



Empowered by Grace Part 1

To reveal Grace means to reveal the Holy Spirit and the ministry He began at Pentecost. If you want to know how powerful Grace is, look at the Holy Spirit in Jesus's life. Were there miracles in Jesus's life? Was the heart of the Father clearly seen in a tangible way in Jesus's life? Did it confirm Grace so everyone would believe? Absolutely! It is Grace in a whole new dimension.

In the first Pentecost, God gave the Law. In the second Pentecost, God gave the Spirit. Under the Old Covenant of Law, God gave an object that kills (the Law). Under the New Covenant of Grace, God gave the 'Person' that gives life. The Holy Spirit is here today to impart to you Grace in a tangible way by showing you the person of Jesus. This includes the power of God.

Many believers in Christ cannot make an impact even if they were swinging a broom in an elevator full of people. There are thousands of Churches but not very much is seen in regards to God's Grace in a tangible way (miracles, healing, etc.). For many, all Christianity stands for is a relationship with God based on a deserved- love basis that helps them just swing-by through a life of hurt. They try to deal with problems through self-effort rather than see the results of the Bible, which is to stand on top of our problems and see victory over sickness, poverty, sorrow, etc. God is a God of results and it's in God's will for you to see His Grace in a tangible way. As His beloved, you have the unique opportunity to walk through life filled with the same power that raised Jesus from the dead.

-Why aren't we seeing these same radical results today?

One of the reasons is because there are many believers in Christ who still oppose the New Covenant ministry, especially the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Many erroneously believe that it either comes automatically at conversion or it was unique for the first apostles. The truth is, it is still a valid gift for every believer in Christ and the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct experience apart from receiving Jesus into your heart and water baptism.

A man of God says it in this way:

- “First He [Holy Spirit] comes in some degree and measure when we are converted, otherwise we couldn't be converted. Without Him we couldn't be born again, because we are born of the Spirit. But I am talking about something different now, an advance over that. I am talking about His coming and possessing the full” – **A. Z. Tozer**

I'm aware that during the first century Church, this came in the same package. Back then when you received Jesus as Lord and Savior, the apostles would then lay hands on you immediately and give you the empowering of the Holy Spirit. But because of false teaching today, we are led to take this extra mile and give the opportunity to believers in Christ to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Something the early church didn't have to deal with.

Another man of God who performed hundreds of miracles says it like this:

- “The Baptism of the Holy Ghost was the incoming of God in personality, in order that the man, through this force, might be moved by God.” – **John G. Lake**

As a believer in Christ, you already have all of the Godhead within you but by you acknowledging the power of the Holy Spirit it's like the power of the Holy Spirit is activated or switched on. It's one thing to have the Holy Spirit and another thing the Holy Spirit having you. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the dynamite that will allow Grace to overflow from within you to see tangible results, like miracles and the gifts of the Spirit.

Matthew 3:11

“I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

This was certainly true in my life. I found out that the reason why the power of God was so absent from my life was because I had not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

If you were to look at my life then, I was no different than a non-believer in regards to tangible results. I couldn't impact a roach even if I stepped on it. After the Lord revealed His radical Grace, His Grace lead me to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. **Grace will always lead you to being empowered by the Spirit through the baptism in the Holy Spirit.** My life was totally transformed and felt like Grace was being poured on my head over and over and over again as anointing oil. I became a witness of Christ overnight.

Acts 8:15-16

“As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these **new believers** to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.”

Notice you can be a believer in Christ and yet not be baptized in the Holy Spirit. I was a believer for 10 years before I knew of the empowering of the Holy Spirit. If this is you, then don't worry my friend. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is an unmerited favor given to you through the finished work of Jesus Christ. Jesus went through the cross and arose to the Father so you as the righteousness of God can receive this privilege. Ready to receive?

Luke 11:13

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

One way to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to ask! The next time you have alone time with your Abba, Daddy, ask Him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. He is more than willing because you are His beloved child. Just as you receive Jesus into your heart once and believed; likewise, ask once and believe that you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Now go and enjoy Him. Amen. By Joyner Briceno