

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!



EXPLAINING THIS PERPLEXING PHRASE

BY
MENTUS UDOKA OKOLIE

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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to the “Babe” in Christ Jesus, and to all the passionate missionaries – men, women and children – who consistently leave the comfort of their homes to take the Gospel to the nooks and crannies of their spheres.

You are precious in the sight of God.

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INTRODUCTION

There was once a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

John 3:1-7; KJV

When the Master said to Nicodemus that except a man was “born again”, he would not see the kingdom of God; was He mincing words?

Sometime ago, I was fortunate to have met a pretty hefty looking man who had this really big Bible clutched underneath his left armpit. In that encounter I had asked this question: “What do you understand by being born again?”

However, before my question, a mild drama had played out itself. You see, he had approached me with a handful of flyers, which advertised Church activities for next

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Sunday, and he had hoped to “win me over” to Christ as we say it.

He introduced himself, the Christian Denomination he represented and proceeded to create an atmosphere of friendliness through smiles, and asking of abstract questions to put me in a calm mood before he could “strike!”

Anyway, I was not new to such a scenario, so I played along to make his efforts worthwhile.

But just right after the pleasantries, he fired the first shot: “Did you go to Church today?” I replied, “No”.

You needed to see his facial expression. Next, he politely asked why I did not attend. I also politely declined to tell.

He then fired the next and final shot: “Are you born again?” And in my usual manner, I said to him, “Well, Sir, I am not pretty certain of what that phrase means. Can you educate me?”

He was pleased at my naïve answer and so, he went on to say:

“To be born again means to acknowledge Jesus Christ as the owner of your life; and that you should try your best to leave those negative things you used to do. I know it’s not going to be easy, but if you’re serious about it, God will help you. Stop smoking; drinking of alcohol, fornication and telling lies.

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Go to Church always; pay your tithe and offering and do good to everybody around you.”

I replied, “Is that it?”, and he responded, “Yes. When you do all these things, God will help you and bless you. You will become a child of God and a follower of Jesus Christ, and will receive everlasting life when you get to Heaven.”

Amazed at his erroneous answers, I was forced to ask him to have my seat, and then I popped this question to him:

“What do you understand by being born again?”

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CHAPTER ONE

IN THE BEGINNING...

Then God said, “Let us make mankind in our image, to be like us. Let them be masters over the fish in the ocean, the birds that fly, the livestock, everything that crawls on the earth, and over the earth itself!”

Genesis 1:26; ISV

Then God said, “Let us make human beings in our image, to be like us. They will reign over the fish in the sea, the birds in the sky, the livestock, all the wild animals on the earth, and the small animals that scurry along the pond.”

Genesis 1:26; NLT

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:26; KJV

The reason I had to present 3 different renderings of the same portion of Scripture is to address a matter that grieves the Spirit, and I am certain grieves you as well.

In many societies today; we find the unending waves of violence and destruction of human lives with impunity. In families; domestic violence is on a record high as spouses

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now crave for autonomous powers within their homes. The family unit is very important to God in that; it is the micro structure of the large society.

Each time you see, hear or read about negative reports in your society; the family is to a very large extent, involved in the lives of the perpetrators.

They have been influenced to crave for power and control either by the direct or indirect influence of an immediate or extended family member. It always begins from the home.

In homes today, you find spouses politicize their positions so as to have absolute control over their children and spouse; Nations {predators} spy on other Nations of “interests”, and even propagate false information to cause untold miseries in the lives of its citizenry {prey} just to have “control” over them!

In all 3 Scripture references I had provided earlier, there was no place where God said to Mankind to have control over Mankind; never once did He say such in the beginning! However, we find Mankind doing EXACTLY the opposite of what he had been instructed against eons ago.

The problem is not entirely with Mankind; though, he provided himself a willing tool to be used and rubbished at the end. He willfully handed his Authority and Power to the Devil the day they decided they would eat from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

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The very day they ate of that Tree was the day they became of the lineage of the one who influenced them; the day they became children of the Devil, by nature.

