



By Design
The Fall and Spirit Baptism

Have you ever considered what Adam and Eve were like? They were created in the image of God.

Genesis 1:26-27

26 Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

27 So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

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- They were perfect spiritually.
- They were perfect morally.
- They were perfect mentally.
- They were perfect emotionally.
- They were perfect physically.

They never experienced greed, resentment, or evil lusts. They never experienced anger, guilt, shame, fear, despair, depression, hopelessness, or jealousy. They never felt confused. They were never misunderstood.

They were also the genetic federal heads of the human race.

- Have you ever considered how smart they were?
- Have you ever considered how talented they were?
- Have you ever considered their physical abilities?

They were given the responsibility of ruling over every living thing on the earth! God made them and gave them everything they needed to accomplish His plan.

Everything God created was good, until it wasn't.

When the first man and the first woman rebelled against God, it is called the fall of mankind.



The word fall means to move downward, typically rapidly and freely without control, from a higher to a lower level. The word fall was used to describe the original sin because of the stories of the bible.

The stories of the bible demonstrate that there was absolutely nothing good about man living apart from God.

Men did not progressively evolve as atheists would have you believe. Mankind digressed rapidly living apart from God. His spirit and his soul were marred, disfigured, or warped by sin. There was nothing within mankind to restrain them from doing evil.



After Adam and Eve committed the original sin, the very next story is one of their descendants killed his own brother over a petty jealousy. (Genesis 4:8)

From there the violence progressed until violence filled the earth.

Genesis 6:5

5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

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Genesis 6:11

11 The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

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God decided to destroy the world population.

When God made that decision, the world population had grown significantly.

If the growth rate in the pre-Flood world was equal to the growth rate in 2000 (0.012), there could have been about 750 million people at the time of the Flood.

However, given the extremely long lifespans prior to the Flood, the growth rate could have been much higher. Increasing the rate by just 0.001 would put the population at close to four billion at the Flood.

There was only one man that called upon the Lord. God decided to save him. His name was Noah.

Peter said this one man is a preacher of righteousness. (2 Peter 2:5). Not one person listened to Noah besides his wife, his three sons, and their wives.

After that judgment, the incredible depths of the fall of mankind are seen all over again. Noah gets drunk. Noah's son slandered him and dishonored him. The world population grows for over 300 years. The entire world population forgot God again.



They agreed to build a tower as a monument to their own power and greatness. (Genesis 11:4) Perhaps they also built it to save themselves from the next flood. Instead of destroying them all again, God sent confusion among them and the world population scatters throughout the earth. (Genesis 11:7-9)

Then, God again chose one man from all the families of the earth. His name was Abraham. (Gen. 12:1-3)

This time he chose a man to start a nation that would be His people. The man was named Abraham. This nation would be a light to the other nations.

In the story of the Israel, the incredible depths of the fall of man is seen all over again. God made Himself known to Israel in amazing ways.



- He performed signs and wonders for them.
 - He gave them His law.
 - He established His temple among them.
- The temple is the hot spot of His presence on the earth.

Israel quickly forgot God and God judged them. They repent but the next generation forgot God and God judged them. They repent. This happens over and over. It is a testament to the fall of mankind. Even when God calls a nation His people, makes Himself known to them, and establishes His temple with them, they reject Him.

After the original sin, the message of the Old Testament is fallen man forgot God and practiced a hedonistic and perverted life style. Mass killings and genocides filled the earth. They practiced sexual perversions. They practiced human sacrifice. They burned their children in fire. They assassinated their leaders. Parents killed and ate their own children to survive famines. They created gods that supported their hedonistic and perverted way of living.

Because of the fall of man and mankind's absolute and utter depravity, God judged and destroyed entire nations and races of people. God terminated every descendant of some families. Death was not just a punishment for sin. It was God's way to save the world from sin.

The violence we currently experience on the earth today and specifically in the United States does not compare to the violence that filled the earth in the old testament. There was a reason the nations built walled cities. There was no chance of survival without those walls. When one people group conquered another, they practiced genocide, rape, and slavery. This went on for thousands of years. They were savages. There is nothing good about man living apart from God.

