

## The Indwelling And The Sevenfold Power Of The Holy Spirit

Everything in this article is germane and helps us to understand what **is** taken out at the "catching up", if the person of the Holy Spirit is not taken out of the way.

*"<sup>1</sup> Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers and sisters, <sup>2</sup> not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by the teaching allegedly from us—whether by a prophecy or by word of mouth or by letter—asserting that the day of the Lord has already come. <sup>3</sup> Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction. <sup>4</sup> He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. <sup>5</sup> Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? <sup>6</sup> And now **you know what is holding him back**, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. <sup>7</sup> For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till **he is taken out of the way**. (The Greek that was translated "**he is taken out of the way**" is "γίνομαι" and would have been better translated "causes it to be"). <sup>8</sup> And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. <sup>9</sup> The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with how Satan works. He will use all sorts of displays of power through signs and wonders that serve the lie, <sup>10</sup> and all the ways that wickedness deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. <sup>11</sup> For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie <sup>12</sup> and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness." 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12 (The New International Version).*

### THE PRESENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The spiritual bodies of every person who was saved prior to the crucifixion of Jesus Christ were saved through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit of God just as we are. They did not have to go up to the Third Heaven, the Throne Room of God. It happened here on this earth. The Holy Spirit of God was on this earth **since the Garden of Eden**. We find in Genesis 1:1-2, " <sup>1</sup> *In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.* <sup>2</sup> *And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God** moved upon the face of the waters.*" (The King James Version).

" <sup>3</sup> *Then the LORD said, "My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years."* Genesis 6:3 (The New International Version).

The Holy Spirit was present on this earth during "Old Testament" days contending with mankind and being the agent for the regeneration of those who looked forward through faith and asked that the sacrifice of the coming Messiah pay their sin debt. **If that is true**, it means that the Holy Spirit did not come down out of Heaven for the first time on the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit has always been here.

" <sup>15</sup> *Then Moses spoke to the LORD, saying:* <sup>16</sup> *"Let the LORD, the God of the spirits of all flesh, set a man over the congregation,* <sup>17</sup> *who may go out before them and go in before them, who may lead them out and bring them in, that the congregation of the LORD may not be like sheep which have no shepherd."* <sup>18</sup> *And the LORD said to Moses: "Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;* <sup>19</sup> *set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight."* Numbers 27:15-19 (The New King James Version).

The disciples of John the Baptist were also saved through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit of God. They did not have to go up to the Third Heaven, the Throne Room of God. It happened here on this earth. Also, please note that many of the disciples of John the Baptist never became disciples of Jesus although they were just as saved as you and me. **Only those** who **came** to Jesus Christ when He called them became the disciples of Jesus Christ. Jesus even had people who abandoned Him and no longer followed Him. They were no longer disciples of Jesus although they did not lose their salvation. " <sup>66</sup> *After this many of his disciples turned back and no longer walked with him.* <sup>67</sup> *So Jesus said to the Twelve, "Do you want to go*

away as well?"<sup>68</sup> Simon Peter answered him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life,<sup>69</sup> and we have believed, and have come to know, that you are the Holy One of God." John 6:66-69 (English Standard Version)

However, those who did not come to Jesus Christ when He called and those who abandoned Him did miss the opportunity to be a member of the first local, scriptural church when Jesus Christ called and organized the church in Jerusalem. They also missed the opportunity to be given an enormous gift, a hidden treasure that even those mentioned in the eleventh chapter of the book of Hebrews were not privileged to receive.

Jesus Christ waited until He had only His disciples (the first local, scriptural church) on a mountain in Galilee and He gave them an exclusive promise. "<sup>1</sup> In the first book, Theophilus, I dealt with all that Jesus did and taught<sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up, after giving instructions through Holy Spirit power to the apostles whom he had chosen.<sup>3</sup> He presented himself alive to them by many proofs after he had suffered, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.<sup>4</sup> While meeting with them, he enjoined them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for "the promise of the Father about which you have heard me speak;<sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with Holy Spirit power."<sup>6</sup> When they had gathered together they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He answered them, "It is not for you to know the times or seasons that the Father has established by his own authority.<sup>8</sup> But you will receive power when the holy Spirit comes upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, throughout Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." Acts 1:1-8 (New American Bible - United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

THERE IS NO GREEK DEFINITE ARTICLE IN VERSE 2 OR VERSE 5, PRINTED ABOVE. Please see "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD" on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net> for further explanation.

