

## Deuteronomy Chapter 28:1

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- 14 verses describing the blessings of God, 54 pronouncing curses.

V: 1 “And it shall come to pass, **if** thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do **all** his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth.”

- Here is what will happen **if**... Hearken diligently.... Observe to do **all**...

V: 9 “The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, **if** thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in His ways.”

V: 13 “And the Lord shall make thee the head, and not the tail; and thou shalt be above only, and thou shalt not be beneath; **if** that thou hearken unto the commandments of the Lord thy God, which I command thee this day, to observe and to do them:”

V: 15 “But it shall come to pass, **if** thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do **all** His commandments and His statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee.”

- The word “if” is a conditional word, used 6 X’s in this chapter – and always related to obedience to the commandments of God.
- The word “all” is an absolute word: it means the whole, the full, entire, complete.
- “Moral relativism” – which is advocated by many in our culture says that there are no absolutes, which is not true. God’s word is full of absolutes and this chapter describes some of them.
- God’s exacting standard is perfection, perfect obedience.

This is not a new concept:

**Genesis 17:1** “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before Me, and be thou perfect.”

- God’s promises and blessings contained in the law are awesome and wonderful, but they are conditional on their performance – which means they are elusive if not impossible.
- God’s standard is and always has been perfection.

**1 Peter 1:15-16** “<sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; <sup>16</sup>because it is written, be ye holy; for I am holy.”

- These laws and this standard was intended to bring us to our knees, a place of brokenness before the Lord, because the law much like the ideal, Biblical Christian life is impossible.

**Galatians 3:24** “Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us unto Christ, that we might be justified by faith.”

Paul elaborates:

**Galatians 3:10-11** “<sup>10</sup>For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, cursed is everyone that continueth not in **all** things which are written in the book of the law to do them. <sup>11</sup>But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for the just shall live by faith.”

- Fulfilling the Law was an impossible task, it was something that only God could do, and would do through His Son Jesus.
- Jesus would fulfill the law, then He would take the penalty of our sin upon Himself being the propitiation for our sin and at the same time He would impute His righteousness to us – that is how we are saved.
- The next step in the Christian walk is also impossible without God’s help.

Jesus said:

**John 13:34** “A new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

**1 Peter 1:15** “<sup>15</sup>But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation.”

**Galatians 5:16** “This I say then, walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

- We are called to these and many other worthy things – yet we do not of ourselves have the power to do them.

Paul nails the coffin shut:

**Romans 8:8** “So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.”

- We need the empowering of the Holy Spirit to rise up to this level of performance, to accomplish anything that would be pleasing to God.
- The Old Testament prophet Zechariah recognized this:

**Zechariah 4:6** “... this is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.”

- Having identified the problem, now let us examine God’s solution to that problem.
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## The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

- Scriptural term: mentioned in all four Gospels:

**Matthew 3:11** “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.”

Mark 1:8 Luke 3:16

**John 1:32-33** <sup>32</sup>“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him. <sup>33</sup>And I knew Him not: but He that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.”

- All four Gospels speak of the Holy Spirit descending upon Jesus.
- Jesus did not begin His public ministry until after this had occurred.

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**The purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to empower the believer for 3 basic purposes:**

1. To witness of Jesus.
2. To live the victorious Christian life / entering into the land of promise.
3. To exercise the gifts of the Spirit.

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

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**Manifestations or workings (dispensations) of the Holy Spirit:**

1. Para / along side, with us.
2. En / in the life of a believer.
3. Epi / upon or flowing from the life of a believer.

1. **Para:** the Holy Spirit is with us, along side us when we are convicted of our sin and made aware of our need for a Savior.

**John 14:16-17** <sup>16</sup>“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; <sup>17</sup>even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

**John 16:8** “And when He (the Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:” (make aware, convict.)

2. **En:** The Holy Spirit works within the life of a believer, indwelling the believer:

**John 14:17** “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

**John 20:22** “And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, receive ye the Holy Ghost:”

**1 Corinthians 3:16** “Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?”

**John 3:5-8** <sup>5</sup>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. <sup>6</sup>That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Marvel not that I said unto thee, ye must be born again. <sup>8</sup>The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

**2 Corinthians 6:16** “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”

3. **EPI / upon** - The Holy Spirit pours out & flows from the life of a believer:

**Acts 1:8** “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witness unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”

**John 1:32** “And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him.”

**John 7:37-38** <sup>37</sup>In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. <sup>38</sup>He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

As good way to describe or to illustrate the difference is this:

1. If we took a large pitcher of water and placed it next to an empty glass of water, the pitcher would be “para” or “with” the glass.

2. If I start to pour the water from the pitcher into the glass, the water is no “in” or “en” the glass.
3. As the glass fills with water and I continue to pour water into it, the glass begins to overflow the glass. The water is now upon or “epi” the glass.
4. We started out with “para”, moved to “en”, and ended up with “epi”.
  - The dispensations of the Holy Spirit, different than the gifts of the Spirit:

**Romans Ch. 12: 3-9**

**1 Corinthians Ch. 12: 1-11, 28-31**

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### How do we receive this baptism of the Spirit?

**Luke 11:10-13**      “<sup>10</sup>For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. <sup>11</sup>If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? <sup>12</sup>Of if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy spirit to them that ask him?”

**John 7:37-38**      “<sup>37</sup>In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. <sup>38</sup>He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

- Basically the power is ours for the taking.
  - We see the effect of the Holy Spirit upon the lives of the Apostles, before and after their baptism in the Holy Spirit.
  - Just prior to Jesus’ crucifixion & resurrection: the disciples abandoned the Lord, they seemed in-effective.
  - After Jesus’ resurrection and the baptism in the Holy Spirit: Peter preaches boldly with great wisdom – 3,000 people get saved.
  - All the Apostles go on to live awesome Spirit filled lives, glorifying Jesus with their respective deaths.
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Being filled with the Spirit is a continual action.

**Ephesians 5:15-20**

**T/T – Read**

**V: 18 “filled”** (continually, filled and re-filled)

**1 Corinthians 14:40**

“Let all things be done decently and in order.”

- God doesn’t condone wild antics, nor does He interrupt Himself.

## Quenching the Spirit hinders: **1 Thessalonians 5:16-22**

(disobeying / un confessed sin.)

**1 Thessalonians 5:16-23** <sup>16</sup>Rejoice evermore. <sup>17</sup>Pray without ceasing. <sup>18</sup>In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. <sup>19</sup>Quench not the Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Despise not prophesyings. <sup>21</sup>Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. <sup>22</sup>Abstain from all appearance of evil. <sup>23</sup>And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1. Conviction.
2. In-dwelling.
3. Empowering.

- Thumbnail picture.
- Living water.