

Empower  
Session 2

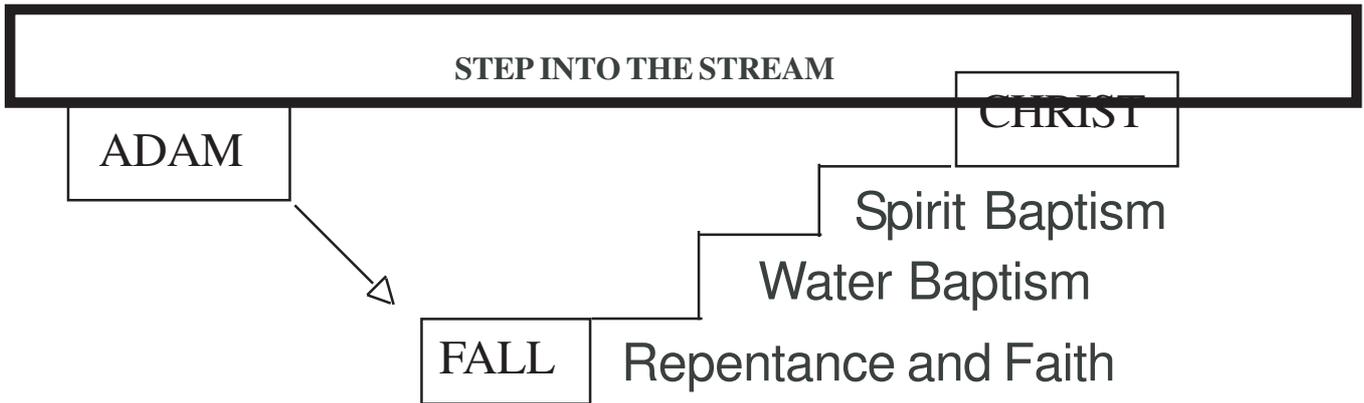
Step Into The  
Stream

## Step Into the Stream

Before this lesson is over, you are going to be invited to get into the stream of the power of God.

When the Church was born in that first century and the work of Jesus was moving forward in those early days, the church only knew two kinds of people:

- Pagans (or unbelievers)
  - Not necessarily all criminals or drunkards or terribly immoral people
  - Some may have been very respected and poor
  - Pagans because they hadn't put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ
  - Many had a religion different from that which Jesus came to bring
  
- Spirit-filled Believers (Christians);
  - The apostles had insisted on the three links being forged in the life of each new believer – repentant faith, water baptism, baptism with the Holy Spirit
  - It was important because that is the way God intended to restore to man all that had been taken away through the fall of Adam and Eve



Adam fell out of the **Presence** of God

and the **Position** God had given him.

*When Adam sinned, sin entered the entire human race. His sin spread death throughout all the world, so everything began to grow old and die, for all sinned. Adam’s one sin brought the penalty of death to many, while Christ freely takes away many sins and gives glorious life instead. The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to be king over all, but all who will take God’s gift of forgiveness and acquittal are kings of life because of this one man, Jesus Christ. —Romans 5:12, 17-18.*

Jesus, the second Adam, restores what the first Adam lost so that now we can —

**“Reign in Life”**

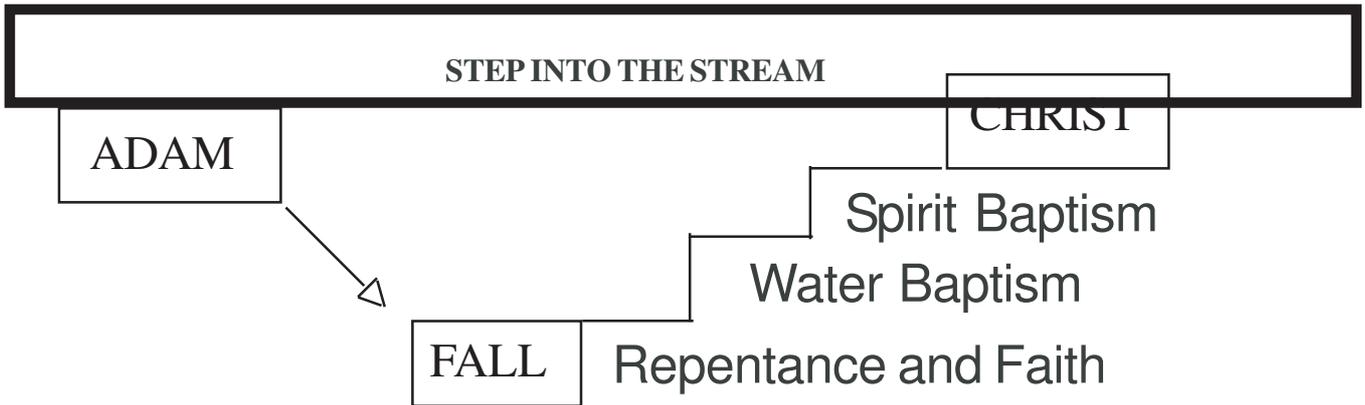
Jesus bring us back to a place of  
– authority and power

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Today, however, there are really three groups of people – the unbelievers and Spirit-filled believers (just like above), but there is a third group in the world, who would call themselves Christians, but they are not Spirit-filled Christians.

- They are people who may have been raised in a Christian tradition or church where they weren't taught that the Spirit would come and provide them with supernatural power that would dwell upon them.
- Many of them haven't realized that God's call involves a commitment to become involved in His work here on earth.
- They see Christianity as something just for themselves, something to bring them joy and peace, and eternal safety
- It's a counterfeit gospel.
- It may be the largest group of people in America who consider themselves Christians, but have no idea what Jesus or the apostles expected that a Christian life would be like and would experience.
- In the New Testament, this group of people didn't even exist – there were the unbelievers and the believers. The unbelievers were pagans; the believers were those who had been baptized in water, filled with the Holy Spirit, and were living lives committed to Jesus Christ.



