

(T) Welcome to **Discipleship training On The Air**. In this series about sharing from our quiet times you may learn to become a disciple of Jesus Christ. Two teachers will share from what they have learned from their quiet times. Every day during the past week we had a quiet time from a passage in the New Testament. Once a week we come together to share with one another what we have learned. As you listen to this programme, make notes in a notebook or record the programme. We will first explain how to have a quiet time. Then we will share the important truths and lessons from our quiet times and try to answer some difficult questions. Today's topic is A DISCIPLE SHARES WHAT HE LEARNS FROM ACTS 1:1 to 3:26.

(S) **POINT 1. HOW TO HAVE A QUIET TIME AND SHARE**

Have a time of fellowship with God or quiet time every day of the week from one of the seven assigned Bible passages. An easy quiet time method is called "The favourite truth" method. It has 5 steps. Step 1. Pray and ask God to speak to you. Step 2. Read one of the seven assigned passages. Step 3. Choose your favourite truth. It is the truth, verse or passage through which God is speaking to you, stimulating your thinking or touching your heart. Step 4. Meditate on your favourite truth. Meditate by doing the following four things. First. *Think* about the meaning of words. Second. *Ask* God what he intends to say to you. Third. *Relate* your favourite truth to your life by making a practical application. Fourth. *Write* the most important thoughts of your meditation in a notebook so that you may share them with others. Step 5. Pray your favourite truth for yourself. Then pray your favourite truth for someone in your family. Then pray your favourite truth for someone nearby. And finally, pray your favourite truth for someone far away. When you meet together with one friend or with other Christians in a house fellowship or discipleship group, take turns to share the meditation of one of your quiet times. You may also try to answer some questions from the assigned passages.

(T) **POINT 2. SHARING FROM ACTS 1:1 – 3:26**

This past week we have read, meditated and prayed from Acts 1:1 – 3:26. Now we will use our quiet time notes to share truths and lessons from the assigned passages and discuss some questions.

Sharing quiet times from Acts chapter 1.

I want to share from Acts chapter 1:5 about the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It says, "For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit." Because there is widespread false teaching about the Holy Spirit, I took a lot of time and prayer to study what the Bible teaches about the Holy Spirit. I learned that the Bible speaks much of the Person and the functions of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the third inner distinction of the one essential divine nature of God. The Holy Spirit is God living in the Christians. The main functions of the Holy Spirit are that he applies the work of salvation of Jesus Christ in the hearts and lives of believers. In this verse Jesus teaches about the "baptism with the Holy Spirit".

The term 'baptism with the Holy Spirit' occurs only seven times in the New Testament. The prophet Joel predicted it in 2:28-32. He said, "Afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions." John the Baptist predicted it in Matthew 3:10-12. He said, "The axe is already at the root of the trees, and every tree that does not produce good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. I baptise you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is associated with the gathering of God's people into the kingdom, while the baptism with fire is associated with the judgement of unbelievers. Here in Acts 1:5, Jesus predicted that the baptism with the Holy Spirit would happen in a few days. The fulfilment of the baptism with the Holy Spirit for the first disciples of Christ is described in Acts 2:1-4. The baptism with the Holy Spirit for the first Jewish believers is recorded in Acts 2:37-41. The baptism with the Holy Spirit for the first Samaritan believers is described in Acts 8:12-17. And the first baptism with the Holy Spirit for the first Gentile believers is recorded in Acts 10:34-48.

What is the meaning of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? What are the results when people are baptised with the Holy Spirit? The Bible teaches that there are four results of the baptism with the Holy Spirit:

One. *People who are baptised with the Holy Spirit are "born again" or "saved"*. This is clearly taught in Acts 11:14-18, Acts 15:7-11 and in Titus 3:3-7. When the first Gentiles heard the message of the Gospel, they believed. The Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on the disciples of Jesus. The apostle Peter calls it "the baptism with the Holy Spirit". The result was that they were "saved", that is, that God had granted them "repentance unto life". Acts 15 adds that they were "accepted by God" and that "God had purified their hearts". Titus 3 teaches this truth in another way. He says that believers are "saved through *rebirth and renewal by the*

Holy Spirit". Then they are "justified by God's grace" and become "heirs of eternal life". Clearly, "the baptism with the Holy Spirit" is another expression for "rebirth".

