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Foundations Reflection Guide

Part 3: Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This reflection guide is designed for uses for those who have listened or watched **Part 3: Baptism in the Holy Spirit**.

It provides space to process the scriptures and apply the "Foundations" teaching.

The big idea in this session is that being born again is like lighting a boiler's pilot light, and being filled with the Spirit is when the flame ignites, releasing God's power in your life.

1. Who is the Holy Spirit?

It is vital to understand that the Holy Spirit is not a "force" or an "it," but a Person.

- **He is God:** The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Godhead.

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God."

Acts 5:3-4

these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who knows a person's thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:10-11

- **He is Personal:** He speaks, feels, responds, and creates.

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 4:30

- **His Role:** He carries out God's will on earth, bringing Glory to the Son and the Father by working through His people.

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me [Jesus] because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you.

John 16:13-14

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we share in his sufferings in order that we may also share in his glory

Romans 8:15-17

Reflection: Do you view the Holy Spirit as a distant power you try to 'use,' or as a Person you are invited to have a relationship with?

2. The Promise of Power

Throughout history, God used His Spirit to empower people for specific tasks, but Jesus promised something even greater for every believer.

- **Read Ezekiel 11:19-20**

"I will give them an undivided heart and put a new spirit in them; I will remove from them their heart of stone and give them a heart of flesh."

Ezekiel 11:19-20

- **The OT Pattern:** The Spirit "rushed upon" specific people like Samson for strength, or Bezalel for craftsmanship.
- **The New Promise:** Ezekiel 11 prophesied a time when God would put a "new spirit" inside *all* His people.

- **Read Acts 1:3-11**

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, 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."

So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, and said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Acts 1: 3-11

- **The Command to Wait:** Before His ascension, Jesus ordered the disciples to wait for the "Promise of the Father". He promised they would receive **power** to be His witnesses to the ends of the earth.
- **Reflect:** God so wanted everyone in the world to hear the good news of salvation through Jesus Christ that he said wait. Why is this important for us to understand?

3. Why Seek the Filling of the Spirit?

We don't seek the Holy Spirit for a "spiritual high," but for a specific purpose:

1. Relationship: He helps us pray and understand the Bible.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.

Romans 8:26

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come.

John 16:13

2. Character: He produces "fruit" in our lives—godly character that looks

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Galatians 5:22-25

3. Witness: He gives us the power to worship God and tell others about Him with bold confidence.

But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

Matthew 10:19-20

4. Gifts: He provides special spiritual gifts to help us serve and build up the church.

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully.

Romans 12:6-8

4. Biblical Examples: How it Happened

In the Book of Acts, people were filled with the Spirit in various ways. There is no "one-size-fits-all" method: Look at each of these passages and reflect on:

1. How were the people filled or baptised in the Holy Spirit?
2. What happened as a sign of their receiving the Holy Spirit?

- **At Pentecost:**

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 they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.

Acts 2:1-6

- **Philip in Samaria**

Acts 8:9-19 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is rightly called the Great Power of God." They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his sorcery. But when they believed Philip as he proclaimed the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Acts 8: 9 – 19

- **Peter in the house of Cornelius**

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.

Then Peter said, "Can anyone keep these people from being baptised with water: They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." So he ordered that they be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days."

Acts 10: 44 – 48

- **Saul**

"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands-on Saul he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptised, after taking some food, he regained his strength."

Acts 9: 17 – 19

- **Paul at Ephesus**

"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the One coming after him that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all."

Acts 19: 1 – 7

- **How?** Sometimes they were worshiping, other times someone laid their hands on and prayed still other time they were just listening to the word of God, and the Spirit came upon them.
- **What sign was there?** Some spoke in a new language (tongues), others prophesied, while for others nothing is recorded as in Samaria but in each instance they and the people around then were in no doubt that something powerful had happened. That they had been touched by God.

5. How Can I Be Filled?

- Read John 7:37–39

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified

John 7:37-39

Jesus gives us a simple invitation in:

1. **Be Thirsty:** Do you recognize your need for more of God's power?
2. **Come to Jesus:** He is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.
3. **Drink:** This is an act of receiving. Just as you drink water, you must actively receive what He is pouring out.

Note on Continuity: Being baptised in the Holy Spirit is not a one-time experience. Paul tells us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Eph 5:18). Which in the original language, means to "**go on being filled**".

Questions

1. **The Pilot Light:** Every Christian has the Holy Spirit (the pilot light is on), but not every Christian is *filled* (the flame ignited). How would you describe yourself right now?
2. **The Thirst:** Jesus taught that being "thirsty" is the main condition for receiving. Do you desire Him above all else?
3. **The Purpose:** The Holy Spirit gives us power to be *witnesses*. Who do you need power and boldness from the Holy Spirit to share with?
4. **The Method:** Looking at the examples in Acts, God uses both direct prayer and the "laying on of hands" by other believers. Are you willing to ask someone you trust to pray for you to be filled with the Spirit?
5. **Daily Habit:** Since being filled is a "continual" command, what could you change in your daily routine to make "drinking" from the Spirit a priority?