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There is a passage from Romans 5:12 that speaks to us about the diagram in your notes. In it, we see that there are two men (two Adams) around whom the whole story of the Bible pivots:

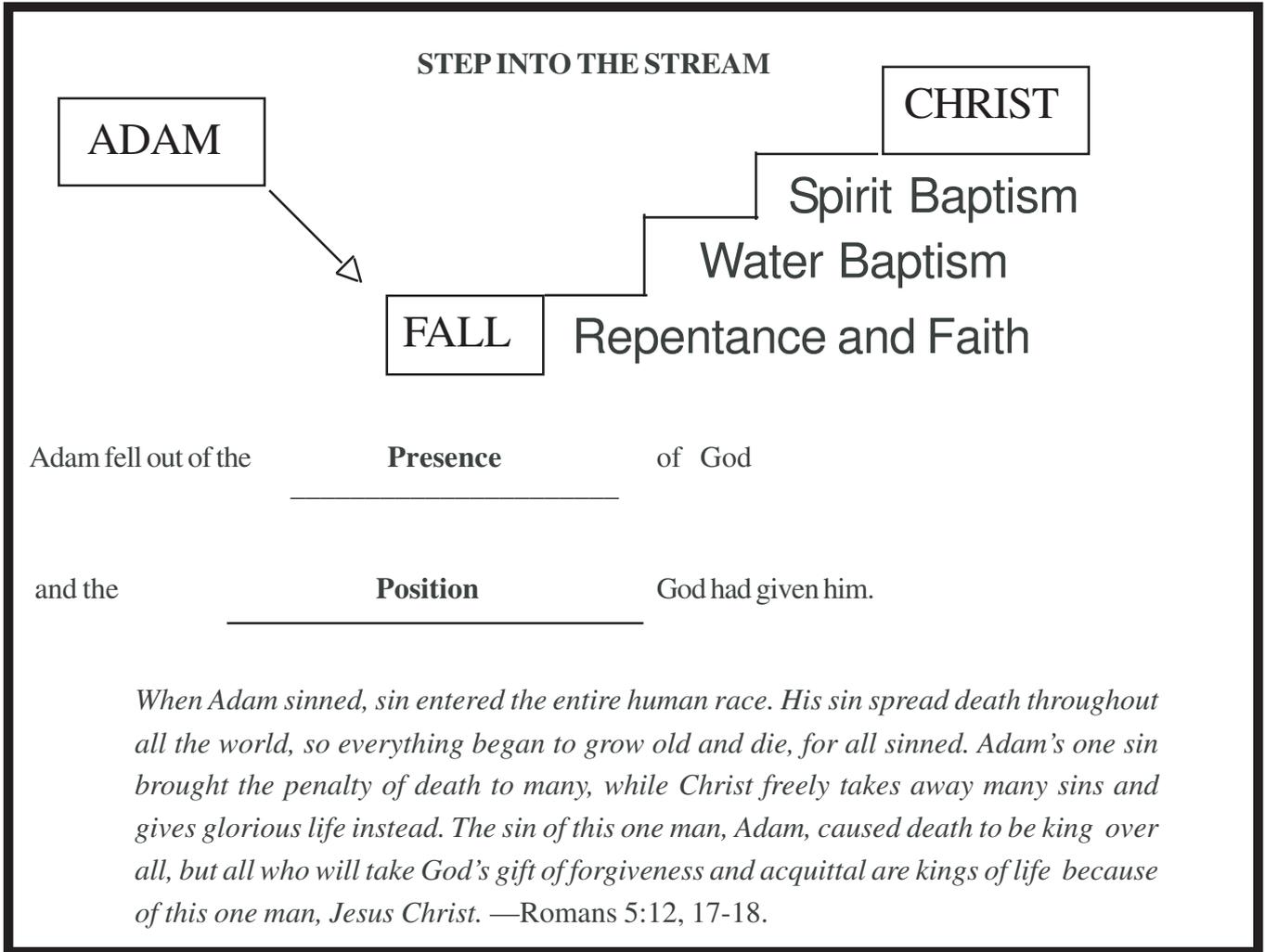
- The first Adam
  - Our biological forefather
  - He was to function like God's vice-regent here on earth – God gave him dominion over all the world
  - But Adam didn't obey God and actually turned over his vice-regency here on the earth to the evil one by following his suggestions (Genesis 3)
  - The wonderful plan that God had for man on this earth was side-tracked, derailed, until Jesus came

- The second Adam – Jesus (according to Paul)
  - His purpose was to rescue mankind and restore them to the **PRESENCE** and the **POSITION** that God had given Adam.
  - When Adam and Eve disobeyed God, they fell out of the presence of God and out of the position that God had given them.
  - Jesus has come to restore all that.

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- Jesus came to live the life that Adam failed to live; the life that all of us have failed to live. And then to die that death that we deserved to die. He came to be our substitute.
- Now we can once again become what God intended for us to be.

