

## MESSAGE TRANSCRIPTS

Series: 1 Corinthians

Spiritual Gifts Pt. 7

Spiritual Gifts and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Selected Scriptures

Tim Armstrong, Senior Pastor

Weekend 07.16-17.11

Good morning Crossroads. Just most recent update that I had really within the last hour, Savorn, remember we interviewed Savorn from Cambodia. He is the Director in Cambodia for Asia's Hope. He has emailed us and said that they have rescued twenty-four new orphans just in the last couple of weeks. Last word that I had was they had rescued seven but that had gone up and now they're all being placed and those will be our Crossroad's children so we'll be introducing those to you in the weeks to come.

Well, I want you to take out your program notes. Over the last several weeks we've been studying the gifts of the spirit. We're going to continue to do that this morning. We've been looking at the gifts biblically. In other words, what they are and what they are not; what the scriptures have to say about them. We've been looking at them theologically – that they're being connected to our relationship with God and we've been studying them practically; how to make applications to them in our individual lives and we've been working through this very carefully, very critically, sometimes word by word so that we have a full understanding of the spiritual gifts on our life.

Well, today we're going to branch out from that topic just a bit. We're going to study an issue that has captivated the church probably for the last forty to fifty years and you really cannot talk about the spiritual gifts today without addressing this particular topic. We're going to study the relationship between the spiritual gifts and what has been called the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Now, for some of you right away you're very familiar with that concept. You've heard that terminology in the past. In fact, you may have come out of a church background where you're church taught definitively about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and you understand it within that context. Others of you, though it might be brand new to you or maybe you came out of a church background where you've heard of it but you were really never taught much about it. Well, today we're going to span the difference and we're going to collectively work through an understanding of what is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and should we understand it in our own life, more specifically how should we understand it in our own life. My goal today is essentially to help you understand what the scriptures teach not what my personal opinion might be; not what some denominational stance might be; not what is current or in vogue but rather what the scriptures teach about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So, whether you're familiar or you're brand new to it we're going to start together from the beginning and then we're going to work in detail through this topic.

Now, I just want to give you a little bit of a warning as a head start. You're going to need to work to keep up today because we're going to be moving fast and I'm going to be talking fast so that I can get as much information in but it's also something you're going to have to engage your mind because what we're going to be discovering is some things that are brand new; some things that are familiar and we've got to bring all of these together so that we're on the same trajectory together. So, work with me for the next half hour or so as we unpack this particular concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We're going to start by just outlining the two basic views. We're going to be using this understanding of these two views throughout the rest of the morning during our teaching so pay close attention. There are two views. Essentially, you can divide the meaning of the baptism of the Holy Spirit into two theological camps: the historical view and the holiness view. Let's look at the historical view first. In the historical view the baptism of the Holy Spirit is seen as an extension of our salvation. In other words, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit concurrently with our salvation experience; with our conversion; with coming to know Jesus Christ and power then comes by the Holy Spirit as we yield to the Spirit. That is the historical view of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

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But then there is the holiness view and that takes a little bit of a different track on this. The baptism of the Holy Spirit in the holiness view comes after salvation and that is an important distinction. The believer is left to pray, left to ask, left to plead for the Holy Spirit as a type of second step and the consequences of not receiving the Spirit under this concept are severe. You're saved but you really have a very little amount of power. You'll be weak, non-effective as a believer. You'll be powerless against sin and spiritual attacks. And ultimately you'll be missing a critical aspect of following Christ in the holiness view.

Now, both views cannot be correct. Our goal is to determine which view is clearly taught in scripture. Now with that as kind of a baseline, with that as a foundation we're going to move out from here and we're going to understand the terminology that is used in this theological topic. There's all kinds of questions that swirl around the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What is it? What do I need to do to get it? What if I don't get it? What if I do get it? How can I know if I get it? All those kinds of things. So let's just start with some basic understanding of terminology. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Or, where did this term come from?

Well, actually the phrase "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" never actually occurs in scripture. You can search the scripture and that noun phrase, nominal phrase "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" you won't find. You will find the verbal phrase "the baptized" or "baptized" in the past those "baptized in the Holy Spirit". You will find that phrase. It's used by John the Baptist. It's used by Jesus, by Peter, by Paul but it only occurs seven times. So, it is used a few times. It's always used in a verbal phrase. So say then how did we get this noun phrase? Well, the nominal phrase, the noun phrase the baptism of the Holy Spirit what you will hear most often is a cultural phrase. It's been popularized through the nineteenth century in what was called The Holiness Movement and if you come out of a Wesleyan tradition or a Methodist background you are probably somewhat familiar with the terminology. But actually the term the baptism of the Holy Spirit really came into vogue in the 1960's through the Pentecostal and Charismatic movement and they attached a thought process to it. They attached what is called the second step blessing – the idea that you could be saved, you could be redeemed but there is a second step, the baptism of the Holy Spirit where you will receive power.