Little wonder the Master Jesus made a profound statement concerning the Pharisees;

“Ye are of your father, the devil, and the lust of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

John 8:44; KJV

Romans 5:14 AMP, also had this to say to buttress what the Master Jesus echoed in the Scripture reference above;

“Yet death held sway from Adam to Moses [the Lawgiver], even over those who did not themselves transgress [a positive command] as Adam did...”

So, when Adam and Eve failed, their spirits were supplanted by the spirit of the one who enticed them; Lucifer, the Devil. The Nature of Mankind then had these negative “virtues” in it;

“What the human nature does is quite plain. It shows itself in immoral, filthy, and indecent actions; in worship of idols and witchcraft. People become enemies and they fight; they become jealous, angry, and ambitious. They separate into parties and groups; they are envious, get drunk, have orgies, and do other things like these. I warn

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you now as I have before: those who do these things will not possess the Kingdom of God.”

Galatians 5:19-21; GNT

When the Gods said to they would make Mankind in their Image, they spoke of the physical – the bodily appearance, and the nature of Man. Man resembles God. Man was made spirit, was to have a body, and a mind to operate the body with.

God is a Spirit, has a Celestial Body, and a Divine Mind too! When the Man was created, he had earthly body because; he was to operate here, on earth. He had a spirit, and that spirit was not the kind God has. Lastly, he was given a brain.

The purpose for which God placed those Two Special Trees in the middle of that Garden was for 2 reasons:

- The Tree of Knowledge of what was good and what was evil typified the instructions of God with which Mankind was to live with, and by; especially, when you consider (a). The Devil and his “fallen” angels who occupied the earth before Mankind was created, and (b). The task of replenishing and ruling the earth as its Custodians.
- The Tree the gives Life {Eternal}, was for them to eat of at a set time by God. It was that Tree that was to make them equals to the Gods. They would have lived forever. They would have had

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the same spirit Nature as God. This is that part of the Scripture that read; “and after our likeness”. It was to be accomplished in phases! Regrettably, they ate from the first a little too sooner.

Thereafter they failed, the Serpent supplanted the first couple’s spirits {corrupt-free Nature} with his spirit {corrupted Nature}, and his Nature continued as a result of procreation until the birth of Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus’ birth was the beginning of the “Reinstallation” or Reconnection to the original plan of the Father.

God is a Just, Merciful, Loving Judge and Creator. He made all His creations free morale agents; and not as “zombies”. It explains why the couple chose to disobey of their own accord.

If you take a good look at those virtues listed out by the Apostle Paul, you will see that the “virtues” of the Human Nature after their fall in the Garden of Eden explains to a great extent, the many causes to the violence and destruction in our world today.

God had intended for the first family to be perfect {mature}; and this was to be the same for all other families that was to come.

That plan is now reactivated. Be a part of it!

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CHAPTER TWO

THE PURPOSE FOR HIS COMING

“The thief’s purpose is to steal and kill and destroy. My purpose is to give them [a rich and satisfying life.]”

John 10:10; NLT

Now, when the Lord Jesus Christ said He was going to give them a “rich and satisfying life”; what was He saying to those folks back then? Was He implying that folks back then were wretched and haggardly looking people; barely could stand on their legs let alone walk with Him to all the places He went? Was the Master saying, “Hey...? Good folks of Nazareth! Today, I’m going to give 1,000 talents to every man who can stay with me until evening.”

In trying to answer the questions above; one must first try to understand the original mind of God from inception.

“Let us make human being in OUR IMAGE, to be like us.”

Genesis 1:26; NLT

God is a Spirit; and what that means is that, He lives in a world which cannot be seen with our natural eyes. It is more or less the reason the word “Spirit” exists. Spirits are beings that actually exist, but of a different physical and internal anatomical representation. In the spirit world where God lives, there is no Christmas or Santa Clauses. There are no Mondays, or laundry days, either.

