



Spirit-Directed Discipline

Let the Holy Spirit out of the Lunchbox

Spirit-Directed Discipline – Adapted from Chapter 3 of Spirit-Directed Discipline: Helping Johnny and Susie to Behave (See Recourse Kit for PowerPoint presentation on this same subject)

There are a number of strategies teachers, administrators and parents can use to facilitate a disciplined lifestyle in the lives of young people. Following these strategies will greatly enhance the task of helping Johnny and Susie to behave and become self-disciplined. One of these strategies is to Let the Holy Spirit out of the Lunchbox.

In these last days in which we are living there is a growing openness by Christian educators from all denominations to the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Christian schools that have tried to keep the Holy Spirit in the lunch box by not talking about Him are finding this task very difficult. The Acts 2: 17,18 experience prophesied by Joel (2:28,29) is happening in Christian schools around the world.

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 prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. (NKJV)

First, we must embrace the Holy Spirit.

Churches and Christian schools that are embracing the fullness of the Holy Spirit without reservation are experiencing phenomenal growth. Where the Holy Spirit is allowed His freedom, the power of God is present to bring numerical growth, increased academic achievement, behavioral change in the lives of students, financial blessing and miracles.

More and more churches and Christian schools are opening up to the fullness of the Holy Spirit. They are getting over intimidation brought on by a fear of what people might say, their apprehension of the unexpected, their unwillingness to clean up their own lives and their uncomfortableness in having to yield their life totally to God. Christians in search of a new dimension in their walk are experiencing a personal encounter with the Holy Spirit that goes beyond the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; it is the same experience that the early believers in the New Testament experienced and is recorded in Acts (2:4; 19:6).

Pat Robertson, the founder of Regent University, relates the difference between the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit this way,

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit at the time a person becomes a believer is like taking a drink of water. As the water goes in, the body begins to relate to the water, the properties of the water benefitting the organs. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is like jumping into the Atlantic Ocean. The body immediately becomes associated with all of the oceans of the world.⁹

He further likened the baptism of the Holy Spirit as having a house wired for electricity and then feeding a 600-amp service into the house. Once the power provided by the 600-amp service comes in, there are all kinds of things that a homeowner can do in comparison to the standard 100- or 200-amp service.

As a result of the baptism of the Spirit, Christian educators and parents are finding a new anointing of the Spirit, freedom to praise God, a fuller level of joy, a greater power to witness and a deeper insight into the Word of God. They are experiencing a deeper passion for the lost, a special grace to endure persecutions for the sake of the Gospel, greater authority over the influences of the world, the flesh, and the devil. This experience has not become an end in itself. Rather, it has become a means of enabling them to be effective Christian educators and parents.

Dick Champion, in writing to youth, said,

Every Christian, of course, has the Holy Spirit within him (Romans 8:9). This means that even before you are filled with the Holy Spirit you have access to His power and help. This explains why many who have not received the Pentecostal experience often show many evidences of a life in the Spirit. But there is a difference between the experience of having the Spirit—an experience true of all Christians and of being filled with the Spirit. In receiving the baptism in the Spirit, you learn the glorious secret of yielding to the Spirit. And, at the moment of the Spirit's infilling you are completely yielded. If you continue in this yielded attitude and take advantage of the secret you have learned, you will have access to a degree of spiritual power above and beyond anything you ever experienced before being filled with the Spirit.¹⁰

Next, Release the Holy Spirit

When the Holy Spirit is let out of the lunch box or released to do His work in the home, in the classroom, and in the school, He will accomplish all that the Word of God says about Him.

Furthermore, when you release the Holy Spirit, He becomes your greatest ally in helping Johnny and Susie behave. In many Christian schools, the fullness of the Holy Spirit is the missing ingredient needed to bring about self-discipline.

The invited presence of the Holy Spirit creates an atmosphere in the classroom and on the school campus, and an awareness in the lives of Johnny and Susie where wrong speech will be completely out of place (Ephesians 4:29; 5:4, 6). For example filthy talk, cursing, gossip, or sarcasm. Lying will be very difficult (Ephesians 4:25). Cheating problems will diminish. Anger will be brought under control (Ephesians 4:26). Stealing will no longer be tolerated (Ephesians 4:28).

When the Holy Spirit is completely released to do His work, He will convict even the thoughts related to sexual perversion. He does this because all immorality is sin, regardless of how much peer pressure Johnny and Susie experience, or the amount of influence of a permissive society as portrayed in television and movies. The Holy Spirit is there to direct students away from covetousness (Ephesians 5:3,5). This includes wrongful desires for things that belong to others: clothing, cars, skill, intellect, fame, success, to name a few.

Jesus commanded the disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had been endued with power (Luke 24:49). The baptism of the Holy Spirit equips Johnny and Susie's Christian teachers and administrators with power and ability to be successful over principalities and powers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12).