When David, the second king of Israel looked at the world population he wrote...

[Psalms 14:1-4](#)

[14 The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, They have done abominable works, There is none who does good.](#)

[2 The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, To see if there are any who understand, who seek God.](#)

[3 They have all turned aside, They have together become corrupt; There is none who does good, No, not one.](#)

[4 Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge, Who eat up my people as they eat bread, And do not call on the Lord?](#)

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By the time of the Roman empire, one of the most popular sporting events happened in the Roman Coliseum. You could go and watch gladiators fight to the death or you could go and watch hungry animals devour criminals. It is estimated that over 400000 people died in the coliseum. Other Romans cities had their own version of the coliseum. All the nations of the world practiced similar forms of perverted and violent entertainment.

Is it any wonder that Jesus called Satan the ruler of this world? (John 14:30)

Then a radical change in world history occurred. A radical change occurred during the Roman empire. The testament to man's fallen nature and human depravity never ceased to exist. In the first century B.C. there were still tyrants, people groups, and individuals on the earth that practiced genocide, rape, and slavery.

But about 2000 years ago, a significant change began to occur in the Roman Empire and it spread around the world. It led to what some call the rise of civilization.

- There began to be a general awareness of evil that did not exist before.
- There was a general change in the temperament of mankind toward his fellow man.
- There was within mankind around the world a fear of eternal judgement to go along with the general knowledge of eternity.

Nations that were at one time barbarians began to change morally. Over time, violence would stop filling the earth as it did during the days of Noah and mankind would stop building walled cities.

- Scientist give credit to evolution.
- Sociologist give credit to the growth of cities and education.
- Philosophers give credit to ancient philosophers.
- Politicians give credit to great rulers.

Here is the truth. There was a spiritual enlightenment about 2000 years ago that was caused by this event.

[Joel 2:28](#)

[28 "And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
NKJV](#)

Jesus said it like this...

John 16:7-11

7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me;

10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

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When Jesus was born the angels proclaimed this message about Jesus.

Luke 2:13-14

13 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying:

14 "Glory to God in the highest,

And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

NKJV

Mankind is still capable of the most heinous acts of evil. We can harden our hearts to the Holy Spirit of God and fall into the depths of depravity. But it is critical that we understand that the incredible advancements in civilization have been caused by the fulfillment of the promise of Jesus regarding the Holy Spirit.

With all the evil that we currently see in our world, we can see goodwill toward men.

That goodwill is 100% the result of what Jesus did. He atoned for the sins of the world and

He sent the Holy Spirit into the world to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.

The apostle James said...

James 1:16-17

16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren. 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.

NKJV

How should we respond to this truth?

- We should humble ourselves before God.

Humility is difficult. It is easy to be arrogant. It is easy to do something good and take credit for it. It is easy to brag on our good works. Being arrogant is one sign of our human depravity.

Can you imagine Adam before the fall thinking I am really a good guy without giving God credit for it?

We should be like Adam. We should never take credit for any goodness in us. We should never take credit for any good deed we perform. We should give God praise for every good thought we have ever had, every good motive we have ever had, every good word we have ever spoken, every good deed we have ever performed. Like Paul, we should believe and declare..

[1 Corinthians 15:10](#)

[10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not in vain; but I labored more abundantly than they all, yet not I, but the grace of God which was with me. NKJV](#)

John the Baptist understood this. He was chosen by God to be filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother's womb. He said about Jesus, He must increase, and I must decrease. (John 3:30)

All the great prophets of God understood the depravity of man and gave glory to God for any goodness in them.

Look back on your life. What good have you performed? Where did you get the idea? Where did you get the motivation to perform that which is good?

If Jesus had not atoned for your sins and sent the Holy Spirit, you would be so consumed by selfish thoughts and you would never do anything good for anyone. You would be hedonistic barbarian with no hope of ever changing. You would be violent, and you would live in a world that would be filled by violence.

