



Fundamentos

LESSON 44

Foundations Curriculum

You Shall Receive Power

By Manoel Rocha

Introduction

You Shall Receive Power

In this forty-fourth lesson, we are going to talk about the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Today we want to address practical aspects of three points: preaching, the moment of baptism into Christ, and the moment of the prayer we pray for the person to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

When we preach, we need to lead the person to repentance, to baptism into Christ, and to the receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In general, we speak a great deal about repentance, we show the price, we speak of rebellion and of the person's need to submit to the Lord, since he is independent, and we place great emphasis on the person's understanding and repenting.

We also speak a great deal about baptism, about union with Christ, about the forgiveness of sins; and the person goes to that moment of water baptism full of faith that they will be united to Christ, that their sins will be forgiven, and that they will rise there with Christ.

After proclaiming about the previous points, the time comes for us to build faith in the person to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, and we cannot speak little of it. We must keep speaking of repentance, of baptism, and we need to speak even more about the fact that the person will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as soon as they repent, are baptized, pray or receive prayer, and that the Holy Spirit will be poured out upon their life.

We need to believe this when we preach, and we need to lead the person to believe it as well.

If we look at Peter's preaching in Acts 2:14–39, he gives that entire sermon in order to explain to the people what was happening there in that moment. They had received the Holy Spirit, they

were full of the Holy Spirit, glorifying God, prophesying, speaking in other tongues. So it was necessary for him to stand up and explain what was happening.

What was happening was that they had received the promise of the Father, who had promised that He would pour out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh, and they were receiving all of this.

God wants everyone to be filled with the Holy Spirit. We need, then, to work together with people so that they have this expectation: when they repent and are baptized, they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, they will be filled with the Holy Spirit.

We should keep the same thing in mind when we preach: remember the promise that was given and encourage the person to take possession of that promise. We should speak more about the Holy Spirit to people.

In practice, how does this work out? At the moment of baptism, what should we do? How does it work?

I know that we like things very neatly arranged, very well ordered, so let us give practical guidance, starting from the example of Jesus.

What happened with Jesus? What was Jesus' experience like? Because what happened with Him should also happen with us.

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.

Matthew 3:16 (NKJV)

It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove.

Mark 1:9–10

When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

Luke 3:21–22

We have three accounts here — the perspectives of Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Let us bring these texts together. When we do, we see a very clear sequence in this experience of Jesus:

- 01 Jesus was baptized;
- 02 Jesus came up out of the water;
- 03 Jesus prays;
- 04 As soon as He prays, the Holy Spirit is poured out upon Him.

This sequence — being baptized, coming up out of the water, praying, and receiving the Holy Spirit — should happen with us as well.

When we look at the practice of the apostles in the book of Acts, we see that they had added something. What more did they do? They laid hands on people and they received the Holy Spirit. So, in the part of the prayer, they laid on hands, and the people were filled with the Holy Spirit.

I think this should not be treated as a rule. This is my opinion, based on several situations in which there was no laying on of hands. For example: Jesus; that group of disciples who were together with the apostles in Acts 2, on the day of Pentecost, and the Holy Spirit came down upon them; and also in the house of Cornelius, when the Holy Spirit came down upon them — there was likewise no laying on of hands.

Throughout the history of the Church, we have many testimonies of people who received the Spirit without the laying on of hands. I myself was one who received the Holy Spirit, and no one laid hands on my head on the day I received.

We give counsel, we pray. In particular, when I go to pray for people so that they receive the Holy Spirit, I lay on hands. I have learned this, I have practiced it this way, and I believe we should do it. However, I do not want to set this up as a rule that everyone must follow, or say that no one receives the Holy Spirit without doing it.

How, then, should our practice be? Let us speak of three things:

01 PREACHING

When preaching, we must seek to bring the person to repentance. That is what preaching does: it leads the person to repentance, to becoming aware of their condition of rebellion, that they are a sinner; we speak of baptism, obviously, and we speak of the Holy Spirit.