The disciples of Jesus were saved through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit of God. They did not have to go up to the Third Heaven, the Throne Room of God. It happened here on this earth. For at least 500 of them, it happened before the day of Pentecost. If many of the disciples of Jesus Christ were washed and renewed by the Holy Spirit of God prior to Pentecost and if they had the Holy Spirit as their companion prior to the day of Pentecost,

what did they receive on the day of Pentecost? They already had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

*"<sup>3</sup> For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures,<sup>4</sup> and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures,<sup>5</sup> and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve.<sup>6</sup> After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep.<sup>7</sup> After that He was seen by James, then by all the apostles.<sup>8</sup> Then last of all He was seen by me also, as by one born out of due time." 1 Corinthians 15:3-8 (The New King James Version).*

### WHAT DID JESUS CHRIST PROMISE?

If we are going to be students of the Word, we must recognize that certain promises were given to certain saved individuals that were not given to other saved individuals. For instance, we find in Genesis 15:18 that the promised land was given to Abraham and his descendants through Jacob, his grandson. However, the promised land was not given to all of the saved throughout all the ages even though that promise is, indeed, in the Bible. *"<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram and said, "To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the great river, the Euphrates—<sup>19</sup> the land of the Kenites, Kenizzites, Kadmonites,<sup>20</sup> Hittites, Perizzites, Rephaites,<sup>21</sup> Amorites, Canaanites, Girgashites and Jebusites." Genesis 15:18-21 (The New International Version).*

If we are going to be students of the Word, we must recognize that promises were given to certain **groups** of saved individuals that were not given to other **groups** of saved individuals. We also need to recognize that some promises were given to certain **groups** on this earth that were not given to the individual saved person. Jesus Christ never told the disciples of John the Baptist that whoever they bound into their membership on this earth would be bound into a special group in Heaven. Nor did He tell them that when they loosed someone from their membership on this earth, that person would be loosed from the membership of that special group in Heaven.

*"<sup>15</sup> If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one.<sup>16</sup> But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by*

*the evidence of two or three witnesses. <sup>17</sup> If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. <sup>18</sup> Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." Matthew 18:15-18 The New Revised Standard Version*

Another instance is the promise Jesus Christ made in Acts 1:8 to the first local, scriptural church that He had called and organized in Jerusalem. We cannot find anywhere that Christ made such a promise to the disciples that stayed with John the Baptist even though they were just as saved as the members of the church in Jerusalem. Nor can we find where that promise was fulfilled in the lives of any of the disciples of John the Baptist on the day of Pentecost or any other day. Please note that Acts 1:8 was a church promise. It was not a promise to every individual saved person who would be alive on the day of Pentecost. They already had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. Jesus promised His disciples they would receive **power** from the Holy Spirit in order for them to (1) go out and make disciples, (2) to baptize them by the authority of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and (3) to teach the new converts the things He had taught them.

*<sup>8</sup>But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth " Acts 1:8 English Standard Version.*

*<sup>44</sup>He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms." <sup>45</sup>Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. <sup>46</sup>He told them, "This is what is written: The Christ will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, <sup>47</sup>and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. <sup>48</sup>You are witnesses of these things. <sup>49</sup>I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed **with power** from on high" Luke 24:49 (The New International Version).*

This is why the church in Jerusalem was so effective in making disciples, baptizing them and teaching them after the day of Pentecost. Jesus Christ had told them in effect, "Don't you dare try to go out on your own and try to fulfill the commission I gave you until you receive

Holy Spirit power from on high that my Father promised He would send." That is why so few scriptural churches today are effective in fulfilling the Great Commission. Most of them are rushing out to fulfill their commission without including the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit power that is available. Instead, they try to rely on programs and charisma. No wonder so many of them are degenerating into Laodicean churches where Christ is on the outside and is not even present when they observe what they call "the Lord's Supper."