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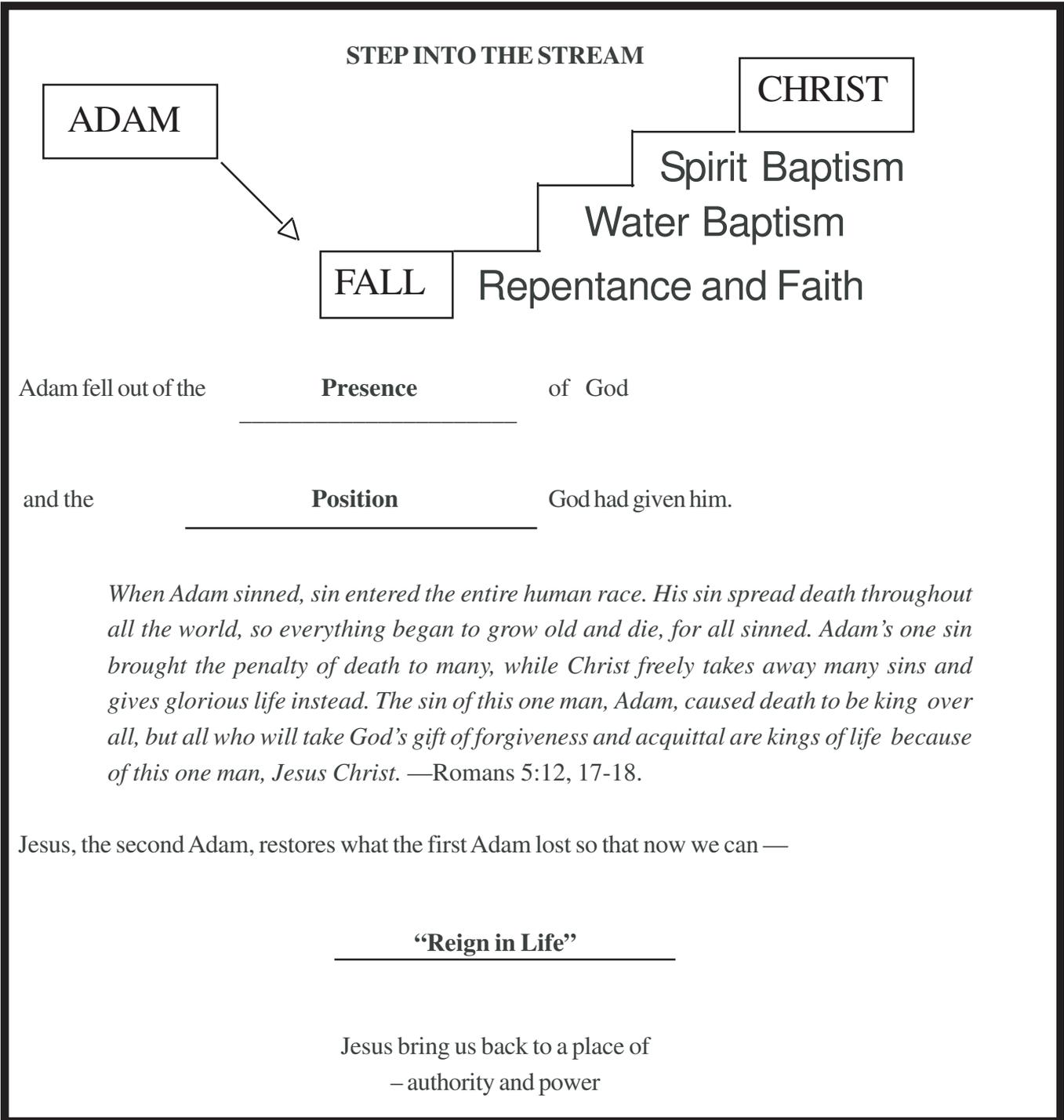
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Here is the glorious news!

- Jesus came and through His death, burial, and resurrection AND the steps that He gave us to take – Repentance & Faith, Water Baptism and Spirit Baptism, Jesus intended to take man from where he was and put him back where Adam was in the first place (use diagram).
- We now could walk in the things that Adam had forsaken through his disobedience.
- Jesus, the second Adam, restores what the first Adam lost so that now we can “**REIGN IN LIFE**” as kings.
- Jesus brings us back to a place of authority and power!

Many Christians do not experience this “reign in life”. They are taught that Jesus came as our Savior, we accept Him as our Savior, and then we kind of “hang on” until we die or He returns, because real salvation is when we go to heaven. Many Christians don’t know that there is anything that can happen in their life right now, other than what they’ve already experienced.

