Living our Christian life in the power of the Holy Spirit
(THE TWO EXPERIENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT)

- **As Believers we have been called to reign with Jesus Christ here on earth**

In the book of Revelation we read,

"And they sang a new song, saying:

"You are worthy to take the scroll, And to open its seals; For You were slain, And have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe, tongue and people and nation, **And have made us kings and priests to our God; AND WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH."** (Revelation 5:9-10)

As a royal priesthood we the saints (that is all believers) reign *now* with Christ on the earth by our worship, our prayers and by our witness in word and deed

Jesus said, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth." **(Matthew 28:18)**

- **AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE CHRIST'S AMBASSADORS HERE ON EARTH (2 Corinthians 5:20)**

This is why Jesus also said to His disciples,

"And these signs will follow those who believe: In My Name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."
(Mark 16:17-18)

- **As believers we have the potential to make a great impact in our world for eternity**

- **We see this in the life of Phillip who was initially serving at the tables helping to provide for the needs of the widows before he went to Samaria to evangelise**

- **Through his ministry in Samaria the whole city was impacted by the gospel. We see this in Acts chapter eight**

"Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.

For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. AND THERE WAS GREAT JOY IN THAT CITY" **(Acts 8:4-8)**

- **God has so much planned for every believer's life. All God needs is our availability and willingness to depend upon Him to do those things that He calls us to do in life**

*AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE MEANT TO LIVE OUR LIVES **IN GOD'S STRENGTH AND POWER***

The word of the Lord to Zerubbabel was,

"Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit," **Says the Lord of Hosts.**" **(Zechariah 4:6)**

The Apostle Paul wrote, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think of anything as being from ourselves, but our sufficiency is from God." **(2 Corinthians 3:5)**

The Apostle Paul also wrote, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." **(Philippians 4:13)**

AS BELIEVERS GOD'S STRENGTH IS MADE PERFECT IN OUR WEAKNESS

The Lord said to Apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness."
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

The Apostle Peter wrote, "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen" **(1 Peter 4:11)**

The Apostle Paul continually depended on the Holy Spirit during his ministry here on earth.

The Apostle Paul made this clear when he wrote,

"I was with you in weakness, in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God." **(1 Corinthians 2:3-5)**

"For our gospel did not come to you **in word only**, but also **in power**, and **in the Holy Spirit** and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake."
(1 Thessalonians 1:5)

THE FIRST CHURCH MOVED IN GOD'S POWER (Even the shadow of Peter healed people; such was God's power working through him)

WE SEE THIS IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

"And believers were increasingly added to the Lord, **multitudes** of both men and women, so that they brought the sick out into the streets and laid them on beds and couches, that at least the shadow of Peter passing by might fall on some of them. Also a multitude gathered from the surrounding cities to Jerusalem, bringing sick people and those who were tormented by unclean spirits, **and they were healed**." **(Acts 5:14-16)**

JESUS HIMSELF ALSO EMPHASISED THE IMPORTANCE OF CHRISTIANS OPERATING IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus said to His disciples before ascending to Heaven:
"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." ***(Acts 1:8)***

Jesus Himself depended upon the power of the Holy Spirit during his ministry here on earth

In the book of Acts we read, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him." **(Acts 10:38)**

In the gospel of Luke we read,

"Then Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and news of Him went out through all the surrounding region. And He taught in their synagogues, being glorified by all. **(Luke 4:14-15)**

The bible makes it clear that we must be continually filled with all the fullness of God (continually filled with the Holy Spirit) if we are to consistently live our lives in the power of God

The Apostle Paul wrote, "And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,"
(Ephesians 5:18)

"For this reason I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, from whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all the saints what is the width and length and depth and height - to know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God."
(Ephesians 3:14-19)

"Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,"
(Ephesians 3:20)

THE BIBLE MAKES IT CLEAR THAT THERE ARE TWO DISTINCT EXPERIENCES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

FIRSTLY, the new birth experience of the Holy Spirit when we are born again from above by receiving Jesus Christ into our heart and life to be our Lord and Saviour

AND

SECONDLY, the overflowing fullness of the Holy Spirit experience of the Holy Spirit when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit

JOHN THE BAPTIST SAID AS HE WAS BAPTISING PEOPLE WITH WATER,

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." **(Matthew 3:11)**

Here John the Baptist was speaking about the greater Baptist to come (Jesus Christ) when he was baptizing people in the Jordan River.