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It is an eternal realm – or timeless world if you like to call it that.

So, God decided to make human being to have His Image. This is where the non Christians and “Church goers” get the impression that they too are the children of God because of the, “Let us make human beings in our image...” quote.

Let me help you understand it correctly. Mankind is earth-bound! Else, why do we need a space suit to go up outer space?

In order for Mankind to operate here on earth; he was made in the physical image of God BUT, with some peculiarities because of his habitat.

God made Mankind just as He is, but with slight differential peculiarities! For instance, we need oxygen to breathe here; food to eat to nourish our flesh; water to drink, digestive system, et al.

We also have some similarities: we have legs just like God has. We have hands, He also does. We have a head, God does too. We can stand, sit, and talk; laugh and shout; God does as well. We were created in His **PYHSICAL IMAGE** but have a different internal anatomy.

Man was peculiar in his own way. Next, because God is a Spirit, the air He breathed into the Man was spirit as well. It was what powered the earth “moulded” Man into a living Man. Think of it as the “battery” needed to bring to life the sculpted man. He breathed life into Man, and

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Man became a living soul: a creature that had the kind of physical appearance and thinking ability as God. It explains how God and the first couple were able to interact in the Garden of Eden, and also interacted with the Serpent.

However, the different still remained in INTERNAL structures. God's Structure was that of a never ending Life, but that of the man was not as God's, though his spirit could not die too The Man was powered by a life not exactly the same as God's.

Now, when the Scripture said;

“Let us make human being in our image, to BE LIKE US.”

Genesis 1:26; NLT

It spoke of Human beings possessing the exact kind of Life the Gods possessed.

But, God did not initially give Mankind that kind of Life, and I will show;

Then the LORD God said, “Now these human beings have become like one of us and have knowledge of what is good and what is bad. They must not be allowed to take fruit **from the tree that gives life, eat it, and live forever.**”

Genesis 3:22; GNT

Did you see that? God had to prevent them from eating of that Tree else they would have lived forever! Why would

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He plant it the first place, if not to allow them eat it at an appropriate time! But, they were in a hurry to “help” God achieve His plans; how sad.

This lets us know they were not designed to live forever but, God intended for them to live forever both in spirit and body; if they had held firm to the first instruction not to eat of the Tree of Knowledge!

Both Trees were there for their profiting. They needed to be trained adequately before being allowed to eat of both Trees.

They needed to be trained since they were to be Custodians of the earth, and were to pass down the Custodianship of the earth to their descendants.

So, all those reciting and claiming Genesis 1:26 as their heritage do not really know what they talk about when they “claim to be God’s children”, especially if they have not exercised Roman 10:9-10.

The only difference between God, Adam and Eve then was the kind of spirit that powered them! God’s Spirit was Eternal; theirs was natural and it still is for a great majority. The spirit they had was not a “super spirit”. They needed the super spirit in other to “reign”, “be masters” or “have dominion” over earth.

He had to first; understand God’s instructions well enough to be able to use the Life of God to reign over all the earth effectively!

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Did you know that Adam and Even never got to enjoy their reign outside the Eden?

Well, no thanks to the sabotaging efforts of the Serpent; he made sure he got their help willfully to make him their boss. {Smart you might add...}

The reason I had to repeat as excerpt of this Chapter in the previous is to help you grasp the concept behind the phrase “born again”.

It is not a Religious saying folks; Christians and non Christians tell themselves to “advise” themselves over their habits and manners; no, no, no!

It is serious business!

To be “born again” is to be transcendent.

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CHAPTER THREE

JESUS THAT TREE OF LIFE

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16; NIV

Interestingly, God already defined what eternal life means as far back as Genesis 3:22! The Apostle John was only repeating God’s words but, in a more fancy way by using the word “eternal life” in place of Tree that gives Life.

