

WILDERNESS WANDERERS v POSSESSING PEOPLE

Message #7: “GOD’S FIRE - POWER”

General Introduction – Just as Israel went from being “wilderness wanderers” to “possessing people”, God desires that we first change our mentality (mind set), then our very landscape. What an exciting time! Please pay very close attention to each word in this prophetic series as they all fit together to make one word. Then determine to embrace, obey and possess! Finally, hold onto your hats – it’s going to be a fun ride. ☺

Deuteronomy 2:3(NASB) / Joshua 3:3b(NIV) – “YOU HAVE CIRCLED THIS MOUNTAIN LONG ENOUGH. NOW TURN NORTH. / “...YOU HAVE NEVER BEEN THIS WAY BEFORE.”

*MESSAGE #7: GOD’S FIRE/POWER – GATEWAY TO POWER

Intro – Years ago at the ripe age of 22 we settled into our first pastorate in the little town of West Frankfort, IL. Being young and carefree, we often made the two hour trip to St. Louis, MO to enjoy the benefits of city life. As you cross the mighty Mississippi river to enter the city one was greeted with a very familiar landmark – The Arch: Gateway to the West. This morning we are going to be teaching on God’s gateway to power – the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you’ve never received this powerful experience, we encourage you to do so today.

FIRE = PURITY & POWER

Joshua 3:5 – “Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate (PURIFY) yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things (POWER) among you” Luke 3:16 – “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”

*GATEWAY TO GOD’S POWER – THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. SEPARATE EXPERIENCE FROM SALVATION

** Luke 24:49 – “I am going to send what my Father has **promised**; but stay until you have been until you have been clothed with **power** from on high. /// *Acts 1:8 – “But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses.”*

- **DISCIPLES: BELIEVERS & FOLLOWERS OF JESUS / POWER FOR MINISTRY**
- **JESUS (MODEL): BORN OF SPIRIT, BAPTIZED IN WATER, & SPIRIT FILLED**
- **SAMARIA’S EXPERIENCE: BELIEVED & BAPTIZED / LATER SPIRIT FILLED**

Further Discussion:

1. **Show how the examples of the disciples, Jesus, and Samaria show that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation.**
2. **For what purpose is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit given to believers?**

2. PRIMARY EVIDENCE: TONGUES (Pattern)

- Acts 2:1-4 – WIND, FIRE, TONGUES

- Acts 8:17-18 – SIMON “SAW” SOMETHING
- Acts 9:17-18 – NOTHING (PAUL DID SPEAK IN *TONGUES* THOUGH)
- Acts 10:44-46 – *TONGUES*, PRAISE
- Acts 19:2,6 – *TONGUES*, PROPHECY

Further Discussion:

3. Can we say emphatically that a believer will speak in tongues when filled with the Spirit?
4. Why then do most look for this sign as evidence of being filled?

3. GIFT vs PRAYER LANGUAGE

* **Luke 24:49** – “For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but **to God.**”

- SAME VEHICLE: “TONGUES”
- OPPOSITE DIRECTIONS: MAN TO GOD (Prayer language) / GOD TO MAN (Gift)

Further Discussion:

5. Why do many get the gift of tongues confused with prayer language tongues?
6. What is the difference?

4. IMPORTANCE OF USING YOUR PRAYER LANGUAGE

- James 3:7-8 – SUBMISSION OF “UNRULY” MEMBER
- Romans 8:26 – HELPS US PRAY, INTERCEDE
- Jude 20 / 1 Cor 14:4 – EDIFIES (BUILDS UP) ONESELF
- 1 Cor 14:15 –HELPS US PRAISE GOD

Further Discussion:

7. Why has the government attacked “speaking in tongues” so much?
8. Discuss the benefits of “speaking in tongues”.

5. IMPORTANCE OF BALANCE

* **1 Cor 12:1** – “Now about *spiritual gifts*, brothers, I don not want you to ignorant.” /// ***Gal 5:22** – “But the *fruit of the Spirit* is...”

Further Discussion:

9. Why is it important that we balance “charisma & character”, gifts & fruit”, and “power & purity”?

6. HOW TO RECEIVE?

* **Acts 2:4** – “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

- TWO PARTS TO EVERY MIRACLE
- THEY SPOKE / GOD GAVE UTTERANCE (LANGUAGE)

Further Discussion:

10. What are the two parts of every miracle? Give some Biblical examples.
11. What are the two parts to the miracle of receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?