

NEW HOPE CHURCH OF GOD

ALTAR WORKERS TRAINING

LESSON 2 Part B: Inserts ... Brief Expansion of Terms Used in Part A

As I reviewed Part A for class presentation I felt compelled by the Holy Spirit to put some emphasis on the "Top Three Spiritual Qualifications for Altar Workers," as was noted in Part A (Lesson 2 Part A). We will continue discussing these subjects as we progress in our lesson in order that we can spend some time on getting more acquainted with each of these very important experiences.

A. YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN.

1. We are all acquainted with the reference as used in John 3:3. "**Born again**". As used in the quoted reference (John 3:3) it carries the meaning of:
 - (a) "To regenerate"
 - (b) "Bear"
 - (c) "Beget"
 - (d) "Be born."
 - (e) "Bring forth"
 - (f) "Conceive"
 - (g) "Be delivered of"
2. In **John 3:1-8**, Jesus discussed a foundational doctrine of Christian faith: **spiritual birth, or regeneration**. Without the new birth one cannot see the kingdom of God, and receive eternal life and salvation through Jesus Christ. The following are important facts concerning the new birth.
 - (a) **Regeneration is** a recreating of spiritual life in the human heart (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4: 23-24) by the Holy Spirit (John 3:6; Tit. 3:5). Through this process eternal life from God Himself is imparted to the believer's heart (John 3:16; 2 Peter 1:4; 1 John 5:11), and he or she becomes a child of God (John 1:12; Rom. 8:16-17; Gal. 3:26) and a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Col. 3:9-10). He or she no longer conforms to this world (Rom. 12:1-2) but is now: the new man, "**which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness**" (Eph. 4:24b).
 - (b) **Regeneration is necessary** because all people, prior to turning to Christ, are in their inherent natures sinners who are spiritually dead, and who are incapable of obeying and pleasing God (Psa. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 5:12; 8:7-8; 1 Cor. 2:14; Eph. 2:3).
 - (c) **Regeneration comes to those** who repent of sin, turn to God (Matt. 3:2), and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Rom. 10:9-13).
 - (d) **Regeneration involves** a transition from an old life of sin to a new life of loving obedience to Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; Eph. 4:23-24; Col. 3:10). Those who are truly born again are set free from sin's bondage (John 8:36; Rom. 6:14-23) and receive a spiritual desire and deposition to love God and follow the leading of the Spirit (Rom. 8:1-

- 17, **NB Vv.12-14**). They live righteous lives (1 John 4:7), avoid a life of sin (1 John 3:9; 5:18) and do not love the world (1 John 2:15-16).
- (e) **Those born of God cannot make sin a habitual practice in their lives (1 John 3:9)**. As a believer, one's desires are changed so as to love God sincerely and endeavor from the heart to please God and to avoid evil (1 John 1:5-7). This is accomplished only through the grace given to believer by Christ (1 John 2:3-11, 17, 24-29; 3:6-24; 4:7-8; 5:1), through a dependence on the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:2-14).
- (f) **Those who continue living in immorality and giving themselves to the world's lifestyle, no matter what they profess with their lips, demonstrate that they are still unregenerate children of Satan (1 John 3:6-10)**.
- (g) Just as one can be born of the Spirit by receiving the life of God, he or she can choose to break relationship with Christ and thereby die spiritually because of ungodly choices and unrighteous living. Scripture affirms, **"For if you live according to the flesh you shall die . . ."** (Rom. 8:13a NKJV). Thus sin and refusal to follow the Holy Spirit extinguish the life of God in the believer's soul and cause spiritual death and exclusion from God's kingdom (Matt. 12:31-32; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21; Heb. 6:4-6; 1 John 5:16).
- (h) The new birth cannot be equated with the physical birth, for God's relationship with the believer is a matter of spirit rather than flesh (John 3:6). **Therefore, while the physical tie of a father and child can never be annulled, the father and child relationship that God desires with us is voluntary and not indissoluble during our probationary time on earth (Rom. 8:13)**. That relationship remains conditional based on our faith in Christ throughout our earthly existence, a faith demonstrated by lives of sincere love and obedience (Rom. 8:12-14; 2 Tim. 2:12).