This same power gives Johnny and Susie the boldness to control their behavior, to live above peer pressure and to be a witness of the living Christ. **[X] Acts 1:8 says, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."**

Finally, the baptism of the Holy Spirit provides a force that enables Johnny and Susie to become more Christlike. (See John 3:1-8, 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

Next, Receive the Holy Spirit

The gift of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to every believer. Peter instructs believers in Acts 2:38

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

How does one receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues? First, understanding that it is God's will for you to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Gordon Lindsay reported,

God's Spirit is being poured out, around the world, on men—great men, and also upon the servants. We have seen the Lord baptize children at three years of age and we have witnessed Him fill the centenarian. We have seen Him fill the Lutheran, Methodist, Baptist, Assembly of God, Moslem, Hindu, Mormon, Indian, and Catholic. God is no respecter of age, denomination, nor race.¹¹

Remove All Objections

To begin receiving the Holy Spirit, you must remove all objections. Why? Because Jesus said, **"They will speak with new tongues."** (Mark 16:17)

So, throw out all the objections to speaking in other tongues that you have heard from men and believe what the Word of God says. Believe what Jesus said. Speaking in tongues was one of the signs that would follow those who believed - **"they will speak with new tongues"** (Mark 16: 17). This was what happened on the Day of Pentecost when one hundred and twenty believers (Jews) all spoke with other tongues. Acts 2:1-4 (KJV) records the event:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues were not given to the Jews only.

We see Gentiles speaking with other tongues in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48). Furthermore, the people at Ephesus spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came on them **“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied”** (Acts 19:6).

Paul, in speaking to the Christians at Corinth set the example, said, **“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all”** (1 Corinthians 14:18). Speaking in tongues is for believers today; this is why millions of them have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. It is the newfound power of the Holy Spirit that is causing them to be bold witnesses (Acts 1:8), to attain a victorious Christian life (Romans 8:1,2,13) and to experience comfort (John 14: 16). They are finding their mortal bodies quickened (Romans 8:11) and are being guided into all truth (John 16:13).

Ask Him to Baptize You

Second, ask for Him to baptize you. Knowing that it is God's will for you to receive the Holy Spirit, you can have confidence to ask Him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, **“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water”** (John 7:38).

James 2:3 tells us that we have not because we ask not. God does not force the baptism of the Holy Spirit on you. You must ask for it. It is a simple matter of asking in faith:

Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him (1 John 5:14, 15).

According to the words of Jesus, the heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks Him.

So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! (Luke 11:9-13).

Believe You Receive

Believe that you receive the moment you ask. **“Ask, and you shall receive that your joy may be full”** (John 16:24).

Speak Out the New Words

Finally, begin to speak out the words that are in your heart. Jesus said that the words you speak will come up out of your heart (John 7:38,39). It is a supernatural task as the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say. Acts 2:4 says, **“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”** As they opened their mouth and began to speak, the Holy Spirit gave them the words to say.

Gordon Lindsay in encouraging believers to receive the Holy Spirit offered this advice, [X]

You have centered all your thoughts on the Lord in worship, you begin, in faith, to speak out the words that are in your heart. You won't understand them, but that won't matter. Don't be afraid of your voice, for the words will sound strange. They may at first sound like a child trying to learn to speak . . . But don't hesitate. Speak out the words distinctly. Express what God has put in your heart . . . Take a deep breath and begin to speak in tongues.

For remember, if you are saved, you have Christ, and Colossians 2:9 says, “In him (in Christ) dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.” Believe that you have the Holy Ghost in you. You're not waiting on God to do something for you. He is waiting for you to do something for Him When I speak in English, I use my tongue, lips, teeth, and my voice. You must do exactly the same when you speak with tongues . . . Rest in the Lord. Relax and watch the beautiful Holy Spirit move in your life.¹²

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Kenneth E. Hagin offers the following advice to those who are helping others receive the infilling of the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

Tell him to open his mouth wide and to breathe in as deeply as possible and to tell God in his spirit, “I am receiving the Holy Spirit right now by faith.” Insist that he must not speak a single word in English. You can't talk two languages at once. The mind cannot enter into this experience; it comes from the heart. When you see the Spirit move upon the lips, tell him to speak boldly whatever seems easiest for him. When that person has lifted his voice in faith and believed God and when he can hear himself speaking in a clear language, then he knows that he has received the Holy Spirit . . . Jesus said, “Come and drink,” and He was speaking about the Holy Spirit. When a person takes a drink of water, he opens his mouth and takes a drink. You can't take a drink of water with your mouth closed and you can't receive the Holy Ghost with your mouth closed. Speaking in tongues is actually cooperation between you and the Holy Spirit . . .

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Dennis and Rita Bennett offer this advice, "Open your mouth and show that you believe the Lord has baptized you in the Spirit by beginning to speak. Don't speak English, or any other language you know, for God can't guide you to speak in tongues if you are speaking in a language known to you . . . it is simply speaking, using your voice, but instead of saying what your mind wants you to say, you trust the Holy Spirit to guide your voice directly to say what He wants you to say. Put away your self-consciousness and inhibitions. Just take a deep breath and let the words come forth."

The Holy Spirit is a gift prepared for you to receive if you want Him (Acts 2:8). As Christian educators, we need this gift! All you must do is to reach out and accept the gift.

When the Holy Spirit is released in a person's life, He begins to facilitate a Christlike lifestyle. He will help Christian educators and parents as they instruct and guide Johnny and Susie in the path of self-discipline.

Let us Pray,

Jesus, we ask to be filled to overflowing with your Holy Spirit. Come now Holy Spirit, fill us . . . In the Name of Jesus, Amen.

Endnotes

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ibid., p. 269.

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