IT IS JESUS HIMSELF WHO BAPTISES BELIEVERS WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

THIS POWER WAS RECEIVED BY THE DISCIPLES ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

When we do a study of the bible it is clear that there are two distinct experiences of the Holy Spirit

The first disciples had their <u>born again</u> experience on <u>Resurrection Sunday</u> when they were commissioned by Jesus

There are two requirements for receiving New Testament Salvation:

The Apostle Paul wrote, "If you *confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus* and believe in your heart that God *has raised Him from the dead,* <u>you will be saved</u>*."* (Romans 10:9)

Prior to resurrection Sunday the apostles had <u>already confessed</u> Jesus as their Lord. We see this in **(Mark 8:29 and John 6:67-69)**

IN MARK 8:29 WE READ, "He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Peter answered and said to Him, "You are the Christ."

IN JOHN 6:67-69 WE READ,

"Then Jesus said to the twelve, "Do you also want to go away?" But Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." **(John 6:67-69)**

But now on resurrection Sunday, for the first time, they <u>also believed that God had raised Him from the dead</u>. Thus their salvation was completed

This was the point at which they experienced the new birth. The Holy Spirit, breathed into them by Jesus, imparted to them a totally new kind of life - eternal life - which had triumphed over sin and Satan, over death and the grave.

THEREFORE THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE NEW BIRTH EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON RESURRECTION SUNDAY. We see this in John chapter 20 and verses 21 and 22

"After appearing to the disciples on resurrection Sunday, Jesus said to them: **"Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them; "Receive the Holy Spirit."** (John 20:21-22)

HOWEVER, AFTER THIS WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE, JESUS MADE IT PLAIN TO THE APOSTLES, THAT ***THEIR EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT*** **WAS STILL INCOMPLETE. That there was a greater and second experience to come**

Jesus said to His disciples,

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." **(Luke 24:49)**

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and *you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem,* and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

THE PROMISE OF THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR *ALL* BELIEVERS

<u>The Feast</u> of Tabernacles was a joyous celebration which was observed by the priests who brought water (which was symbolic of the water supplied from the rock in Exodus Chapter 17) to the temple from the pool of Siloam in a gold pitcher

"On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. HE WHO BELIEVES IN ME, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." (John 7:37-38)

In John 4:14 we first see the New Birth (or first) experience of the Holy Spirit for believers

Jesus said to the woman at Jacobs well,

"But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a <u>fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.</u>" ***(John 4:14)***

The new birth experience of the Holy Spirit (a fountain of living water) is sufficient to meet our own spiritual needs however the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the second experience of the Holy Spirit helps us to become channels of spiritual refreshment to others

The **rivers of living water referred to in John 7:38, represents the overflowing fullness** of the Spirit-filled life which comes from being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

JESUS SPOKE OF THE PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT AT THE FEAST OF TABLENACLES BECAUSE HE WAS NOT YET GLORIFIED

We read this in John 7:39

"But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those <u>believing</u> in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." **(John 7:39)**

ON ***RESURRECTION SUNDAY*** THE APOSTLES RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT AND EXPERIENCED THE **NEW BIRTH (OR FIRST) EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**

THE TERM "TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT" ***FROM PENTECOST SUNDAY*** ONWARDS ***ONLY*** EVER REFERS TO THE ***BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT EXPERIENCE.***

In chapter one of the book of Acts we read,

"And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;" "for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **(Acts 1:4-5)**

THIS HAPPENED ON PENTECOST SUNDAY

"When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it <u>filled the whole house</u> where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." **(Acts 2:1-4)**

THIS EXPERIENCE OF RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (BEING BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT) TRANSFORMED THE LIVES OF THE DISCIPLES

They turned from being a group of disciples full of character flaws, who had just fled following the arrest of Jesus, to a group of disciples who turned the world upside down with the gospel

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT EMPOWERS A BELIEVER TO WITNESS FOR THE LORD AND MAKES THEIR EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT COMPLETE

A STUDY OF THE BOOK OF ACTS CLEARLY SHOWS THAT THERE IS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE BORN AGAIN EXPERIENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT (BEING BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT)

WHEN CHRIST WAS PREACHED IN SAMARIA

i) Multitudes in that city were born again,

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord ***heeded*** the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did." **(Acts 8:5-6)**

ii) Then Water Baptized

"But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, ***both men and women were baptized."*** **(Acts 8:12)**

And

*iii) Finally Baptized in the Holy Spirit (***Received the Holy Spirit)**

"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might ***receive the Holy Spirit.*** For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they ***received the Holy Spirit***." **(Acts 8:14-17)**

To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit a believer must simply ask their heavenly Father for the special gift of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said,

"If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him." **(Luke 11:13)**

Like the gift of salvation it is to be received – By Grace – Through Faith – Not of Works.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast." **(Ephesians 2:8-9)**

A believer must simply receive the gift of the Holy Spirit by FAITH

"…that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." **(Galatians 3:14)**

FAITH IS HOWEVER NEVER A SUBSTITUTE FOR OBEDIENCE. TRUE FAITH IS ALWAYS MANIFESTED IN OBEDIENCE – IF WE TRULY LOVE THE LORD WE WILL WANT TO HONOUR THE LORD IN THE WAY THAT WE LIVE OUR LIFE

The apostle Peter focused on the obedience aspect of genuine faith in his defence to the Jewish council.

