well, as I raise that question I discover to my absolute delight that God had anticipated the problem. I like people who anticipate the problem. I fix bicycles, you know, at home. I'm not mechanic but I've had to learn because it costs money to take your bike to a bike shop. I was taking the pedals off one day and as I do my work I have my little book *How to Fix Your Bike*. It's open on the bench beside me and I'm reading the instructions. There is one point where the author says to take the pedal – I think it's the left one – and when you put it on you've got to turn it counter clockwise because that's the way the threads of the screws are on the left side. I think it's the left. I tried and it didn't work. And then I looked at the book again to see if I was right. In parentheses the author said, "Counter clockwise is the other way stupid!" (Laughter) I thought boy if I knew this guy was cheeky I never would have bought his book!

But God has anticipated the problems that the church finds itself faced with today. God understood that we would need power. You can look at Luke, chapter 24, verse 49 and you find Jesus saying to his disciples before they leave on mission. "Go back to Jerusalem. Behold I will send the promise of my Father upon you. Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." I look at Acts, chapter 1, verse 8, and I hear Jesus saying: "You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses." God anticipated the struggles that the church would go through. God realized there would be times of difficulty, times of dark night and profound travail. God knew that. And God never intended that you and I as Christians should try to withstand the alien forces that strike us in our own strength. But rather God has made available to us an incredible resource of power. That power is the Holy Spirit and his power becomes available to us as we learn to open our lives to him.

To put it very shortly that power can become available to us as we are baptized in the spirit and walk in the fullness of the spirit.

Sometimes I wonder about myself. Maybe I'm a social climber. I don't know. But as I have looked through the history of the Pentecostal Church I have found us emphasizing

this baptism in the Holy Spirit and this business of speaking in tongues. And the message I have gotten from the church at large has been that's just a little bit strange. Your emphasis on the baptism in the spirit and your emphasis on speaking in tongues is just a little odd. I think in the face of that I have tended to be just, what shall we say, a little more discreet about what I have said with reference to the experience. But I have now come to the conclusion if there ever has been a time in the history of the church when believers need to be baptized in the spirit and walk in the power of the spirit it is now.

So I want to consider a question with you. How does one receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit? What do you do in order to experience the Holy Spirit in this new dimension which comes as you open yourself to him? I would like to suggest three answers.

First of all, it is extremely important that you be open and yielded to whatever God would have for you. As I think about the Christian life and read the scriptures to try to determine how that life is described, I discover that the very essence of Christian living is yieldedness. I would invite you to look at Luke, chapter 14, for just a moment. Luke 14:26-27. There we read: *If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.*

When Jesus talks about a person bearing his own cross as he does in verse 27, what he is talking about is the individual's recognizing that his life must be lost in the life of Christ. He's talking about the person's abandoning herself absolutely to Jesus Christ. I look at Romans 12:1. Paul says, "... *brethren, give your bodies as living sacrifices to Jesus Christ.*" The very heart of Christian living is yieldedness. And if we wish to experience a baptism in power through the Holy Spirit we will have to learn how to yield ourselves without question.

Back in the spring you may remember that the Argentinians invaded the Falkland Islands and that gave us all lots of things to think about for several weeks. We would rush home and turn on the radio and find out what the latest rumour was from down south. I was particularly amused, I suppose, when I heard about the Gurkhas.

Remember them? That detachment of Nepalese soldiers from Nepal. They were in the Commonwealth and they were stationed in Britain and they were going off to the Falkland Islands to join the rest of the British troops. They were known for their absolute devotion to their commanders, their devotion to service, and their fearlessness in combat. I was reading a newspaper article about them. On one occasion they are supposed to have been taken up in planes for parachute practice to teach them how to jump in behind the enemy lines. The plane took off and up they went and the Gurkhas had been told they were going to be jumping out of the plane. One of them spoke to a commanding officer and said, "Sir, could the planes fly a little lower please?" The fellow said, "Well, no, if they fly low then the parachutes that you're wearing won't open and you'll get hurt." There was a moment's pause and the Gurkha said, "Oh, there are parachutes!" (Laughter)

I can't vouch for the correctness and the accuracy of that story. But what it was intended to get across was that a Gurkha was prepared to obey unreservedly. If the doors of the plane opened a thousand feet up and the commanding officer said to jump he would go out and hope for the best. I'm not suggesting anything nearly that foolish.