B. YOU MUST BE SANCTIFIED

1. As we have noted in Lesson 2 Part A: **"Holiness is a state of being."**
2. Sanctification **"is not based on what we do or what we do not do, but it is "what we are and what we are determines what we do!"**
3. In simple terms, before we put the emphasis on "doing" it ought to be on "BEING"!!
4. Absolutely! We are what we are by the grace of God and this applies to a holy life.
5. The point of emphasis we are placing is seen for example in Matt. 7:17-20
 - (a) Matthew 7 is a part of what is referred to as **"The Constitution of the Church"** ... taking in consideration Matthew chapters 5-7.
 - (b) Beloved, we cannot bring forth good fruits unless **we are cleansed**. The result of **not** being cleansed by God will produce awful fruits and as we have seen, unfortunately, in so many lives.
 - (c) Observe what Christ said here in Matt. 5:17-20. Note carefully verse 16: **"You will know them by their fruits, . . ."** Vv. 16a, 20 ...NKJV).
 - (d) Not only are they (false teachers/preachers ... teaching Christ) are they: **"ravenous wolves"** (v. 15); but observe carefully the results of **who they really are** (let us remember the emphasis above **"on being"**) . . . who they are will be seen in their fruits: unwholesome characteristics will be evident in their lives and their followers.

- (1) They will be professing Christians whose loyalty is more to personalities than the Word of God (Matt 7:21). They worship the creature more than the Creator (Rom. 1:25).
 - (2) They will be more concerned with their own desires that wilt God's glory and honor. Their doctrine will be self-centered rather than God-centered (Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Tim. 4:3-4)
 - (3) They will accept human teachings and traditions even when those teachings contradict the Word of God (Matt. 7:24-27; 2 Tim. 3:1-4; 1 John 4:6).
 - (4) They will seek and respond to religious experiences and supernatural manifestations as their final authority in validating truth (Matt. 7:22-23), rather than grounding themselves in the whole counsel of God's Word.
 - (5) They will not endure sound doctrine but will seek teachers who offer salvation with the "***broad road***" of righteousness (Matt. 7:13-14, 23).
- (e) What a difference when we are cleansed and set apart and as we continue to yield ourselves completely to the Holy Ghost!! We definitely will through Him working in us see fruits of righteousness (John 15:1-8; etc.). **Absolutely!! A sanctified life fully yielded to the Holy Ghost will enable us to fulfill the purpose of God for our lives both as Altar Workers and believers, TO HIS HONOR AND HIS GLORY!!**
6. I will add another brief pointer which have been noted in other lessons and which I have repeated quiet frequently. PLEASE NOTE:
Three changes occur when one is sanctified:
- (a) He is separated from the world unto God!
 - (b) There is the purging from the pollution of sin!
 - (c) There is the crucifying of the carnal nature!
- C. YOU MUST BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST** (See Acts 1:1-8; etc.)
1. **Acts 1:4b: ". . . wait or the promise of the Father."**
 - (a) The gift the Father promised (Joel 2:28; Matt. 3:11) is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). The fulfillment of that promise is described as being "***filled with the Holy Ghost***" (acts 2:4). Thus, "***baptized with the Holy Spirit***" and "***Filled with the Holy Ghost***" are at times used interchangeably in the Book of Acts.
 - (b) The baptism in the Holy Spirit should not be identified with receiving the Holy Spirit at regeneration. These are two are two distinct works of the Spirit, often separated by a period of time) a detailed presentation would be needed for more clarification nut what has been stated here is sufficient to clarify the difference.
A Brief Reminder
When we are saved... It is through the Holy Spirit; He is there to witness our adoption to the family of God (John 16:8-11; Rom. 8:12-17, NB Vv. 14-16; 1 Cor. 12:3b; etc.).

