

Tell me, how are we suppose to have HOLINESS if we have not even been filled with the "HOLY" Spirit? Why do you think that the apostles always made sure that people became Spirit-filled RIGHT AWAY?

Andrew Strom

Prayer Study #330

CONCLUSION OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT STUDY

To receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we must be willing to completely surrender to the Lordship of Jesus and die to ourselves. We must ask the Lord to fill us with His Spirit and submit every part of us-spirit, soul and body-past, present, and future to the Lord. We begin to magnify the Lord in praise, and we receive by faith. If we truly desire and truly surrender, we will receive. Sometimes the manifestation is not immediately evident, but it will come.

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I believe the Lord is calling even now a spirit baptized, Remnant Company, which will contain people from all over the world and will be the Church of the Last Days, which will do exploits for Jesus. These believers will fall head-over-heels in love with Him. They will be the church within the Church, the overcomers, who will stand on the Word of God, even if it costs them their lives. And what greater privilege could we, who love Jesus, have than to die for Him?

Do I really think America will become a land that persecutes Christians? I pray not, but we are sliding closer and closer to a point of no return. Unless a spirit-baptized remnant comes forth and says, "No, more!", we might end-up looking like Nazi Germany, where we are told by historians that Hitler

was worshiped in the *Christian* Church instead of the Christ who died for us. Already the rights of Christian believers are being smothered in political correctness.

The Church certainly needs a wake-up call. I think it is evident that much of the Church in America is asleep. Yet do not read in these pages that I think the Lord has given up on the Church, even if they are asleep. He gave Himself for the Church and loves His Body more than we can understand. This book is not meant to be a slam on the American Church, but it is a wake-up call. I want to put a thirst in all believers for the Baptism in the Spirit. I want all to see the scriptural command of the Baptism and all to become seeks. Even those who are filled should pray, "More, LORD! More, LORD! More, LORD!"

Besides waking up, the Church also needs to draw a line in the sand and say we will not disregard the Word of God any longer, no matter if it is socially inexpedient or culturally unacceptable or politically incorrect. The only hope for the challenges ahead is our hope in Jesus Christ, and we can realize that hope only through the Word of God, and our Baptism in the Holy Spirit, which is so clearly explained in the Word. We need to read the Word, learn it, sing it, speak it, preach it, and, most important of all, live it.

I believe the genuine spirit-baptized believers in the United States are America's only source of safety. I believe that the Lord has held back His hand of judgment and kept us relatively safe because of godly, praying, spirit-filled men and women in this country who have cried out to Him for mercy. He has been merciful, but He is also a God of justice, and He will allow anything, including judgments, to bring us back into relationship with Him. Obviously, judgments are already being released all over the world, and judgment will soon come to America.

Unless America turns from its secularism, takes a stand against the Babylonian World System, repents of its immorality and the killing of innocent unborn babies in the womb, and quits trying to divide Israel, I am afraid that the greatness of America will go the way of the Roman Empire, and we will become a second rate nation with little power. Unless we turn, we also will be harshly judged for our iniquities, and the Lord will allow our enemies to bring us to our knees.

I don't recall ever dreaming spiritual dreams before I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Back in 2009, I had a dream that I believe was from the Lord. I was told in this dream to go into big cities of America and to share the Gospel. I found myself in the inner city of a large metropolitan area. The outside of the buildings looked like ghetto buildings but inside were white collar workers with men in white shirts and ties and women dressed in

the latest fashions. I went to these professional, well-educated men and women and tried to share Jesus with them. They were not impolite but told me that they definitely were not interested. I left the buildings with a heavy heart.

In my dream the Lord began to speak to me. He told me that the place where I was witnessing looked poor because the people were spiritually poor, that most of America's metropolitan areas in inner cities that once had great wealth, were no longer following Judeo-Christian principles of the Bible. I thought of the church in Laodicea. I believe that we are living in the Laodicean age now. The Church is deceived about its condition and says, "...*I am rich and increased with goods and have need of nothing*" (Revelation 3:17).

I heard the Lord speak to me again. This time He said that many in America had already spiritually passed the point of no return. They had rejected Christ, and they had closed their hearts to the Gospel message. They had been given over to a reprobate mind because they refused to turn to Jesus, and they worshiped the creature, the human body, more than the Creator (Romans 1).

All of this made me very sad in the spirit, but it also made me feel a real urgency about the times in which we live. We have got to get the Gospel message out to the highways and byways so that we can turn the hearts of those who *will* listen to Jesus. Time is running out. It is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit which gives us power.

We were once a godly nation who sent more Christian missionaries to other countries than any other nation in the world. We once were the greatest lending nation in history but in just a few short years have become, most likely, the most indebted nation in the world. To most Americans, it is sheer lunacy that Communist China holds most of our debt. Because of political expediency, we continue to buy from this country, which has a terrible human rights record and persecutes the Church of Jesus Christ. We continue to send aid money to our enemies and make treaties with those who hate us. We have gained a reputation in the world for giving to our enemies and double-crossing our friends.