02 BAPTISM

When we go to baptize, we lead the person into baptism into Christ, into the condition of their union with Christ and, consequently, into the forgiveness of their sins.

03 PRAYER

We should lead the person, in prayer, to take possession of the promise. We pray with them, because the person should also pray, asking the Father for the gift of the Holy Spirit, and believing that the Father will give it. It is not that we pray while the person just stands there, mouth shut, frozen, waiting as though a bolt of lightning were going to fall on their head. No, it is not like that.

The person is led to pray, to ask, and we pray together with them so that they receive the Holy Spirit.

SOME OBSERVATIONS

01

We must pray in faith for the person we are baptizing. Many times we pray without faith, without expectation. It is as if it depended on us, and as if we were not full of faith or prepared for that moment. But it does not depend on us. Our role is to bring the person to that moment. From there on, it is between them and God.

It is Jesus who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. It is not us. We cannot do anything except lay on hands and pray, but we must do this with faith. We have already spoken to the person about the promise; faith has already been built in them to receive it; now it is between them and God. Do not be ashamed, do not be afraid. It is not our word that is at stake, but the word of Jesus; and if we believe that He is faithful and keeps His word, we must proclaim this promise with faith so that people receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

02

Whoever is receiving must be in that same attitude of faith so that the promise may be fulfilled in their life. They should pray and receive by faith.

We should have an expectation of receiving, because the Lord wants to give it. It was God who promised, and it is His desire to give this to us.

The prayer should be one of gratitude to God for the promise that was given, because the Holy Spirit has already been poured out, has already been given to the Church. The person, then, should be open to manifesting the gifts in that moment. They may speak in tongues or manifest any other gift at that moment and should be open and full of expectation and faith that this is what is going to happen.

03

Speaking in tongues is the most common evidence of receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, but we do not believe that speaking in tongues is mandatory. A person can be baptized with the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues.

If for some reason the person does not take possession of the promise in that same hour, we should instruct them to keep asking until they manifest the gifts. Let us instruct the person to keep on asking, but we need to spend some time there speaking about this. It is important for us to believe that the Lord will baptize with the Holy Spirit in that hour.

Jesus teaches us to ask the Father for this.

So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

Luke 11:9–13

Jesus encourages us, cheers us on, and emboldens us to ask for the Holy Spirit, because the Father wants to give the Holy Spirit to all who ask Him.

In the Old Testament, only a few were called and had the Holy Spirit poured out upon them, such as Moses, or prophets such as Elijah and Isaiah. Today, however, the promise is for everyone.

04

We tend to follow rules and detailed manuals, and for this reason we have sought here to lay out practical steps, giving guidance on how to do it. However, we must not forget that God is sovereign. No one is going to put Him in a little box of rules. God always does as He wills.

We have at our disposal many examples of people who received in the way we have presented here — people who received before being baptized, or even while still in the water as they were being baptized — as well as examples of people who received days after being baptized into Christ.

We have every kind of experience, and we should stay open for God to do as He always wills, for He is sovereign. What matters is that everyone receives this promise of the Father; that they be filled with the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION

In this forty-fourth lesson, we learned about the promise that was made that the Holy Spirit would be granted to everyone who asked. We were stirred up and taught to attend to our role, working together so that the experience of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is lived out on the day of conversion, together with Repentance and Baptism in the waters. For this, we must pray together with the person being baptized, so that they take possession of the promise.

CONSIDER CAREFULLY

- 01 What is necessary to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?
- 02 How should we proceed after baptism so that the person receives the baptism with the Holy Spirit?
- 03 What should be done if the person does not receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

*having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets,
Jesus Christ Himself being the chief cornerstone.*

Ephesians 2:20 (NKJV)

Foundations Curriculum — Lesson 44
contato@fundamentos.me | fundamentos.me