



## **LIVING WATERS MINISTRIES** Minister R. Thomas Lambur

### **The Disciples Born Again After The Resurrection**

#### **John 20:21-23 Chronological Timeline And Setting of Their New Birth Experience**

The setting is Jesus after His resurrection on the first day of the week (Sunday). The Disciples had locked the doors for fear of the Jewish leaders. Suddenly Jesus appears and stands there among them. After greeting them Jesus says, “As the Father commissioned me, I am sending you.” Then He *breathed* on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit” (*labete pneuma hagion*, v22) The breath of Jesus was *the actual means of bestowal*, indicating that the Spirit came directly from Him into them. The Greek word for *breathed* is (*emphusao*) is the same verb used in the Septuagint at Genesis 2:7, where God *breathed* into Adam’s nostrils “*the Breath of Life*.” This where God after created Adam – (human) spirit, soul, and body, and then God *breathed* into him *the Holy Spirit*.

An immediate reception best fits the climatic position of this passage in John’s Gospel. Nowhere in Scripture before this instant were the disciples born again since Jesus describes the new birth as; “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is “*born of the Spirit is spirit*” (John 3:6).

This is a pivotal statement and a determinative event in John’s Gospel. Now we are to understand that the Holy Spirit was given in the lives of the disciples BEFORE the day of PENTECOST. John 20:19-20 is the first occasion when Jesus could actually impart to them *the Life of the Holy Spirit* (Romans 8:2) which is *essential* to the regeneration of the human spirit and new nature which comes from having the new birth experience!

#### **The Two Separate Chronological Events –**

##### **View Of Following The Examples And Patterns In The Book Of Acts**

Luke describes in the second chapter of Acts the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon those 120 waiting upon the Lord. Luke is NOT describing the same event as John in chapter 20. *By chronological order* John is describing *the new birth of the disciples*, while we see afterwards they received that baptism in the Holy Spirit with the speaking of other tongues. It is fundamentally important to understand that while the disciples received both the *New Birth* and the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* as two separate events, the others in the Upper room received the *New Birth* and the *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* in what looks like one event. This would set up the Biblical and Doctrinal position *in Christianity* that while these *are two separate events* the workings of God can bring about a very quick reception *of the two* which in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit *always results with the speaking in the heavenly language (tongues) in all believers example and patterned in the Book of Acts*.

Here in the passage below we see that it is as late in the Gospel as *the Mount of Transfiguration* where we see Jesus telling the disciples that they have not the Holy Spirit...and need the change which the New Birth provides.

Luke 9:53 And they did not receive him, because his face was as though he would go to Jerusalem. 54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and *rebuked them*, and said, *Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of*.

##### **Preparation For The New Birth (disciples come to saving faith)**

Luke 10:20 – This statement is spoken by Jesus as He is teaching that Satan is in subjection to His authority and Jesus places importance in that authority upon viewing his disciples as destined to inherit the New Birth, and noting that their names shall be written in the Book of Life by continuing to follow Him and His teachings.

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att. 16:16-17 Here Peter is called blessed because he recognizes that Jesus is the prophesied Messiah of the Old Testament. Peter is merely making the statement discovering here that revelation. Later *this progressive revelation turns into personal faith or trust “ in the cross” ...believing on Jesus’ sacrifice for his sins.... for the New Birth and God’s salvation that he receives after the resurrection*. The *New Birth* is not *easy believism*... a *mental assent* of knowing Jesus is the Christ...the devil also knows who Jesus is but he is not born again.

