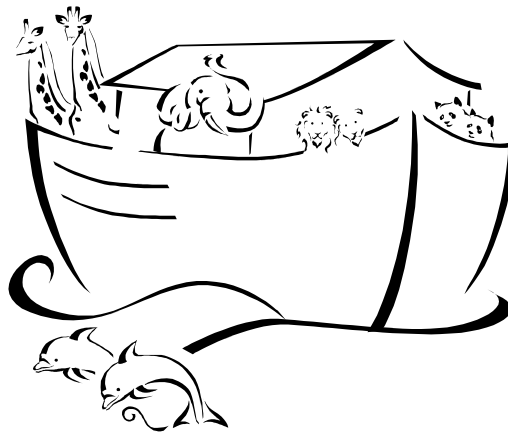


The Light - Junior Series
Lesson 51

The Giver of Spiritual Gifts...the Holy Spirit
The Baptism of God the Holy Spirit
Part 2
Retroactive & Current Positional Truth



July, 2011

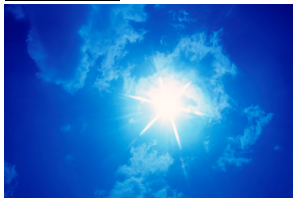
Eph 2:4-6 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..."

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

If YOU have never believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, you have the opportunity to do so right NOW. Simply tell God the Father that you believe in His Son, Jesus Christ, who loved us so much that He came down from heaven and became a man to take our place and pay for the penalty for all the sin of all mankind. Jesus, the Savior died on the Cross for your sins and the sins of the whole world. Then Jesus was buried but He rose again and He is alive today seated at the right hand of the Father in heaven. When you make the decision to believe in Jesus in simple faith based on His work on the Cross, you are now a believer and will always be a child of God. When you die, you will spend eternity with Him in Heaven. ***(Acts 16:31) "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." (John 3:16) "God loved the world so much that He gave is One and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."***



Lesson

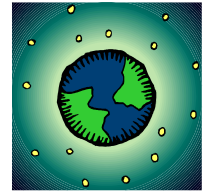


Hi kids, we're going to continue our study of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We learned in our last lesson AND this is BIG...that we are in UNION WITH CHRIST!!!!!! We learned that we are in the same position spiritually that Christ is in!!!! We are spiritually seated at the Father's right hand just as Christ is seated there. Really, kids, we are spiritually in Heaven with Jesus!

Yes, I know we are here on earth...but that's just our physical bodies, which makes a house for our souls and human spirits. Our life is in Christ.

Col 3:1-4 "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears then you also will appear with him in glory."

Our citizenship is with Christ in Heaven and at the Rapture our physical bodies will change into our resurrection bodies...but back on earth...HERE WE ARE WAITING...BUT we have a job to do while we're here...a plan from God to fulfill. **Philip 3:20-21 "But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, (21) who will transform our lowly body (at the Rapture) to be like His glorious body, by the power that enables Him even to subject all things to Himself."**



Did you know that before Christ could be seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, He had to be resurrected? And He was and He is now the ONLY PERSON in a resurrection body in Heaven...glorified!!!

Since we are in union with Christ at the right hand of the Father in Heaven (current positional truth), we have a good conscience toward God because we are accepted by Him but not because of who and what we are. We are accepted because of Who and What CHRIST IS...God the Son in resurrection! He defeated death when the Father resurrected Him through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Cross defeated sin and Satan! Resurrection defeated death! What a VICTORY!!! Christ did this for us and now as believers in the Church Age, we are IN HIM and we are His royal family.

I mentioned "current positional truth" in the last paragraph because the Baptism of the Spirit is related to "retroactive positional truth" and "current positional truth." Wow, here are those big words again but really, kids, it's not so hard when the Holy Spirit is teaching us. I will be repeating these truths to you until you get them, okay? Let's look closely.