The Baptism in the Holy Ghost is an enabling for effective service and holy living (Acts 1:8; 4:33; 19:11-12; 1 Cor. 2:4; 1 Thess. 1:5; etc.). **Also noted below.**

2. **Acts 1:5 “. . . with the Holy Ghost . . . :**

The preposition **“with”** is the translation of the Greek word **“en”** and is often translated as **“in”** (also translated **“on”** or **“at”**). Many prefer the rendition of **“with the Holy Ghost”** to be read as **“You will be baptized in the Holy Ghost.”** Likewise, **“Baptized with water”** may be translated **“baptized in water.”**

3. **Acts 1:8 “. . . you shall receive power . . .”**

This is the key verse in the Book of Acts. **The primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Ghost (Spirit) is the receiving of power to witness for Jesus Christ so that souls will be won over to Him and taught to obey all that Christ commanded.** The end result is that Christ may be known, loved, praised and made Lord of God’s chosen people (Matt. 28:18-20; Luke 24:49; John 5:23; 15:26-27).

(a) **“Power”** . . . Greek **“dunamis”** . . . means **more than strength or ability:** it designates especially power in operation, in action

(1) Luke as noted here in Acts emphasizes that the Holy Spirit’s power included the authority to drive out evil spirits, and the anointing to heal the sick as two essential signs accompanying the proclamation of the kingdom of God (Example: Luke 4:4, 18, 36; 5:17; 6:19; 9:1-2; Acts 6:8; 8:4-8, 12-13; 10:3; 19:8-12).

(2) The release of the power of the Holy Spirit in Acts in and through the believers’ lives caused them to witness **“with boldness”** (Acts 4:29), **“with great power”** (Acts 4:33), with **“many signs and wonders and miracles”** (Acts 2:43; 5:12-16; 8:6-8; 14:3; 19:11-12), and **great results** (Acts 4:4; 6:7; 8:8; 9:33-35; 11:21, 24; 14:21; 16:5; 19: 20,21).

(b) Luke here does not relate the baptism in the Spirit to personal salvation and regeneration, but to the power within the believer to witness with great effect.

(c) The Holy Spirit’s principal work in witnessing and proclamation concerns His testimony to Christ resurrection (Acts 2:14-42).

4. **Acts 1:8 “. . . you shall be witnesses . . .”**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit not only imparts power to preach Jesus as Lord and Savior, but also increases the effectiveness of that witness because of strengthening and deepening relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit that comes with being filled with the Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26-27).

(a) The Holy Spirit discloses and makes more real to us the personal presence of Jesus (John 14:16-18). **Any witness to an intimate fellowship with Jesus Christ Himself will result in an ever growing desire on our part to love, honor and please our Savior.**

(b) The Holy Spirit witnesses to **“righteousness”** and **“truth,”** which glorify Christ (John 16:8, 10, 13-14). Not only with words but also in deeds. Thus, we who have

received the witness of the Spirit to Christ's redemptive work will necessarily manifest Christlikeness, love, truth and righteousness in our lives (1 Cor. 13).

- (c) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the initiation point whereby Spirit filled believers receive the enabling power of the Spirit to witness for Christ (often with subsequent power manifestations such as signs, wonders and miracles) and to be carriers of His life, hope and forgiveness of our sins to the lost so they can be saved (Acts 2:37-41; 16:25-34).
- (d) The baptism in the Holy Spirit (Ghost) can be given to those whose hearts are turned towards God in repentance from their wicked ways (Acts 2:38; 3:26). It is maintained by the same sincere commitment to Christ (Acts 5:32).
- (e) **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a baptism into the Spirit who is holy (Rom. 1:4). Thus if the Spirit is truly at work in us in all His fullness, we will live greater conformity to Christ's holiness!**

In the light of these Scriptural truths, we who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit will have an intense desire to please Christ in whatever way we can; that is the fullness of the Spirit complements (that is complete, fill up) the saving and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. **Those who claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives yet live contrary to the Spirit of holiness, are deceived and untruthful. Those who display spiritual gifts, miracles, spectacular signs or inspiring oratory, yet lack faith, love and righteousness, are operating not by the Holy Spirit but an unholy spirit not from God (Matt. 24:24; 2 Cor. 11:13-15).**

Eph. 6:7 NKJV

“. . . with goodwill doing service as to the Lord and not to men, . . .”