Two. *People who are baptised with the Holy Spirit belong to Christ and to the Church.* This is clearly taught in Ephesians 1:13-14, 1 Corinthians 12:12-13 and in Romans 8:9-10. When the Ephesians heard the word of truth, which is the gospel of their salvation, they believed. At that same moment they were "marked with the Christian seal, namely the promised Holy Spirit". The result was that they were "included in Christ", that is, they acquired a spiritual position "in Christ". From the moment they believed, they became a member of Christ, that is, they became a part of Christ's Body. Ephesians 1:22-23 teaches that the Body of Christ is the Church. 1 Corinthians teaches that the Body of Christ has many members with different functions and gifts. Every member was "baptised with the Holy Spirit into this one Body" of Christ. Romans 8 teaches that the Holy Spirit is the "Spirit of God" or "the Spirit of Christ" or "Christ in you" and that whoever has the Holy Spirit "belongs to Christ". Thus, the result of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is that the Christian has become a member of Christ's Body, which is the one Church in the world.

Three. *People who are baptised with the Holy Spirit have God living in them.* This is clearly taught in John 7:37-39, Ephesians 2:22 and 1 Corinthians 3:16. While Jesus Christ was still on earth, he predicted that the people who believed in him would receive the Holy Spirit after he had been glorified. That is, they would receive the Holy Spirit after Jesus Christ had been crucified, resurrected and ascended into heaven. The result of receiving the Holy Spirit would be that "streams of living water would flow from within them". Ephesians 2 says that after Jesus had been glorified, believers are being built together to become "a dwelling in which God lives by his Holy Spirit". And 1 Corinthians asks, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" Thus, the result of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is that the Spirit of God lives in the Christian and is like a fountain of new life.

Four. *People who are baptised with the Holy Spirit may receive at least one spiritual gift of the Holy Spirit.* This is clearly taught in 1 Corinthians 12:4-13. When believers are baptised with the Holy Spirit into the one Body of Christ, then they are able to confess, "Jesus is Lord!" The Holy Spirit also gives spiritual gifts to people exactly as he wills. The Bible clearly teaches that believers do not receive the same spiritual gift. Believers receive different kinds of spiritual gifts for the different kinds of service that God assigns to them.

Summary. The "baptism with the Holy Spirit" happens when people believe in Jesus Christ for the first time and results in their rebirth and salvation, their belonging to Christ and the Church, their indwelling by God and their equipment with spiritual gifts for service.

Sharing quiet times from Acts chapter 2.

(S) I want to share from Acts 2:1-13, about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the first 120 Christians. Does the baptism with the Holy Spirit occur at the beginning of your Christian life or at a later stage in your Christian life? The Bible teaches very clearly that the baptism with the Holy Spirit takes place at the beginning of a person's life, at the moment he believes in Jesus Christ. But why then are the first 120 disciples of Jesus baptised with the Holy Spirit a long time *after* they became believers?

In John 7:37-39 we read that while Jesus was still on earth, he promised the outpouring of his Holy Spirit on those people who would believe in him. During one big festival before his death on the cross, Jesus said with a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." The apostle John explains, "By these words Jesus meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified."

After his resurrection, Jesus appeared to many witnesses and said that the promised outpouring of the Holy Spirit was going to take place in a few days. After his ascension into heaven the small group of about 120 believers stayed together and prayed. On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out on this small group of 120 believers and the Holy Spirit came to dwell in their hearts. The reason why these 120 believers were baptised with the Holy Spirit a long time after they believed, is because Jesus Christ had not yet been glorified at the time they believed. They could only receive the Holy Spirit after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus Christ into heaven. Now, nobody needs to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The moment you believe in Jesus Christ, he pours out his Holy Spirit into your heart!

