



ROYAL POWER
BAPTISM

– CAPTAIN SIMON SINGH

ROYAL POWER – 5

Check list for receiving the promise

We need to prepare carefully for this baptism in the Holy Spirit. We should examine ourselves. Mainly we need to direct our attention to Jesus Christ.

We may need to repent of human sins, it may be necessary to put things right between ourselves and others. This may include forgiving or asking forgiveness of others.

Heart searching is important, but don't prolong it beyond reason. The Devil will always show us something else, or get us to believe we are just not good enough. Be honest about everything, and leave it in the hands of God.

There are four factors which are necessary to receive this promise of God:

1. Faith

It is by faith and patience that we receive God's promises (Hebrew 6: 12). Faith is the inner conviction that what God has promised to us He will supply. Jesus called the baptism with the Spirit "the gift of My Father promised" (Acts 1: 4).

If we do not believe that God keeps His promises, then we make Him out to be a liar (1 John 5: 10). Confess your unbelief to God, believe in your forgiveness, and then trust what the Lord says. Faith is both a fruit and a gift of the Holy Spirit. So there is a plentiful supply of it in Heaven, and all for the asking!

2. Prayer

Jesus said that God would give the Holy Spirit "to those who ask Him" (Luke 11: 13). There is a small detail which is often overlooked in the story of Jesus' baptism. We are told that Lord Jesus received the anointing of the Holy Spirit "as He was praying" (Luke 3: 21). In the Acts we see the Holy Spirit received through prayer and usually the laying on of hands.

3. Action

The first two seem to put the ball firmly in God's court. We ask Him to do something. But there is a response we need to make also. The Lord puts the ball back into our court. We need to act upon our request.

I would guess that failure to take this factor seriously is still the major hindrance to people being filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus was constantly getting people to do something in response to His initiatives. The lame were asked to walk, those with paralysed arms to stretch them out, the blind to see and the lepers to get their cure registered with the priests. In other words to act in line with what has just been asked for. It's as simple as that.

4. A Sign

When the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, their faith response or action was to speak in tongues. It was something they did. God wasn't going to do it for them. It was human action, yet inspired by the Holy Spirit, for speaking in tongues is a gift of that same Spirit.

Speaking in tongues is something we do; but with the help of the Spirit. We speak, and the Spirit gives us the words to say. It was the sign of St. Peter, when he was in the house of Cornelius (Acts 10: 44 - 46), that the Gentiles were receiving the Spirit without first becoming Jews. It can be for us also a useful sign or evidence (though not a necessary one) that we have been baptised in the Spirit.

Royal power, once we have received it, leads us into a new dimension of Christian living. The kingdom of God becomes a new reality to us.

God Bless

Capt Simon Singh