But what I am suggesting is that if we wish to experience the fullness of the power of the spirit we are going to have to be yielded to him. We're going to have to be open to whatever he gives us. And let me say we should be open to the experiences of speaking on tongues. Once again I think that sometimes we want to apologize for that. You see, Pentecostals are often characterized as those back-woods-church-of-God-people-from-Tennessee. You don't know about them, maybe. Well, they handle snakes. I've actually been in situations where people have discovered that I'm Pentecostal and raised an eyebrow and then later in the conversation said: "Do Pentecostals really handle rattle snakes?" Well, there are some Pentecostals who do and there are pictures of these fellas twirled around their necks and in their hands. What they are doing, of course, is claiming the promise at the end of the gospel of Mark, which says if you are filled with the spirit and if a serpent bites you, you won't die, you will rise above it. They are claiming that promise. Pentecostals are kind of, you know...

That's what they are. Funny things go on in Pentecostal circles. And I think I have tended to be at times a little uncomfortable with the fact that we speak in tongues.

It came as a shock to me about two months ago when I picked up a book by a German Catholic theologian who is a charismatic. He got talking about speaking in tongues. He described the experience of speaking in tongues the way I had never heard it described before. As he described it he made my understanding of the whole experience much more profound. He talked about speaking in tongues as a time when the individual who speaks opens herself completely to God to the extent that it is no longer she, a creature, praying up to God somewhere in heaven, somewhere far removed. But rather it is now a case that the God from up in heaven indwells her and prays out through her. He described the experience of speaking in tongues as an experience in which our privacy, our insistence upon our own rights is just eliminated and we open ourselves to God. We lay aside our privacy. We lay aside our rights and we just say, "God, I will do anything at all including making stupid sounds if that is what pleases you." We're called to be open to the Lord. And if we're going to experience the kind of power that can come through the flow of the spirit we're going to experience it as we open ourselves in unreserved yieldedness to what God the Holy Spirit wishes to do in our lives.

Secondly, we must seek God. The Christian life isn't a passive thing. I think of Isaiah 65:1. God speaking in this passage. Isaiah 65:1. We read, God speaking, *I was ready to be sought by those who did not ask for me. I was ready to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here am I, here am I" to a nation that did not call upon my name.* Here we have a picture of Jehovah God speaking through the prophet to his people. And what he says is I longed to have you seek me. I longed to have you call upon me and you didn't do it.

We look over in the book of James, in the epistle of James, and we find another comment made about the individual's approach to God, chapter 4:8. *Draw near to God and he will draw near to you.* There are times when I think we have become altogether too cold blooded about our spiritual experience. We enjoy the relationship we have with God through Jesus Christ. But insofar as we have that, why sweat it? Insofar as we

are the children of God, why get concerned about putting any further effort into finding out who God is?

I remember reading an account of the early days of Pentecost at Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California. The author was Frank Bartleman, one of the people who was involved in the revival right at the beginning in 1906. He talked about the way that he and his contemporaries approached God. They didn't come to God for two or three minutes at the breakfast table and that was it. They didn't come to God for fifteen minutes after the Sunday evening service and that was it. They devoted themselves to waiting on God. They learned what it was to seek the face of God. Bartleman talks about spending periods of up to twenty-four hours on his face in prayer, looking to see the face of God. He was a person, as many others at the time were, who sought God, who looked at their lives and said the most important thing that I can do at this particular point is seek God.

Back at the turn of the Century in eastern Canada in the Ottawa Valley a revival took place in the latter part of the last Century and the first part of this one, under Ralph Horner. He was a holiness preacher. He was a powerful man, a man of prayer, a man of passion in his pursuit of God. It is said that once he invited people to come to the front of the church to pray. He was standing in the pulpit. People began to pray. It went on for a little while. Then he said, "Stop." Silence reigned. He said, "Look, you people aren't half praying. Now get down and seek God." What Horner was pointing toward was the fact that if God was going to be found and known and experienced intimately, it was going to happen as people sought his face.

