



PRAYING WITH PURPOSE MINISTRIES

BIBLICAL NOTES & HIGHLIGHTS

The Gospel of John

The Book of Acts

and

The Principle of Organization

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The Gospel of John

The Book of John, unlike the rest of the Gospels, focuses on the Deity of Jesus and the coming of the Holy Spirit (John 14:16–17) and the Book of Acts reveals to us the miracles and signs the apostles and disciples performed by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, tonight we are going to place our emphasis on the Holy Spirit who dwells in us: because greater is He that is in us than he that is in the world. This teaching will come under the Principle of Organization which is a doctrine-building principle ... God's plan to simplify our lives. We know that truth must be lived, truth must be seen, and then truth must be proclaimed in order for us, as believers, to be effective witnesses for the Lord Jesus.

REMEMBER WHAT JESUS SAID TO HIS DISCIPLES IN ACTS 1:8:

⁸ But you will receive power and ability when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be My witnesses [to tell people about Me] both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

REVIEW OF THE PRINCIPLE OF ORGANIZATION

Paradigm (Pattern): Doctrine-building principle

Know our essential doctrines of Christianity:

The Deity of Christ — Jesus is God in flesh (John 1:1, 14) and The Trinity (Colossians 2:9)

Salvation by Grace (Ephesians 2:8–9; Galatians 5:4, 2:21; Romans 4:5)

The Resurrection of Christ (1 Corinthians 15:14, 17; John 2:19–21)

The Gospel — Jesus is God in flesh, who died for our sins, rose from the dead and freely gives the gift of eternal life to those who believe. (1 Corinthians 15:1–4; John 1:12; Romans 10:9–10)

- A. To know what and how to believe spiritually
- B. To know how to act and react to life situations/circumstances in the natural
- C. Establish a consistent, godly lifestyle

Plan: To organize the organism, (mankind) Holy Spirit—organizes internally and externally

- A. Born of His Spirit — Hear the preached Word and Confess (Romans 10:9–13)
- B. Filled with Holy Spirit — (Mark 16: 15–18; John 14:16, 17, 26; Acts 1:4, 5; 2:1–4)
- C. Empowered by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:26–28)
- D. Abound in the Fruit of Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23)
- E. Led by His Spirit (Psalm 32:8; 119:105; John 10:3, 4, 27)

The Holy Spirit organizes, sanctifies, anoints, and directs us in the affairs of life, so we will be successful, more than conquerors, thru Christ Jesus who loves us.

After receiving salvation, one must renew his/her mind by reading the Word so that you will know how to think correctly and stay focused. Once the organism (man) has been organized internally—spiritually and mentally, it will express itself outwardly—externally. Truth can be lived, seen, and then proclaimed, resulting in one being an effective witness for the Lord Jesus Christ.

How does the Holy Spirit organize the organism?

The Holy Spirit starts the process of organizing the organism internally, first. But, before any work can be done the organism must realize that his/her life is void and without form, in a state of chaos and just as the Holy Spirit was hovering of the earth when it was void and dark—without form, He is hovering of the organism—waiting for the Word to be spoken so He can create a new creature. The process for becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus is a very simple one.

I know you all are saved; but during the Thanksgiving Holiday and Advent Season, you might encounter family members who are not saved. And you can let them know ... there are no prerequisites, *“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved,”* (Romans 10:13). However, the organism must hear the Word because faith cometh by hearing and hearing the Word of God according to Romans 10:17. After hearing the Word or the Gospel, one has the capacity to believe; consequently, you can confess with your mouth and believe in your heart that Jesus died on the cross for your sins and God raised Jesus from the dead; you are saved.

This is the first step in being organized internally—being born of His Spirit (born again or the new birth).

Many stop at the first step of being born again without going to the next step of being filled with His Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues. This is a gift and promise to all that want it. I realize that there are many controversies about this gift; however, let us look at God’s Word and examine the Scriptures carefully to see if this if for us today, still. Because some fractions of the Body of Christ think, it is not for us today. Let’s begin by examining John 14:16,17,26:

¹⁶And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;

¹⁷Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

²⁶But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jesus makes a promise to His disciples that He would have the Father send the Holy Spirit to dwell in them once He has left. He also tells them about the Holy Spirit, referring to the Holy Spirit as their Comforter which in the Greek means paraclete (one who walks alongside). Jesus wanted His disciples to know that He was not leaving them alone and helpless; therefore, He reiterates the coming of the Holy Spirit in John 16:7.