“He must not be allowed to take fruit from the tree that gives {eternal life}, eat it, and live for ever.”

Genesis 3:22; paraphrased, mine

This paraphrased version gives a more simplified general purpose for which the Lord Jesus Christ was introduced into our world.

He was introduced to “Reinstalled” a failed program the First Adam could not accomplish. This Last Adam chose to see the training through to the end.

The intelligent question should be: how was He able to accomplish it?!

The answer was in the Lord Jesus’ response to Nicodemus;

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“No one can enter the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water and of the Spirit.”

John 3:5; GNT

The Lord had responded based on His own experience at the River Jordan. I would like us to study Matthew’s account of what happened that fateful day at the River Jordan.

At that time Jesus arrived from Galilee and came to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. But John tried to make him change his mind. “I ought to be baptized by you.” John said, “and yet you have come!” But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so for now. For in this way we shall do all that God requires.” So John agreed. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he came up out of the water. Then heaven was opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God coming down like a dove and alighting on him. Then a voice said from heaven, “This is my own dear son, with whom I am pleased.”

Matthew 3:13-17; GNT

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FOR THE SAKE OF CLARITY...

Baptism is a sacrament of the Church. It is a foundation teaching that dates as far back as Noah's day; yes, that far!

Water Baptism is the partial or full immersion of an individual in water; that acknowledges the Lord Jesus Christ as the promised Messiah spoken of by the prophets.

Note: "acknowledgement" is not the same thing as "acceptance". Else, why would the same "baptized" Jews despise and kill the Master if they accepted Him as the One spoken of by the prophets?!

Acknowledgment is a mental approval, and does not prove that the person absolutely accepts. However, "Acceptance" is of the spirit. It is being fully convinced. The Jews expected someone of a Heroic stature like King David, and not the son of a carpenter! Hilarious!

Water baptism typified the "crossover" from the old life to the new life.

For instance, when Noah and his family were in that boat he had built; that typified water baptism for them. Secondly, when the congregation of the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea, it also, typified water baptism unto Moses. It was "a copy and a shadow" of what John the Baptist was to accomplish even before the REAL thing.

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Fast forward to John the Baptist: he was created and introduced to (a). Carry out water baptism, and (b). Sensitize and prepare the people for the REAL Baptism that would come through Jesus Christ.

The Baptism in water symbolized the process by which the Holy Spirit would baptize any individual who desired to be baptized into Christ. The Spirit would as it was, “wash” away the sins, which was to lead to forgiveness of sins, and the sanctification and presentation of the person onto the Lord God.

But, before the actual Baptism of the Spirit came, the water typified the “Spirit” for those at the time.

Therefore, when they went through the Red Sea, they were “baptized” by the Spirit. Likewise, when John immersed anyone into water, that person was “baptized” by the Spirit. However, none of them possessed the Gift of the Spirit. None of them were born again! It was a mere exercise to prepare the people’s hearts and minds for the greater thing that was to come.

Little wonder John tried resisting Jesus’ request. He understood the Master was Higher than he was but, Faithful and Humble Jesus replied, “Let it be for now...” (Matthew 3:15). The Master responded so because, He knew that day was the “exodus” of water baptism onto the Higher baptism; Baptism of the Spirit.

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Did you notice that the Holy Spirit did not alight on Him while He was still in the water, as it is often depicted in many pictorial representation of the Baptism of Jesus Christ at the River Jordan? No, He did not! See what Luke had to say about the incident of that fateful day;

Jesus also was baptized. While he was PRAYING, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in the bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son, I am pleased with you.”

Luke 3:21.b-22; GNT

If we merge Matthew 3:16 inside Luke 3:21-22, we will get a clearer picture on what happened:

So John agreed. Jesus also was baptized. As soon as Jesus was baptized, he [came up out of the water]. While he was PRAYING, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon him in the bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, “You are my own dear Son, I am pleased with you.”