These 2 truths are a VERY BIG part of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. "Retroactive positional truth" or "positional sanctification," which is the same thing places us and ALL believers IN CHRIST at His death on the cross and His burial afterward. It identifies us with Christ when He died spiritually for our sins and our sin nature was buried with Him. That's why we are no longer slaves to our sin natures. We still

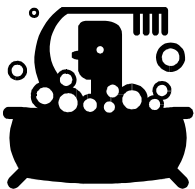
have it but it has no power over us anymore. This is a miracle. You see baptism means "identification" with someone or something. So part of being IN CHRIST is your identification with Him in His death and burial...retroactive positional truth! Retroactive means applying or referring to the past; and/or it can mean effective or operative from a date or for a period in the past. You see you were placed IN CHRIST at the cross over 2000 years ago.

"Current positional truth" places us and ALL believers IN CHRIST at His resurrection, ascension and session. "Current positional truth" is where we are NOW spiritually. Our real citizenship is in Heaven with Jesus. God just has us here on earth to do a job for Jesus...our spiritual gifts...but our true home is Heaven. You are "currently" IN CHRIST seated at the Father's right hand. What a privilege!!!

These verses teach us about retroactive and current positional truth: Rom 6:1-12 "What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? (2) By no means! How can we who died to sin (retroactive positional truth) still live in it? (3) Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized (by the Holy Spirit) into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death (retroactive positional truth)? (4) We were buried therefore with Him by baptism (of the Holy Spirit) 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 (current positional truth). (5) For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His. (6) We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin (our sin natures) might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. (7) For one who has died (retroactive positional truth) has been set free from sin. (8) Now if we have died with Christ (retroactive positional truth) (and we did), we believe that we will also live with Him (current positional truth). (9) We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over Him. (10) For the death He died He died to sin, once for all, but the life He lives He lives to God. (11) So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin (retroactive positional truth) and alive to God in Christ Jesus (current positional truth). (12) Let not sin therefore rule in your mortal body (make good choices to stay in fellowship and filled with the Spirit), to make you obey its passions (desires or lusts)."

Col 3:1-4 "If then you have been raised with Christ (current positional truth), seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. (2) Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. (3) For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is your life appears then you also will appear with Him in glory."

Let's look again at the verse we left off with in our last lesson. 1 Pet 3:18-22 "For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just (Jesus) for the unjust (all unbelievers), so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; (19) in which also He went and made proclamation to the demons now in prison (in Hades), (20) who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. (21) Corresponding to that, baptism now delivers you...not the removal of dirt from the flesh (water baptism), but an appeal to God for a good conscience...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (current positional truth), (22) who is at the right



hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and powers had been subjected to Him. Notice that Peter is making a contrast. He's comparing one thing (the Baptism of the Holy Spirit) against another thing (water baptism). He is saying that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit he is talking about here is NOT the removal of dirt from the flesh. He wants to make sure we know that he is NOT talking about water baptism! This is very clear in the verse.

The baptism Peter is talking about here is the one that delivers you in life through all situations especially through suffering. It is the Baptism of God the Holy Spirit because this places you in direct union with Christ...in HIM forever. It has many benefits!!! Solving your problems is one of them.

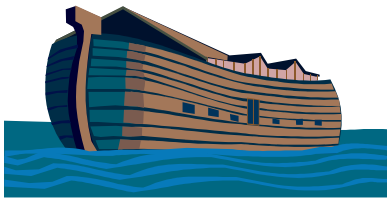
Everyone wants to look good in God's eyes, right? Well the Baptism of the Holy Spirit does that for us. It gives us a good conscience with God. This means if Jesus could save our souls from the Lake of Fire, He has also forgiven us any sins we commit here on earth after we're saved and that gives us a good

conscience with God. We don't have to feel guilty (a sin), or badly about sin, since it was taken care of at the cross but you **MUST ALWAYS REMEMBER...**you cannot use this as an excuse to rationalize your sins. You can't walk by the Spirit if you constantly sin over and over again. You have to make a choice not to sin as much as possible. God will not tolerate an arrogant attitude about sinning like that. Talk about trouble...God will give you divine discipline to get you back into walking in the Spirit and divine thinking about this.