⁷Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

After Jesus is crucified and raised from the dead, He visits His disciples, and this is when His disciples received the new birth as recorded in John 20:19–22:

¹⁹So when it was evening on that same day, the first day of the week, though the disciples were [meeting] behind barred doors for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them, and said, “[a]Peace to you.” ²⁰After He said this, He showed them His hands and His side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they were filled with great joy. ²¹Then Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you [as My representatives].” ²²And when He said this, He breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.

Now, many ask the question when did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit in John 20:22 or in Acts 2:4. Many theologians have stated that this is a hard or difficult saying to understand. But tonight, I want to walk us through the Scriptures and show you without a doubt that salvation—new birth and being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues—are two separate experiences.

Now let me make this very clear—when you are born again, you are born of the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit; but you do not have the fullness. There is more if you want it. In other words, there is another step. And we will see this as we examine the Scriptures carefully.

In John 20:22, the disciples were born again; that was when they were regenerated by the Holy Ghost according to Titus 3:5:

⁵He saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we have done, but because of His own compassion and mercy, by the cleansing of the new birth (spiritual transformation, regeneration) and renewing by the Holy Spirit,

However, they had not received the enduement of power which Jesus promised them according to Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:5, 8 respectively:

Luke 24:49

⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the PROMISE OF MY FATHER upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until YE BE ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH.

Acts 1:5,8

⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY GHOST not many days hence....

⁸ But ye shall receive POWER, AFTER THAT THE HOLY GHOST IS COME UPON YOU: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

There is a work of the Holy Spirit that God desires in the lives of believers: This is the Holy Spirit coming upon believers to endue them with power from on High. Just as the Spirit within in the new birth is a definite experience, so there is also a genuine infilling of the Holy Spirit which believers can receive today, which is also a definite experience. The world — people who have not been regenerated (sinners) cannot receive the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth according to John 14:17. However, the world can receive the new birth. Sinners can receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. But the experience of the infilling of the Holy Ghost is only for believers.

Now, the disciples were Born Again in John 20:22, but Waiting for the Outpouring

There are 49 days from the first day of the Feast of Firstfruit to the day of Pentecost. Jesus remained on earth according to Acts 1:3 for 40 days; therefore, there are nine days from the time of His Accession to the day of Pentecost. **(Hold that thought.)**

Now Jesus commanded them to wait for the Promise of the Holy Spirit (John 14:15–21) who would empower them to be witnesses for Him starting in Jerusalem to the end of the earth. After that He ascended into heaven. While they gazed in awe, God sent two angels to assure them that Jesus was coming back. So, they departed and went back to Jerusalem and went in the Upper Room, where they had a prayer meeting for nine days. After twelve verses (from Acts 1:14–26; 2:1) and nine days, the Promise is birthed on the day of Pentecost.

How was the Promise birthed? — through Prayer (Acts 1:14 AMP):

They had a prayer meeting in the Upper Room for nine days and then the Holy Spirit came upon the 120 persons like tongues of fire according to scripture. These same men that received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on them were all there in the Upper Room on the Day of Pentecost, along with the rest of the 120 mentioned (Acts 1:13–15).

This clearly demonstrates there is more to receive of the Holy Spirit after the New Birth.

Suppose the disciples believed the doctrine of some theologians and preachers that a believer receives all of the Holy Spirit at the new birth. They never would have had that prayer meeting for nine days in the Upper Room ... waiting for the promise of the Holy Spirit and the enduement of power from on High. They would have been content with the fact that Jesus breathed on them and

they received the Holy Ghost. But they obeyed His command and waited for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Praise God!

Let's examine another passage of Scripture — Acts 8:5–7, 8, 12–17

⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and PREACHED CHRIST unto them. ⁶And the people with ONE ACCORD GAVE HEED UNTO THOSE THINGS which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. ⁷For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.

⁸And there was great joy in that city ...

¹²But when they BELIEVED Philip preaching THE THINGS CONCERNING THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and THE NAME OF JESUS CHRIST, they were baptized, both men and women. ¹³Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, behold-ing the miracles and signs which were done. ¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had RECEIVED THE WORD OF GOD [con-cerning salvation], they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST: ¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized IN THE NAME OF THE LORD JESUS.) ¹⁷Then laid they their hands on them, and they RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST.

In Acts Chapter 8, we see Philip fulfilling what Jesus said in Acts 1:4 being a witness in Samaria... preaching the Gospel; and many persons were saved and healed through Philip's ministry. As we study this account, it becomes evident that salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences.