Now, why is this important to even talk about? Why should we even be talking about, discussing it this morning because I guarantee you somewhere in the process of your Christian life you're going to hear about it. You're going to hear someone come to you or you're going to read something or you're going to see something that questions whether or not whether you have been given the spirit of God; whether or not you've been baptized by the Holy Spirit and if you don't know the answer you might be tempted to wonder; stand back a bit and you think well, you know what? Maybe I don't have all that I need to have to follow Jesus Christ. You might be thinking well maybe there's something I need to do. Maybe there's something more that I need to pursue. You need to be able to answer that question because if it is correct, if it is right that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a second step then we as a congregation, we as individual believers ought to be saying how does that occur? When does that come? How can I produce that in my own life? So this is a critical aspect. I'm hoping you're starting to see the importance of this concept because if you miss the importance of it today I guarantee you at some point you're going to come across it and you need to be able to answer it correctly.

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So the question that we always ask is do we see this concept, the baptism of the Holy Spirit in scripture and if we do how do we understand it? Now to understand it we go to scripture itself. Let's go to the book of Acts. Acts, chapter 1 this morning. We're going to be in Acts chapter 1. And then we're just going to be in the next page probably for many of you Acts chapter 2. We're going to see the promise of the Holy Spirit being given and then we're going to see the Holy Spirit coming into the presence of the church in Acts chapter 2. Now, as you're turning to Acts you need to understand Acts picks up where the Gospels leave off. Do you understand that? The Gospel is the life, the teaching, the crucifixion, the death, the resurrection of Jesus Christ ending with His ascension back to God. That's the Gospels. The book of Acts picks it up from there; continues the story from the ascension of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ going back to the Father to the baptism of the Spirit or the Spirit being given, the birth of the church and then we see as Paul takes it around the Mediterranean and around Asia Minor and the church basically explodes on the scene. That's the book of Acts. Now, what is interesting about Acts is it's written by a man named Luke. Familiar name isn't it because we have a Gospel of Luke. Same person. Dr. Luke used to follow Paul around and he wrote about what he experienced. He wrote about the life of Jesus Christ and he wrote about the life and birth of the church. What he's doing in Acts is essentially writing to a friend of his named Theophilus and he's referencing his past book the Gospel and he's introducing his new book the history of the church. And so, with that as a backdrop follow along in chapter 1, verse 1 and we'll pick the story up.

Luke writes, in the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days. Now, would you just circle that because in about ten minutes I'm going to come back to it. Appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. And while staying with them; he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, "you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now". Stop right there. Clearly what do we see in this passage? Jesus is promising that the Holy Spirit would come, right? We see that. Now listen. Those who embrace the holiness view or the second step view, second step blessing will use this as a text or proof text for their view and to be honest with you it's a great text to use. I mean they really have some theological credibility in their thinking. The idea is that the disciples, the apostles were believers, followers of Jesus Christ. That's clear. And later in their life the Spirit was given to them as if it was a second step. And not only was it given to them it was promised to be given to them. Just drop down in verse 8, same chapter. It says Jesus of His ascension you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. You'll be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Samaria, to the ends of the earth. So clearly the second step involves a sense of power that when you receive the Spirit of God you receive a power. So, there is some theological credibility.

Now, come over into Acts chapter 2 and we see the birth of the church with the Spirit being given and notice what we see. When the day of Pentecost arrived. Here's another word I want you to circle. We're going to come back to it. This is the word Pentecost. I'll come back and describe what the word Pentecost is in a few moments. When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And there were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them