You know that Jesus can deliver us through any troubles we have...BIG or little!!!! The Baptism of the Holy Spirit delivers us through trouble and testing through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Please notice that Peter says "resurrection" here instead of the cross. He's not talking about the salvation of our souls here. If this were eternal salvation, he would have pointed to the cross. But instead Peter tells us it is through Jesus' resurrection that we are delivered because we are **IN HIM** and **IN UNION** with Him so we are delivered by HIM in all trials and tests that we suffer with.

Hold on to your seats because in fancy language, he is NOT pointing to "retroactive positional truth" (which identifies us in Christ's death and burial). Peter is pointing to "current positional truth" (which is where we are **NOW SPIRITUALLY...IN CHRIST...IN UNION WITH CHRIST IN HEAVEN!** This is **AFTER** we are **SAVED** from the Lake of Fire. Peter is pointing to the fact of our union with the resurrected Christ and this gives us a good or clean conscience that Christ will deliver us from all things we suffer especially for HIM.

Let me give you an example of being saved or delivered by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, which remember, puts us in **UNION WITH CHRIST**. This is so you will see that Peter is NOT talking about WATER baptism in this verse, okay? Noah was already a believer and so were all 8 persons when they stepped into the ark. They were not saved from eternal damnation by their journey on the ark. They were delivered or saved from a HUGE problem they had...the earth was being flooded. Noah and his family were delivered from the judgment of God in the form a flood. Their deliverance was physical. Eternal salvation is the deliverance of our souls. Noah and his family were safely in the ark when they were delivered from the flood waters and we are safely **IN CHRIST!**



REPEAT TO LEARN...retroactive and current positional truth:

These 2 truths are a VERY BIG part of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. "Retroactive positional truth" or "positional sanctification," which is the same thing places us and ALL believers **IN CHRIST** at His death on the cross and His burial afterward. It identifies us with Christ when He died spiritually for our sins and our sin nature was buried with Him. That's why we are no longer slaves to our sin natures. We still have it but it has no power over us anymore. This is a miracle. You see baptism means "identification" with someone or something. So part of being **IN CHRIST** is your identification with Him in His death and burial...retroactive positional truth! Retroactive means applying or referring to the past; and/or it can mean effective or operative from a date or for a period in the past. You see you were placed **IN CHRIST** at the cross over 2000 years ago.

"Current positional truth" places us and ALL believers **IN CHRIST** at His resurrection, ascension and session. "Current positional truth" is where we are **NOW** spiritually. Our real citizenship is in Heaven with Jesus. God just has us here on earth to do a job for Jesus...our spiritual gifts...but our true home is Heaven. You are "currently" **IN CHRIST** seated at the Father's right hand. What a privilege!!!

Let's look at the ark again. The historical ark is a type or symbol of our union with Christ. Our soul is delivered from attacks made on it by knowing that we are in union with Christ in His resurrection! Eph 2:4-6 "But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our sins, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), (6) and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus..." Noah and his family were delivered by the ark. They were safely **IN** the ark. The ark again is a type or symbol of Christ. We are safely **IN CHRIST** through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Do you see it?

Jesus is the reality...the real thing for us! This completely shows the resurrected Christ seated at the Right Hand of the Father. That is where Christ is exercising His High priesthood right now. We are IN UNION with the resurrected Christ seated at the Right Hand of the Father as a result of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In other words, kids, when we are suffering, one of the things that gets attacked is our good conscience...our sense of having a clean slate with God...or that we are okay in God's eyes. That is what gets attacked. Satan and the demons want you to think "You are suffering because of something you did and God is mad at you." NO WAY is that true!!!! You are safely IN CHRIST because the Holy Spirit put you there when you believed in Jesus for salvation!!! The baptism of the Spirit delivers us when we are facing these judgmental attacks, because we know that Christ has risen from the dead and we are safely IN HIM.