Did you see that? He was not in the water when the Spirit came on Him. It indicated the exodus of water baptism. It indicated the exodus of having to rely on material mediums to exercise faith; God wanted something greater; He wanted the exercise of faith by words!

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After His water immersion exercise, He was found separated from the crowd; praying and meditating at a corner on the Lakeshore.

Now, someone intelligent might ask, “So, are you implying that we stop water baptism?” My answer to this very interesting question would also come in the form of a simple question:

- In the absence of water, do we postpone one’s acceptance and coming onto the Lord Jesus Christ?

Baptism is a foundation teaching of the Church, and should be taught correctly. It should not be ignored because; our Lord Jesus Christ showed in the process involved, and the immeasurable benefits therein.

Now, let us read the Master’s words to Nicodemus one more time;

“I am telling you the truth,” replied Jesus. “No one can enter into the Kingdom of God unless he is born of water of the Spirit.”

John 3:5; GNT

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CHAPTER FOUR

THE HOLY GHOST BAPTISM!

“Unless he is born of water...”

John 3:5

The baptism in water was typified as the Baptism of the Spirit. What this means is this: it is just like saying that anyone who was baptized in the River Jordan was “baptized by the Holy Spirit”. The person was “washed” clean with the water in the Jordan, and they were forgiven of their sins. However, it was not the real thing because; water could never cleanse anyone’s spirit, which was the real reason for their sins. Water only washed the flesh, and not the Human Nature {the one supplanted with the Nature of the Devil}.

Now, we find the Lord Christ saying something that sounded a bit confusing; He said unless you are born of water! What did He mean by that statement?

Let us see something in **Ephesians 5:25-27; KJV**

“Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, that he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”

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1. THE WASHING BY BLOOD...

I would like you to take particular interest in the part that read: “that he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing by water by the Word.” What that portion is implying is this: Jesus desires to sanctify and cleanse His Church by “washing” their spirits with His Blood as though “washing” it with water. The phrase “washing of water by the Word” means washing of water by Jesus, who is the Word. It means washing with His Blood as though it were water.

So, the first phase of the Holy Ghost baptism is to “wash you with the sinless Blood of the Lamb” as though washing you with water, to cleanse and sanctify you; making your spirit wrinkle-free, and spotless! At this stage, you are born again! You NOW have a NEW spirit!

Let me show you a similar thing that happened to the Apostles to buttress this first phase, OK...?

John 20:21-22; Luke 24:45; GNT

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the father sent me, so I send you.” Then he breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures...”

As against the erroneous teaching that the Apostles only received the Gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of

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Pentecost, the Scripture reference above has proven otherwise.

It said that after the Master Jesus had being resurrected by the Holy Spirit; He appeared to His Apostles and greeted them in a fashion synonymous to those at the time. It was a pattern used by a victor who had returned from a great battle, and was victorious. He said, "Peace be with you." Meaning, you are now safe from our common Enemy.

Next, He does the strangest thing to them, He breathed on their heads and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." immediately He did that, the Scripture then said, "He" opened their minds to understand Scriptures; the "He" being the Holy Spirit.

However, we find another perplexing statement from the Lord Jesus Christ in the 49th verse of Luke 24;

"But you must wait in the city until the power from above comes down upon you."

Does this mean that Jesus did minced words? Definitely not! Let me help you understand it.

Jesus only reenacted what He saw the Father do at the River Jordan. You see, what happened that day was actually for us, and not for Jesus. The Father wanted us to understand the phases in Baptism by the Spirit.

After the Lord had been "baptized in water" at the Jordan; He was "born again" as it were. And so, when the Lord

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appeared to the Apostles, He simply did the same thing: but this time, in the New Way approved by God; not with physical water!

There was no where recorded that Jesus Christ baptized the Apostles in water; no, none! When He breathed on their heads, they were baptized in “water” – His Blood unto forgiveness of sins, and were supplanted with the Spirit of Christ by the Holy Spirit.

