

GROW IN GRACE

NEWSLETTER

Volume 45, No. 29, July 17, 2018 / Southside Baptist Church / P.O. Box 1594 / 1028 South Water Avenue, Gallatin, TN 37066 (615) 452-5951 / **The Grow in Grace Newsletter is a WEEKLY Bible Study**, plus local church news notes— designed first and foremost for members and those attending services at Southside Church; and is sent forth with the desire to aid one and all, (including friends far and wide), in the experience of 2 Peter 3:18. ***"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our LORD and Savior JESUS CHRIST. To Him be glory both now and forever. Amen."***

BEWARE OF FALSE TEACHING ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Multitudes, armed with their 'experiences' are quick to REJECT the TRUTH of God's Word. On a number of issues, **multitudes BELIEVE the Word of God— UNTIL** it contradicts their experiences and/or beloved traditions. *"A professing Christian with an 'experience' or popular religious tradition IS NEVER AT THE MERCY of anyone bearing the plain truth of God's Word!"* BE THAT AS IT MAY, WE SHALL SEEK TO SET FORTH BIBLICAL TRUTH IN THIS ARTICLE. **But first,**

***** EXPRESSIONS OF FALSE TEACHING, EXPERIENCES as to the Holy Spirit**

(1) Tony Miano is a retired veteran of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (1987-2007)... since then, he has served in a number of ways in Christian ministry. **Tony tells what happened in the church he was in as a young Christian:** "The pastor stepped behind his pulpit and told the congregation there would be no sermon this morning... Instead, he was going to turn his pulpit over to members of the congregation who spent the better

part of the weekend at a conference at a church called "Anaheim Vineyard," One-by-one and couple-by-couple, elders and their wives and other leaders in the church stepped up to the pulpit to share what they experienced at the conference... **They testified of what they called extraordinary moves of the Holy Spirit...**

They described uncontrollable laughter, the feeling of physical drunkenness, people barking like dogs, and quacking like ducks. Yes, quacking like ducks. And as people shared their "testimonies," others in the congregation laughed. But they weren't laughing at what was being said. They were just laughing...

The above testimony is edited from:
<http://www.crossencounters.us/2013/07/spiritual-heroin-and-blasphemy-of-holy.html>

For multitudes of professing Christians the Holy Spirit is primarily associated with feelings, emotions, EXPERIENCES, speaking in tongues, and/or out of control behavior as described in Tony's testimony.

(2) From CBN, the Christian Broadcasting Network: How Do I Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

"You only have to do two things. **First**, you just have to ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. **Second**, believe you have in fact received this gift from God. Pray this prayer if you sincerely desire to receive the baptism in God's Holy Spirit: *"Heavenly Father, at this moment I come to You. I thank You that Jesus saved me. I pray that the Holy Spirit might come upon me. Lord Jesus, baptize me now in the Holy Spirit. I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit right now by faith in Your Word. Thank You, Lord Jesus, for baptizing me in Your Holy Spirit. Amen."* **Now, having asked and received**, begin to practice the power of the Spirit. To do this, begin praising God out loud in whatever words come to you... let Him give you new words of praise you never heard before."

[Note: They are teaching that Holy Spirit baptism is a second work of grace... an experience to be sought sometime after one has become a Christian; also, the 'method of attaining' is FOREIGN to the Word of God!]

(3) CHARLES and FRANCES HUNTER, *IN WHY SHOULD I SPEAK IN TONGUES* (Page 186), speak very openly: "We did not know how to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, until someone TOLD US!" "We are going to ask you to join with us in a little prayer in just a moment, and in that second of time, in that instant THINK OF JESUS laying His hands upon you to impart to you the gift of the Holy Spirit." "We want you to also remember that you can't speak two languages at one time. You can't speak English and in your prayer language,

SO AFTER WE PRAY THIS PRAYER, WE ARE GOING TO ASK YOU NOT TO SPEAK IN ENGLISH ANY MORE." "And remember that all languages are made up of a bunch of MIXED UP LITTLE syllables, so give the Spirit some syllables, SO HE CAN GIVE YOU THE LANGUAGE. WE HAVE ALSO DISCOVERED THAT IF YOU WILL PRAY RAPIDLY AT FIRST, IT WILL HELP YOU CONSIDERABLY...

