



Failure To Launch!
Hebrews 5:12-14
Identity

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12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. 13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. 14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.
NKJV

In the first century church there were many disciples in the church that were not growing up in their faith. They had been in the church for a significant amount of time but they were still immature in their faith. By the time this letter was written, they had been in the church long enough so that they should have grown up to be teachers sharing with others the truths that they had learned. But instead they were immature and they still needed someone to teach them the basic doctrines about Jesus and that Jesus taught others.

As a result, they were not personally participating in the great commission that Jesus gave His followers.

The apostle calls them babes in verse 13!

What are the characteristics of a baby?

1. They covet the things of this world
2. They struggle with self-doubt
3. They are self-centered
4. They are uneducated(ignorant)
5. They are unaware of their personal faults
6. They repeat the same faults
7. They do not know who they are

The things that characterize a baby also characterized these babes in the church. In order to mature these babes in the church needed to discover their new identity.

This morning we are going to examine the 7th characteristic of these babes in Christ; they did not know who they were!

To discuss this subject, we must first review a truth about God and how this truth relates to us.

There is only one God. (Deut. 4:39; Deut. 6:4)

He eternally exists in three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. (Genesis 1:26; Matthew 28:19-20)

These three have distinct personalities and functions but they are eternally coequal and of the same substance.

Therefore, God is a trinity. Trinity means Tri-unity.

The personality and functions of the Holy Spirit are identified by what He is called in scripture, the promises in scripture, and by clear examples of His activity throughout the bible.

The Holy Spirit is called the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Holiness, the Spirit of Wisdom and Understanding, the Spirit of Knowledge, Spirit of Glory, the Spirit of Grace and Supplication, the Spirit of Sonship, the Comforter, the Counselor, the Helper, and the Advocate.

It is promised in Scripture that the Holy Spirit will....

Give gifts to God's people

Give power to God's people

Give a new nature to God's people

Give comfort to God's people

Give guidance to God's people

Intercede for God's people

Convict the world

The Holy Spirit is compared to a dove, to wind, to fire, to water, to oil, and to a shepherd.

The two greatest promises in the bible are justification by faith and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

[Galatians 3:8-9](#)

[8 And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, "In you all the nations shall be blessed." 9 So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham.](#)

[NKJV](#)

Galatians 2:16

16 knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law but by faith in Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Christ Jesus, that we might be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law; for by the works of the law no flesh shall be justified.

NKJV

Mark 1:8

8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

NKJV

The doctrine of justification by faith is God redeemed us from sin by the atoning work of Jesus Christ. Justified means not guilty. Therefore, we are saved by faith in Christ's work and not by our works.

The doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to sanctify us. To accomplish His work, the Holy Spirit came to dwell in us, transform us, and work through us.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is called the deposit that guarantees our eternal righteousness and eternal salvation. (2 Cor. 1:21-22)

2 Cor. 1:21-22

21 Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, 22 who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.

NKJV

The apostles did not discern whether or not a person was converted by just what they said they believed. They discerned whether or not a person was converted by whether or not the Holy Spirit was in them, transforming them, and working through them.

Romans 8:9

9 But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. NKJV

This was not a difficult thing to see.

Just as God is a trinity, we are created with a tri-part being!

We are spirit, soul, and body.

1 Thess. 5:23

23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

NKJV

We are created in the image of God to be eternal spiritual beings that currently live in a temporal material body.

According to scripture, the baptism of the Holy Spirit has an incredible impact on our spiritual being; our spirit and our soul.

When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit He comes to dwell in our spiritual being.

John 14:16-17

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever — 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

NKJV

He gives life to our spirit and our soul. It is called a new birth.

John 3:5-6

5 Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

NKJV

One of the impacts of the Holy Spirit coming to dwell in us is that He immediately changes the nature of our spiritual being.

2 Peter 1:2-4

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord, 3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, 4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

NKJV

Romans 5:5

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us. NKJV

When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit, you love what He loves!

The Holy Spirit gives us a love for God the Father. He gives us a love for Jesus Christ. He gives us a love for worship. He gives us a love for the Word of God. He gives us a love for the righteousness of God. He gives us a love for the church of God. He gives us a love for the lost and for sharing Jesus with them.

Prior to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it is not your nature to love any of the things that the Holy Spirit loves.

When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit, your union with the Holy Spirit changes your heart.

You are a new creation!

2 Cor. 5:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

NKJV

Just as there is no work you can perform that will justify you before God, there is no work you can perform that can change who you are. Only the baptism of the Holy Spirit can change who you are.

How should you respond to this truth?

- Receive Jesus and the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 2:38-39

38 Then Peter said to them, "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. 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." NKJV

- Accept your new identity because of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 6:18-20

18 Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. 19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

NKJV

The word know in verse 19 means to see, to behold, to know for sure. Just as you believed and continue to believe that you are justified by faith in the work of Jesus, you need to see by faith that you are one with the Holy Spirit.

By faith in God's promise align how you see yourself with this spiritual reality. Resist every spiritual attack on your soul that would cause you to doubt the promise of God and see yourself differently. Defend yourself by taking every thought captive.

- Walk in the Spirit.

Galatians 5:16

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

NKJV

Learn how to let the Holy Spirit live His life through you in every circumstance.

Romans 8:5-7

5 For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. 7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.

NKJV

Depend upon the Holy Spirit moment by moment to guide you and show you how to live.

Put off your old man and put on the new man.

Ephesians 4:20-24

20 But you have not so learned Christ, 21 if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus: 22 that you put off, concerning your former conduct, the old man which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, 23 and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, 24 and that you put on the new man which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness.
NKJV

You will not grow spiritually unless you have faith in the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Without faith in the baptism of the Holy Spirit...

- You will take credit for your good works
- You will compare yourself with other Christians
- You will find your security and your significance in your performance or people
- You will extinguish the fire of the Holy Spirit from working through you
- You will feel powerless to resist temptation
- You will condemn yourself when you fail
- You will grieve the Holy Spirit and your own soul
- You will make your life miserable
- You will put yourself in great peril

Will you believe and receive the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

There were those in the New Testament that received an external sign in the form of a supernatural gift that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

It occurred to the first Jewish converts at Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

NKJV

It occurred next to the first gentile converts in Caesarea in Acts 10.

It occurred next to 12 Jewish converts in Ephesus in Acts 19.

For others there was no external supernatural sign but there was always the internal evidence that a mighty change had occurred.

Without exception the Holy Spirit changes the nature of those who receive Him.

Can you see that change in you? Can you honestly say I love what the Holy Spirit loves? Is the Holy Spirit in you?

If not, will you receive Jesus Christ and the baptism of the Holy Spirit?