### THE GREEK DEFINITE ARTICLE

The Greek definite article is not present in Acts 1:5, printed below. Please see "THE POWER OF THE SEVENFOLD SPIRIT OF GOD" on our website, <http://www.bayourouge.net> for further explanation about the Greek definite article and the gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit of God.

<sup>4</sup>*On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with Holy Spirit power." Acts 1:4-5.*

#### **Please Note:**

According to my Greek textbooks, there is no indefinite article in the Greek New Testament text. To help explain that statement, I quote from "Essentials of New Testament Greek", Broadman Press, page 16. The portions in parenthesis and the quoted words that are underlined are my contribution in order to help better understand this portion of the textbook without us having to get too technical.

"There is no indefinite article in Greek. Thus we see that the Greek word (pronounced "an-thro-pos" in English) means "man" or "a man." It does not, however, mean "the man" because Greek does have a definite article (*and if the writer had meant to say "the man" he would have used the definite article*). The definite article for the masculine singular is ὁ. (*It is pronounced "ho"*). *This Greek definite article may also be found to be written differently and to be pronounced differently depending upon the three systems of inflecting Greek nouns.*

ὁ ἀνθρώπος (*pronounced "ho an-thro-pos"* ) means “the man.” For the purpose of the exercises the student should observe this carefully. Do not insert an English “the” in the translation unless the Greek article appears; do not insert a Greek “ὁ” unless the English “the” appears (*when you translate the practice exercises at the end of this chapter from Greek into English*).”

The bottom line is this. According to page 129 in “Essentials of New Testament Greek”, Broadman Press, when we find the Greek definite article “ὁ” immediately preceding the Greek words that are translated “Holy Spirit” (ὁ πνεῦμα ἅγιος), it is referring to the person of the Holy Spirit.

On the other hand, the text may not have the definite article and will read simply (πνεῦμα ἅγιος). In that case, πνεῦμα ἅγιος (without the definite article) refers to the quality, the characteristics or the power of the Holy Spirit.

#### HOLY SPIRIT POWER

Do you recall in Acts 1:8, when Jesus Christ told His disciples, the local Church in Jerusalem, to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power? We find in Acts 2:4, the Greek text relates that the Church in Jerusalem was filled with HOLY SPIRIT POWER. The Greek text says that they were filled with πνεῦμα ἅγιος not ὁ πνεῦμα ἅγιος.

The text relates that they received the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit of God, not the person of the Holy Spirit. They had already received the person of the Holy Spirit when they were saved. If the person of the Holy Spirit of God was not on this earth prior to the day of Pentecost, who was convicting of sin and calling people to salvation?

According to both of my Greek textbooks, the translators should not have inserted an English “the” in the translation unless the Greek article appears. Once the error was made by the first translators, most of the other translators simply continued the error in their translations.

In other words, the Greek text does not say that Jesus Christ told His disciples they would be filled with the Holy Spirit. Almost all of the translations into English do, indeed, say that Jesus Christ told His disciples they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit but the "faithful

copies" of the original Greek text do not. The Holy Spirit would not have been indwelling each of them prior to the day of Pentecost if they would have had to be filled with the Spirit of God on that day. Was the indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the moment of their salvation incomplete? The translation into English should have read, *"<sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be immersed in Holy Spirit Power" Acts 1:4-5.*

### THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE SEVENFOLD POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

