

13. The Epistle of 1 John—2:28-3:1

(8/14/19)

1 John 2:26-27 (NKJV)

²⁶ These things I have written to you concerning those who *try to* deceive you. ²⁷ **But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**

Once again, when John says, “**the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you**”—he’s referring to the Holy Spirit indwelling every believer in Christ—

Romans 8:9 (NKJV)

⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. (Comment)

However, as you study the ‘anointing of the Holy Spirit’ throughout the N.T. you’ll discover it is more than just having the Holy Spirit *within* us at the moment of salvation—it also encompasses a deeper level of anointing which the Bible calls the ‘Baptism with the Holy Spirit’ where the Spirit comes *upon* the believer.

What is the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the baptism of *power* that equips us for *service*.

It is extremely important to note that as the Lord Jesus Christ prepared to begin His public ministry, He makes it a point to walk 60 miles from Galilee down to the lower Jordan River to be baptized by John the Baptist.

To make a journey of that distance on foot indicates this was something that He believed to be very important to launching His public ministry—in fact, essential.

Luke 3:21-22 (NKJV)

²¹ When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

I want you to notice the wording of verse 22—“*And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him...*”

Let me say (and we'll get into this in detail later on in John's gospel), that Jesus spoke of three levels of relationship that the Holy Spirit can have with a person.

They are ascending levels—in other words, they build upon each other.

Jesus outlined these levels using three different Greek prepositions, each one corresponding to one of these levels.

John 14:15-17 (NKJV)

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells **with (para)** you and will be **in (en)** you. (Explain)

Then we fast forward three days to Sunday, the day Jesus rose from the dead—

John 20:19, 22 (NKJV)

¹⁹ Then, the same day at evening, being the first *day* of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace *be* with you." ...As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." ²² And when He had said this, He breathed on *them*, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit Who had been with them has now come inside them—in other words they were now N.T. believers—(Explain—Romans 8:9).

All Christians have the Holy Spirit in them—but not all Christians have the Holy Spirit upon them.

This is what the Bible calls the “*Baptism with the Holy Spirit*” which is a separate and often subsequent work of the Holy Spirit in the believer’s life apart from salvation.

This baptism is absolutely essential for service because it supplies the power necessary for doing the work God has called each of us to do.

Remember these were simple, uneducated men—how in the world could they go into all the world and make disciples of all nations?

Who would listen to them? How could they impact their world for Jesus Christ being the simple Galileans that they were?

The answer—God was going to endue them with supernatural power from on high and was going to do the work *through* them—and this is where that third Greek preposition comes into play.

Luke 24:49 (NKJV)

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

Acts 1:4-5, 8 (NKJV)

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now... ⁸ 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 2:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one*

sat **upon** each of them. ⁴ And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV)

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "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. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

The result? → 3000 men plus woman and young people were saved on that day (Pentecost).

It's very important for us to understand that Jesus, the Son of God, in His humanity waited 30 years until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit—and only then did He begin His ministry by saying—

Luke 4:18 (NKJV)

¹⁸ *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, Because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel..."*

How absurd it is for us to think that we can do anything for God in the way of ministry without the same power Jesus knew He needed to do the work the Father had given Him to do.

I believe that this is one of the greatest needs in the Church today and the single greatest reason the church is so ineffective in the world in its work for God, and why we are losing the culture war to the devil when Jesus clearly promised us that against His Church the gates of hell would not prevail.

We are trying to do the work of God in our own strength, ingenuity and intelligence and not in the power of the Holy Spirit.

You need to understand that the three and a half years of Jesus' ministry on the earth—were not done in *His* power, as the Second Person of the Trinity, but in the power of the Third Person of the Trinity, *the Holy Spirit*.

Peter acknowledged this in Acts 10—

Acts 10:38 (NKJV)

³⁸ ...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.

That is how Jesus did the work of God and this is how we do the work of God—in the same power of the Holy Spirit.

“How do I receive this baptism with the Holy Spirit?”

How do you receive anything from God? You simply ask in faith—

Luke 11:9-13 (NKJV)

⁹ So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ¹¹ If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if *he asks* for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ 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!"

But often the Baptism with the Holy Spirit doesn't come upon a Christian's life until there is a brokenness.

I'd like to share with you just a little from the life of Dr. Walter Wilson as recorded in the book, *“They Found the Secret.”*

The author tells us that Dr. Wilson was converted to Christ on a December night in 1896, afterward—

“...he became a lover of the Scriptures and became diligent in teaching, preaching and distributing tracts. Much effort, however, seemed to produce little result, and no apparent success followed his labors. This ineffectiveness troubled him, but he was told by others ‘not to look for results, but only to be busy at seed sowing.’”

This went on for 17 years until January 14, 1914 when he heard a message given by Dr. James Gray, who later went on to become the president of Moody Bible Institute, on the need to surrender our lives fully to the Holy Spirit to accomplish His work.