BECAUSE WHEN YOU PRAY SLOWLY YOU HAVE A TENDENCY TO THINK ABOUT WHAT'S COMING OUT OF YOUR MOUTH. **When you pray in the Spirit, IT HAS TO BYPASS YOUR MIND....** And you will find this easier if you will pray a little faster!"

IMPORTANT REALITY: Hopefully most who receive this article are totally turned off by the above obvious false teachings and false experiences as to the Holy Spirit.

[BUT BEWARE! An even MORE DEADLY situation is to have Biblical understanding of the truth about the Holy Spirit and His

ministries— **while being STRANGERS to experiencing and strangers to living out those ministries!]**

***** The Word of God, GIVEN TO US BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, CLEARS UP confusion and give us life changing truth!**

******* (John 13-17), JUST PRIOR TO THE CROSS, JESUS sets forth PRIMARY works and/or ministries of the Holy Spirit: [DON'T BE LAZY... LOOK THESE UP!] 1. John 14:16-18; 2. John 14: 26; 3. John 15:26; 4. John 16:7-14. (By the way... it is obvious that the Holy Spirit of TRUTH who TEACHES us all the things that JESUS taught, **does not by-pass our minds!**)

******* From the New Testament we find that there are FIVE Works of the Holy Spirit RELATING TO SALVATION AND CHRISTIAN LIVING:

I. Birth by the Holy Spirit- John 3:3- Jesus told Nicodemus, *"You must be born again." "Unless you are born of water and the Spirit, you cannot SEE nor enter the kingdom of heaven."* **GOD ACCOMPLISHES THE NEW BIRTH** by the Word of God and by the Holy Spirit: Ephesians 5:26; Titus 3:5; 1 Peter 1:23; Eph. 2:4-10.

AMAZINGLY, Christians are commissioned as 'laborers together with God'— we get to be SEED SOWERS... sowing the Word of God! The Holy Spirit accompanies His Word and GIVES LIFE, NEW BIRTH to those who have been utterly SPIRITUALLY DEAD! HOW? The WIND of the Spirit blows! (John 3:7-8)

NOTE THIS: From the human side of our experience, we might well testify something like this: 1. I heard the Gospel... 2. I REPENTED of my sin... 3. And BELIEVED ON JESUS— 4. PRAISE GOD, I AM SAVED! **BUT WHAT IS BEHIND**, what is the foundation of such a testimony?

1. THE NEW birth IS ROOTED IN Holy Spirit conviction. (John 16:7-11)

The Holy Spirit will bring about spiritual discomfort and guilt to show a lost person his/her sin! ** AND, Conviction of Righteousness— the Holy Spirit exposes the hopelessness and doom of all human attempts to attain righteousness. (Titus 3:3-4) AND, Conviction of COMING Judgment, that SINNERS are under the holy and just wrath of God!

Have you ever experienced these?

2. The Holy Spirit ALSO... GIVES DIVINE LIFE, empowering THE SINNER

to repentance and saving faith. (ACTS 11:16-18) LIKE THE UNSEEN WIND, eyes cannot see this BENEATH-THE-SURFACE-MIRACLE! BUT... THE EVIDENCE WILL BE UNDENIABLE— there is life!

There is grace, power, and desire to walk with Jesus! (Acts 2:42ff) ***Have you been born again by the Holy Spirit of God?***

IF SO, you have ALSO AT THE POINT OF NEW BIRTH... experienced other ministries of the Holy Spirit, (1 Cor. 12:13), as the BAPTISM with, by, in the Holy Spirit—

II. BAPTISM WITH/BY/IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SPECIFICALLY STATED SEVEN times in the New Testament: FIVE of the references POINT AHEAD to the day of Pentecost: (1) Matt. 3:11; (2) Mark 1:8; (3) Luke 3:16; (4) John 1:33; (5) Acts 1:4-5. TWO of the 7 references POINT BACK to the day of Pentecost: (6) Acts 11:15-17; (7) 1 Cor. 12:13.