(T) I want to share from Acts 2:42-47 about the first historical church at Jerusalem. The Bible teaches that the clearest evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the coming into existence of a local church. The gospel was preached; many people were cut to the heart, repented and believed the gospel. They received the gift of the Holy Spirit, as was promised, and began to gather as a local church. The local church was characterised by especially the following characteristics: First. They devoted themselves to learn from the teaching of the apostles. In those days the Bible was not yet printed as today. The teachings of the apostles are now recorded in the Bible. Second. They devoted themselves to having a close fellowship with one another, a fellowship that was based on knowing God, believing in his teachings and especially love. Third. They devoted themselves to the

breaking of bread. They shared certain of their meals with one another and during those times especially remembered how Christ's body was broken and Christ's blood was shed for them. Fourth. They devoted themselves to prayer. Prayer was talking to God and responding to God's speaking to them. Fifth. They were not materialistic, but instead helped the poor and needy among them by sharing their possessions. Sixth. They were joyful people. Although they often suffered, they experienced inward joy, because they knew they were forgiven, are being transformed and in the future would inherit the eternal kingdom of God. Seventh. They were growing. God added to their number daily those who were being saved. Such kinds of churches are in many places of the world.

Sharing quiet times from Acts chapter 3.

(S) I want to share from Acts 3:19 about repentance and times of refreshment. It says, "Repent and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord." The word '*repent*' means "to change your mind and to reform your life" and the word '*turn*' means "to make an about turn toward the right direction". Both words describe what people should do when they become Christians. When I was a non-Christian, I thought that God did not exist and I believed in all kinds of strange beliefs. I lived a wicked life and my life was in the direction of corruption and crime. When I heard the gospel, I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart. I felt sorry for the way I had lived. He forgave my sin and gave me a desire to change. I changed my way of thinking. I started to believe the truths in the Bible, which I had rejected before. I reformed my life. I stopped going to bad places and started to do the things that God taught me in the Bible. I turned my life towards the right direction, towards God, towards the Bible, towards Christians. The only way I knew that my faith was real, was that I repented and turned. My sins were wiped out and I experienced the "times of refreshment" and blessing that the prophets had predicted, in particular the indwelling of the Holy Spirit!

(T) I want to share from Acts 3:21 about the restoration of everything. It says, Jesus Christ must remain in heaven until the time comes for God to restore everything." There is a time when God will restore everything, the earth, the heavens, people and animals. The prophets predicted that God would make a new heaven and a new earth on which only righteousness will dwell (Isaiah 65:17,25). At that time the nations will beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks. Nation will not take up sword against nation, nor will they train for war anymore" (Isaiah 2:4). At that time the wolf will live with the lamb and the cow will feed with the bear. The lion will eat straw like the ox. The earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord (Isaiah 11:6-9). The apostles prophesied more. God himself will dwell with his people on the new earth and he will wipe all their tears away. When God has restored everything, there will be no pain, no sickness and no death anymore! God is going to make everything new! (Revelation 21:4-5). Until the restoration of everything, Jesus Christ will remain in heaven and rule the present earth from heaven. Two verses later in Acts 3:23, the Bible warns that "anyone who does not listen to Jesus Christ will be completely cut off from among God's people." Only true believers in Jesus Christ will be part of the restoration of everything. Only believers in Jesus Christ will live on the new earth after the Second Coming of Christ.

(S) ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT WEEK

First. Acts 4:11 - 7:60 into seven passages. Every day have a quiet time from one passage. Record the meditations of all your quiet times in a notebook. Once a week meet with a friend or with a house fellowship or discipleship group and share from your quiet times.

Second. See the workbooks "Go and make disciples" and Internet on www. Etc

Third. Listen on short wave radio from SATURDAY to WEDNESDAY to "Discipleship training on the air".