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utterance. Now, stop right here. Here we have a detailed account of the very moment the Spirit was given. Do you see that? And it was clearly a dramatic moment. I can think of all of the moments in the New Testament that I would like to be a part of. This has to be in my top ten. I would love to have been in this room, with these people somewhere in the corner and watched this unfold; watched this happen. I mean, what a dramatic event. Here they all are. They're huddled together. Jesus has ascended to the Father. They're left alone. They don't know what to do. They don't know what to do next. In fact, they're scared. They're afraid many of them are going to be the next one to be crucified or the next ones with their head on the chopping block. And so they're not doing anything. They're not leaving Jerusalem. They're not going out. They're not telling anyone anything. Suddenly the Spirit comes upon them and this is this dramatic event. It says there was the sound of the wind, like a wind that came in. It was deathly still in the room. It doesn't say there was a wind. It says there was the sound of a wind and then there was this appearance of something that they probably had a hard time describing. Said it looked like a tongue. It looked like a fire. Wasn't a tongue. Wasn't a fire. Looked like these things appearing on people and all of a sudden the room breaks out and people begin to speak in other languages. Then they go out of this room and if you would continue reading in chapter 2 do you know what you would read? That Peter gives one of the most dramatic messages ever given in history. He gives this dramatic message of salvation of the Gospel. And all these people are spread out and they're talking in these known languages and people are hearing as the Gospel is being spread out and if you drop down to verse 41 you find out there were about three-thousand people; three-thousand souls added to the church. That means three-thousand people came to know the Lord.

Now, just the moments before, the day before they were hiding out in a room, scared to death. Suddenly the Spirit comes. Bam. There's all this power. They go out. They preach the Gospel and people get saved and so when you look at it theologically you say, well, you know what? Those of whom embrace the Holiness view they have some credibility in their theology. This idea that you can be saved but later you can receive a power source of the Holy Spirit that can make you do incredible things in boldness for the name of Christ. But, we have to examine this experience that we see in Acts 1 and Acts 2 a bit more closely. We have to understand it in the context of what is going on. And we have to ask a question is this normative. Is this normal? Do we see this for all believers or is this something special that is taking place only here in the book of Acts?

To begin with we really have to go back and look at Acts chapter 1 again. Now we have to ask when did Jesus say that the Holy Spirit would come. Well, he said at the end of verse 4, chapter 1, book of Acts when He was speaking to the disciples not many days from now. To be precise it was ten days from the moment Jesus spoke these words. Remember when I had you circle the words forty days? When Jesus died on the cross He died on the cross during the Passover season, Friday. In the grave Friday, Saturday; rose again Sunday. He stayed then with the disciples appearing on again off again to not only his disciples and apostles but the scriptures say upwards to five hundred people over a period of about forty days. Towards the end of those forty days He says to the disciples the Holy Spirit is going to come not many days from now. The next event we see in Acts is His ascension. He returns back to the Father. And then we see the disciples waiting and then Acts chapter 2 comes along and the whole place explodes with what is called Pentecost. Now, if you come from a New Testament background and you're not very familiar with the Old Testament you might be tempted to think that Pentecost was something that just happened at this particular moment as a New Testament phenomenon when the Spirit was given and we call that the day of Pentecost. But actually Pentecost has a rich background to it into Judaism. Goes all the way back

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to the book of Exodus. Remember what happened in Exodus? The Jewish people exited, right? That's why it's called the Exodus. They exited from Egypt. They were in captivity, right? Moses comes to Pharaoh. Let my people go. I've told you this story before. Ten plagues come on the scene. First Pharaoh says yes, then he says no, then he says yes, then he says no. The plagues get worse until finally the tenth plague. And the tenth plague is the death angel, remember? And the death angel comes and is going to kill the first born of all the Egyptians and anyone who does not have what? The blood of the Passover lamb put on the doorpost and the lentils of the home. And so, here's this first Passover meal where they are to sacrifice a Passover lamb and take and use the blood as a type of protection so that when the angels comes they'll see the blood, pass over the house that child, that family will be saved. This was to be done by all the Jewish people in Egypt. And then that same night Moses was going to lead them out after the Passover into the desert. And they go into the desert and fifty days later from that Passover what happens? They receive the Law. Moses receives the Law from God on Mount Sinai and they're told to celebrate this event; that every time there is a Passover you wait fifty days and then you celebrate the giving of the Law.

Now if you also read in Leviticus 3:15, I'm not going to turn there. You don't need to either. Just jot it down. You can turn there later. That God also gave them a celebration on the Pentecost fifty days after Passover to celebrate not only the giving of the law but the giving of food. It's called the Celebration of First Harvest. And so do you see the picture here? God is telling the people I want you to celebrate that I'm giving to you physical food and spiritual food. You say what does this have to do with the New Testament? What does this have to do with the spiritual gifts? What does this have to do with the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Well, wind the clock forward from the Old Testament to the New Testament and what do you have going on? You have Jesus, it's called the ultimate Passover Lamb, isn't he? He's going to shed His blood once for us and then He appears for forty days to His disciples and then the next event on God's redemptive time table is Pentecost and what happens at Pentecost? The Spirit of God is given. It comes on the people.