It was how they were able to understand Scriptures. They now had the Spirit of Jesus Christ in their spirits. They became after the Nature of the New Adam that succeeded where the old did not.

It also explains how you begin to enjoy listening to the Word of God, and talk about the things of God the day you accepted the Lord into your life. Prior to that day, you could not comprehend the Scriptures the way you did after. It was the same for the Apostles.

So, when the Master said to them to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued by Power from on high, He was talking about the next phase of Baptism of the Spirit.

Let us discover this next together....

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2. WAITING FOR POWER...

“And I myself will send upon you what my father has promised. But you [**must wait**] in the city [**until**] the power from above comes down upon you.”

Luke 24:49; GNT

Now, in Luke 3:21 GNT, the Bible says;

After all the people had been baptized, Jesus was also baptized. [**While**] he was [**praying**], heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon him...

Remember, all that happened to Jesus Christ at the River Jordan was to us. It is crucial we understand the step by step of all that transpired that day because; it is for our profiting.

Did you notice the word “**while**” in our latter Scripture reference? Well, it implies to wait for a certain amount of time. It is the same in meaning, when He said to the Apostles in the former Scripture reference to “wait” “until” the Spirit came on them.

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Luke 3:21 helps us to understand what the Apostles did in Acts 2:1;

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...”

In one place doing what? The answer lies in Luke 3:21;

“After all the people had been baptized, Jesus was also baptized. While he was [praying], heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit came down upon him...”

So, they were all in one accord, in one place: fasting, praying and studying the writings of the Old Testament prophets, and mediating on all the things that the Master had taught them. They were building up the spirits {Acts 20:32}.

They were feeding their spirit mind when suddenly something extraordinary happened that made them “mad” folks before the eyes of many that were outside the building where they were. What happened turned their lives around permanently, and is the reason the Gospel has reached you, today.

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3. POWER TO CAUSE CHANGES...

How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power...

Acts 10:38; KJV

In Luke 3:21-22, the Bible lets us in on, how the Lord Jesus Christ was baptized at the River Jordan. However, it is important to understand that it was a pattern for us to understand and follow because; it revealed the phases involved in the Baptism of the Spirit.

After the Master had been “baptized”; He waited a while during which, He was found separated from the crowd at the River, praying. Next, the Heaven opened to Him and the Holy Spirit alighted on Him.

We find an enactment of this pattern in Acts 2:3;

And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it [sat upon] each of them.

Here was what really happened that day;

Acts 10:38 says,

“How God [anointed] Jesus... with Holy Ghost and with power.”

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EXPLAINING THIS PERPLEXING PHRASE

The word to “Anoint” was used to express the action the Father carried out on Jesus that day at the River Jordan.

In the Old Testament, God would command the prophets to anoint with oil, an individual He had chosen to be king over His people. The prophet was to pour the oil all over the person, and not just rub across the person’s forehead.

He was to smear the person all over with the oil as a way to cause the person to “shine of the glory” of the Lord. It was indicative that such a person was now sanctified and chosen by God Himself to rule; and nobody was to come against an anointed of the Lord. This was also done when Moses dedicated the instruments in the Tent of His Presence in the Wilderness, and it was also done in the Temple built by King Solomon.

So, the speaker of Acts 10:32 tried to let his listeners understand that in like manner; God anointed the Lord Jesus Christ with the Holy Spirit: He was “poured” with the Holy Spirit as it were oil, and rubbed all over with Him to the point of shining of the Lord God’s Glory. This was what happened to the Apostles that day at the “upper room”.

They were smeared with the anointing of the Holy Spirit. That anointing was what caused the eruption of diverse tongues.

YOU MUST BE BORN AGAIN!

EXPLAINING THIS PERPLEXING PHRASE

The Apostles were born again prior to the Empowerment by the Spirit. They were Christians at that moment the Lord Jesus Christ breathed on their heads before His ascension.