I cannot find any place in the Bible where Jesus Christ promised sevenfold power to the disciples of John the Baptist. If you know of a place, please consider it your duty to share it with me. My e-mail address is [roberttanner@bayourouge.net](mailto:roberttanner@bayourouge.net). The disciples of John the Baptist had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but they did not have access to the leadership and power of all seven gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit. They may have, from time to time, received a few of the gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit just as the people of the Old Testament received a few gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit from time to time. One of the seven, THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD, is referred to quite often in the Old Testament. But on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit gave only the disciples of Jesus Christ (His Bride) access to the leadership and power of all seven just as the Holy Spirit gave Jesus Christ access to the leadership and power of all seven. The only difference was that the Holy Spirit of the Living God gave that body that was born of a virgin unlimited power because He was sinless. Because He was sinless, He never lost that power. " <sup>23</sup> So He said to them, "You will indeed drink My cup, and be baptized ( The Greek word is βαπτίζω and means complete immersion) with the baptism that I am baptized with; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared by My Father." Matthew 20:23 (New King James Version)

All of Christ's disciples had been completely immersed in water. But Jesus Christ told **His disciples , the local church in Jerusalem,** that sometime in the future **they** were going to be completely immersed in the same thing He had been immersed in. Did He mean they were going to be completely immersed in water again? NO! He was telling them that some time in the



future they would be immersed in the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit. " <sup>1</sup> *There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, And a Branch shall grow out of His roots. (1)* <sup>2</sup> *The Spirit of the LORD (Jehovah) shall rest upon Him, (2) The Spirit of Wisdom and (3) (the Spirit of) Understanding, (4) the Spirit of Counsel and (5) (the Spirit of) Might, (6) the Spirit of Knowledge and (7) the Spirit of the Fear (Reverence) of the Lord."* Isaiah 11:1-2 (New King James Version)

This passage in Isaiah 11:1-2 lists the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit of God. Please note that not one of the seven refers to "charismatic" gifts. This is the sevenfold work of the Holy Spirit of God described in Revelation 1:4 and Revelation 5:6.

*"John, To the seven churches in the province of Asia: Grace and peace to you from Him who is, and who was, and who is to come, and from the seven spirits before his throne..."* (Revelation 1:4 (New International Version)

*" <sup>5</sup> Then one of the elders said to me, "Stop crying. Look! The Lion from the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has been victorious so that He may open the scroll and its seven seals." <sup>6</sup> Then I saw One like a slaughtered lamb standing between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders. He had seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent into all the earth."* Revelation 5:5-6 (Holman Christian Standard Bible)

Once one of the disciples of Jesus Christ was saved, they had the Holy Spirit indwelling within them. They did not lose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit because they could not lose their salvation. They could, however, lose the **power** that the Holy Spirit gave them. When they did lose the **power**, it was necessary for them to be filled with **power** again the next time God called on them to deliver a message or accomplish a task for Him. If you read the paper on "The Seven-fold Spirit Of God" on this website, you will find a list at the end where the Greek definite article is not present and where the verse should have been translated "Holy Spirit power" rather than "the Holy Spirit."

The reason that this is so important is that this truth is still in operation. The members of God's scriptural churches will, from time to time, lose the gifts of the sevenfold **power** of the Holy Spirit and will need to be filled again with **power**. We are speaking of the permanent gifts, not the temporary gifts that were given until that perfect thing, the Bible, was completed. For more information about the temporary gifts that were given only until the Bible was completed, please read the paper "Tongues" posted on this website.

But people are so afraid of being accused of being "charismatic" that this truth is not being taught in most of God's churches. People are not aware of what they should ask our Heavenly Father for. They are like the men who Paul met in Ephesus. Those men had never even heard about the Holy Spirit. Most of the members of Christ's scriptural churches today have heard very little about the Holy Spirit and even less about Holy Spirit power.

<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup>and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied." Acts 19:1-3 (The New International Version).

The Greek definite article is not present in Acts 19:2 (quoted above). When the Greek definite article is not in the Greek text, it is not referring to the person of the Holy Spirit. In other words, the Greek text does not say that Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit. Most of the translations into English do, indeed, say that Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit but the "faithful copies" of the original Greek text do not.. Paul knew and taught that each saved person receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit when they believe so he would not have asked such a foolish question. The translation into English should have read, "<sup>1</sup>While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples <sup>2</sup>and asked them, "Did you receive Holy Spirit Power when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." <sup>3</sup>So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied." Acts 19:1-3.

