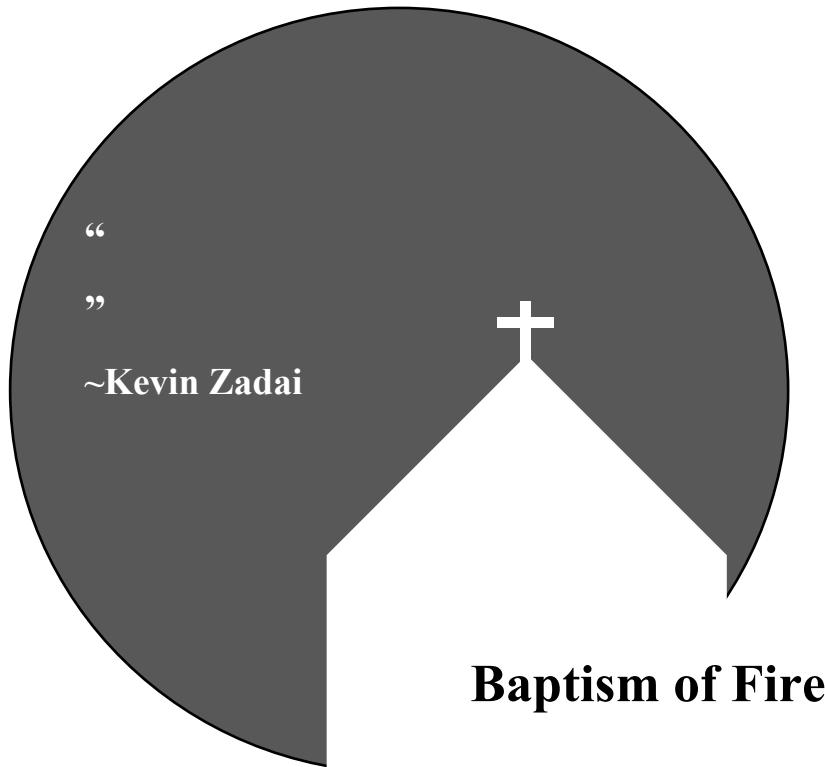


WEEK THIRTY



Those who repent I baptize with water, but there is coming a man after me who is more powerful than I. In fact, I'm not even worthy enough to pick up his sandals. He will submerge you into union with the Spirit of Holiness and with a raging fire!

—Matthew 3:11 TPT

DISCUSSION:

John the Baptist shared with people who Jesus was and how He promised us that Jesus would come and that He would baptize us with the Spirit and with fire. Jesus spent a lot of time discipling His disciples, and He taught them to go out and do what

He was doing. The Holy Spirit not only comes when you are baptized in water as we saw at the River Jordan when John baptized Jesus and He descended upon Him like a dove, but He came as Jesus promised He would on the Day of Pentecost. It's a historical fact that the Holy Spirit came with fire. There was an earthquake. There was wind and utterance, and they changed to where they were speaking other languages that they didn't know. They were in unity; in one accord.

❖ **Luke 3:16 TPT:**

But John made it clear by telling them, “There is one coming who is mightier than I. He is supreme. In fact, I’m not worthy of even being his slave. I can only baptize you in this river, but he will baptize you into the Spirit of holiness and into his raging fire.

- It is a commandment to be baptized in water.
- After you get baptized in water you’ll start to see there’s another baptism and it’s the baptism of fire.
- With the baptism of fire, Holy Spirit will come upon you and baptize you in Himself. It’s a different experience than the born-again experience and water baptism.

I remember when I got baptized in water, I had an experience that was so powerful, I literally felt like the water turned into bubbles and I started to feel weightless in the water and the power of God was so strong that they had to help me out of the water. I couldn't stand on my own.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

When the Holy Spirit came upon me, out of my mouth came another language that I didn't know. That went on for months, where I just prayed in that language. I eventually met people that spoke that language and they told me what I was saying. I was speaking out of various scriptures. Sometimes I had knowledge of things that were going to happen in the future, and they would end up happening. I would know specific names, places, times, and dates, and people would watch it happen. The baptism of fire is when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.