However, they were still “babes” and needed to be trained. It was why the Lord Master told them to abide in Jerusalem; fasting, praying, studying and mediating until they were “ripe” for the Empowerment of the Holy Spirit to carry out their positions as Gift from Christ to the Church. (Ephesians 4:11).

Prior to their Empowerment, they were shy locals, and were not daring enough to venture into certain areas in their city, let alone ventured beyond it. But, when that POWER came ON them, they became “wild and bold” as Lions.

This Empowerment is available to you as well! It did not end with the Apostles; no, Sir!

But, just like the Master, and the Apostles; you too must separate yourself! You cannot be meddling in the things of the world and expect that kind of extraordinary power; no, it did not happen that way for them, and it definitely will not for you.

This is the difference even amongst Christians themselves, and non Christians. The Empowerment of the Spirit; it is where the difference lies!

Some are still at just at the first stage; **The Washing by Blood**. They are the “Babes” the Apostle Peter made

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EXPLAINING THIS PERPLEXING PHRASE

mentioned. They are the Christians who are constantly in need to prayers, and deliverances, and words of hope and encouragement. They do not want to grow up in the things of the Spirit. They constantly wait and expect “signs and wonders” before they believe and walk with the Spirit. They are the “Philips” and “Thomas”.

Next, we have the **Waiting for Power** group of Christians. They are the “I am still waiting on the Lord” group. They always tell you. “I told the Lord to do so and so for.”; “God, if you do not do so and so, then, I will know you are not God!” or, “Lord, where are you, show yourself?” These set folks are still no different from the Babes but, at least, they have some level of courage to face challenges and situations without abandoning their faith.

However, the **Power to Cause Change** group are those who have come to understand the Lord Jesus Christ, and His Father, through the help of the Holy Spirit all the while the waited for power. They are those who have realized they have a purpose in the Body of Christ. They are those who hunger after true Righteousness – to practically demonstrate the Nature and Character of the Spirit before men.

They are those who have “put on” Christ, verbatim! They are those “...power” was given – Angels and Cherubim at their disposal. Where are you today? Make a conscious decision to move up and above your current station. This is what true Christianity is all about. Christianity without the Empowerment of the Spirit is no more than mere Religion!

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EXPLAINING THIS PERPLEXING PHRASE

PRAYER OF SALVATION

We trust you have been blessed by this Book. We invite you to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life by praying thus:

“O Lord God, I come to You in the Matchless Name of Jesus Christ. Your Word says, “Whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved” (Acts 2:21).

I ask Jesus to come into my spirit to be the Lord of my life. I receive eternal life into my spirit and according to Romans 10:9, “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved,” I declare that I am saved; I am born-again; I am a child of God! I now have Christ dwelling in me; greater is he that is in me than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)! I now walk in the consciousness of my new life in Christ Jesus. Hallelujah!”

Congratulations! You are now a child of God. To receive more information on how you can grow as a Christian, please get in touch with us through any of the contacts below:

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See beyond the ordinary. *God Bless You!*

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EXPLAINING THIS PERPLEXING PHRASE

The Author

Background:

Mentus Udoka Okolie is an ardent Word Scholar who tutors in the Youth arm of Ministries seeking his exceptional insights into the Word, granted him by the Holy Spirit.

A former President of the Youth Alive Ministry arm of the renown Living Faith Church, International; a two time Cell Leader, a Sunday School Teacher, and Department Head all in the Ministry; is equipped by the Holy Spirit for the Office of a Teacher of the Knowledge of God, and of His Son Jesus.

He is currently a Member of the global impactful Cell Ministry called “The Haven”; an arm of the Prestigious Believers’ LoveWorld, Inc aka “Christ Embassy”.

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He lives in Port Harcourt, Nigeria.

Book Bio:

This Book communicates the Mind of the Holy Spirit to you. It is time to return to your true Family.

“Welcome home, my beloved child!” says the Spirit.