One of the things about the Holiness Movement it says that the second step blessing comes when you pray for it, when you anticipate it, when you cleave for it but we don't see that happening here in Acts. We see rather that this is not a coincidence that the Spirit comes on the day of Pentecost but it's God's divine initiative time table to send the Spirit as if He's saying I provided for you physically. I provided for you in the Word spiritually. Now I'm going to provide for you my Spirit. And this is one of the greatest transitions in all the New Testament and Old Testament combined that at this point there is a change in redemptive history before the spirit was with us. Now the Spirit is where? In us. There's this huge change. The birth of the church takes place. The Gospel explodes on the scene. This is called a new dispensation where we see the age of Grace come into being and where does it start? It starts with the giving of the Holy Spirit.

What I mean by this is this is not an accident. This was not something that was prayed for. This was not something anticipated. This was not something that the disciples and the apostles were pleading for. Rather this was an event that was special; that God gave for this particular period. And so what we see is that we see an event that is unparalleled in any other time in history. What we see is that this is not normative. We don't see this as normal but rather, this is a special event. Why should we understand this event as not being a second step of blessing? I'll tell you why because once you get through the book of Acts you never see anything like this again. The transition of the birth of the church is over. Outside of

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Acts we never see the Spirit coming after a person's conversion. We always see the Spirit given during, at the moment of conversion. And why is that? Why does the Spirit come when we receive Jesus Christ? Because Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 1:22. He says, God has put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. Do you understand that? That right now, men and women, listen. As followers of Christ you have the Spirit of God dwelling in you. And that Spirit is like a seal of guarantee. A guarantee of what? That you will be redeemed. The Spirit was given to you as a seal of your ultimate redemption. You might look at your spiritual life and you might say sometimes I just don't feel like I'm saved. We all do that by the way. We all look into our lives and we say how can I be pursuing such unrighteousness and still be saved and yet we recall a period in our life where we were clinging to the grace of God, following after Jesus Christ and yet there's these moments in our lives where we'll slip away and then come back. Slip away. During those slipping away times we're most endanger of starting to doubt whether our salvation was authentic but it's never in doubt in the mind of God, why? Because He's given you His Spirit in you as a seal that ultimately you're redemption will be made complete. So, what do we see? We see that really the historical view, that we are given the Spirit at conversion best fits our understanding of scripture.

Now I've been talking very fast and I've been moving very quickly and your heads are probably spinning so let me help you. I want to give you some hooks just so that you can get your mind around these theological concepts. You've been waiting to write something down. Now's your time to write something down. I'm going to give you four facts about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and we're going to do it very quickly. Are you ready?

Number one, first fact: It occurs at salvation. The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs at your salvation. You say where do you see that? Where do you see that in scripture? You don't want to take my word for it. You want to take the Word of God so I want you to turn with me to Ephesians chapter 1. Alright? Turn out of Acts. Past 1 Corinthians, 2 Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians. Ephesians chapter 1. Great chapter on the Trinitarian involvement of our salvation; that God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit is involved in our salvation.

But in verse 13 of chapter 1, if you're reading quickly you might zip right past it and miss it. What does it say about the Holy Spirit? In verse 13 it says in Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of salvation and believed in Him you were sealed with the promise of the Holy Spirit who's the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of His glory. Now, stop. Back up. Let me fill in the blanks. When you heard the word of truth, what's the word of truth? Well, just keep reading. It's the next sentence – the gospel or your salvation. What's the word of truth? It's the gospel; the gospel of your salvation. How are you saved? Well, it's the next line. And believed in Him. You received salvation by believing in Him. It's not something you do. It's not something you don't do. It's by belief. It's by what He has done for you. You believe in Him then what's the next thing? You were sealed it said with the promised Holy Spirit who is the guarantee of our inheritance. See what it says? Scripture says that when you come to faith the Holy Spirit is deposited to you; given to you as a seal and as a guarantee. So what do we understand about the baptism of the Holy Spirit? That number one – it occurs at salvation.

The second thing that we understand is that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that it is a metaphor for placement in the body of Christ. It's a metaphor for you, for me being placed into the body of Christ.

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Now, here's the thing. It's ironic. I've taught this to you for seven weeks. I've said it every time we've talked about the spiritual gifts for seven weeks but I would imagine it just went right over the top of your heads because you weren't thinking of it in context. Now it's all going to come together. You ready? 1 Corinthians chapter 12, verse 12. We've read it many times. You've heard me say it many times. What do we read? For just as the body is one, 1 Corinthians 12, you should know that chapter. Your bibles should almost fall open to that chapter. Verse 12 – for just as the body is one and has many members and all the members of the body though many are one body so it is with the body of Christ or with Christ, you've heard me say this. We're all individual. We've all been given unique gifts but God pulls us together and as one we're the body of Christ. How'd we get that way? Verse 13. For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body. Jews or Greeks. Slaves or free all were made to drink of one Spirit. Now listen. This is not talking about water baptism. It's talking about spiritual baptism. The baptism of the Holy Spirit. We were baptized by the Spirit, brought together in the body of Christ. And so when you hear the baptism of the Holy Spirit you need to be thinking I know what that is. That's a metaphor. That's saying that I'm part of the body of Christ. Understand that? I'm part of the body of Christ because I was given the Holy Spirit at salvation. That's the second fact.