I believe that there is a demonic principality of confusion over our nation's capitol. So much of what our politicians are doing today makes no sense to common, everyday Americans. Our leaders seem confused and out of touch with the values of most Americans.

Our economy is in the final throes of death. No one, except God, can save us now. In spite of what the politicians and the left-leaning liberals say, we have been a nation called by His name. We have been known throughout

the world as *Christian* America, and He has blessed us, as a Christian nation, beyond anything the world has ever seen. We have shown little appreciation for these blessings, and we are now at a time of reckoning for our disobedience.

The solutions of man will not work! The problems are too gargantuan--behemoths, spurred on by demonic principalities. So many of our leaders have become captive to these “princes” and love power and control, money and fame, position and men’s applause, more than they love God and country. I believe they are leading us down the road to severe judgment from a righteous God. If we don’t turn, that judgment is coming soon, maybe even before this book is published.

My faith, praise the Lord, is not in the government, not in our wealth, not in the politicians, not even in the Western Church, but it is in Jesus, God the Son, the Christ who died for you and me. It grieves me to see America dying, but it grieves me more to see the America I love disdain the Ten Commandments, disregard the lives of precious unborn babies, become complacent, allow an “anything-goes” morality, and compromise basic Biblical principles.

If we ever needed a spirit-baptized Remnant Company to rise up, we need it today! No doubt many are already feeling the call, and some, such as the International House of Prayer movement, are even now gathering together in 24/7 prayer meetings across America. If a handful of people can stop prayer in schools and permit abortion on demand, then a handful of people with God’s power can turn America around before it is too late. I believe this Remnant Company could spark another great awakening in our land, similar to the Charles Finney revival meetings. Finney was a revivalist in the 1800s and saw entire towns turn to Jesus.

Even at the darkest hour, there is always hope in Jesus. Even today, in spite of the mess we are in, I see a generation coming forth who will seek His face more than His hand and who is ready to lay everything down to follow Jesus and to bring His Kingdom on the earth as it is in heaven. This generation will walk in the power of the Holy Spirit much like the first century disciples did, following the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost.

Jesus is coming back just like He said, and all the world will behold Him. I believe that His coming will be sooner than most American theologians think. World events could happen and final prophecies be fulfilled so quickly that we could come to that very hour during my lifetime.

How can we live in fear when we know He is coming back for us? There should be great expectancy and longing for Him and peace in our hearts as

we meditate on the fact that we are His, no matter what happens on earth in the days ahead. The Remnant Company will be ready and waiting for the Second Coming and will often rejoice in the last promise that Jesus gave in the Word of God, Revelation 22:20: “*He who testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come Lord Jesus.*” Yes, even so, come Lord Jesus!

THE END OF STUDIES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT
2013

First Love Ministries
Our first love is Jesus!

First Love Ministries is an intergenerational, interracial, interdenominational ministry, which was started in 1979. It has evolved from a ministry to teenagers to a ministry open to anyone regardless of age. It is a multi-faceted ministry that includes discipleship, teaching, benevolence, prison, and prayer ministry. The main purposes of First Love Ministries are to train and equip people and launch them out into ministry and to lay a foundation of what Peter calls *present truth* into people’s lives so that they will stand no matter what happens on the earth before Jesus comes.

First Love Ministries holds a very special place in my heart. It is very difficult to put into a few words or sentences the incredible effects a small discipleship group on Saturday nights has had on my life. After spending eight exhausting years running from the Lord’s call on my life, the Lord used this ministry to touch my heart and to turn it back towards God. During those difficult years of rebellion, I suffered through some awful experiences. First Love Ministries helped me find forgiveness and peace, a peace that had been missing from my life for a long time. The people at First Love took me in and loved me as I was. They helped me love Christ first, and He helped me love myself again.

Brett Bartels, United Methodist Minister, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

First Love Ministries was a place of love and hope at a time of despair and futility. Coming out of almost seven years of chemical abuse, I found the Christian fellowship and sound Biblical teaching at First Love that enabled me to break free from the past and grow into the fullness of God’s plan for my life. I realized that Jesus has been the difference, and no single ministry has been more significant in drawing me closer to Him and rooting me in the Christian faith than First Love Ministries.

Glenn Lawrence, Missionary and Former Pastor of Inner City Church of Miami

I am very thankful for First Love Ministries. Since I have been involved there, I have grown spiritually and have developed a devotion to the Lord I never imagined before. From the start, I have felt a peace at the meetings, and I have felt loved and accepted by people there in the ministry. If I had not gotten involved at First Love, I am sure the things most teenagers deal with would have gotten the best of me.

Adrienne Tucker McLendon, Youth Pastor's Wife, AMERICUS, GA UMC

Only one life, will soon be past; only what's done for Christ will last!

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FIRST LOVE MINISTRIES, INC
623 Pine Ridge Street
Perry, Georgia 31069

charliegwalker@juno.com