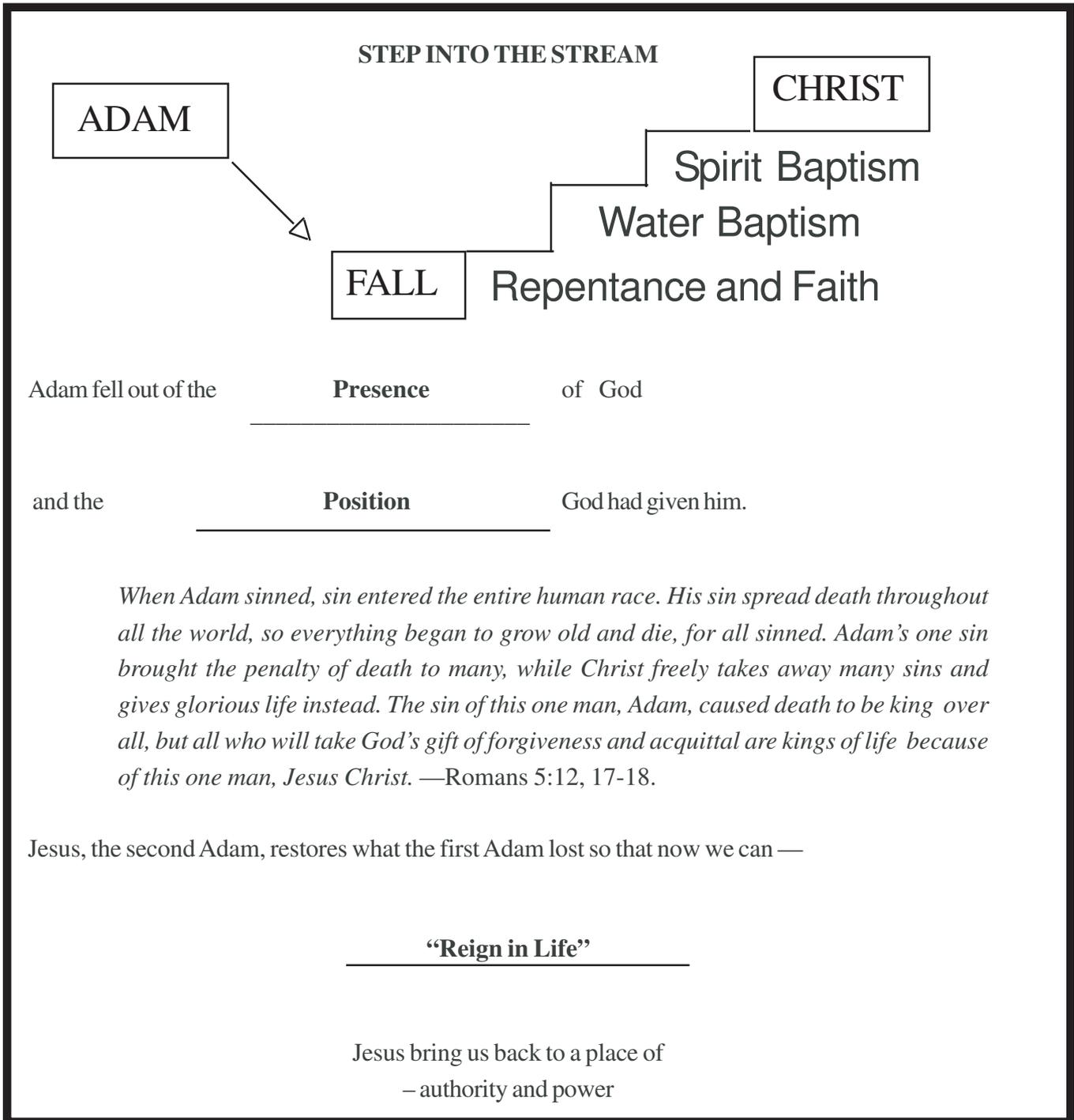


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But Jesus was not suggesting to His disciples that they have a “hang-on” mentality.

- “As the Father has sent Me into the world, even so send I you!”
- “Go in the authority of My Name, and make disciples of all nations.”
- “Greater things than these that I have done, you will do, because I am going back to the Father, and I will send you the Holy Spirit.”
- Jesus wasn’t describing some mamby-pamby “hang-on” lifestyle!
- In fact, Jesus said, “The very gates of hell will not prevail against you.”
  - Not a castle with a moat and drawbridge, with all of the Christians huddled inside of it, safe from the demons and forces of hell using battering rams trying to beat against us, with the gates safely standing against them.
  - But this verse paints a picture of Jesus’ followers in His Name, with His Authority, with His Power moving forward and the gates of hell will not stand against them. It’s not that satan is going to get us, but we are to go and destroy the works of the enemy in the earth. When? When we get to heaven? No, now, today, tomorrow, the next day.
  - It’s God’s intention that His people would go into the world like Jesus did, and they would take authority over the enemy, and they would bind the strong man, and they would spoil him, and they would bring the kingdom of God on earth right now.
  - God wants the Holy Spirit to flow through us like the Holy Spirit flowed through Jesus, so that we can take authority over satan and sickness and worldly knowledge
  - As representatives of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, we can come against the rulers, principalities and powers of darkness and defeat them in the name of Jesus.
- That’s not a “hang-on” mentality; that’s a “go get them” mentality, and that’s why we need the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.



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For centuries, the church lost, almost completely, the emphasis on the empowering work of the Holy Spirit:

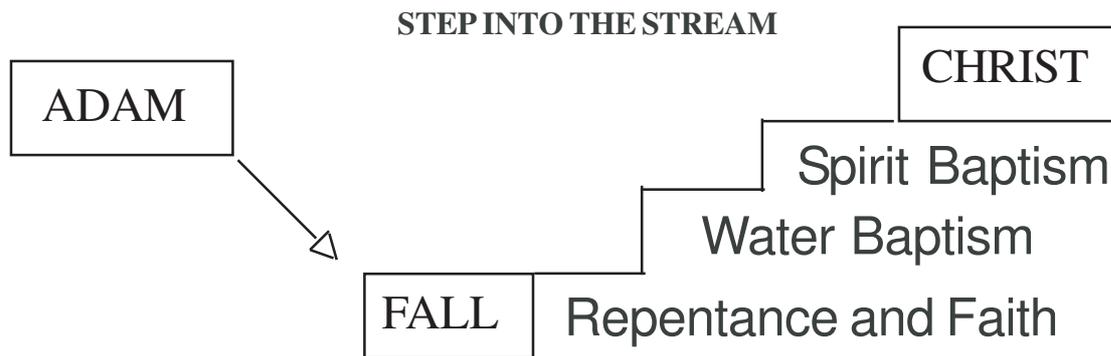
- Supernatural manifestations were not expected, and mostly, they were not accepted.
- Fifty years ago you hardly ever heard about the Holy Spirit; if you did, it was the doctrine of the Spirit
- There was not a stream, deep and wide, flowing through all of Christendom as there is today.

Now God has restored to the church what it laid aside and failed to use for so many years. In the Bible, we see that many of the moves of God that are recorded were actually recoveries of past truths. They were not new things (new to the people who were experiencing it, but not really new).

They were simply truths and experiences that had been laid aside or not actively pursued:

- In the Old Testament, it was the recovery of the “book of the law” (the first five books of the Bible) that brought about the revival under King Josiah
- In Martin Luther’s time, it was the recovery of the doctrine of salvation by faith
- In John Wesley’s day, it was the truth of sanctification or a holy life that no one was talking about
- Today, it is the recovery of the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit which has lain dormant all these years in the church and is now spawning what could be the greatest revival experienced by the church in centuries

In your notes is a quote from Dr. Henry Pitney Van Dusen, ... “I have come to feel that the Charismatic Movement, with its emphasis on the Holy Spirit, is more than just another revival. It is a revolution comparable in importance with the establishment of the original Apostolic Church and with the Protestant Reformation.”