LESSON 2 Part B: Review Questions

1. What are some terms used to define ***“Born Again”*** as used in John 3:3? (four examples OK).

2. (a) What foundational doctrine of the Christian faith is discussed in John 3:1-8? (b) Why is it regarded as being so very important?

3. In regards to **“regeneration”** . . . briefly complete each of the following:

(a) Regeneration is _____

(b) Regeneration is necessary because _____

(c) Regeneration comes to those who _____

(d) Regeneration involves a _____

4. Briefly explain: **“Those born of God cannot make sin a habitual practice in their lives” (1 John 3:9).**

5. Explain the following: *“The new birth cannot be equated with the physical birth.”*

6. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer:
“We need to place emphasis on **being** more than **“doing.”**”

7. In comparison to external professors of Christianity, what difference is clearly seen in anyone who is cleansed and set apart and lives under the direction of the Holy Spirit?

8. Complete the following: *(This is actually the closing sentence for question 7).*
“Absolutely! A (a) _____ life fully (b) _____ to the Holy Ghost (Spirit) will (c) _____ us to (d) _____ the (e) _____ of God for our (f) _____ both as Altar Workers and believers, to His honor and glory!”

9. What three changes occur in anyone when they are sanctified?

10. (a) What is “... **the promise of the Father**” (Acts 1:4b). (b) How is the fulfillment of that promise described (give reference)?

11. (a) Answer True or False. (b) Explain your answer.
“The baptism in the Holy Spirit” is the same as when we were “born again” (regeneration) . . . they are not different.”

12. Explain why we say “baptize in the Holy Spirit”. Why use “in”?

13. (a) Which is regarded as the key verse in the Book of Acts. (b) Write it out.

14. What is the **primary purpose** of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

15. Explain the usage of **“power”** as used in Acts 1:8.

16. **“You shall be witnesses”** (Acts 1:8). Explain some of the essential facts within this phrase.

17. Complete the following:

“The (a) _____ in the Holy Spirit is a (b) _____ into the (c) _____ who is (d) _____ (Rom. 1:4). Thus is the Spirit is (e) _____ at (f) _____ in us all His (g) _____, we will (h) _____ greater (i) _____ to Christ’s (j) _____.”

18. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“Those who claim the fullness of the Holy Spirit in our lives yet live contrary to the Spirit of holiness, _____.”

- (a) are overcome by doubts.
- (b) not sure of themselves.
- (c) are deceived and untruthful.
- (d) intentionally meant to serve.

19. Complete the following:

“Those who (a) _____ spiritual (b) _____ (c) _____, spectacular signs or (d) _____ (e) _____, yet lack faith, love

and (f) _____ are (g) _____ not by the Holy Spirit but an (h) _____ spirit (l) _____ from God (Matt. 24:24; etc.)”

20. Match the statements on the left with their correct reference on the right:

| STATEMENTS | CORRECT REFERENCE | JUMBLED REFERENCES |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|
| “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” | | Acts 2:4 |
| “Wait for the promise of the Father” | | Acts. 1:8 |
| “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.” | | John 3:3 |
| You shall be witnesses unto Me” | | 1 Thess.4:3 |
| “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost . . . speak with other tongues” | | Acts 1:4 |

LESSON 2 Part B: Answers for Review Questions

1. **Answer:**
Some terms used to define “Born Again” are: (a) “To regenerate” (b) “Bear” (c) “Beget” (d) “Be Born” (e) etc. See Page 1

2. **Answer:**
(a) In **John 3:1-8**, Jesus discussed a foundational doctrine of the Christian faith: **Spiritual birth, or regeneration.**
(b) It is fundamentally important because without the new birth one cannot see the kingdom of God, and receive eternal life and salvation through Jesus Christ. Page 1

