



The Treasure Is Closer Than You Think

By Jim Poitras

“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).

Ravi Zachariah in *A Life of Integrity* tells a simple parable that makes an excellent point.

A prosperous man was making a long journey. In his bag he packed all his valuable jewels and money. A thief started to follow him, pretending to be a friend, and waiting for the opportunity to steal the wealthy man’s riches.

The rich man was aware of the man’s motives and thought of a plan. Each night as he would stop at a local hotel he would invite the thief to share the room.

Once inside the rich man would say, “Here is a towel. You go and wash up for the night.”

While the thief took his shower the rich man hid his treasures.

When the thief returned to the room, the rich man would go and bath. While away, the thief searched frantically for the riches. He looked in the rich man’s luggage, searched the closet, drawers, under the bed, between the mattresses, and under the rich man’s pillow. The treasure could not be found.

At the end of the journey, the rich man boarded a train to go home. He called out to the thief, “I know why you have been following me. You’ve been trying to steal my treasures. Each night you have looked in my bags, searched the closet, rummaged through the drawers. You’ve looked under my bed, between the mattress, and even under my pillow. The one place you never looked was under your own pillow. The treasure was closer than you thought!”

What are the benefits of receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost? Many think it is to “speak with other tongues.” Indeed, this is the initial evidence of receiving the Spirit. Paul said, “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all” (1 Corinthians 14:18).

However, we look for power, protection, ability to overcome sin, hope for our future, wisdom, spiritual gifts, and progressive changes in our lives, never realizing the treasure is closer than we think. All these, and more, can be found and experienced through the baptism of the Holy Ghost. The power is available. Have you plugged into the power source?

The search begins. What are we looking for? The treasures we find in the baptism of the Holy Ghost. This short list does not include all the benefits of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

Power to Witness

“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Before the Holy Ghost outpouring the disciples were timid and afraid. At Pentecost they were strong and willing to stand up and explain the Gospel.

Power to Go in the Rapture

“But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you” (Romans 8:11).

What powerful words, “Jesus is alive! He has risen!” The same spirit that raised Jesus will one day rapture us.

See 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Power to Be the Sons of God

“For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God” (Romans 8:14).

The Spirit of God leads us, not from some distant throne or control center, but from within our hearts. He is in charge. We are His sons.

“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together” (Romans 8:16-17).

We have become heirs of our Father’s kingdom. Jesus Christ is “heir of all things” (Hebrews 1:2) and we have become joint-heirs.

“He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. To him who is thirsty I will give to drink without cost from the spring of the water of life. He who overcomes will inherit all this, and I will be his God and he will be my son” (Revelation 21:6-8, *NIV*).

Power to Pray

Have you ever experienced a time when you did not know what to pray? At times, the Spirit takes over and prays through us using words we cannot comprehend. We do not know all the problems coming our way, but the Spirit does, and prays through for us.

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26).

“And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:27).

He is interceding for us, knows the will of God for our lives, and prays accordingly. God has a plan and is bringing it to pass.

Power to Defeat

“So shall they fear the name of the Lord from the west, and his glory from the rising of the sun. When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).

When we are weak and helpless, and the enemy comes, the Spirit shall put him to flight, and drive him away. God is a deliverer, combating on our behalf. The Spirit conquers our enemies.

Power to Know

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:26).

Let’s amplify that a bit.

“But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you” (John 14:26, *AMP*).

Bring it on, Teacher. I am ready to learn!

Power to Refresh

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” (John 7:37-39).

Anyone thirsty? Anyone tired? The baptism of the Holy Ghost provides rest, and a drink so powerful you will never thirst again.

“Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw” (John 4:13-15).

“To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear” (Isaiah 28:12).

Power of Ownership

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Romans 8:9).

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory” (Ephesians 1:13-14).

We belong to Jesus Christ. (See 2 Timothy 2:19.) He has marked us with His seal which shows that we are His people. The Holy Ghost is a deposit which guarantees our inheritance and redemption. The Spirit is God’s guarantee that He will give us everything He promised. It is like a seal on a document that gives validity to the terms of the contract contained within.

Salvation and heaven is the possession purchased for us by our Redeemer (Acts 20:28).

Power Within

Jesus is not only walking with us, but living in us. Some sing, “He’s as close as the mention of His name.” That’s not entirely true. He’s closer. He lives within us.

“I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:18).

“To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory” (Colossians 1:27).

Power to Know the Future

“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come” (John 16:13).

Lead on, Holy Ghost. We will follow! We have found the treasure.

Study Questions

1. What is the lesson to be learned from the parable used in this lesson?

2. According to Acts 1:8 we are given power to do what?

3. List seven benefits of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and provide a scriptural reference for each.

4. According to Romans 8:27 who is interceding for us?

5. According to Isaiah 59:19 what happens when the enemy comes against us?

Additional Notes