"And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him." **(Acts 5:32)**

I WILL NOW QUICKLY SHARE SIX SCRIPTURAL STEPS OF OBEDIENCE AND FAITH TO HELP YOU TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT IF YOU HAVE NOT YET DONE SO

1) & 2) Repentance and being Baptized

The first two steps are stated by the Apostle Peter. These are genuine repentance and being water baptized upon becoming a believer. In short you must be a genuine believer

The Apostle Peter said, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

3) Being Hungry and thirsty for the fullness of the Spirit

Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." **(John 7:37-38)**

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled." **(Matthew 5:6)**

4) Asking our Heavenly Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit

Again Jesus said, "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father ***give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*** **(Luke 11:13)**

5) We must receive the Holy Spirit (DRINK)

Jesus said, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink." **(John 7:37)**

"Drinking" represents an active process of receiving. The infilling of the Holy Spirit cannot be received by a negative or passive attitude, just as no one can drink with a closed mouth. The Lord says, "Open your mouth wide, and I will fill it." **(Psalm 81:10)** ***God cannot fill a closed mouth. We must open our mouth to receive the fullness of the Spirit***

6) We must "yield" ourselves to God

The apostle Paul speaks to Christians of a two- fold surrender to God:

"But present <u>yourselves</u> to God as being alive from the dead, and your <u>members</u> as instruments of righteousness to God." (Romans 6:13)

- The first surrender is the “surrender of the will and the personality” YOURSELVES

- The second surrender involves the surrender of our PHYSICAL MEMBERS

  - In surrendering our physical members, we can no longer seek to understand intellectually what God asks of us.

  - We must simply hand over unreserved control of our physical members and allow God to use them according to His own will and purpose without demanding to understand what God is doing or why He is doing it.

  - The particular member that He must takes full control of is that unruly member which no man can tame – the tongue.

  - Thus the yielding of our tongue to the Spirit represents the ultimate surrender of one’s members and by this we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

  - **The above six Scriptural steps of obedience and faith are not always fulfilled when some believers receive the Holy Spirit, but they are important steps to be taught to those believers desiring to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit.**

Before praying for you I will conclude by emphasising the importance of being continually filled with the Holy Spirit

Though Peter and John had been baptised in the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, they again prayed to be filled with God's boldness and power after experiencing great persecution after healing the lame man in Solomon' Porch

I will conclude by looking at this account in chapter 4 of the book Acts;

"And seeing the man who had been healed standing with them, they could say nothing against it. But when they had commanded them to go aside out of the council, they conferred among themselves, saying, "What shall we do to these men? For indeed, that a notable miracle has been done through them is evident to all who dwell in Jerusalem, and we cannot deny it, **(Acts 4:14-16)**

"But so that it spreads no further among the people, let us severely threaten them, that from now on they speak to no man in this name." **(Acts 4:17)**

"So they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge. For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." **(Acts 4:18-20)**

"So when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way of punishing them, because of the people, since they all glorified God for what had been done. For the man was over forty years old on whom this miracle of healing had been performed." **(Acts 4:21-22)**

AFTER PETER AND JOHN HAD GATHERED TOGETHER AGAIN WITH THE OTHER DISCIPLES THEY BEGAN TO PRAY FOR BOLDNESS

"Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, 'by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the Name of Your Holy Servant Jesus." **(Acts 4:29-30)**

"And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness." **(Acts 4:31)**

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT WE ARE CONTINUALLY FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT SO THAT WE <u>CAN CONSISTENTLY</u> LIVE OUR LIVES AND MINISTER TO OTHERS IN THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Prayer to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit

Dear Father God today I turn from my sins to live for You. I believe that Jesus Christ died for all my sins and arose from the dead three days later. Today I invite Jesus Christ to come into my heart and life to be my Lord and Saviour and best friend from this day on. Today I ask that Jesus would please baptise me with the Holy Spirit and fire NOW I pray, Amen