Who were those men that Paul met in Ephesus? We know definitely that John the Baptist knew about and preached about the Holy Spirit so if those men had been saved and taught under the direct ministry of John the Baptist they would have heard of the Holy Spirit. But, according to their testimony, they had not heard that there was a Holy Spirit.

The key to correctly understanding this passage is Acts 19:3, "<sup>3</sup>So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied." Paul asked them by whose authority they had been baptized and they said they had been baptized by the authority of John the Baptist. Well, if those men had **not** been saved and taught under the direct ministry of John

the Baptist, how could they say that they had John's baptism? Because they had been saved and baptized under the ministry of one of the disciples of John the Baptist.

Why is that important? Because John's mission was to prepare the material that Jesus Christ began with when He called and organized the first local, scriptural church, the church in Jerusalem. May we remind you that not everyone came to Jesus Christ when He called to them and even some who did come to Him when He called, abandoned Him later in His ministry and consequently lost their membership in the church in Jerusalem.

*"<sup>1</sup>In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the Desert of Judea <sup>2</sup>and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is near."<sup>3</sup>This is he who was spoken of through the prophet Isaiah: "A voice of one calling in the desert, 'Prepare the way for the Lord, make straight paths for him.'"<sup>4</sup>John's clothes were made of camel's hair, and he had a leather belt around his waist. His food was locusts and wild honey. <sup>5</sup>People went out to him from Jerusalem and all Judea and the whole region of the Jordan. <sup>6</sup>Confessing their sins, they were baptized by him in the Jordan River ." Matthew 3:1-6 The King James Version).*

*"<sup>1</sup> The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup> As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You."<sup>3</sup> "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the LORD; Make His paths straight.' "<sup>4</sup> John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. <sup>5</sup> Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup> Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup> And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. <sup>8</sup> I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with (Holy Spirit power)." Mark 1:1-8 (The New King James Version).*

*"<sup>67</sup> His father Zechariah was filled with ( Holy Spirit power) and prophesied: <sup>68</sup> "Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because he has come to his people and redeemed them. <sup>69</sup> He has raised up a horn of salvation for us in the house of his servant David <sup>70</sup> (as he said through his holy prophets of long ago), <sup>71</sup> salvation from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us— <sup>72</sup> to show mercy to our ancestors and to remember his holy covenant, <sup>73</sup> the oath he swore to our father Abraham: <sup>74</sup> to rescue us from the hand of our enemies, and to enable us to serve*

him without fear <sup>75</sup> in holiness and righteousness before him all our days. <sup>76</sup> And you, my child, will be called a prophet of the Most High; for you will go on before the Lord to prepare the way for him, <sup>77</sup> to give his people the knowledge of salvation through the forgiveness of their sins, <sup>78</sup> because of the tender mercy of our God, by which the rising sun will come to us from heaven <sup>79</sup> to shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the path of peace.” <sup>80</sup> And the child grew and became strong in spirit; and he lived in the wilderness until he appeared publicly to Israel. " Luke 1:67-80 (The New International Version).

" <sup>1</sup> Now, in the fifteenth year of the rule of Tiberius Caesar, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, and Herod governor of the tetrarchy of Galilee, and Philip his brother governor of the tetrarchy of Ituraea and of the region of Trachonitis, and Lysanius governor of the tetrarchy of Abilene, at the time when Annas and Caiaphas were chief priests, there came a word from God to John the son of Zacharias in the uninhabited region. And he went into all the country around the Jordan making a public proclamation with such formality, gravity, and authority as must be listened to and obeyed, announcing a baptism that had to do with repentance, this baptism, a testimony because of the putting away of sins, as it stands written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, A voice of one shouting in the uninhabited region, Make ready the Lord's road. Be making His paths straight. Every ravine shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be brought low. And the crooked places shall be straight, and the rough roads shall be smooth. And all flesh shall see the salvation of God." Luke 3:1-6 (Wuest New Testament: An Expanded Translation)

" <sup>7</sup> John said to the crowds coming out to be baptized by him, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? <sup>8</sup>Produce fruit in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our father.' For I tell you that out of these stones God can raise up children for Abraham. <sup>9</sup>The ax is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire."