In the Bible, when these things occurred, it was a different experience, because the people were Christians that had professed Jesus Christ, but they had not been baptized in the Spirit. They would ask them in the Book of Acts, have you received the Holy Spirit yet? They said, "We didn't know that there was a Holy Spirit to receive, but yes, we want Him." They would pray for them and they began to speak in other languages, which we call tongues. It's an obscure idea because the Spirit is essentially taking over your tongue. It's a sign because there's no way that you could speak that language. I spoke several languages that I did not know.

Sense

When the Holy Spirit comes upon you in this way, it takes you from where you are and into a higher capacity. You can do more with the help of the Holy Spirit than you could a moment ago when He was not helping you or moving, and this is for every year of your life. I believe that the Holy Spirit wants to take you from where you are right now into more of a capacity than you ever even imagined.

We depend upon the Holy Spirit to ignite us with the music we play, and then our creativity starts to flow. I believe that all of us are supposed to experience this creativity. I believe God has put this inside of us, not just musically, but in every area of our lives. Think about it. You can see improvement in every area of your life because I believe that the Holy Spirit stirs up parts of your brain and causes you to operate at a higher level.

Kathi:

The fire is our friend. You want to embrace the fires. And I was reading in Isaiah where it talked about when the presence of God came into the temple and the minister, he was undone, and the angel took a coal from the fire and touched his tongue. He said that his sin was taken away, that he was purged because his lips were unclean. That's what happens when the Holy Spirit starts to move through us. It's like praying in tongues or speaking in other tongues, being filled with the Spirit, what different people call different things. But there's this purifying process that we couldn't do on our own. God knew if he could get a hold of our tongue we would be cleansed. There must be people out there wanting to know how to get filled. God knew if he took our tongue and He got that fire on our tongue, our lives would be cleansed, and they would be purged. There is something about the tongue. James 5:16, says, "When we confess our faults one to another, we can pray and healing will come." There's something about speech and cleansing, and I know we all want to have that. We know we're destined for purity and we're destined to be clean. God knew that this was one of the key ways to have it happen. It's through the baptism of fire, and baptism in the Spirit. It has to do with our tongue. It doesn't have to make sense, but it does make sense.

What are the benefits that come when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and what happens to you?

YOUR HELP IS HERE THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT

You have to realize where you're at right now, and that the Lord is saying, "You need help, and I have already given Him to you." It's the Holy Spirit. He's wanting to baptize you in Himself, but He wants to baptize you with fire, which means you're going to be separate. For instance, there's someone watching and I can see you. I can see that you're a lady, and I can see you sitting there and your family is so against you. The Lord said to tell you because there are many of you out there like this, but I saw this one particular lady that you're just wanting to fold because of the pressure, and you feel so isolated. You're standing for the Lord, and everybody around you is not taking you seriously. You just don't want to give up on your family, but the Lord said, "Just yield to the Holy fire right now because you cannot give in. You cannot give up. You've got to keep your testimony. This is for their salvation. If you back off, they're going to see that and they're going to think that there's nothing to this." That's what the Spirit of the Lord is saying, is that you need to pray and commit yourself and let the fire of God set you apart.

You are burning brightly for the Lord right now, and this is for your family's sake that you continue to walk in the love of God. You continue to walk in the power of God. Your prayers are effective. There are so many of you right now. I can see flashes of different faces. I know you are in different countries. I can tell you that the Lord is telling you, "Your prayers are effective. I've heard you, and you just stay in there because you're fighting demonic forces. You cannot get discouraged because a breakthrough is coming, and you are the person that God has chosen to stay in there." He trusts you to stay in there in intercession. You've got to pray, from the future, seeing all your loved ones in Heaven. I know that this is the route that the Lord wants to take you is that you need the baptism of fire because you need to be able to intercede and stand your ground.

