



BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH

Office of the Metropolitan, Synod Secretariat, Thiruvalla, Kerala, India.

SHEPHERD'S LETTER

May 2018

✠ Glory be to the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

According to our church calendar, we are in the liturgical season of Pentecost. We are reminded of the incident in Acts 2 when on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came upon those who were waiting in the upper room. In this letter, I would like to remind you about the Holy Spirit; His role in the church and in each one of our lives.

The Two Experiences

There are two experiences every believer has in relationship with the Holy Spirit. One is the Holy Spirit being *in* you (St John 14:17 and 1 Corinthians 6:19). The reason the Holy Spirit comes into our lives the moment we are saved is to give us the power to overcome the old nature and be continually changed into the image of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The second is the Holy Spirit *baptism* or the experience of the Holy Spirit being *upon* you (St Matthew 3:11). This is what we see happening on the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2.

The Purpose

From Scripture, we clearly see that in order to serve God and minister with power, we *must* receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There is no other way to be effective in our personal life or in service for God apart from it. It is like a light bulb which is not connected to electrical power.

Now it's easy to get fooled by what we see around us and misunderstand the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Holy Spirit is meant so we

become effective witnesses of Jesus to those around us. Over and over again, through each chapter of the book of Acts, the power of the Holy Spirit is displayed through the lives of simple believers.

The Proof of Being Baptised With the Holy Spirit

The proof of being baptised in the Holy Spirit is a living stream of blessing flowing from your life unto others. Whatever gifts the Holy Spirit imparts to you, indicating this baptism, is secondary. Many believers are fooled into thinking that mere emotional events (shouting, jumping or manifesting soulish energy) are the work of the Holy Spirit; they may or may *not* be. One thing that is true is that any response or action of man that does not match the nature of Jesus is not of the Holy Spirit.

Application

1. **How to receive** the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The first step toward receiving the Holy Spirit is to acknowledge your need. I remember my own experience in the early 1970's. I was going around preaching God's word, yet felt so terribly dry, weary and helpless. Alone in my room, I knelt beside my bed and cried out to God. And then it happened! From that moment on, I was never the same again. My love for the Lord was so intense and I experienced such power to share so boldly, like never before!
2. **Being refilled** or continuously being filled with the Holy Spirit. Having the experience once is not enough. We must be continuously filled with the Holy Spirit. It's like a car running on petrol. It won't run forever; it will need to be refilled. Or it's like a kerosene lamp; if you want it to keep burning, you need to pour in more oil.
3. See if there is **anything hindering** Holy Spirit baptism in our lives, like anger, bitterness, unforgiveness or an unloving spirit. Please repent and confess your sins.
4. The Holy Spirit also gives **spiritual gifts** that help us to serve God effectively in building up the church as the body of Christ. These gifts are not something we choose, but rather that which the Lord determines for each of us to have (1 Corinthians 12 and Romans 12).

5. When we talk about the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and living by the power of the Holy Spirit, don't forget that all of this must produce the end result of the **fruit of the Holy Spirit** in our lives—"love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control" (Galatians 5:22–23).

Dear brothers and sisters, I would urge you (as I have always done, right from the beginning) to spend one day each month at each parish to gather together and wait upon the Lord for the infilling of Holy Spirit.

It is simply impossible to reach our generation with the Gospel or to live a victorious Christian life without living in the power of the Holy Spirit. When the Holy Spirit is given His proper place in the church and in the lives of individual believers, that fellowship will become a dynamic force for change, impacting its community, state, country—even the world—for Jesus Christ.

To God our saviour, Who alone is wise, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and forever. Amen.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.✠

✠Dr K.P. Yohannan Metropolitan