<sup>10</sup>"What should we do then?" the crowd asked. <sup>11</sup>John answered, "The man with two tunics should share with him who has none, and the one who has food should do the same." <sup>12</sup>Tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked, "what should we do?" <sup>13</sup>"Don't collect any more than you are required to," he told them. <sup>14</sup>Then some soldiers asked him, "And what should we do?" He replied, "Don't extort money and don't accuse people falsely—be content with your pay." <sup>15</sup>The people were waiting expectantly and were all

wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ (the Messiah). <sup>16</sup> John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with (Holy Spirit Power) and with fire. <sup>17</sup>His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire." <sup>18</sup>And with many other words John exhorted the people and preached the good news to them." Luke 3:2-18 (The New International Version).

### THE AUTHORITY OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

The Lord had given John the Baptist his authority to baptize those who had been saved under his ministry but that authority had only been given to John. He could not pass it down to his disciples but apparently they did not realize this so they baptized the people who were saved under their ministry even though they did not have the authority to do so.

" <sup>38</sup> And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and **he followeth not us**: and we forbad him, because he followeth not us. <sup>39</sup> But Jesus said, Forbid him not: for there is no man which shall do a miracle in my name, that can lightly speak evil of me. <sup>40</sup> For he that is not against us is on our part. <sup>41</sup> For whosoever shall give you a cup of water to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." Mark 9:38-41 (The King James Version).

" <sup>14</sup> I am the good shepherd; and I know mine, and mine know me. <sup>15</sup> As the Father knoweth me, and I know the Father: and I lay down my life for my sheep. <sup>16</sup> And other sheep I have, that are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold and one shepherd." John 10:14-16 (Douay-Rheims Version, New Catholic Edition)

Again, according to Acts 19:1-7 (printed above) Paul met 12 men in Ephesus who had never heard of the Holy Spirit. Because those men had never received scriptural baptism, they had never had access to the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit. The members of Christ's scriptural churches had access to the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit. What made the difference? It was necessary for Paul to administered scriptural baptism by the authority of the church in Antioch that had sent him out as a missionary in order for those men to receive any of the gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit. It is significant to note here that, according to

God's divine word, scriptural baptism was the only thing that prevented those 12 men in Ephesus from receiving the gifts of Holy Spirit power. When Paul baptized those 12 men by the authority of the church in Antioch (that had sent him out as a missionary), they were not only bound into the membership of the church at Antioch, they were also bound into that special group, the Bride of Christ.

*"<sup>1</sup> Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. <sup>2</sup> 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." <sup>3</sup> Then, having fasted and prayed, and **laid hands on them, they sent them away**" Acts 13:1-3 (The New King James Version).*

#### WHO HAS THE AUTHORITY TO BAPTIZE?

Did God give every member of the family of God the authority to baptize those they lead to Christ (whether the soul winner is a member of a local church or not) or was that authority only given to His local churches? If an applicant told your church they had been baptized in a swimming pool by a soul winner who had never been a member of a local scriptural church, would your church recognize that baptism and register their name as a member of your church? I suspect you would insist that applicant be baptized by the authority of your church before their name was registered as a member. Therefore, **in your heart**, you also know that the authority to baptize was only given to Christ's local, scriptural churches.

In the beginning the Father only gave two people authority to administer scriptural baptism. One was John the Baptist and the other was Jesus Christ, the Son of God. As we shared earlier, John was a forerunner to Jesus Christ and he was sent to prepare the material for Christ. It was planned from the beginning of time that Christ was going to call, to instruct, to organize, to commission and to empower His local New Testament churches. For a short time both John, the man the Lord had authorized to baptize the material he prepared, and the disciples of Jesus Christ were both administering scriptural baptism. But John was soon arrested and killed and the only people left on this earth with the authority to baptize was the local church in Jerusalem.

