



The Power of purification – Bible Study

Objective

The objective of this bible study is to introduce us to the purifying function of the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

Matthew 3:11 (NKJV)

11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Notice that what Jesus does is to baptize us with the Holy Spirit & Fire! One of the main things that fire does is to refine or purify.

The prophet Malachi, prophesies something significant about Jesus the messiah and also the work of the Holy Spirit today.

Malachi 3:2 But who can endure the day of His coming? And who can stand when He appears? For He will be like a refiner's fire, like a launderer's soap. 3. And He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver. Then they will present offerings to the Lord in righteousness.

John the Baptist is the messenger who prepared the way for Jesus. And He confirms the prophetic word the Malachi brings; he confirms that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Spirit and Fire.

The Holy Spirit comes with fire to purify us (the believer is a priest like the Levites).



The need for purification

When man fell in Adam, sin deformed us so much that we needed to be reconfigured in order to function in the capacity that we were created to function in.

Romans 3:23 tells us that all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. The Glory of God is the level at which we are designed to live and function. You just need to read the book of Leviticus to see what God's standard is and how far we have fallen from the original standard.

When we get born again, what happens is that God accepts you in your deformed state! Nobody gets born again because they did something that made them acceptable to God. We are acceptable to God because whilst we were still sinners Christ died for us! And then when you put your confidence in this Christ who died for you become born-again.

So, when you get born-again, you are accepted in the state that you are, your sins are forgiven, the slate is wiped clean. But purification is needed to transform us from adopted children who are accepted into the family of God in their deformed state, to transformed sons and daughters who are fully functional in the service of their father.

Revelation 1:5 tells us that Jesus loved us in our sins, and washed us from our sins in His blood, then He made us kings and priests unto God. He fixed the legal issue that sin brought into our lives. Then He fixes the dysfunction that sin causes in our lives. That's how we get back to functioning priests.

The difference between being a child in the kingdom and operating as a son is the level of purification or sanctification that has happened in your life. It is often the level of childish things that you have been willing to drop. Paul said when I was a child, I talked like a child, I understood like a child. But when I became a man, I put away childish things.



One of the jobs of the Holy Spirit is to purify or sanctify us. He turns us into functioning kings and priests unto God. He turns us into mature sons and daughters.

The believer is meant to be getting better. Things ought to be dropping off your life. He wants to help you get rid of that addiction. You don't have to keep getting offended about the same thing. Something can be done about that temper, that hurdle you keep falling over! The Holy Spirit purifies and refines us.

Read: Revelation 1:5-6, Romans 12:1-3, Malachi 3:1-3, 1 Corinthians 13:11

The Kingdom of God

Galatians 5:19-21 (NKJV)

19 Now the works of the flesh are evident, which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, 21 envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like; of which I tell you beforehand, just as I also told you in time past, that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

There is a realm of God's glory, that is superimposed on our world. This is why, when Jesus walked the earth, he always preached, that the kingdom of God is here. He also always demonstrated it. In the same place where thousands of people are hungry and lacking something to eat, Jesus is able to manifest food for all of them, with 12 baskets left over. In the same space where a man is dead and His body is beginning to decay, Jesus shows up and manifests life in the dead man.

The kingdom of God is that realm where there's food to feed thousands! It's the realm where there's life to raise a dead man! And the message of Jesus is change your mind, because the kingdom of God is near.



The problem however is that the kingdom of God is not accessible with a carnal mind. You can be born again, spirit filled, heaven bound, but still don't inherit the kingdom, still don't access the kingdom, because you live and operate in the flesh.

Romans 8:7 - The mind governed by the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so

You can't access the kingdom of God with your flesh, your natural senses...everything that Paul mentions in Galatians 5:19, are the results that manifest when we operate only on the basis of our flesh.

God's grace has already qualified you to inherit the kingdom of God. God's grace has qualified you to operate in the power of the kingdom of God, which is here, right now!

God did not create you to live by the flesh. Your flesh, your natural senses were given to help you live here on earth. But you are a spirit being having a natural experience. You are an eternal being that is walking through time. Your flesh is a tool that God gave you to enjoy this season of 120 years of your eternal being.

And as long as you live only on that level, the kingdom of God will elude you!

The power & importance of purification

This is why the purifying work of the Holy Spirit is so important. He purifies our thoughts so that we can accommodate the thoughts of God. He purifies our desires so that we can desire what He wants us to desire. He purifies our actions by directing our movements and our actions to align them with the will of God. This purification or sanctification process is what produces the fruits of the Spirit. It takes the purifying work of the Holy Spirit to consistently produce the fruit of the Spirit.



Galatians 5:22-23 (NKJV)

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.

As the Holy Spirit purifies you, He releases you into this realm where we produce love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness & self-control!

Now with a religious Christian mind, these are cute little Christian behaviors that make us feel good about being a Christian. However, but these fruits release you into a new level of power and glory. The latter part of verse 23 tells us that against these fruits of the Spirit, there is no law!

When you operate according to the flesh, there are laws that limit you. The law is a restraint. God has set life up in such a way that if you are operating in the flesh, you can only go so far doing the wrong thing that it starts to restrain you!

You can only go so far satisfying your sexual desires before the laws of life bring limitations. In the natural, the law restrains a person who violates it. It's called jail time. It's the same in life, when you live in your flesh, without self-control, eating whatever you want, the laws of life will restrain you in the area of your health. When you live in the flesh without self-control, saying anything you want, life will restrain you by making sure people don't hang out with you. When you go through life producing flesh results. The laws of life are set up to restrain you if you operate in the flesh.

But when you walk in the Spirit, the laws of life are designed to produce fruits that have no limitations! A person who is producing the fruit of the Spirit, operates in a realm where there aren't any laws that restrain. Purification helps us produce fruits of the Spirit These fruits release us into the realm where there are no limitations...the realm of the Kingdom of God!



Conclusion

This is not about doing good to qualify...this is about understanding that you already qualify and therefore, seeking out the Holy Spirit to lead you into the fullness of what you qualify for.

There is an unlimited realm. A realm where natural limitations are nothing! That's why Isaiah can say, come and buy without money! Come to the waters! Because the Holy Spirit purifies you, builds such equity in us by doing away with the fruits of the flesh & producing the fruit of the Spirit...against which there is no law!

Discussion points

- How has today's bible study influenced your understanding of purity, holiness, sanctification?
- In what ways do you think that Holy Spirit purifies our thoughts, desires, actions etc?
- In what ways do you think that we can yield to or resist the Holy Spirit's work of purification?
- What practical difference do you think the purifying work of the Holy Spirit will have in your work or family life?