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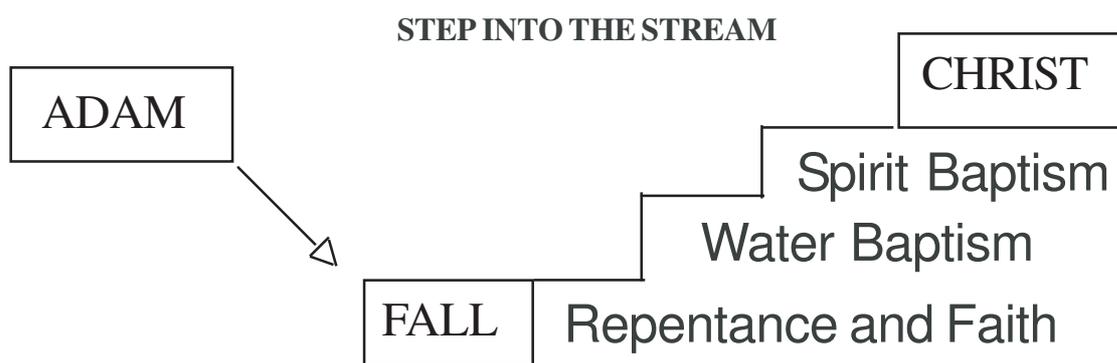
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Bishop Leslie Newbigin, a Lutheran world leader and former president of the World Council of Churches, was one of the first outstanding churchmen to acknowledge the significance of this revolution. In his book, "The Household of God", he points to the fact that over the years:

- Catholicism has laid primary stress on the given "structure" of the church
- Protestantism has laid its primary emphasis on the given "message"
- But now, he says, "it's necessary to recognize a third stream of Christian tradition, which has a distinct character of its own ... its essential element is the conviction that the Christian life is a matter of the experienced power and presence of the Holy Spirit today."

That's the third stream that we have the privilege of stepping into.

He's waiting and ready to baptize all of us in His Holy Spirit. He's waiting and ready to fill us and empower us and send us forth to be able to live for Him and do great things for Him.



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This experience of Empowering by the Holy Spirit will be described in detail later. But first, it is often helpful to our understanding to state what something “is not” before we state what it is.

I. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not:

**1. IT IS NOT CONVERSION**

- Before receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit we must be born again and on the path to conversion.
- Conversion is something “we do”; the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is something “Christ does” in and for us.

**2. IT IS NOT A NEW UNDERSTANDING**

- A deeper understanding the Holy Spirit is something that will follow the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, but this baptism is not something that simply takes place in our mind or understanding.

**3. IT IS NOT A NEW DEVOTION**

- Not to be confused with a new devotion to the Holy Spirit or Jesus or God the Father. Rather, this will be the result of the baptism – we will love and appreciate the Holy Spirit more.

**4. IT IS NOT A SIGN OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY AND HOLINESS**

- There is often a lot of confusion about this. It isn't that we've earned the right for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as a reward for our performance or our seniority.
- In the New Testament we see that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit was part of the “beginning equipment”; it was experienced by new believers!
- There are times in a church where this causes much consternation with the older believers. New converts come into the church, open to all that Jesus has for them, including the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. They are filled and empowered and the older believers may be envious or feel that God isn't treating them right.
- On the other hand, newly converted Spirit-filled believers may still be very immature in the things of God. They may be full of His power and presence, but unaware how to use it or share it. And so, #5 ...

## 8 F.L.C. — “EMPOWER : Adopting the Lifestyle”

Let us understand as fully as possible what this Baptism with the Spirit will involve. It is sometimes helpful to state what something is “not” before we try to declare what it “is”

### 1. HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM IS NOT:

1. **It is not conversion**

Being baptized with the Spirit is not having a conversion to Jesus Christ as Savior, nor even a deeper conversion to Him as the Lord.

2. **It is not a new understanding**

Being baptized with the Spirit is not a deeper understanding of the doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

3. **It is not a new devotion**

Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is not a greater devotion to the Holy Spirit.

4. **It is not a sign of spiritual maturity and holiness**

Being baptized with the Spirit is not a sign of spiritual maturity or holiness. Rather, it gives a person a relationship with the Holy Spirit which allows him to grow in spiritual maturity and holiness more quickly and easily than he could without it.

5. **It is not everything we need**

Being baptized with the Spirit is only part of what we need to be fully in Christ. It is an introduction, a beginning, a doorway into the life of the Spirit.

## II. WHAT IS IT, THEN??

### IT IS A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

When the Holy Spirit has been considered at all in past years, the focus for most Christians has been on the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. For the early believers, the Holy Spirit was an “experience” before He became a “doctrine” He was the Promised One residing within them and acting among them. The whole New Testament is alive with the personal experience of the Holy Spirit. A person has been baptized with the Spirit when he can experience the Spirit living within him and working through him in a way that had not been true before.

## **5. IT IS NOT EVERYTHING WE NEED**

- The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is not the pinnacle, as some churches seem to indicate. It's not the sign that we've "fully arrived".
- It is only a part of what we need to be fully in Christ. It is an introduction, a beginning, a doorway into a whole new life of waling in the Spirit.
- It doesn't make us a "super-saint" with a personal line to God by which we don't need to listen and respond to church leadership.

### II. What is it then?

- For the early believers, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit was an "experience" before it ever became a "doctrine". He was the Promised One, residing within them and acting among them, giving them power and spiritual energy and direction.
- Read the paragraph in the Manual ("then the Holy Spirit)became a "doctrine". He was the Promised One, residing within them and acting among them, givi

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### III. This Personal Baptism with the Holy Spirit will involve five things:

#### 1. It is an **IMMERSING** in the Spirit

- To be baptized with the Holy Spirit involves a releasing of His Power and Presence within our lives as the Holy Spirit invades us in a new way – in our spirit, our soul and our body.
  