3. **Answer:**
(a) **Regeneration is** a recreating of spiritual life in the human heart (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23-24) by the Holy Spirit (John 3:6; Titus 3:5).
Etc.
(b) **Regeneration is necessary** because all people, prior to turning to Christ, are in their inherent natures sinners who are spiritually dead, and who are incapable of obeying and pleasing God (Psa. 51:5; Jer. 17:9; Rom. 5:12; etc.)
(c) **Regeneration comes to those** who repent of sin, turn to God (Matt. 3:12), and put their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation (Rom. 10:9-13).
(d) **Regeneration involves** transition from an old life of sin to a new life of loving obedience to Jesus Christ (2 Cor. 5:17; Gal. 6:15; etc.). Page 1

4. **Answer:**
As a believer, one’s desires are changed so as to love God sincerely and endeavor from the heart to please God and to avoid evil (1 John 1:5, 7; etc.)
For more information, see Page 2

5. **Answer:**
The new birth cannot be equated with the physical birth, for God’s relationship with the believer is a matter of spirit rather than flesh (John 3:6)
Etc.
For More Information, see Page 2.

6. **Answer:**
(a) True
(b) Sanctification is not based on what we do or what we do not do, **but what we are and what we are determines what we do. HOLINESS IS A STATE OF BEING!!**

7. **Answer:**
 What a difference when we are cleansed and set apart and as we continue to yield ourselves completely to the Holy Spirit. We definitely will through Him working in us see fruits of righteousness (John 15:1-8; etc. Page 3
8. **Answer:**
 (a) sanctified (b) yielded (c) enable (d) fulfill (e) purpose (f) lives Page 3
9. **Answer:**
 Three changes occur when one is sanctified:
 (a) He is separated from the world unto God.
 (b) There is the purging from the pollution of sin.
 (c) There is the crucifying of the carnal nature. Page 3
10. **Answer:**
 (a) The gift the Father promised (Joel 2:28; Matt. 3:11) is the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5).
 (b) The fulfillment of the promise is described as being “**filled with the Holy Spirit**” (Acts 2:4). Page 3.
11. **Answer:**
 (a) False
 (b) The baptism in the Holy Spirit **should not** be identified with receiving the Holy Spirit at regeneration (the new birth).
 For more information, see Page 3.
12. **Answer:**
 The preposition “with” is the translation of the Greek word “en” and is often translated as “in”.
 For more information, see Page 4.
13. **Answer:**
 (a) The key verse in the Book of Acts is Acts 1:8.
 (b) Students to write out Acts 1:8. Page 4
14. **Answer:**
 The **primary purpose** of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the receiving of power to witness for Jesus Christ so that souls be won over to Him and taught to obey all that Christ commanded. Page 4

15. **Answer:**

“Power” . . . Greek **“dunamis”** . . . means **“more than strength or ability”** it designates especially power in operation, in action.

Etc.

For more information, see Page 4.

16. **Answer:**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit not only imparts power to preach Jesus as Lord and Savior, but also increase the effectiveness of that witness because of strengthening and deepening relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit that comes with being filled with the Spirit (John 14:26; 15:26-27)

For more information, see Pages 4-5

17. **Answer:**

(a) baptism (b) baptism (c) spirit (d) holy (e) truly (f) work (g) fullness (h) live (i) conformity (j) holiness.

Page 5

18. **Answer:**

Item (c) . . . are deceived and untruthful.

Page 5

19. **Answer:**

(a) display (b) gifts (c) miracles (d) inspiring (e) oratory (f) righteousness (g) unholy (i) not.

Page 5

20. **Answer:**

| STATEMENTS | CORRECT REFERENCE | JUMBLED REFERENCES |
|---|---------------------|--------------------|
| “Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” | John 3:3 | Acts 2:4 |
| “Wait for the promise of the Father” | Acts 1:4 | Acts 1:8 |
| “For this is the will of God, even your sanctification.” | 1 Thess. 4:3 | John 3:3 |
| “You shall be witnesses unto Me.” | Acts 1:8 | 1 Thess. 4:3 |
| “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost ... speak with other tongues ...” | Acts 2:4 | Acts 1:4 |

Selected verses used in our lesson.

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