Fact number 3. Be ready. You're going to write. Are you ready? It is an automatic, non-emotional, non-experiential, singular event. You got that? It's an automatic, non-emotional, non-experiential, singular event. Now, I want you to think back at your personal salvation. Some of you remember it very well. Some of you can remember the exact time, the exact date. Others of you it's a little bit cloudy. That's alright. Some of us know about the time, around the time. Others of us grew up in Christian homes. We don't know any of the time. Some of us know the exact location and moment. For example, I can take you a block and a half, about a mile and a half away from this building. I can take you to the exact spot where I first heard the Gospel of Christ. It was given to me in this little hallway, kind of this little thoroughfare between two garages and my next door neighbor, a little girl who was a foster care girl taught me about Jesus Christ and I remember hearing it and it's like the lights came on and it was an emotional event for me. It was an event that I can think back on this day. But listen, there were all kinds of other theological events taking place that I had no idea of but nonetheless, even though I didn't feel them, I didn't experience them, I didn't understand them they were taking place at that present moment. That's what happens when you are baptized by the Holy Spirit. It's automatic. It's non-emotional. It's non-experiential. It's a singular event.

Paul says this in Romans, chapter 6. You don't have to turn there. Let me just read it. He says, don't you know all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? He's talking about the spiritual baptism. We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death in order that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father we too might walk in newness of life. Now, I read that kind of quickly but do you hear what he said. He said when we came to faith in Christ we were baptized into his death. We were buried with Him in death. We were raised to newness of life in His resurrection. Now, here's the question. Did you feel that? When you were saved, did you feel like you were dying with Christ? Did you feel like you were being physically buried with Christ? Did you feel like you were being physically being raised? Probably not but yet that's what we hear in scripture was happening to us. You see, you don't need to feel the giving of the Spirit to have been part of it. You didn't feel your election, your justification, your adoption, any of these other theological events but nonetheless they took place. I think it's a misunderstanding of scripture when we say that the baptizing of the Holy Spirit is this emotional event. No. It's something that comes concurrent with salvation. And so it's automatic. It's

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given to you by God. It's not necessarily emotional. You probably didn't even know it was happening. It's non-experiential and it happens once. It's a singular event.

And the fourth fact, the last fact about the baptism of the Holy Spirit, maybe the most important. It's a fulfillment of the promise to you. You were promised the indwelling Spirit of God. God has made good on that promise if you are a follower of Christ. Mark 1:8. John the Baptist says I baptize with water but one is coming greater than me who will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. So, how do you receive the Spirit of God? People ask me that. I tell them very clearly. You want to know you receive the Spirit of God? You receive Jesus Christ. That's how you receive the Spirit of God. Say, well then, how do you receive Jesus Christ? That's the Gospel. Do you know what the Gospel is? The Gospel is first you have to acknowledge your position before God. You have to understand you are unworthy, unrighteous before a righteous God. Romans 3:23 says all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. You have to understand your position. That's the bad news. There's nothing you can do to change your position. The good news is that He sent the Passover Lamb – Jesus Christ as the one final sacrifice for you. Jesus died on the cross so you wouldn't have to. And so what do we do? Is it something good verse bad? Do we have this scale going on with God? No. What do we do now? The scriptures say now we believe in the work that Jesus Christ has done on our behalf. In fact, Romans says this – if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead you will be saved. That's the plan of salvation. Belief. There's no special incantation. There's no special prayer. There's no special words. You believe. You believe what Jesus has done and then finally you express your belief through repentance and faith. That's what we see as the model. Repent and turn again that your sins may be blotted out. Acts 3:19. You change your lifestyle from following your desires to following the desires of Jesus Christ and what happens at this transaction of belief? I'll tell you what happens. Your salvation and your baptism of the Holy Spirit. God seals you as His child, His son and daughter of the faith and that can not ever be removed from you. So don't be looking for something else. The scriptures say you have all that you need for life and godliness provided to you by the Father at the moment of your salvation. Amen? Amen. Let's pray together.