REALITY: IN ACTS.... **ONLY WHEN** THE GOSPEL ADVANCED beyond the Jews to the GENTILES and to the SMARITIANS **DID THE GOD GIVE** THE GIFT OF OTHER LANGUAGES ... (AS AT PENTECOST) ... **SO THAT**... the young Christians from a Jewish

background would know **THAT THE SAME GOSPEL THAT SAVED THEM HAD ALSO BEGUN SAVING GENTILES AND SAMARITANS!** (Acts 11:15-17)

IT IS IMPORTANT what the Word of God says and **DOES NOT say in the 7 references: IN NONE** OF the Biblical references IS the Baptism of the Holy Spirit an experience SOUGHT, sometime after being saved. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT is never presented as a 'second' work of grace, following salvation. **Rather**, it is equated with the miracle of BEING SAVED. (Acts 11:1-18)

The Holy Spirit Baptism DID NOT COME IN RESPONSE TO agonizing prayer; IT DID NOT COME for a select group of believers and passing by others. Rather it is for all who come to faith in Christ... ALL are BAPTIZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT into the Body of Christ. (1 Cor. 12:32)

HOLY SPIRIT Baptism is the reality of the miracle of becoming a Christian. All who BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT are baptized into Christ, into His body; **and at the point of NEW BIRTH**, the Holy Spirit FLOODS every redeemed heart. (Rom.5:5) WITH HIS LOVE, (1 Corinthians 13:1-7)!

AGAIN: At the BEGINNING of the New Testament Church on the precise day of Pentecost and when the gospel went to the Gentiles in Acts 11, there was the manifestation of speaking in tongues. HOWEVER, it was not sought; and the tongues CLEARLY were a supernatural gift of known, human languages, as revealed in Acts 2.

It is also important to note that there are many whose salvation experiences are shown in Scripture who come to saving faith in Christ... and yet they did not manifest any sort of

speaking in tongues as on the day of Pentecost. TONGUES was not and is not the EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT... NOR is tongues the entrance to THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

The reality of being saved, the evidence of being baptized with, by, in the Holy Spirit WILL BE HOLINESS— for He is the HOLY Spirit; and it will be MIRACLE LOVE... which multiplies into 9-fold expressions: Gal. 5:22-25; **Flooded with GOD'S LOVE by the Holy Spirit**, (Romans 5:5), THOSE BORN OF THE HOLY SPIRIT manifest the fruit of the Holy Spirit.

SO, AGAIN... IT IS NOT A SURPRISE THAT: 1. No NEW TESTAMENT BELIEVERS ARE EVER commanded to be baptized with, by or in the Holy Spirit. **2. No one** is instructed to seek the baptism and there is no Biblical instruction on HOW TO SEEK... or on how to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. THERE IS ZERO INSTRUCTION AS TO HOW TO SPEAK IN TONGUES! **WHY?**

Because to be baptized with the Holy Spirit is the salvation miracle of being placed by God into Christ and Christ in us... The new convert becomes God's Holy Temple! (1 Cor. 12:13) This salvation reality is common to all who are born again— The Wind Blows! (John 3:3-8)

NOTE: Holy Spirit Baptism is not to be confused with the COMMAND to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Whereas there is ONE Baptism in the Holy Spirit, there are, can be, should be MANY FILLINGS with the Holy Spirit. As to being filled with the Holy Spirit, CHRISTIANS are commanded to be filled and told how to be being filled. (Eph. 5:18-6:18; Col. 3:16-4:4)

REALITY: ** Speaking in tongues is nowhere in Scripture said to be the evidence Holy Spirit filling, Holy Spirit anointing, or the key to a higher level of Christian living. **** Speaking in tongues does not mean** or prove that one is FILLED WITH the Holy Spirit.

**** SPEAKING IN TONGUES is not even** proof that a person is a Christian. Hindus and people of various religions speak in tongues.
****** In the New Testament, the most carnal church, Corinth, was big on speaking in tongues. **HOWEVER**, they were short on Holy Spirit FRUIT and FULNESS.