- We are three parts - Body, Soul and Spirit.
  - When we are born again, the Holy Spirit brings our spirit to life. He now dwells within us.
  - But there is a vast difference between the Holy Spirit residing within ones life and the Holy Spirit filling ones life fully and completely.
  
- In the Bible the Holy Spirit is often spoken of as similar to water. And it's as if we have a pitcher of water and a glass.
  - When we are born again, it's like the Holy Spirit comes and enters into us as a glass if filled with water.
  - In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was given to individuals for certain tasks and experiences. After the task was complete, then the Holy Spirit was poured "back into the pitcher"
  - Now, on the night of Jesus' resurrection, He found the disciples and breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." So that very night, the Holy Spirit came to reside permanently in the new testament disciples. Now they were born again. The Holy Spirit resided within them. Just like He is in us when we are born again.
  - But at the day of Pentecost, the same disciples upon whom Jesus breathed and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit", the scripture says on that day they will be baptized, they will be immersed with the Holy Spirit.
  - It's like putting the full glass of water in the pitcher. Now the water is not just in the inside. It's all over the glass – on the inside, on the outside, covering every bit of it. It's completely immersed, just as the believer is completely immersed by the Spirit of God as Jesus baptizes them with the Holy Spirit.



- “Baptism” with the Holy Spirit is a good term, because that is exactly what happens. Baptism means immersion. In the classical Greek language, the word “baptizo” was used about ships that had been sunk in the Mediterranean Sea. They were “baptizo”; they were sunk, they were immersed, and they had been down there a long time. That meant that every part of that ship was now saturated, every molecule was filled with sea water, it was “water-logged”. Because it had been baptized in the sea.
- Jesus wants to do the same for us. He wants us to be immersed, saturated, filled with the Spirit of God in all of our life.
- What often happens is that we receive Jesus, we come to Him as our Savior, the Holy Spirit comes into our life, we begin to live a new life, we know that Jesus is there, we pray for Jesus to be with us through the day. When pressures start building throughout the day, we forget all about what we prayed in the morning. We start responding to these pressures and situations the same way we always have – out of our soul, our understanding. Our soul is our mind, our emotions and our will. Or we respond out of our body – the desires and appetites of our physical nature. And we come home at night, and we pray, and we realize that we didn’t even think about the Holy Spirit at all today, and I lived like I used to live in many ways, and we have to seek forgiveness and repentance.
- But when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, and He is released in His fullness and power in our life, that is when The Holy Spirit, through our spirit, will now control our soul and our body.
- We now say to our soul and to our body, to our appetites and to our desires, to our mind, emotion and will, “Okay, you’re not in control any more. We have been immersed, saturated with the Holy Spirit. He is the one who is going to decide what we do. He is the One who is going to lead and guide us.”
- The quote by Dennis & Rita Bennett in your notes, “It would seem that something needs to happen to your soul and body before your spirit can gain stronger control. That “something” that needs to happen is that the Holy Spirit, who is living in your spirit, needs to flow out of your spirit and fill your soul and body.”



2. The second thing that happens is that there is an **OVERFLOWING** of the Holy Spirit in our life.

- In John 4, we read about Jesus being with His disciples in Samaria. Jesus rested by the well, while the disciples went into town to find something to eat, and here came a Samaritan woman. Normally a Jew would not speak to a Samaritan, let alone a woman. Jesus was fishing for this woman. She was an immoral woman.
  - Jesus said, “The water that I give to people (as contrasted to this water in the well) becomes a perpetual spring within them. It will be like a well of living water springing up inside them. They will have eternal life and never thirst again!”
  - She was very interested, because Jesus, through a word of knowledge, told her about the cravings in her life that had led her to have five husbands.
  - She ran back home and invited the city to come meet a man who had told her everything about her life.
  - She and many others received a drink of the water Jesus was offering.
- Later, in John 7, Jesus said, “If any one is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. For the scriptures declare that rivers of living water shall flow from the inmost being of anyone who believes in Me.”
  - He was speaking of the Holy Spirit, who would be given to everyone who believed in Him, but the Spirit had not yet been given, because He had not yet returned to the Father in Heaven.
  - When He got back to Heaven, He was going to send the Holy Spirit to His followers down here.
  - Jesus is referring, before He ever went to the cross, to the experience that His disciples would have on the day of Pentecost.
  - Jesus was saying, not only is there going to be a “drink” available that will lead to eternal life (as illustrated in John 4), but there would be a “river” in which you can be immersed, a river of power and blessing.
- A drink is one thing, but a river is another!
  - Who is going to be satisfied with a drink when you can have a river?



- It's like the irrigation canals in Israel where the dry ground is watered, and the result is lush vegetation. When the water starts flowing, it cleans the canal, then it fills the canal, then it saturates the land, and then flowers and plants start to spring up. And as the water flows further down the canal, the farmers lift their gates, and the water flows through their fields, and everywhere the water goes, it becomes flush and beautiful.
  - That's a picture of what God wants to do in our life.
  - God wants to pour out of His reservoir in and through us a great gush of the Holy Spirit. First it cleanses our life, purifies the channel. Then it begins to bring beautiful fruit. But then, God's intention is that it should flow out to all those people we come in contact with, all those situations in our life, so they can begin to be influenced by the power of God.



- Jesus said in John 7, “Out of his **“KOILA”** (belly) shall flow rivers of living water.”
  - God’s intention was that the Holy Spirit would be like a river of water flowing deep within us, bringing life to us, refreshing our whole being, and then, as we go and touch countless other people, He would bring refreshment to them, too. We would bring the life of God everywhere we go.
  - The Holy Spirit was never intended to be contained within us, but we are always to be channels through which the life of Jesus can flow out all around us, our family, neighborhood, acquaintances, those we work with, our world will be refreshed by the Baptism with the Holy Spirit that creates a river within us which now flows out of our being.
  - How is it that we impact people? It’s not spirit to spirit – with our spirit we communicate with God. It’s through our soul – through thinking, talking, deciding, feeling, loving, – it’s through our body that we contact and interact with people. If the Holy Spirit is locked up in our spirit, we may have fellowship with God, but there will be no river flowing out of us.
  - But when we become a channel for the flowing river of the Spirit, then our soul and body can be a source of great refreshment to all around because the Holy Spirit is controlling our mind, our body, our will, our emotions. The Holy Spirit is flowing forth from us into all of our contacts. That’s exciting!

