

Welcome to the Voice of the Pastor Video Bible study series and greeting in the wonderful name of our Lord Jesus Christ who is great and greatly to be praised!

As we have already looked into - In the book of Acts people received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit suddenly - quickly - and easily.

Among some of the reasons why some may struggle with receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is because of a Lack of Thorough Repentance

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthian Church in 2 Cor 7:8-11 about repentance and I call the portion of scripture the fruits of repentance

VERSE 8 For even if I made you sorry with my letter, I do not regret it; though I did regret it. For I perceive that the same epistle made you sorry, though only for a while 9 Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death. 11 For observe this very thing, that you sorrowed in a godly manner: What diligence it produced in you, what clearing of yourselves, what indignation, what fear, what vehement desire, what zeal, what vindication! In all things you proved yourselves to be clear in this matter.

Paul's letter of correction brought a godly sorrow on the Corinthian church and here he tells us what leads to true repentance – Godly Sorrow – or sorrowing in a Godly manner?

This passage addresses the critical issue of true repentance. When we are seeking the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, it is crucial for us to be approaching God through true repentance. True repentance requires us to have “godly sorrow” concerning our sin. When we feel guilty for our sin, yet still inwardly cherish the memories of it, we are probably showing “worldly sorrow” for our sin.

What exactly is worldly sorrow? Paul explained that worldly sorrow brings death. Where godly sorrow leaves no regret for leaving your sins behind for a new life, we can only assume that worldly sorrow involves at least some regret in the necessity of leaving sin behind.

Godly sorrow is quite different from worldly sorrow. Paul said that it brings repentance that leads to salvation. It produces several key attitudes that will help us close the door on any remaining sinful tendencies. For example, the Corinthian's godly sorrow produced repentance, diligence, clearing of yourselves, indignation, fear (respect of the things of God), vehement desire, zeal, vindication. These attitudes helped them prove that their repentance was sincere.

Which brings us to an obvious question of how do people with worldly sorrow make the leap to godly sorrow for true repentance? In order to do this you must turn to God for help in bringing this change of heart about. We must ask God to give us a change of heart regarding the sins we are still wanting to hold on to, whether it is memories, habits, fantasies, unforgiveness, bitterness or any other things that the spirit of God would begin to deal with you about.

Read Prov 28:13 – FROM THE (NIV)

He who conceals his sins does not prosper- but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy. (NIV)

The man or woman who repents of their sins with plans or desires to be picked up again after they are through pray is not likely to receive the Holy Spirit because they have not truly repented of their sins. If we are sincere with God we will not have a desire to go back to sinful activities. Godly sorrow will generate a strong desire in you to live for God

A person cannot be repentant and expect to cover their sins at the same time.

Since God is not free to operate in insincere circumstances that person cannot hope to be filled with the Holy Spirit no matter of how long they seek the infilling of the Spirit if they are filled with worldly sorrow.

God's very nature will not allow Him to fill the soul of a dishonest man.

The reason that God cannot do this is found in the scripture that scripture tells us in King James English -What communion hath light with darkness?-

The NLT says it like this:

How can light live with darkness?

The light of God will not co-exists with darkness

I want to expound to you a principle

And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

John 1:5(NKJV)

The NIV says it like this:

The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.

John 1:5(NIV)

The principle is that darkness does not understand light. A person who's heart is full of darkness will not understand the things of the spirit

In 2 Corinthians 2:11 the Apostle Paul writes:

For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God. (NKJV)

The spirit of God shines light into the heart of a person and because of there repentance that light is able to fill that darkness.

A person who has not truly repented will remain in darkness and not understand the light and not understand the things of God because the light is not able to penetrate the darkness and that darkness remains in the because they will not let it go!

A person can repent in there heart while still sitting and hearing the Word of God come forth or even while he is on his way to pray at the altar. If with all his heart he turns from his sin with revulsion and sorrow and looks to God in faith- God in that instant will forgive him and God is free to pour out his spirit upon that person.

Godly sorrow will cause a repented person who has not yet been filled with the Spirit to work to keep themselves free from the former vices and habits from which they turned. If you've turned from sin separate yourself from temptation! Avoid places that cause you to sin...

There have been many people who have repented of their sins in a moment and fruits of repentance that they manifest attests to the genuineness of their repentance.

There are also others who- it seems- repent of their sins reluctantly- while they are under the strong persuasion and conviction of the Spirit who return to them quickly because the heart of the person did not genuinely respond to Godly sorrow in repentance but they were moved upon mightily and responded to the
– (EMPHASIZE) conviction –
of the Spirit.

The spirit of God will convict you of your sins

The question is how will you respond?

Thorough repentance is one of the keys to the kingdom and without it we cannot get far because light will not commune with darkness

Light will expose darkness
Light will drive away darkness

But light and darkness cannot co-exist

If you have been struggling to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit I encourage you today to examine your heart and see if any of this is true concerning your walk with God.

I pray that I have been a blessing to you and encouraged you to receive all that God has for you. If I can be of any assistance in your faith journey, please feel free to contact me.

My email address is pastor@njupc.org

I want to thank you for taking the time to listen to this voice of the pastor study and I invite you to continue to view the different Voice of the Pastor Bible Studies.

My prayer is that I have been a blessing to you and that one day we shall walk the streets of glory together.

God Bless you for being with me today