Talk about what it means to trust in the Holy Spirit.

BAPTISM OF BOLDNESS

In the Bible, the reason why they waited for the Holy Spirit was so that they would be witnesses, it was a baptism of boldness that was given to them. They were given the ability to testify of the faithfulness of God through Jesus Christ. It was a baptism

of boldness. I think some people, forget that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to be a witness. Not to witness. We're to testify and be bold.

By the Spirit, there are many of you. It's not just the woman that I'm seeing. There are many people that are standing right now. And if you want your confirmation, here it is. The Lord is saying, I've heard your prayers and you've been faithful, but do not back off in the Spirit. Stay in there and ask for the baptism of fire. And this is what he told me. He said, "Tell them to just separate themselves so that they stay effective." That doesn't mean that you have to stay away from everybody, but if it means that you're going to be compromised in some way and you're becoming discouraged, then you got to limit your exposure at times to stay effective.

I've had to pray for my family and my friends. I've lost so many friends, and I did nothing. I just kept on going with the Lord. The Lord said that you've got to keep on going. You got to keep going and staying hot. This is for their sake. You don't compromise to get friends back. You don't get approval from family members by compromising your walk with God, because you're going to have to pay that all back. It's not going to be permanent. The Lord is telling you to stay in there.

When I was at my job, I was mocked and ridiculed at times for my faith in Jesus Christ, but God always came through, and they always had to come and apologize to me. Even if they don't, it's okay. I'm encouraging you in the Spirit of the Lord, to pray for each other. There are so many of you that are heartbroken over your family members, have not followed the Lord, have not listened, or taken you seriously about your testimony. You got to stay strong because God trusts you. It's for the salvation of your family and friends.

Even my boss got promoted and he was leaving, but he called me in. I thought I was in trouble, and he said, "No, you're not in trouble. I just wanted to tell you everybody in this office knows that you are a Christian, and we can see it. We can see God with you." The guy literally started crying and repented right before me and asked me to pray for him, and he's my boss. Your testimony is effective, and you don't have to be perfect, but you have to stay hot.

The Spirit of God wants to baptize us and set us apart and cause us to be a witness. Not to just witness to people, but to be a witness by doing the works of Jesus and standing firm. God is going to come through for you. God has heard your prayers. You heard the Word. God has heard you, and He's working it out right now. He's sending angels.

PRAYER:

Father, in the name of Jesus, out of our spirit, we speak with our mouths. We call the things that are not as though they were. We call those things, Lord God, for our families and for our friends, and everyone around us. We call that, Lord, everyone's eyes will be opened and that they will be saved, that they will receive Jesus Christ. We pray, Father, the eyes of their heart would be flooded with light, that they would know the hope to which they've been called, that they would know the glorious inheritance in the saints and that they would know the power that rose Jesus from the dead. I call forth all those people to hear and to see now. In the name of Jesus, I break the power of the demonic over every family member that all the warriors all over the world that are praying for their families, that I break the power of the enemy all over the world right now, every demonic force, I command you this cease and desist and back off in the name of Jesus. Stop now, in Jesus' name. May the glorious

light of the gospel flood all these people. Father let's hear many reports of people getting saved in all our families, of our warriors all over the world. Salvation will come in the name of Jesus. Father, we ask you right now to baptize us in fire. Fire, Lord. Set us apart so that we can stand firm in these last days. Our testimony will be true, that we will stay faithful to the end, Lord. That we'll receive a great crown because we stood, Lord, we stood for you in a dark world, and our reward is with you, and I thank you for it. In the name of Jesus, Amen.

Discuss:

1. Talk about the difference between water baptism and the baptism of Holy Fire.

2. Talk about what happens when the fire of God comes upon you.

3. Share testimonies about how you prayed in tongues for specific things and you saw the manifestation of the Lord coming through for you.

4. Pray for each other and stand in agreement for a family member, or a wayward child to come home, pray for them.