I fully recognize that God isn't dead and you don't have to shout at the top of your voice for God to hear you. But I also recognize that when God reaches his hand out and touches a heart, he wants the whole of that heart. He wants us to love him with passion. He wants us to seek his face. And if we're talking about a baptism in the Holy Spirit which will give us power to serve him and be what he wants us to be in this world, we're talking about seeking his face. We're talking about waiting on him so that we can learn to open ourselves and let him move in. And you know, that's what the baptism in the Holy Spirit is all about. That's what walking in the spirit is all about. We have to

learn how to give ourselves over to God with our attention riveted upon him so that he can reach into our lives and do within those lives precisely what it is that needs to be done. We have to see that God is looking for people who will seek him.

So we are faced with a situation, folks, that needs some strength. We're faced with a situation that needs power. How do we get it? I'm suggesting that we can get it through being baptized in the Holy Spirit. That can happen in our lives as we open ourselves to God and as we seek God.

But let me suggest a third step if I may. I think as we approach God and ask him to baptize us in the Holy Spirit and to let us experience the fullness of the spirit's flow we had just better forget all about any emotional expectations that we have. As I talk to people who want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit I hear them saying to me, well, what's it going to be like? I remember when Brother Smith got baptized in the spirit in our church. He jumped up from the place where he was praying and he shouted to the Lord, I've received, and he began to speak in tongues at the top of his voice and he ran around the church a few times. He was absolutely animated and turned on in every possible way. Is that what it is going to be like for me? You see I have this feeling that we look upon this experience as something again that comes out of a pressure cooker. I think we put spiritual experiences in the pressure cooker. If we're not blasting off then there's something deficient with what is happening to us. If we give utterances in tongues or prophecies, if we're not doing it at the top of our voices, it's not God speaking.

Not so. As we wait on God we must lay aside those kind of expectations. My wife was baptized in the Holy Spirit when she was twelve in the quietness of her bedroom. I had a remarkable experience when I was baptized in the spirit. I was sixteen. I had been saved for about a month. I was waiting on the Lord in a prayer meeting. I remember sitting on a bench by myself with my hands raised worshipping the Lord. I was having a great time. All of a sudden I couldn't understand what I was saying. I thought O boy, that is strange. But it feels okay and I just kept doing it for a while. And then I stopped and carried on praying and waited on the Lord for a while and I walked out and said to the pastor, "I was just up there praying and I don't know, I got saying things I didn't

understand. Does that mean anything?" He said, "Yes, you have baptized in the spirit." I said, "Great. What's that?" For me I had no understanding of what it was about or what would happen. For me it just happened very gently and very easily and it just took place.

You see when we come asking God to reach into our lives we must recognize that experiences of people vary wildly. I am told that if you stick your finger in a light socket you will respond in different ways. Some people will pull their finger out and scream and shout and holler and others will just stand there and quiver a bit. (Laughter) It may be true. But I am certain that when the Holy Spirit moves in our lives and touches us we will respond in any number of ways. The emotional highs or lows or whatever goes on are really irrelevant and we must learn to forget about those kinds of things.

I want to suggest folks that we are living at a period in history when we need the power of the spirit more desperately than we have ever needed that power before. I look at my own life. I see the inroads of secularism and indifference in my life. I see the need, the spiritual needs of my neighbours, and I say God, I need your power and your vision to function properly in the world in which you have placed me. We are facing an onslaught of secularism and of indifference towards the things of God that is earth shaking, and if we are going to withstand we need to be experiencing the power of God. And in his graciousness God has made that readily available to us through the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And I would just urge yourself to open yourself to God. I would urge you to seek his face, but I would also urge you to lay aside whatever presuppositions you may have about the experience and just come to God and say, "God, I need from you the power that you have promised." Amen. God bless you.

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