

The Holy Spirit brings change

Jesus called the baptism in the Holy Spirit a gift promised by His Father (Luk 24:49), and this alone should make us understand that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not something God later was planning on withdrawing.

- The Bible tells us the God is not a God who gives gifts, and then changes His mind and takes back the gifts He has given.

What changed the first disciple?

Many automatically assume that the first disciples were as successful as they were, because they had walked with Jesus for 3 ½ years.

- But if you read the end of the Gospels and chapter 1 in the book of Acts you see a scared group hiding behind closed walls.
 - The revolutionary moment in their life happened in Acts 2. Suddenly a small group of scared disciples became bold history makers and world shakers.
- They had been to the best Bible school in the world, but still it was not until they experienced the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that all the things Jesus had taught them became alive.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

— **John 14:26**

- There are many who think they know the Bible, because they have studied theology — and theology can be great. But if you have been studying the word, without listening to the Holy Spirit, I think you are left with dry bones and dead theology.
 - It's when the Holy Spirit breathes life into the word that it becomes alive.
 - In Europe today there are hundreds of Bible schools and thousands of churches. Many people know a lot about God and the Bible.

Yet what they know has become alive inside of them, because they have not had an encounter with the Holy Spirit.

- In Europe today we need a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so that He can breath life into the dead bones.

Prophetic background

I want to give a prophetic background and by that also show how linked the outpouring of the Holy Spirit is with the New Covenant.

- Often people look at the prophecies in the Old Testament only as prophecies about the salvation the new covenant would bring, and then they only focus on the forgiveness of sin.
- But when we look at the different prophecies we see that the new thing God would be doing involved much more than just our sins being forgiven.

We know that when sin entered the world Man got separated from God (Is. 59:2).

- Even though there were some who obviously had a relationship with God, there was still a barrier. A veil that made it impossible for Man to become free and intimate in his relationship with God.
 - When Moses asked God to see His glory God answered “...for no one may see me and live...” (Ex. 33:20).
 - When the priest entered the holy of holiest, they had to go through long cleansing ceremonies not to die.

But God had a plan to restore Man’s fellowship and make it possible to become intimate with Man again.

- Many of the Old Testament prophets spoke on behalf of God about something new God was going to do – a new covenant.
- Hebrews chapter 8 talks about how there was a fault in the old covenant that made a new covenant necessary (see also Gal. 3:21).
 - Under the old covenant sin was not fully removed – the blood from the offerings only covered people’s sin. But Hebrews talks about how the blood of Jesus is better than the blood of bulls and goats could not “...provide perfect cleansing...” (Heb. 10:1-4 + 12:24).
 - Because the power of “the sin virus” was not broken, living according to God’s holiness was impossible – so cleansing from sin became something that needed to be done regularly.

- But regarding the new covenant Hebrews 8 says:

...I will put my laws in their minds, and I will write them on their hearts... And they will not need to teach their neighbors, nor will they need to teach their relatives, saying, 'You should know the Lord.' For everyone, from the least to the greatest, will know me already.
— **Hebrews 8:10,11** (Jer. 31:33-34)

- Gods plan was not only to forgive sin, but to deal with the root cause of sin – the tendency to sin in Man's heart, cause by the "sin virus"
 - Jesus said that "...everyone who sins is a slave of sin...", but then He proclaimed "...if the Son sets you free, you are truly free..." (Joh. 8:34-36)