What is Christ's resurrection proof of? It is proof of OUR JUSTIFICATION!!! (+R imputed or credited to us the moment we believed in Jesus. **Rom 4:25 "He who was delivered up for our sins, and raised (resurrected) because of our justification."** You are perfectly righteous in God's eyes as a believer in Christ! Being positionally IN CHRIST does not save us from our sins...from eternal damnation...the Lake of Fire. Just like the resurrection of Christ is not the means of our salvation from our sins. THE CROSS of Christ saves us from our sins and from the penalty of our sins. The spiritual death of Christ on the cross is the REASON for our eternal salvation. And salvation is the same in every dispensation. We are saved by the work of Christ on the cross through faith alone in Christ alone by choice. THEN the believer is placed in an eternal union with Christ through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We are placed into Christ for safekeeping!!! SAFE and SECURE FOREVER!!!!!! ALL PROBLEMS SOLVED!!!



Just like Noah was placed into the Ark for safekeeping we are safe forever IN CHRIST. We can deal with these attacks from Satan, demons and our sin nature with a clear and good conscience because we know we are justified (perfect in God's eyes), and we know it because of the resurrection of Christ. We know **Rom 8:1. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST JESUS."** Just as Noah was delivered in the Ark when the rest of the half man/half angels came under the judgment of the wrath of God, we are delivered by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit through our troubles and trials everyday IN CHRIST!!!

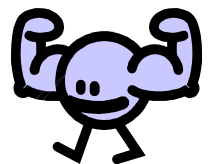
In the days of Noah there was no condemnation for those who were in the Ark...right? So now in the Church Age there is no condemnation for those who are...WHERE? **Rom 8:1. "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST JESUS."** SO baptism...the Baptism of the Holy Spirit delivers us from being under the scourge of a bad conscience for bad things we have done, thinking that we are somehow condemned. **2 Tim 4:18 The Lord will rescue me from every evil deed (that I do!!!), and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen."** Phew!!! What a relief!!!

Let's review a little. Tell me what you think these words mean and we will discuss each of them:

Baptism Angelic conflict Priesthood Conscience Salvation as deliverance



Here once again is a more detailed and complete definition of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: At the moment of salvation, the omnipotence (POWER) of God the Holy Spirit places or puts the Church Age believer into an eternal VERY IMPORTANT union with Christ, therefore identifying the believer positionally with Christ in His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session, which is "retroactive positional truth" and "current positional truth." This results in making the believer a permanent member of the Body of Christ...the Royal Family of God, a new spiritual species, and eternally secure and safe.



Here are some wonderful Scripture passages that teach us about this GREAT GIFT from GOD!!

Mark 16:16 "Whoever believes and is baptized (Baptism of the Holy Spirit NOT water baptism) will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned."

John 7:37-39 "On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, 'If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. (38) Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.' (39) Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (in Heaven).

John 14:20 "In that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you."

Acts 1:5 "...for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

Acts 2:1-4 "When the day of Pentecost arrived they were all together in one place. (2) And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. (3) And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. (4) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues (other languages at that time in history) as the Spirit gave them speech."

Rom 6:3-5 "Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death (retroactive positional truth)? (4) 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 (because of the RESURRECTION OF JESUS). (5) For if we have been united with him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His."

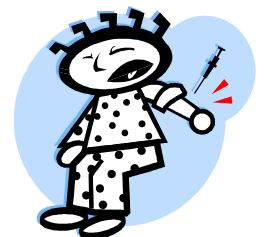
1 Cor 12:13 "For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...Jews or Greeks (Gentiles), slaves or free and all were made to drink of one Spirit."

Gal 3:26-28 "And they came to John and said to him, 'Rabbi, He (Jesus) who was with you across the Jordan, to whom you bore witness...look, He is baptizing, and all are going to Him.' (27) John answered, 'A person cannot receive even one thing unless it is given him from heaven. (28) You yourselves bear me witness that I said, 'I am not the Christ, but I have been sent before Him.'"

Col 2:11-13 "In him also you were circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, (12) having been buried with him in baptism (retroactive positional truth), in which you were also raised with Him (current positional truth) through faith in the powerful working of God, who raised Him from the dead. (13) And you, who were dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with Him, having forgiven us all our trespasses..."