You should respond to this truth by repenting toward God for your arrogance. You should humble yourself lower than you have ever humbled yourself.

- [We should receive Jesus to save us from the judgment of sin.](#)

God puts eternity into the heart of all men.

[Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)

[11 He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.](#)

[NKJV](#)

But the Holy Spirit brought to the world something new. He convicts the world of judgment.

All men ask the question what is going to happen to me after I die? This is true for the people groups all over the world that have never heard of the bible or the gospel. Men can deny that there is life after death, but they cannot stop thinking about it.

And since Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, they cannot stop thinking about a God that is going to judge them for their sin. Men can deny that there is such a God, but they cannot stop thinking about Him.

This thought surprises people. It happens in dreams. It enters your minds when you see someone do some extraordinary act of kindness for others. It enters your mind when one of your secret sins is exposed. It enters your mind when you do evil that you never thought you would ever do. The Holy Spirit of God is very good at what He does. He convicts the world of judgment for sin.

Your response should be faith in Jesus. You should believe in Him and trust Him to save you from judgment.

[John 5:24](#)

[24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. NKJV](#)

The conviction of judgment for sin does not stop after you receive Jesus. But, you can dismiss your fear of eternal judgment. You understand that Jesus atoned for your sin once and for all. He experienced your judgment. The thought of eternal judgment makes you happy for yourself and sorrowful for others.

We should respond to this truth by receiving Jesus to save us from the judgment of sin.

- [We should be a disciple of Jesus](#)

[Ephesians 5:1-2](#)

[5 Therefore be imitators of God as dear children.](#)

[2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.](#)

[NKJV](#)

If everything good we see in us and others is the result of the atonement of Jesus and the work of the Holy Spirit, we should humble our self and be a disciple of Jesus.

We should seek to glorify Him by learning from Him and imitating the goodness we see in Him.

We should seek to glorify Him by teaching others about Him.

When you receive Jesus, His Spirit comes to dwell in you. That union makes you a new creation. His identity becomes your identity.

When you are good, when you think good things, when you do good things, when you speak good things, when you have good motives, you are being who and what you have been created to be, a child of God.

The greatest evidence that I am a disciple of Jesus is my concern for other people.

We should respond to this truth by being a disciple of Jesus.

- We should witness to others with confidence

Acts 4:31

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. NKJV

Being bold in witnessing comes from a confidence that the Holy Spirit is doing His work. It does not come from being an expert in the scriptures. It comes from faith that the Holy Spirit is doing His work.

Peter was bold at Pentecost because He understood this truth.

Paul was bold when he stood before kings because He understood this truth.

The most notorious missionaries in church history were bold because they understood this truth.

We can pray all we want for the Holy Spirit to fall on us, but the truth is, we will not be bold in our witness to others unless we believe that He has already fallen on those we are trying to reach.

We should respond to this truth by witnessing to others with boldness and confidence.

Conclusion

Currently, the general moral condition of mankind is declining again. The apostle Paul prophesied about this.

2 Tim 3:1-5

But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away! NKJV

The Holy Spirit is still doing His job. But all over the world, mankind is hardening their hearts to the Holy Spirit and the general moral condition of mankind is in decline again. You can see it in all the monuments that men are building to themselves. You can see it in the increase of sexual perversion. You can see it in the breakdown of the family. You can see it in the sacrifice of children.

Are these the last days? I believe they are. The only reason the Lord is waiting to return is salvation.

The only thing that is keeping the anti-christ from coming is the Holy Spirit.

2 Thessalonians 2:7

7 For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

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What will the world be like when He is taken out of the way?

We know what it is going to be like. We can read about it in world history.

What kind of people should we be until the Holy Spirit is taken out of the way?

Invitation

- Humble yourself before God
- Receive Jesus
- Dedicate your life to be a disciple of Jesus
- Start witnessing with boldness

Leave here today with confidence that the Holy Spirit is convicting the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment.