

WAS JESUS FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT FROM BIRTH?

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An Expose Of One of Modern Churchianity's False Doctrines

Recently a member of The E.D.G.E. Online Mailing List posted the following comment:

"Something that I'd like to share with you is something I learned this past week. Jesus did not have the Holy Spirit in Him until He was baptized by John. Just thought you might find that interesting. If you disagree email me."

----- End Of Quote -----

I have to admit, that the above comment is an interesting speculation, and one which, until now, I had never really looked into before. Like many others, I have just blindly accepted and assumed that Jesus was filled with the Spirit at the time of His water baptism by John, just as the above comment claims. But, being the curious and analytical soul that I am, I decided to research the matter to find a more definitive answer on the subject. Thus, this article is an examination of what I have discovered. I hope you are prepared for what might be a shocking revelation for you.

Would it surprise you if I suggested that perhaps Jesus' baptism wasn't exactly what everyone has been led to believe by organized religion? Hasn't it ever struck you as being rather odd that we are taught that John was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, yet Jesus, the very Son of God, had to wait some thirty years until His baptism by John to receive the same Power and Anointing? Don't the Gospels tell us that Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost? In fact, don't they tell us that BOTH Mary and Elizabeth were overshadowed, or filled, with the Holy Ghost? It is as clear as day if you read the Scriptures with an open mind. Let's take a look at Jesus' conception first. In the Gospel of Luke we find the following account:

"...The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God." (Luke 1:35)

I suppose it is a matter of personal interpretation of this cryptic passage, but if the Holy Ghost came upon Mary, and the power of the Highest overshadowed her, it sounds to me like it is saying she was filled with the Holy Spirit, which is why the angel Gabriel calls Jesus a 'holy thing.' Jesus was in fact a creation of God's Spirit within Mary's womb. Unlike John who was the result of normal human intercourse, Jesus was the result of a miraculous union of flesh and Spirit. Of course, we also know that John's conception was a miracle because we are told that Elizabeth was barren and of

old age, just like Abraham and Sarah had been. Let me share that verse with you because it will become very important later on in this discussion:

"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren." (Luke 1:36)

We are also told that Elizabeth was so embarrassed at being pregnant at such an old age that she hid herself for the first five months:

"And after those days his wife Elisabeth conceived, and hid herself five months, saying, Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men." (Luke 1:24-25)

Personally, I find it quite interesting that two of the most blessed women of all time were scorned by society because of their unorthodox pregnancies, one in her old age, and the other impregnated by questionable means. Remember, until he was instructed by the angel, even Joseph had thought to put away Mary his espoused wife:

"Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a publick example, was minded to put her away privily." (Matthew 1:19)

But, it is in His very unorthodox methods that God shows His true greatness:

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:" (1 Corinthians 1:27-28)

Getting back to the main issue, the point is that John had to be filled with the Holy Spirit, while Jesus was the very essence of or creation of the Holy Spirit to begin with. Another speculative article I wrote on this topic is 'Holy Ghost: Spirit Of Jesus Christ?' which also explores the possibility of a unique relationship between Jesus and the Holy Spirit. You might want to take a look at it if you haven't already done so.

Now, if you reject this idea of Jesus being filled with the Holy Spirit since His conception, or even being the actual incarnation of the Spirit, however you prefer to look at it, then you are going to have a very hard time explaining to me how it is that at the age of twelve, He was already busy with His Father's work apparently WITHOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT, since you don't believe He received it until His baptism by John some eighteen years later. According to Acts 1:8, the whole purpose of the Holy Ghost is to give each of us the power to witness, which is EXACTLY what Jesus was doing at the tender age of twelve:

"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in

Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

We are told that the doctors of the law were amazed and astonished by the wisdom in Jesus' words:

"And all that heard him were astonished at his understanding and answers. And when they saw him, they were amazed: and his mother said unto him, Son, why hast thou thus dealt with us? behold, thy father and I have sought thee sorrowing."