10 F.L.C. — “EMPOWER : Adopting the Lifestyle”

Jesus said, “Out of his “Koila” (Belly)  
shall flow rivers of living water.”

3. A Controlling by the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

*“Do not get drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead be filled with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him.”*

The filling of the Holy Spirit is “**God intoxication**”

4. An Enabling of the Spirit

We begin to experience those things which God’s Word indicates the Holy Spirit will do in the life of the believer.

- He teaches us
- He guides us
- He purifies us
- He deepens our union with God
- He brings Scripture alive
- He gives a new zeal and boldness to witness
- He produces the fruits of the Spirit (Gal. 5:22 and 23)
- He bestows some of the supernatural manifestations (1 Cor. 12:7-11)
- He helps us to be an active part of the Christian community

With the releasing of His life within us a “supernatural dimension” is added. We begin to experience the power “to be” like Jesus, and the power “to do” the works that He has called us to

3. Another thing that happens as we experience the empowering presence of the Holy Spirit is that a **CONTROLLING** of the spirit takes in our lives
- Ephesians 5:18 says, “Do not be drunk with wine, which will only ruin you; instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and controlled by Him.”
  - Why is it that sometimes we’re afraid to be filled and controlled by the Holy Spirit.
    - Because we’re afraid He’s going to make us do something that we don’t want to do; something that will embarrass us.
  - Pastor Edwin Orr described people who resisted the Baptism with the Holy Spirit as people who might invite him into their homes, but then they would not really want him to stay because they were afraid he was going to break up all of their furniture. He would never do that.
    - It would be insulting to him for someone to say, “I’d like to invite you into my home, but I don’t know ... I don’t know what you’re going to do.”
    - “What I might do? What do you think I might do?”
    - “I don’t know ... but that’s some nice furniture, and you might do something ...” That’s insulting!
    - People say that very thing to the Spirit of Jesus. “I don’t know if I want you to come in all your fullness because I don’t know what you’d like me to do.”
    - Jesus was a Gentleman. People welcomed Him and longed to be with Him. The Holy Spirit will only help to make us more like Jesus..
  - The apostle Paul in this verse is likening the filling with the Holy Spirit to being drunk with wine.
    - What happens when a person gets drunk with wine? An alien spirit takes over. A mild person becomes a roudy person. A pleasant person becomes a mean person. The spirit of alcohol changes them into a different person.
    - Paul says don’t do that, because you will become far less than what God intended you to be.
    - Rather, Paul says be filled with the Holy Spirit and you will become far more than you are now; you’ll become what God intended you to be.
    - The filling of the spirit is really “**GOD INTOXICATION**” – it’s being drunk with God’s Spirit!
  - Where the Spirit of the Lord is there is “liberty, not bondage”.

## 10 F.L.C. — “EMPOWER : Adopting the Lifestyle”

Jesus said, “Out of his “Koila” (Belly)  
shall flow rivers of living water.”

3. A Controlling by the Spirit

Ephesians 5:18

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4. The fourth manifestation of the Spirit that we want to talk about is the **ENABLING** of the Spirit

- As we are empowered by the Holy Spirit, we will begin to experience some of the things that God's word indicates He will do by His Spirit.
  
- As you can see in your notes, there are many kinds of enablings:
  - Some will experience Him teaching them – their spiritual eyes are opened in a new way
  - He guides them – His voice within them gives them instruction and direction (e.g., pick up the phone and call someone, make a turn in the road, etc.)
  - He purifies us; We won't excuse displeasing behavior like we have in the past. He deepens our union with Him.
  - He brings Scripture alive ... something that we read before suddenly comes alive with application and new understanding
  - He begins to give us a new zeal and boldness to witness
  - He produces the fruit of the Spirit in our life (Galatians 5:22-23) – love, joy, peace, patience ...
  - Supernatural manifestations of the Spirit (healing, miracles, tongues, words of knowledge or wisdom, etc.) – things that we couldn't do on our own.
  - One of the reasons that God often desires to give us the heavenly language early on is because He does it to show us that there is now a supernatural dimension in our life. It's only one of the evidences, but it confirms that God is doing something supernatural in our life.
  - He helps us to be more active in the Christian community
  
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5. And there is an **INTERTWINING** that takes place between our lives and many others by the Holy Spirit

- The goal of the Holy Spirit is to first of all produce a community of love.
  - The bible says that the primary evidence that Jesus has come into a persons life or that the Holy Spirit is present in a group of people will be, “Behold how they love each another.”
  - In the early church, the Holy Spirit worked the early believers into one Body for Christ . As He intertwined them together a social miracle took place.
  - The setting of the early church was one of social classes – Jews and Gentiles, owners and slaves, educated and uneducated, but the Holy Spirit bridged all these barriers and brought them together into one spiritual family.
  - That’s what the Holy Spirit wants to do – build and establish a new community – a community of love.
  - The effect of sin = “disintegration”
  - The effect of the Holy Spirit = “integration”
  
- The second goal of the Holy Spirit is to establish us in committed relationships
  - Ephesians 2:21-22 “We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with Him and with each other by the Spirit, and are part of this dwelling place for God.”
  - God does not value individualism. The Holy Spirit wants to take our individualistic bent and build us into a group who are committed in our relationships to each other.