Upon hearing this message, Dr. Wilson went home and there laid on the floor of his room, utterly heartbroken over his fruitless life, he cried out to the Holy Spirit and said,

“My Lord, I have mistreated You all my Christian life. I have treated You like a servant. When I wanted You I called for You; when I was about to engage in some work I beckoned You to come and help me perform my task. I have kept You in the place of a servant.

I have sought to use You only as a willing servant to help me in my self-appointed and chosen work. I shall do so no more. Just now I give You this body of mine; from my head to my feet, I give it to You. I give You my hands, my limbs, my eyes and lips, my brain; all that I am within and without, I hand over to You for You to live in it the life that You please. You may send this body to Africa, or lay it on a bed with cancer. You may blind the eyes, or send me with Your message to Tibet. You may take this body to the Eskimos, or send it to a hospital with pneumonia. It is Your body from this moment on. Help yourself to it. Thank you, my Lord, I believe You have accepted it...”

(If you think that that is bizarre or fanatical it’s because you’ve never experienced brokenness—explain)

The author goes on to say from that day on Dr. Wilson’s life was dramatically and forever changed.

He went on to become a tremendous soul winner, all because he came to a place of brokenness and surrender—coupled with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

R.A. Torrey—

“The lack of this absolute surrender is shutting many out of the blessing today. People turn the keys of almost every closet in their heart over to God, but there is some small closet of which they wish to keep the key for themselves, and the blessing does not come.”

One pastor put it this way—

“What are you holding back from God and refusing to surrender to Him? Is it a relationship? Is it a dream? Is it an object? (For the Rich Young Ruler it was his wealth) The Lord Jesus is inviting you to follow Him completely—will you accept His invitation? The only way you will ever experience the fullness of God in your life is if you are broken, surrendered, plugged into a local church and using your gifts in ministry. Then pray for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit—and a fresh filling every day!”

1 John 2:27 (NKJV)

²⁷ But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, **and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.**

Again, as we said last time, when John says, “**and you do not need that anyone teach you...**” he is not saying that Christians don’t need pastors and teachers in the Church to teach them anything.

In Ephesians 4 we are told that Jesus gave His church pastor/teachers and other teachers to equip the saints for the work of ministry. (Eph.4:11-12)

Rather, what John is emphasizing here is that we have within us as Christians the greatest Teacher of the Bible in the universe—the God who wrote it!

John 16:13 (NKJV)

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

And so, with the Bible as God’s revealed truth, and the Spirit of God as our Teacher of His truth—we “**have an anointing that teaches us concerning all things and is true.**” (v.27)

2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NKJV)

¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

But also what John had in mind when he said that the Holy Spirit (the anointing from Jesus) abides in us and as such we don’t need anyone to teach us—he’s telling us that we don’t need any *supplemental* so-called ‘truth’ to know God.

Again, this was aimed at the Gnostics and their claim that Christians needed *their* (Gnostic) ‘truth’ and not just the Bible to really know God.

In other words, John is saying that Christians don’t need any other teaching, apart from what is found in the Bible, to know God.

John emphasizes this because in his day (as in our day) some Christian groups interpret this to mean that Christians don't need any teaching from anyone designated as a teacher in the Church.

Every Christian has the Holy Spirit within them (which is true) and therefore, they contend, every Christian is a teacher and doesn't need any other *'formal'* teachers to teach them anything from the Bible.

This seems to have been the mindset of the Corinthians in their services and today with the Plymouth Brethren. (Explain)

1 John 2:28-29 (NKJV)

²⁸ And now, little children, abide [continue, remain] in Him, that when He appears, we may have confidence and not be ashamed before Him at His coming. ²⁹ If you know that He is righteous, you know that everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.

John ends this chapter with a practical exhortation that Christians abide in Jesus and in His Word by encouraging them (and us)—to abide in the Word of God by living a Christian life worthy of our Savior—OBEDIENCE!

This will glorify God, but also prove that we truly belong to Him—as he said at the end of verse 29, **“everyone who practices righteousness is born of Him.”** (Comment)

John also said something that should be a sober warning to all Christians, and that is that when Jesus returns for His Church at the Rapture—some (probably many or maybe even most) will be **ashamed** at His coming.

The New Testament teaches that someday, all Christians will have to stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and give an account for the life they lived while on the earth.

And based on our faithfulness now our rewards will be determined then—on that day.

1 Corinthians 3:9-15 (NKJV)

⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it. ¹¹ For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. ¹² Now if anyone builds on this foundation *with* gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, ¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. ¹⁴ If anyone's work which he has built on *it* endures, he will receive a reward. ¹⁵ If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

The *Day* will come when we stand before the Lord Jesus Christ and our work is tested—not the *quantity*, but the *quality* of the work we did for Him.