(Luke 2:47-48)

And what was Jesus' response when His parents finally found Him in The Temple?:

"And he said unto them, How is it that ye sought me? wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" (Luke 2:49)

I find it extremely difficult to believe that at this young age, Jesus is already aware of His calling and ministry, and is teaching the doctors of the law in The Temple, WITHOUT the anointing of the Holy Ghost. Unless God's Spirit was already upon Him and in Him, how could the boy Jesus possibly know these things? How could He state them with such certainty of purpose? Surely it must have been God's Spirit speaking through Him with such authority. If we look only a few verses earlier, we find the following:

"And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him." (Luke 2:40)

Notice that the word 'spirit' is not capitalized. This could mean that it should be taken in a generic sense, such as when you say, 'That person has got a lot of spirit.' At the same time, it could be a typographical error. Going by the rest of the verse, there are indications that it may actually be referring to THE Spirit. I base this on the fact that it also says He was filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. If we turn to John chapter fourteen where Jesus is discussing with His disciples the coming baptism of the Holy Ghost, we find the following verse:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." (John 14:26)

How is it that the Holy Ghost will give them the power to witness?...By TEACHING them all things, and bringing all things to their remembrance. In other words, the Holy Spirit would teach them the wisdom of God because it is the Spirit of Wisdom. If you doubt this connection between the anointing of the Holy Spirit and being strong in spirit and filled with wisdom, as Jesus was described in Luke 2:40, consider what we find in Acts chapter six concerning the selection of Stephen and others AFTER the day of Pentecost:

"Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business." (Acts 6:3)

Notice that it almost appears as if 'Holy Ghost' and 'wisdom' are synonymous. A few short verses later, Stephen is 'full of faith and power' doing great wonders and miracles. The Holy Spirit is so strong upon him that no one can resist him:

"And they were not able to resist the wisdom and the spirit by which he spake." (Acts 6:10)

Notice again, the very same words, 'wisdom' and 'spirit,' (with a small 's'), just like the verse describing the child Jesus. Just as this verse is referring to the Holy Spirit, so is the verse describing Jesus' childhood. Both of these verses should have had a capital 'S' in my opinion. A few chapters earlier, we see how Peter and John were likewise filled with the power and wisdom of God, the Spirit of Wisdom:

"Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men, they marvelled; and they took knowledge of them, that they had been with Jesus." (Acts 4:13)

So you see, power, (being strong in spirit), and wisdom are the results of being filled with the Holy Ghost. If you are not yet convinced of this connection between the Holy Spirit and wisdom, that they are in fact almost, if not synonymous, here are a few more verses"

"For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;" (1 Corinthians 12:8)

"That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him:" (Ephesians 1:17)

If you want to ponder further on this, consider that in the Old Testament proverbs, God's Spirit is likewise described as Wisdom which He possessed since the very beginning of time, even before the physical Creation of the universe:

"The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old." (Proverbs 8:22)

In fact, in a specific prophecy concerning Jesus from the book of Isaiah, we read the following:

"And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;" (Isaiah 11:1-2)

So then, based on the description of Jesus' own birth, the very same descriptive terminology being used to describe His childhood and the acts of the Spirit-filled disciples, as well as the additional Scriptures I have provided, I personally have no doubt that Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, and NOT when He was about thirty years of age, as many of us have been erroneously taught. As a

rational thinking human being, doesn't it strike you as being even the least bit odd that Jesus would be denied the Holy Spirit for ninety per cent of His life, only to have It for the last ten per cent, when John had it all of his life? Come on folks, it is time to chuck some of the false doctrines which some of the churches have taught you. Jesus said if the blind lead the blind, they will both fall into the ditch. (Matthew 15:14) Open your eyes and see The Truth according to God's Word. Don't rely upon the false teachers of the Faith.

At this point, some of you may be wondering, 'Well, so what's the big deal? Why is it so important to know when Jesus was filled with the Spirit?' When you see this new little revelation I got today, I think you will begin to understand the wisdom of God as was to be revealed in the events surrounding John the Baptist. This stuff is heavy duty, and it blew my mind as I discovered it. We must remember that God is very organized in His ways. He has a set time and purpose for everything, even if we don't realize it. Let's take a look now at John the Baptist. Before John's birth, the angel Gabriel told his father Zacharias the following:

"And thou shalt have joy and gladness; and many shall rejoice at his birth. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb." (Luke 1:14-15)