" <sup>1</sup>When therefore the Lord knew how the Pharisees had heard that Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John, <sup>2</sup> (Though Jesus himself baptized not, but his disciples,) <sup>3</sup> He left Judaea, and departed again into Galilee John 4:1-3 (The King James Version).

Although John the Baptist was not able to pass his authority to baptize down to his disciples, the disciples of Jesus Christ were able to pass their authority down to those churches that were organized through the missionary efforts of their church members. How do we know that local, scriptural churches are able to continue passing their authority down to other churches who are organized through the missionary efforts of their church members? (1) Because we see in the book of Revelation that Jesus Christ recognized and respected the authority of other local, scriptural churches who were in existence by the time the Book of Revelation was recorded. He sent letters to seven of them. Also, (2) God's Divine Word recognizes that fact and speaks of other scriptural churches administering scriptural baptism. We also find that (3) the Holy Spirit led Paul and others to address them as scriptural churches in letters that they sent to them.

#### SO WHAT IS TAKEN OUT OF THE WAY?

So if the person of the Holy Spirit is not taken out of the way at the catching up, what is taken? As we proved in the previous pages, only Christ's local, scriptural churches have the authority to administer scriptural baptism and only Christ's local, scriptural churches have ever received access to all seven gifts from the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit.

Again, I cannot find any place in the Bible where Jesus Christ promised sevenfold power to the disciples of John the Baptist. If you know of a place, please consider it your duty to share it with me. My e-mail address is [roberttanner@bayourouge.net](mailto:roberttanner@bayourouge.net). The disciples of John the Baptist had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but they did not have access to the leadership and power of all seven gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit. They may have, from time to time, received a few of the gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit just as the people of the Old Testament received a few gifts of the sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit from time to time. But on the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit gave only the disciples of Jesus Christ (His Bride) access to the leadership and power of all seven just as the Holy Spirit gave Jesus Christ access to the leadership and power of all seven. The only difference was that the Holy Spirit of the Living God gave that body that was born of a virgin unlimited power because He was sinless. Because He was sinless, He never lost that power.

So if the person of the Holy Spirit is not taken out of the way at the catching up, what is taken up? When the catching up takes place, every member of the Family of God, up to that time, will be taken up to the Third Heaven. Included in the group we call the Family of God will be Christ's Bride, the scripturally baptized members of His local, New Testament churches past and present. Everyone else will be wedding guests at the Marriage Supper of the Lamb that will take place in the Third Heaven. The Marriage Supper of the Lamb will take place during the seven years of tribulation of this earth. " <sup>6</sup> *Then I heard what sounded like a great multitude, like the roar of rushing waters and like loud peals of thunder, shouting: "Hallelujah! For our Lord God Almighty reigns. <sup>7</sup> Let us rejoice and be glad and give him glory! For the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready. <sup>8</sup> Fine linen, bright and clean, was given her to wear."* (Fine linen stands for the righteous acts of God's holy people.) <sup>9</sup> *Then the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding supper of the Lamb!" And he added, "These are the true words of God."* Revelation 19:6-9 (New International Version)

Since Christ's Bride are God's third authorized agency to publish the gospel, Satan has always wanted to sift them as wheat but the Holy Spirit has protected them with His sevenfold power. His sevenfold power has also prevented the Anti-Christ from being projected upon the scene until the Family of God, including Christ's Bride, is taken out of here.

Christ said **to His local church in Jerusalem**, " <sup>28</sup> *Ye are they which have continued with me in my temptations. <sup>29</sup> And **I appoint unto you a kingdom**, as my Father hath appointed unto me; <sup>30</sup> That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>31</sup> And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: <sup>32</sup> But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren."* Luke 22:28-32 (The King James Version).

So, what is taken out at the catching up? The sevenfold power of the Holy Spirit as He dwells with, empowers and protects Christ's Bride across the world.

AND THEN, LOOK OUT !! THE TRIBULATION WILL BEGIN AND MOST OF  
THE PEOPLE (THE LOST) WILL BE LEFT BEHIND