AGAIN: THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. The greatest need is always Holy Spirit fullness... **As we heed the command not to grieve and not to quench Holy Spirit** and instead to be being continuously filled WITH the Spirit. **NOW:** When you are BORN of the Holy Spirit and Baptized with the Holy Spirit, YOU ARE ALSO

III. Sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13) — BRINGING FORTH EVIDENCE OF Ownership and Likeness!
AND, OBVIOUSLY, YOU ARE

IV. INDWELT by the Holy Spirit: Your body becomes the “home of the Holy Spirit!” I Cor. 6:19-20; Eph. 2:19-22

Are you a Christian? THE HOLY SPIRIT indwells you! You are God’s property! And the sign says: No trespassing! Under new management! These are all “Salvation Miracles.” **Have you been born, baptized, sealed, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit?** IN OTHER WORDS... HAVE YOU BEEN SAVED? **Now, once we are saved, we face a clear command:**

V. Be ye being filled with the Holy Spirit, Ephesians 5:18

[Note: Sometimes, without asking... and always without anyone personally claiming “I am Holy Spirit filled”... GOD SIMPLY GIVES Holy Spirit FULNESS to faithful saints...]

(1) In Acts 2, the disciples were both baptized with the Holy Spirit and filled with the Holy Spirit. At the same time: **(2.)** *They were filled with the Holy Spirit over and over— but never baptized with*

the Holy Spirit again! (3) Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit as he stood up to preach (Acts 4:8) (4) The disciples prayed and were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31).... They did not ask for it! They simply worshiped God and ASKED FOR BOLDNESS to preach! (5) To serve tables men need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 6:3-5) (6) Steven, the martyr, was full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:55) (7) As a new Christian, Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 9:17) (8) Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit as he blinded the eyes of the sorcerer. (Acts 13:9) (9) Again, after persecution the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 13:52) (10) We are commanded to being continually filled with the Holy Spirit!

SO, AT CONVERSION: WE ARE 1. Born of the Holy Spirit; **2.** Baptized with the Holy Spirit; **3.** Indwelt by the Holy Spirit; **4.** Sealed by the Holy Spirit... ONLY ONCE AT SALVATION! **5.** BUT... Filled. Again and again.

IMPORTANT: The context of the command to be filled (Eph. 5:18) reveals that the fullness of the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential in every area of our daily lives. ALSO....From these verses see that the fullness of the Holy Spirit comes IN A SPECIFIC SETTING: AND the fullness of the Holy Spirit comes as we obey the command to drink in the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18) **How shall those who are born again, baptized, sealed, and indwelt by the Holy Spirit respond to this divine command...**

TODAY, RIGHT NOW?

1. Let us acknowledge that we have often grieved and quenched the Holy SPIRIT. **2.** Let us confess the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence and rights!! **3.** Let us desire Him and heed His promptings. **4.** Let us remember that His passion is to glorify Jesus and to teach us all that Jesus said. **5.** MAY WE LET THE WORD OF CHRIST DWELL IN US RICHLY!

Grace to all! James Bell /
 www.southsidegallatin.org

SOUTHSIDE NEWS NOTES:

MONDAYS: Jail Ministry— First and Second Monday of each month at 7:30pm. Questions? Call the church office at 615-452-5951

TUESDAYS: Come and sing every Tuesday night at Gallatin Health Care Nursing Home. Meet at the front door at **5:15PM**.

WEDNESDAYS: → 6:30pm— Children Ministry/activities;
 → 6:30pm— **Youth** Activities and Bible Study— (**Enter doors by gym**)

→ **6:30pm— Wednesday CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE...** (Enter via IRON STEPS; or double doors by gym)

***** LADIES BIBLE STUDY— Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 31 @ 11:00am; Continuing in LUKE.** ENTER at the back of the church building, [*Doors **open** at 10:30am... re-locked at 11:10am*]

***** MEN: EVERY SATURDAY MORNING @ 8am:** Men's Fellowship/Bible Study! (**STUDY: THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN!**) ENTER AT THE back of Church building... under the drive-thru awning. **FELLOWSHIP, Juice, coffee, Hardee's biscuits, & Donuts WAITING, starting at 7:30am!**

WATCH and SHARE the Preaching of the Word of God!
http://www.southsidegallatin.org/Listen_to_other_sermons_on_sermonaudio/

SUNDAY SERVICES: JULY 2018— 22, 29

Sunday School at 9:30am and Worship at 10:45am

SPECIAL NOTES ON SUNDAY SERVICES:

1. July 22: *Family Integrated EQUIPPING Night at 6:00pm— Shepherding a Child's Heart*

2. July 29: Fifth Sunday Evening Praise & WORSHIP at 6:00pm