Have you ever wondered about exactly when this prophecy was fulfilled? I never did. But today as I was revising this article, it all suddenly became clear to me. Remember the verse I shared early regarding the angel's message to Mary? Here it is again in case you forgot it:

"And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age: and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren." (Luke 1:36)

There are two important pieces of information here which most folks probably overlook. First of all, why did the angel Gabriel tell Mary about her cousin Elizabeth? Although it isn't stated directly, obviously, he wanted Mary to go visit her. Maybe he did tell her to do this, but it just wasn't recorded here. The second point is that when Mary became pregnant, Elizabeth was already in her sixth month of pregnancy. Remember that we were told she had hid for the first five months? Obviously, God has a very specific purpose in informing Mary of her cousin's pregnancy. We need to remember that they didn't have cars in those days. To travel even short distances meant walking or riding on a slow animal. At any rate, a short time later, we find Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth in the hill country of Judah. It is what happens when they first meet each other that is so miraculous:

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:" (Luke 1:41)

This is really the strangest thing if you pay close attention to what is happening here. Elizabeth hears Mary's verbal salutation and immediately baby John leaps in her womb, and Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Ghost. What is going on here? Well, I can't say for sure, but if you are willing to accept some of my other ideas which I believe I expounded upon in 'The Manipulation Of Time And Space,' maybe we can make some sense out of this. I believe it may have been in that article where I compared the Holy Spirit to a type of spiritual energy, much like electricity. Now, if Mary was filled with the Holy Ghost when she conceived Jesus, and Jesus was living and growing inside of her, isn't it possible that she continued to carry that same Spirit within her, since Jesus was Himself the very physical creation of that Spirit? Now let's focus for a moment on what Jesus said in John chapter six:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

Here we have a clear indication that the spoken word is synonymous with spirit. We also know from John chapter one and elsewhere, that Jesus is called the Word of God. In addition, we know that by merely speaking the word, by sending forth the Spirit from His mouth, all things were created in the beginning. Genesis is full of '...and God said...' Here is another verse which goes along with this:

"For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:" (2 Peter 3:5)

We also know that at the end of this current age, when He again speaks the word, the same Creation will be destroyed to make room for the new:

"But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men." (2 Peter 3:7)

So then, it should now be obvious that there is real spiritual power in the spoken word...even in our words today. Consider then the young Mary upon whom the Holy Spirit had come, who was overshadowed by the power of the Highest, and who now carried the baby Jesus. She must have been very much full of the Spirit when she went to see her cousin Elizabeth. Call it a wild imagination if you will, but it seems to me that when Mary verbally saluted her cousin, something very heavy happened in the Spirit. The only way I can think to describe it in a way which you might understand is to say that the Spirit arced from Mary, via her spoken word if you will, to Elizabeth, just like between two electrodes, filling Elizabeth, and consequently John, with the Holy Ghost. Remember, words are invisible. We can no more see them than we can see the Spirit, yet we can see and feel the effects of both of them in our lives. Let me ask you, what happens if you are in your living room walking around on the carpet, and you go over to turn on the television? You get a sudden jolt of static electricity, don't you? And what is your immediate reaction when this

happens? You jump back! You leap backwards because of the sudden unexpected shock, don't you? Now take a look again at the previous scenario:

"And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:" (Luke 1:41)

Some may consider me a bit off my rocker, but it sounds to me like there was either a transfer or sharing of spiritual Power or Energy, and Anointing passing or bridging between baby Jesus and baby John at that very minute that Mary spoke to Elizabeth. That is the precise moment at which John was filled with the Holy Ghost! That is why it was so important for Mary to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Apart from carrying baby Jesus in her womb, she was the vehicle through which God would zap baby John and his mother with the Power of the Holy Ghost...and it would be given to them by Someone who was given the Spirit without measure:

"For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him." (John 3:34)

Baby Jesus and Mary were a powerhouse of spiritual Energy who went to charge John's battery so-to-speak. It all fits perfectly. John didn't have the Holy Spirit for the first five months of his life until Jesus, who was filled from conception, gave him a jolt of the Spirit when His mother opened her mouth and saluted Elizabeth. Who knows, maybe it was even the Lord speaking through Mary, using her words as the vehicle to accomplish the transfer of Power! Another possibility is that maybe it was just the proximity of their bodies acting as spiritual electrodes which activated the discharge of Energy or Spirit. However, I am more inclined to think it had to do with the actual words spoken by Mary. Now, we could be tempted to think, 'Well, what if Mary had never made that trip? Would John not have received the Holy Spirit at that particular point in his life?' I think that is a mute issue simply because, being as He lives in the Eternal Now, God knew the future. He knew ahead of time that Mary would make the right decision to obey and thus go to visit her cousin Elizabeth.