Understand, the fire does not test the *worker* (though Roman Catholics use this passage—1 Corinthians 3:13-15, to teach purgatory)—the ‘fire’ will test their *work* or *workmanship*.

The distinction isn't between the *lost* and the *saved* but between the *faithful* saved and the *unfaithful* saved—between those who built *well* and those who built *poorly* (or didn't build at all).

You see, the Bema Seat Judgment (1Cor. 3:9-15) isn't a punitive judgment—it's a rewards judgment.

Those who stand before Jesus on that Day are all believers and have already made it into heaven where this judgment takes place—but for many there will be great sorrow because they have nothing to show for their time on earth.

They lived a worthless, wasted life spiritually speaking and therefore will receive little if any rewards on that Day.

A big part of the judgment of that Day will be whether their service was self-directed, or Spirit directed—and what was the motive of their hearts when they offered their service to the Lord.

Did they serve for His glory or theirs?

What was the motivation in their heart when they served Him—only God knows and will reveal it on that Day—

1 Corinthians 4:5 (NKJV)

⁵ Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

Chapter 3

1 John 3:1 (NKJV)

¹ **Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!...**

The statement, “**Behold what manner of love**” (The Amplified Bible—“SEE WHAT [an incredible] quality of love the Father has given (shown, bestowed on) us”)—reflects John’s amazement at how great God’s love is toward His children.

The Greek word translated “**Behold**” is both a *command* and an *exclamation* that exhorts readers to give close attention to the rest of the statement.

The next phrase “**what manner**” says one scholar—

“Is a seldom-used term that has no precise parallel in English. It occurs only seven times in the New Testament and implies a reaction of astonishment, and usually of admiration, upon viewing some person or thing. The expression conveys both a qualitative and quantitative force—“what glorious, measureless love!”

One of the greatest hymns ever written on the subject of God’s love was written by Frederick M. Lehman in 1917—it’s called “*The Love of God.*”

The final stanza was added to it later—after it had been found scratched on the wall of a cell in an asylum by a man said to have been insane.

*“Could we with ink the ocean fill and were the skies of parchment made,
Were every stalk on earth a quill and every man a scribe by trade
To write the love of God above would drain the ocean dry,
Nor could the scroll contain the whole though stretched from sky to sky.”*

The man who wrote that sounds pretty sane to me!—Maybe he was considered ‘crazy’ for simply being a follower of Christ?!

One author put it well—

*“God loves believers with a love that is impossible to articulate in any human language and that is utterly foreign to normal human understanding and experience. This is agapē love, God’s volitional love...The Lord summarized it this way: “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13). And later in this very epistle we are studying, John says in chapter 4 verses 9-10—**‘In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.’ (1 John 4:9-10 NKJV)**”*

1 John 3:1 (NKJV)

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God!

In this statement, John is not speaking *universally* of all mankind—but exclusively of those who have received Jesus as their Savior.

Many like to talk about how *all* people are ‘*children of God*’—that however is incorrect.

All people are the ‘*creation of God*’—but only the redeemed are the children of God—whom John is addressing in verse 1 of chapter 3.

John tells us at the beginning of his gospel what it takes for a person to become a child of God—

John 1:12 (NKJV)

¹² But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

“Therefore, the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.” (v.1b)

By saying this, John isn't implying that because we're Christians the people of this world don't know who we are!

John used the Greek word *ginosko* which speaks of a deep, personal, intimate, experiential knowledge—the kind of knowledge we read about in Matthew's gospel when it says that—
“*Joseph took Mary to be his wife but didn't know her until after Jesus was born.*” (Matt.1:24-25)

The Greek word for ‘**world**’ is *cosmos* and is a reference to the fallen world system that Satan rules over.

Of course, those belonging to the devil's kingdom of darkness have no intimate knowledge (koinonia-‘oneness’) with Jesus or His disciples—it's because light and darkness can't have fellowship with one another—

2 Corinthians 6:14-15 (NKJV)

¹⁴ Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? ¹⁵ And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever?

The world isn't our ‘friend’, in fact, Jesus warned us it would be our mortal enemy—

John 15:18-19 (NKJV)

¹⁸ "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before *it hated* you. ¹⁹ If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.

And that's why John commanded us earlier in chapter 2 of this epistle—*not to love the world or seek to be friends with it.* (1John 2:15)

James 4:4 (NKJV)

⁴ Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

So many churches are trying to be 'friends' with the world and the people of the world in an effort to win them over ('like the world to reach the world').

They want unbelievers to know that we Christians are just 'ordinary' folks just like them—we just happen to love Jesus.

We still like to have 'fun'—and even have a little wine or a beer once in a while.

That is a demonic trap—don't fall for it.

Our power as the Church of Jesus Christ has always been in our separateness from the world...

2 Corinthians 6:17 (NLT2)

¹⁷ Therefore, come out from among unbelievers, and separate yourselves from them, says the LORD. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you.