5. An Intertwining by the Spirit

The Goal of the Holy Spirit:

— to create a new community of love

— to establish us in committed relationships

*We who believe are carefully joined together with Christ as parts of a beautiful, constantly growing temple for God. And you also are joined with Him and with each other by the Spirit, and are part of this dwelling place of God. — Ephesians 2:21-22*

— to bind us together as one

Unity of Spirit

*Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)*

Unity of Faith

*Until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior, God's Son, and all become full-grown in the Lord—yes, to the point of being filled full with Christ — Ephesians 4:13*

Unity in Ministry

*And so become more and more in every way like Christ who is the Head of His body, the church. Under His direction the whole body is fitted together perfectly, and each part in its own special way helps the other parts, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love. — Ephesians 4:16*

- The third goal of the Holy Spirit is to bind us together into unity:
  - To bring us into Unity of **SPIRIT** “... make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bonds of peace.”
  - To bring us into Unity of **FAITH** “... until finally we all believe alike about our salvation and about our Savior ...”
  - To bring us into Unity in **MINISTRY** “... a health Body of Christ growing and full of love.”
  
- The Holy Spirit wants to build this kind of committed fellowship in our town as a result of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Then people will see what authentic Christianity is really like – not a head trip, but a dynamic, powerful, real, loving and committed Christianity vs. a counterfeit.
  
- Whatever the Baptism of the Holy Spirit may have brought into your life that’s good, if you keep it for yourself, if you don’t use it for the intended purpose, it will be just like food left too long – it will turn sour, even poisonous – and whatever good there was, you’ll lose it.



What will this experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit be like?

- God does not “build” us like we build cars in factories ... stamping the same car out over and over. He tailor-makes our spiritual experiences.
  - No two personalities are alike
  - No two conversion experiences are alike; we all have our own story. Your spiritual journey story is different from everyone else. There may be some similarities, but it’s unique.
  - No two baptisms with the Holy Spirit are alike.
  
- Don’t go around looking for someone else’s experience!
  
- The Holy Spirit knows how to bless us with gifts and abilities that are best for us:
  - Some immediately speak in tongues
  - Some have great love for God and others
  - Some have a new joy
  - Some have an inner awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit
  - Some have new freedoms to witness
  - Some had a keener sense of God’s guidance
  - Some have a new hunger for the Word or spiritual fellowship
  - Others have a new awareness of sins and shortcomings
  
- Even as He does this, the common denominator is the same – the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Trinity, is now operating actively, miraculously, and supernaturally in our lives.
  
- Some of you have prayed and received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Others aren’t sure. Some of you may have blocks.
  
- We’re going to pray today that God will release you – everyone of you – into the full measure of what God has for you.

**WHAT WILL THIS EXPERIENCE OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM BE LIKE?**

God knows how to “tailor-make” our experiences

- no two personalities are alike
- no two conversions are alike
- no two Baptisms with the Spirit are alike

The details of our personal experiences will differ. God does not run us through the factory so that we all come out the same. He is creating an individual expression of His life within each one of us according to His master plan. He knows how to bless us with the gifts and abilities that are best for us.

But, even as He does this, there is one thing which always is the same. The Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the Godhead, is now operating actively, miraculously, supernaturally within our lives.

**F.L.C. — EMPOWER: Adopting the Lifestyle**  
**Question Sheet, Session 2**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

1. Read Ephesians 5:18. In what ways can you see a comparison between being “intoxicated with wine” and being “filled with the Spirit?”
2. Holy does John 7:37-39 relate to what you have learned about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?
3. What will be the one thing which always is the same in the experience of all who receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?
4. Read carefully Mathew 14:22-33 (fill in the blanks)

The disciples were very frightened, so Jesus spoke to them and said, ” \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ it is I. Don’t be \_\_\_\_\_.”

When he saw Jesus, Peter immediately wanted Jesus to tell him to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. But, before Peter could even start he had to \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ the boat. Peter became \_\_\_\_\_ and  
started to sink. Jesus let Peter know that he began to sink because he had little  
\_\_\_\_\_. “Why did you \_\_\_\_\_?” Jesus said.

PLEASE NOTE CAREFULLY — Peter wanted to walk on the water like Jesus did. Jesus said,

“Come!!” But Jesus didn’t lift Peter out of the boat, He just called forth Peter’s faith. Peter had to swing one leg out of the boat and then the other leg out of the boat and take a step in faith by letting loose of the boat completely before he could walk on the water.

Like Peter, you too must let go and take a step of faith if you are to receive the baptism (or infilling) of the Holy Spirit, and then believe firmly He will do it as you start out to walk with Him in the new dimension which He has promised to give you.

## **FULL LIFE IN CHRIST, Group Facilitator Suggestions**

### **EMPOWER: Adopting the Lifestyle, Session 2**

#### **FIRST**

Go over the group's responses to the questions from the front of last week's question sheet. Let several read the story which they wrote on the back of the sheet.

#### **NEXT**

Let various members share how and when they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

#### **NOW**

The details of each person's experience will differ, but there will be a "common denominator" in all of our Baptisms with the Holy Spirit. Discuss that "common denominator" in the light of tonight's teaching.

#### **THEN**

It might be well to discuss the following questions:

1. Why is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit not necessarily a sign of spiritual maturity and holiness? Do most Christians today understand this?
2. How does the Baptism with the Holy Spirit open up to us a "supernatural dimension" for our lives? Encourage some to share from their own experience in this regard.
3. What might hinder a believer from experiencing the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

#### Facilitator's Note

Pride, unyieldedness of our will, unconfessed and unrepented sin, lack of openness to the gifts of the Spirit, or past participation in any form of occult practices which has not been dealt with are all things that can block the experience of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit from our lives.

#### **FINALLY**

Invite those who want special prayer for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit to receive it in your group or stay after the session to pray.

#### **FOR NEXT WEEK**

1. Complete the Study Questions for Session #2.