1 Pet 3:21 "Baptism, which communicates this, now saves you, not as a removal of dirt from the body (NOT WATER BAPTISM) but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ..."

Look kids, by the Holy Spirit's baptism into Christ, we believers are joined permanently unto the Lord. We have put on Christ, and therefore, being in Christ, have received a new nature and we share all that Christ is! This very important union is the foundation of every position and possession into which the child of God has entered. It's all ours in CHRIST...we have NOTHING to worry about...EVER!!!



All right. We are now ready to really study the key characteristics of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit or positional sanctification or retroactive positional truth...set apart in Christ for a purpose.

A lot of these characteristics are in the form of telling us what the baptism of the Spirit is NOT. This will clear up a lot of confusion and help us be crystal clear about the real nature of this baptism.

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is NOT an experience. YOU DON'T FEEL IT!!!! It's not like going to the doctor and getting a shot to prevent some disease. It is NOT an emotional activity or powerful feeling. It has nothing to do with speaking in tongues or having an out-of-body experience or any of that nonsense. The Baptism of the Spirit is a fact, NOT an experience.
2. It is NOT progressive. You don't get a little of the baptism each day and a little more the next day and so on. It is a once-for all act by the divine agent of God the Holy Spirit. In other words you get it all at once. Therefore, it cannot be improved in time or for all eternity. Your union with Christ is complete and perfect from the moment you believe in Christ. It is NOT obtained gradually as you grow in grace, but is given in total at salvation.
3. It is NOT related to sin.

4. It is NOT related to any human merit, ability, or human works. It comes courtesy of the grace of God. We are NOT in Christ because of what we do, but because we believed in Christ and God the Holy Spirit did the efficacious work of entering us into union with Christ.



The baptism of the Spirit really brings out the difference between Christianity and religion. Union with Christ is a permanent identification with Him that shows the difference between Christianity and religion. In religion, man by man's efforts seeks to gain the God's approval, which is a satanic function. It denies the grace of God.

In Christianity, the believer through union with Christ (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) has a permanent grace relationship with God. You don't have to do anything to get or keep the Baptism of the Spirit. Grace is poured out to the believer.

5. It is given to you completely at the moment of salvation through faith alone in Christ alone. It is NOT an after salvation experience. It is NOT the "second blessing" so called by Holy Rollers or Charismatic sects of religion. Union with Christ is a completed ministry or work by the Holy Spirit. So it cannot be reversed by any human failure or sin.
6. It is eternal and unchangeable (immutable) in its nature. It cannot be canceled or changed by God, angels, or man. It is part of your eternal security. NO rejection, no sin, no human good or evil, no moral or immoral wickedness can cancel this ministry or work of the Holy Spirit.
7. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is known and understood only through learning the important mystery doctrines of the Church Age. It is for the Church Age only. You can't see or taste or hear or feel the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is an invisible and spiritual fact. So you come to understand it and appreciate it only through studying the Word of God.
8. The baptism of the Spirit is NOT a matter of the believer's volition. You cannot choose to have it. It is NOT commanded for you to do, it is given to you. It is one of the ten unique features of the Church Age, making the Church Age believer unique because it is the basis for making us royal family of God...Jesus' brothers and sisters.
9. It is a very important and natural union. This will be better understood when we study the important parables and analogies the Bible uses for our union with Christ, including the Vine and the Branches and the Head and the Body, which we will study in another lesson.



This is all part of why we are to study God's Word and grow up spiritually to know these gifts and privileges we have and to be more and more like Christ here on earth. Kids, God's plan is perfect and so are we "in Christ" so let's understand what we have IN CHRIST and live like Him so others' lives will

be affected by us and they will either come to know Jesus as Savior or introduced to His plan and become like Him through His Word. Don't let these gifts go to waste!

Close in prayer

Prepared from Pastor John Farley's lesson on March 13, 2011
Lighthouse Bible Church

