

# Don't Be Confused, Part 6

Steve Berger May 28, 2017

## Don't be confused

*A word about this series — it has been very difficult; handled serious, sober, sad issues — abortion, homosexuality/transgender; last week, signs of times — seduction, stress, sorrow, scoffers, strategies*

*Ray of hope due to God's response to all this — Pouring out His Spirit in last days — Saving people! God is not sitting back quietly while the nations rage — He never has!*

**Today — Don't Be Confused about the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit!**

## History of Christian Church

- a) 33 A.D. — 120 believers in upper room when Holy Spirit comes
- b) 100 A.D. — per estimations by Dr. Rodney Starks, Historical Sociologist, 7,000 believers survived in entire world (*in about 70 years*)
- c) 399 A.D. — 25-30million believers, half of the Roman Empire — all through unimaginable persecution (*in about 300 years*)
- d) **least likely-** “Christians were ignorant folk whose teaching took place not in schools or open forums, but in shops, kitchens and tanneries... wise scholars among Christians were the exception rather than the rule... from the perspective of cultured pagans like Tacitus, Cornelius Fronto and Marcus Aurelius, Christians were despicable rabble.”<sup>1</sup> Story of Christianity, Justo Gonzalez
- e) **scriptures agree-** Jesus was with poor, common, fisherman, untrained and uneducated

### • 1 Corinthians 1:26-29

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence.

**The message and mission of the church was entrusted to an ignorant, persecuted minority!**

**Question** — *With a “loser team” like that, how does the church grow and prevail over the Roman Empire's persecution, and throughout the ages?*

**Answer — Through the Person and Work of the Holy Spirit!**

<sup>1</sup> Justo Gonzales, *The Story of Christianity: Volume 1* (Zondervan, 2010) 105

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## Orders Given

- **Matthew 28:18-20**

And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

*Application — marching orders to a few fishermen to convert and conquer the world!*

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## Command Given

- **Acts 1:4-8**

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; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 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.”

- a) commanded not suggested them to wait — before they “go into all world”
- b) baptism of Holy Spirit — overflowing them
- c) they kept asking Him — about the restored kingdom, delivery from Rome, fixing politics, comfort in culture
- d) Jesus says, “you shall receive power when Holy Spirit comes upon you”
- e) “you’ll be witness to Me in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, end of earth”

**There is supernatural power that is going to come upon you that will empower you to be a witness to Me in ALL the world, Jews, Romans, threats, persecution, stonings, beatings, crucifixions, burning at stake, feeding you to beasts in Coliseums — I won’t leave you, I have power for you, I’ll use you to deliver them, more than I’ll deliver you from them!**

*Truth — the church can only victoriously execute the mission of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit — there is no other way!*

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## Spirit Fills

- **Acts 2:2-4**

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house 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.

- 3,000 people saved in a moment — that’s power!
- **Same men filled** again in Acts 4:29-31; Paul says in Ephesians 5:18 to be continually filled

- **Peter and John dispatched** to Samaria to make sure Baptism of Spirit happened, Acts 8:14-17.
- **Acts 18 Apollos** only knew water baptism; Priscilla and Aquilla took him aside to explain the way of God more accurately
- **Acts 19 disciples** in Ephesus — Paul asked if they had heard of the Holy Spirit, they had not, he laid hands on them, power came.

***Point — the Holy Spirit is the power source for the church, with Him we prevail, without Him we perish!***

**Question** — *How does that power manifest itself?*

**Answer** — ***boldness in witnessing... stand up, speak up!***

### **Guide, lead, speak to you**

- **John 16:13-15**

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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

***We must know, listen and experience the guiding, leading, speaking voice of the Holy Spirit!***

- **Acts 13:2-3**

As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent them away.

**Question** — *What might the Holy Spirit say to you, what might He call you to — if you knew He spoke, and you listened for His guiding, leading voice?*

### **Gift you for ministry**

- **1 Corinthians 12:7-11**

But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

1. word of wisdom — how to wisely execute known facts according to God’s purposes
2. word of knowledge — knowing the unknown to reveal God’s purposes
3. faith — an increased measure to receive God’s will
4. gifts of healing
5. working of miracles

6. prophecy — speaking divinely inspired words to penetrate people's hearts for kingdom purposes
7. discerning of spirits — understanding what spirit is at work in a situation
- 8-9. tongues/interpretation — self and others
10. Spirit gives these as He wills, to supernaturally equip the church for God's purposes and glory!

• **Romans 12:6-8**

Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith; or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness.

1. prophecy — twice in Acts/Joel, 1 Corinthians 12,14, here — important!
2. ministry — serving — don't downgrade it, use it
3. teaching
4. exhorting — fire folks up, mobilize
5. giving — with liberality
6. leading — with diligence — faithful
7. mercy — with cheerfulness, NOT hopelessness (*don't enter into their misery*)

**Bottom line** — the Holy Spirit **empowers regular folks** to be bold witnesses for Jesus, He **guides** and **gifts** us to **reveal** and **expand** the **kingdom of God on the earth**. He **hasn't quit** doing that — as wacky as this world is getting — **God is responding** by **empowering**, **guiding** and **gifting** individuals — **according to His will and for His glory!**

- 1. Obedient** — they waited... for 10 days!
- 2. Hungry** — wanted Holy Spirit enough to wait, Luke 11:13; ask, beg, crave
- 3. Receptive** — didn't quench when it got supernatural, 1Thessalonians 5:19 — don't quench Spirit

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**Discussion Questions**

- 1.** How does it make you feel — that the mission of the church has been entrusted to ordinary people — like you? Does it challenge you?
- 2.** Does it comfort you knowing that God does not expect you to do it on your own?
- 3.** Describe a time when you know that Holy Spirit has been working through you.
- 4.** Do you know what spiritual gifts you have? Are you using them?
- 5.** What might the Holy Spirit say to you, what might He call you to — if you knew He spoke, and you listened for His guiding, leading voice?

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**Before the Throne: Worship Night**

**Tuesday, June 13th**

**6:30 pm**

**Sanctuary**