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14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit**. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then **they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit**.

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, 19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

20 But Peter said to him, "Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money! 21 You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity."

24 Then Simon answered and said, "Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me."

25 So when they had testified and preached the word of the Lord, they returned to Jerusalem, preaching the gospel in many villages of the Samaritans.

THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR YOU

John the Baptist prophesied that while he baptized with water, Jesus Christ would baptize "with the Holy Spirit...." **MATTHEW 3:11; LUKE 3:16; JOHN 1:33**

- Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit?

In **LUKE 11:9-13** Jesus encouraged His followers to ask for and to seek for the Holy Spirit.

- Have you asked for the Holy Spirit?

Jesus prophesied that those who believe in Him, "**as the Scripture has said**," would have rivers of living water flowing out of their heart. In saying this He was referring to the Spirit which those believing in Him would receive after He was glorified.

JOHN 7:38-39

- Are you open to receiving this promise?

After His resurrection in **JOHN 20:22**, Christ breathed on His apostles and told them to "**receive the Holy Spirit**."

- Have you obeyed this command?

Prior to His ascension the Lord Jesus told His followers that He would send the Promise of the Father upon them and that they were to wait in Jerusalem until they were "**endued with power upon high**."

LUKE 24:49

- Have you been endued with the His power?

In **ACTS 1:8**, Jesus' last words before He departed from His disciples, were that they would "**receive power**" when the Holy Spirit had come upon them and that they would be His witnesses all over the earth.

- Have you received power to be His witness?

Ten days later, they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in languages unknown to them, as the Spirit enabled them - **ACTS 2:1-4**. Now filled with the Spirit's power to be a witness, the once fearful Peter boldly preached the story of Jesus to a large crowd. In **2:16-18** he explained that this phenomenon of being filled with Spirit was a fulfillment of a prophecy - **JOEL 2:28-29**.

- Do you believe Bible prophecy?

Peter concluded his brave discourse by commanding the believing hearers to repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and he promised that they too would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 2:38-39

- Have you heard the good news of Jesus?
- Do you believe He is the risen Son of God?
- Have you repented by turning from sin to Him?
- Have you been water baptized in Christ's name?
- Have you received this promised gift of the Holy Spirit?

In **ACTS 3:19** Peter commands another crowd to repent and be converted so that their sins could be blotted out and so "times of refreshing" would come from the presence of the Lord.

- Do you have refreshing times from God's presence?

The church in Jerusalem, now with 5,000 male members (plus women and children - **ACTS 4:4**), were all filled with the Holy Spirit in a prayer meeting and "spoke the word of God with boldness."

ACTS 4:31

- Are you empowered to speak with boldness?

Peter and John went to Samaria to pray for the water baptized believers so that they too would receive the Holy Spirit.

ACTS 8:14-16

- Have you been prayed for to be Spirit filled?

Verse 17 says that Peter and John laid hands on the believers and they received the Holy Spirit.

- Have you had hands laid on you to be filled?

In Ephesus, Paul asked twelve of John the Baptist's disciples, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?"

ACTS 19:2

- Have you received the Spirit since believing?

SIGNS OF RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Being endued with power – **LUKE 24:49**
2. Receiving power to be witnesses – **ACTS 1:8**
3. Speaking in tongues - **ACTS 2:4; 10:46; 19:6**
4. Prophesying - **JOEL 2:28-29; ACTS 2:17-18; 19:6**
5. Dreams and visions - **JOEL 2:28; ACTS 2:17**
6. Speaking God's word with boldness - **ACT 4:31**
7. Magnifying God - **ACTS 10:46**
8. Being filled with joy - **ACTS 13:52**

Where Is Your Spirit?

Pastor Martyn Lloyd-Jones was certainly not known as a Pentecostal preacher. When he was leading Westminster Chapel in London as a great Reformed theologian, near the end of his life - and some say at the very pinnacle of his ministry - he asked his congregation a question. He said, "I want to talk to you today about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. You may call it what you want, but I want to know, have you experienced the fullness of the Spirit? I know all of you listening to me come - as I do - from a Reformed background. But it's not good enough. I know that all of you would want to say to my question about the Holy Spirit, 'Well, we got it all at conversion; there's no need for any more experience.' Well," said Martyn Lloyd-Jones, "I have only one other question to ask you. If you got it all at conversion, where in God's name is it?"

One Thing Money Still Can't Buy

In his book **WHAT MONEY CAN'T BUY**, Michael J. Sandel states, "There are some things money can't buy, but these days, almost everything is up for sale. If you have enough funds, you can buy a lot of what you want. Sandel lists the following examples:

- *The right to jump to the head of the line at Universal Studios: \$149.* Vacationers can buy a special Line Pass to jump in front.

- *A prison-cell upgrade: \$90 a night.* In some cities nonviolent offenders can pay for a clean, quiet jail cell, without any non-paying prisoners to disturb them.
- *The services of an Indian surrogate mother: \$8,000.* Western couples seeking such can outsource the job to India, and the price is less than 1/3 the going rate in the USA.
- *The right to shoot an endangered black rhino: \$250,000.* South Africa has begun letting some ranchers sell hunters the right to kill a limited number of rhinos.
- *Access to the carpool lane while driving solo: about \$8.* Some cities try to ease traffic congestion by letting solo drivers pay to drive in carpool lanes.
- *Your doctor's cellphone number: \$1,500 and up per year.* A growing number of "concierge" doctors offer cellphone access and same-day appointments for patients willing to pay fees ranging from \$1,500+.
- *The right to emit a metric ton of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere: \$10.50.* The European Union runs a carbon-dioxide-emissions market that enables companies to buy and sell the right to pollute.
- *The right to immigrate to the United States: \$500,000.* Foreigners who invest \$500,000 and create at least 10 full-time jobs in an unemployment area are eligible.

Of course there's one thing that money still can't buy—salvation. Jesus paid for it with his own life, but it's offered to us as a free gift. Always been and always will be.

Adapted from Michael J. Sandel, "What Isn't for Sale," The Atlantic (April 2012)

ACTS 2:16-17 'AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS IN THE LAST DAYS, SAYS GOD, THAT I WILL POUR OUT OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL FLESH; YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS. ¹⁸ AND ON MY MENSERVANTS AND ON MY MAIDSERVANTS I WILL POUR OUT MY SPIRIT IN THOSE DAYS; AND THEY SHALL PROPHECY.

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