Philip, an ordained deacon and an evangelist, had an outstanding ministry according to Acts 6:7–8. However, under his ministry no one received the Holy Spirit. But when the apostles in Jerusalem heard about the wonderful things God had done through Philip's ministry in Samaria, they sent Peter and John to lay hands on the new Samaritan converts so that they might receive the Holy Ghost according to Acts 8:17:

¹⁷"Then laid they [Peter and John] their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost"

¹⁸Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given through the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money,

These verses of Scripture enlighten us or help us understand that there is an experience subsequent to or following salvation, called the infilling or the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I grew up in a Baptist Church and had been taught that when you are saved, you have the Holy Spirit. I remember so vividly when I received the new birth. The power of the Holy Spirit moved

in me and I cried out, “I Know, I Know”. However, no one lead me to the next step. I was truly ready to receive the infilling or baptism, but the believers thought I had received everything that night by experiencing the new birth ... by confessing and believing in my heart according to Romans 10:9–10:

⁹ If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.

However, these Samaritans in Acts Chapter 8 were saved or born again by the Spirit of God (vv. 12,14), as we clearly see from the Scriptures. But the apostles didn't seem to think they had received all of the Holy Ghost there was to have because they sent Peter and John to them; so, the Samaritans could receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Therefore, salvation and receiving the infilling or the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences.

The Samaritans Were Born Again Under Philip's Ministry. But they received the infilling of the Holy Spirit under John and Peter's Ministry.

Also, notice that the Scripture says when Simon saw that they had received the Holy Spirit, he offered money for the gift. Now, one can't see the Holy Spirit; so how did Simon know they were filled?

By the evidence of them speaking in tongues ... Simon heard them speaking in tongues.

Now, let's look at Acts 9

The passage in Acts Chapter 9 which records Saul's conversion and baptism in the Holy Spirit also shows us that receiving salvation and receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit are two separate experiences.

Acts 9:1–9: — Saul's Conversion

¹Meanwhile, Saul was still breathing out murderous threats against the Lord's disciples. He went to the high priest ² and asked him for letters to the synagogues in Damascus, so that if he found any there who belonged to the Way, whether men or women, he might take them as prisoners to Jerusalem. ³ As he neared Damascus on his journey, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. ⁴ He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” ⁵ “Who are you, Lord?” Saul asked. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting,” he replied. ⁶ “Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.” ⁷ The men traveling with Saul stood there speechless; they heard the sound but did not see anyone. ⁸ Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing. So they led him by the hand into Damascus. ⁹ For three days he was blind, and did not eat or drink anything.

We know that Saul was already born again (from the Damascus Road experience) when Ananias came to lay hands on him, but Saul had not yet received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, Saul received the infilling of the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17:

So Ananias left and entered the house, and he laid his hands on Saul and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came [to Damascus], has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit [in order to proclaim Christ to both Jews and Gentiles]."

Ananias recognized that Saul was already a Christian brother in the faith; therefore, Saul could receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Now, let's look at Acts 10, when Peter is led by the Holy Spirit to go to Cornelius' house. Note, that the men of Cornelius' household were all Gentiles.

Acts 10:44–46 (KJV)

⁴⁴While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

As I stated earlier, the persons of Cornelius' household were all Gentiles, and they were not saved until Peter came and preached the gospel to them. They received the infilling almost simultaneously after the new birth.

Now, many years later Paul came to the coast of Ephesus and met disciples who were baptized by John's baptism. Therefore, Paul preached the Gospel to them and they were saved and filled with the Holy Spirit.

Paul's ministering to the people in Ephesus is recorded in Acts 19:2–6:

²He 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. ³And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. ⁴Then 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. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

One last passage of Scripture I would like to share is Mark 16:15–17:

¹⁵And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. ¹⁶He who has believed [in Me] and has been baptized will be saved [from the penalty of God's wrath and judgment]; but he who has not believed will be

condemned. ¹⁷ These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak in new tongues;

Remember, that Jesus did not do any works until He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. Now, if Jesus needed the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit, it is obvious that believers need Him also.

Jesus Is Preeminent.

It is the power of the Holy Spirit that enables us to abound in the fruit of the spirit; so we might let go of weights that so easily beset us; because sometimes it is difficult to love someone who has done you wrong, but by being filled with the Holy Spirit you have the power inside of you to overcome what the flesh feels or the carnal mind thinks.