John 13:10 – “*Ye are clean*” is again a statement of *destination*, a *preparatory statement* which indicates that

by Jesus speaking God's Word to His disciples *they were becoming clean* having a cleaning and renewed mind, coming into a saving faith, to the point of receiving the new birth and His Holy Spirit in them. Jesus prayed for His disciples *as belonging (reserved) to the Father. Before He died upon the cross he prayed in the garden for those who had followed Him up to this point...expressing His keeping and reservation of them unto the salvation which would come BY HIS CROSS!*

John 15:3 – “*Now Ye are clean* through the Word I have spoken unto you.” Jesus also says that He is the vine in this passage and the Holy Spirit is working to wash and cleanse them. This statement in no way indicates that they have received the New Birth experience but does indicate that *the Holy Spirit's ministry is working here* as is also the ministry of God's Word in the disciples lives in making them ready for the new birth by a saving knowledge and personal faith toward the cross.

### **Kept and Reserved Unto Salvation (regeneration)**

God's plan is to bring men along into faith by the means of grace provided through the cross. This plan is delivered to us by reveal heart understanding...of God's plan called salvation. It is the Gospel which is preach or taught which is the ‘Good News’ of what Christ has done for us at the cross which causes faith to grown in the hearts of unbelievers. The Word of God reveals His plans and love for us...REDEMPTION! The cross is the means of Grace and the power of God unto salvation. This Grace and Power revealed to us (the Bible LIVING Christ) though His Word as the ministry of the Holy Spirit brings about true conversion...a contrite heart...the seeking of forgiveness for sins...a faith for eternal life by the cross...a faith to receive the Holy Spirit and New Birth.

John 16:30-31 “*Now are we sure that thou knowest all things, and needest not that any man should ask thee: by this we believe that thou camest forth from God.* Jesus answered them, *Do ye now believe?*”

Jesus' disciples are *in progress* in coming to saving faith here in this passage. Notice that Jesus who knows all things here... *questions ...whether they truly believe* and have come to a saving faith (((yet))).

Jesus *knows* that saving faith has *not yet come* to them (((here))).... *but is on the way!!!*

John 17:6-8 “*I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.*

Now they have known that all things whatsoever thou hast given me are of thee.

*For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from thee, and they have believed that thou didst send me.*

Notice here that Jesus has declared Himself and the Father to His disciples, he has spoken His Word to them and washed them clean – bringing about a Biblical mindset and they have now recognized and come to know that Jesus is the Messiah and that He came from the Father. The disciples are destined to inherit salvation through the cross and new birth they will receive after the resurrection. Jesus guided and kept them as a shepherd does His folk to receive the indwelling Spirit He will give afterwards.

### **5 Point Summary Of The New Birth and The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Experiences**

1). First the new birth is required for salvation while the Baptism of the Holy Spirit can be a subsequent experience after the new birth. (example of the disciples – later other who were born again in Acts who had not receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit since they believed....

Acts 19:2-6 “He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

Most experience *both as two separate and distinct* experiences.

2). The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not required *for salvation.*

3). The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is given for the *supernatural revealing of making Jesus known* and *is for the service for ministry.* We become effect witnesses by revealing Jesus to unbelievers.

1Corin. 14:22 Wherefore *tongues* are for a *sign* (a revealed witness of Christ by the supernatural), not to them that believe... *but to them that believe not.*

4). People who are baptized in the Holy Spirit are filled to overflowing and speak in other tongues as evidence that they are baptized in the Spirit as is exemplified in N.T. Scripture.

5). Some people can receive both the new birth and the baptism of the Holy Spirit so close in reception that they may think they are one in the same act or experience. The examples in Scripture tell us that this can

happen... is not *the real question*.... The real answer is that Scripture shows us that *every believer* that is Baptized in the Holy Spirit has *afterwards* had the evidence of speaking in tongues. (((If ))) they have not spoken in tongues according to the Bible they are NOT baptized in the Holy Spirit yet!

Acts 2:4 “And they were ALL filled with the Holy Ghost, and *began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”

This is the example and pattern which is set up by the Holy Spirit which wrote the Book of Acts and it is fitting that we should follow the Lord and receive what the Bible says and Jesus desires ALL believers to receive.

**This Baptism In The Holy Spirit is For YOU!**

**Acts 2:38 – 39** “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and *ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

**For more help in receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit please contact this LWM.**