You might ask, how do I do this? Good question.

You are able to do this by simply using your new language—by praying in the spirit. In other words, by praying in tongues. The scripture tells us how the Holy Spirit prays through us in Romans 5:26–27:

²⁶ In the same way the Spirit [comes to us and] helps us in our weakness. We do not know what prayer to offer or how to offer it as we should, but the Spirit Himself [knows our need and at the right time] intercedes on our behalf with sighs and groanings too deep for words. ²⁷ And He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because the Spirit intercedes [before God] on behalf of ^[a] God's people in accordance with God's will.

As you pray in the spirit, the Holy Spirit helps you and begins to reveal things to you that you might not even be aware of. If you're having difficulty loving someone just keep praying for them and praying in the spirit; and read 1 Corinthians 13:4–8 (the love chapter, especially in the Amplified Bible).

⁴ Love endures long and is patient and kind; love never is envious nor boils over with jealousy, is not boastful or vainglorious, does not display itself haughtily. ⁵ It is not conceited (arrogant and inflated with pride); it is not rude (unmannerly) and does not act unbecomingly. Love (God's love in us) does not insist on its own rights or its own way, for it is not self-seeking; it is not touchy or fretful or resentful; it takes no account of the evil done to it [it pays no attention to a suffered wrong]. ⁶ It does not rejoice at injustice and unrighteousness, but rejoices when right and truth prevail. ⁷ Love bears up under anything and everything that comes, is ever ready to believe the best of every person, its hopes are fadeless under all circumstances, and it endures everything [without weakening]. ⁸ Love never fails [never fades out or becomes obsolete or comes to an end...

By the aid of the Holy Spirit you will be empowered to love that person and see beyond the hurt or their faults or whatever it was that hindered you in the past from loving them. The fruit of love, which is the very essence of our Father—because God is love, will be abounding in you. This will

not happen overnight, but if you are diligent, you will obtain results, “for all labor is profitable”, (Proverbs 14:23).

If you lack joy, once again spend a few minutes praying in the spirit and go to the Book of Psalms and begin reading, particularly in Psalm 100. Read Psalm 100 every day and meditate on the words in that Psalm. Now, you must use your faith because without faith it is impossible to please God, (Hebrews 11:6). Therefore, you must rejoice and again I say Rejoice!!!

If you find yourself always in turmoil and you need peace, pray in the spirit and go to Philippians 4:6–8:

⁶Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (^[a]definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God. ⁷And God's peace [shall be yours, that ^[b]tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and so fearing nothing from God and being content with its earthly lot of whatever sort that is, that peace] which transcends all understanding shall ^[c]garrison and mount guard over your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. ⁸ Finally, ^[a]believers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable and worthy of respect, whatever is right and confirmed by God's word, whatever is pure and wholesome, whatever is lovely and brings peace, whatever is admirable and of good repute; if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think continually on these things [center your mind on them, and implant them in your heart].

By using your prayer language daily you will begin to abound in the fruit of the spirit ... the attributes of God, our heavenly Father.

As you spend time reading God's word, your mind will be renewed and you will be transformed and begin thinking in line with the Word when you face life situations and circumstances. In other words, you will first go to the Word of God for your answers and since you have been spending time praying in the spirit, the Holy Spirit will be able to speak to you and guide you in your decision, "I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go: I will guide thee with mine eye." (Psalm 32:8).

Not that He could not speak to you before, but you were dull of hearing. You were not sensitive to His voice or leading — prompting. Now, do you see why it is vital for the believer to be filled with the Holy Spirit. So, He can enable, empower, and guide you in your everyday affairs to ensure good success in life. He is our “assurance.”

The Holy Spirit organizes, sanctifies, anoints, and directs us in our affairs of life, so we will be successful, more than conquerors, through Christ Jesus who loves us.

Remember the unchanging nature of God—that He does not change and Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever. And our God is no respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of faith. He gave the gift to the disciples and “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, (Acts 2:39). Because “Every

good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning,” (James 1:17).

Now, being filled with the Holy Spirit opens the door for the manifestation of the nine gifts of the Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12.

'Are You Hungry for More of God?'

PRAYER

Father, I pray You will continue to illuminate Your Word to us and that we will receive this engrafted Word. I pray that those who are not filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues will allow the Scriptures to speak to their hearts. And if they desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit that they will simply RECEIVE THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ... because You have already given the Gift...the Promise, in Jesus' Name. Amen