This whole idea of Spirit and Energy goes right along with a few things I've heard about the Ark of the Covenant. We know that when the enemies of the children of Israel were foolish enough to steal the Ark of the Covenant, they were slain by some invisible force. I have heard theories which state that, considering the shape and types of materials used to construct the Ark, (like lots of gold which is an excellent conductor!), it may have acted like a large battery or power unit...or maybe it just drew the Spiritual Energy from the Other Side, I really don't quite know. What I do know is that when the wrong folks got near it, the Lord would allow a spark of Invisible Energy, or Spirit, to arc over and electrocute them. It would be interesting to do a close study of the garments worn by Aaron the high priest and his successors. Could it be that it served to protect them in some way from the High Voltage of the Most High?

Another example I've shared in other articles concerns the

transfer of Power between Elijah and Elisha. I am convinced that there is some link between what the Bible refers to as Spirit, and what we today call energy or electricity. Remember what Paul said in his epistle to the Romans:

"For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:" (Romans 1:20)

All I know is, there are a lot of things in the Bible which we have barely begun to grasp. While the mechanics of the Spiritual Universe are beyond our human comprehension, I can't help but wonder if man isn't beginning to tinker with their most basic elements in his exploration of physics and other related disciplines. Could this be why Jesus said:

"...Is it not written in your law, I said, Ye are gods?" (John 10:34b)

...but that is another article which I am currently working on. Now and then we come across certain movies in which it seems that someone has come across some bit of Truth which they are trying share with us in a science fiction or fantasy-like environment. I think Raiders Of The Lost Ark may have had some of this. The nature of the Antarians in the 'Cocoon' series also made me pause to wonder. If we equate Spirit with Energy, the description of Jesus in His glorified body with eyes like fire and feet like polished brass certainly seems to bare similarities to what we saw in 'Cocoon.' Think of the brightness of the sun. Think of the brightness of a nuclear explosion. And then think of the descriptions of Jesus in His Spiritual Body in the Bible. Is the similarity just a coincidence? Is this why we can no more look at the sun or at an explosion with our bare eyes than we can look at God and live? You might want to read my article 'The Seeing God Face-To-Face Dilemma.'

Before moving on towards the conclusion of this article, I think it is also important to mention that there is an evil side to this whole concept of equating verbal words with spiritual energy. In the case of God and Jesus, it is primarily a positive creative force, although God can also use His words to chastise and destroy as is evidenced by the two-edged sword:

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

I discuss this concept more fully in the article 'Beholding The Evil And The Good.' However, in the case of Satan, the spoken word is a purely negative and destructive force. Consider when Lucifer made his first utterance to Eve in Genesis chapter three. His words were to destroy and tear down the creation of God; and he has been working at it ever since. This is why we are told that he is the father of lies:

"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it." (John 8:44)

Just as Positive Energy or Spirit flows from the mouths of God's children, we are told that the opposite is true with the children of wrath. We find an excellent symbolic picture of this in 'the unholy trinity' in the book of Revelation:

"And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are the spirits of devils, working miracles, which go forth unto the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty."
(Revelation 16:13-14)

If you want to see an excellent example of this negative spiritual warfare which is being waged right now in our very day, just turn on your television set or your radio or your computer. The airwaves and telephone lines are full of the negative propaganda of the Prince of the Power of the Air. The politicians and merchants of the world bombard our lives everyday with their Great Confusion to try to block out the still small voice of God:

"And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice."
(1 Kings 19:12)

Let's return now to the original theme of this article, that is, the baptism of Jesus. In my quest to do a thorough research on the subject, I continued looking through the four Gospels for more clues. In so doing, I found the following accounts which seem to further indicate that perhaps Jesus did not have to wait until His baptism by John to be filled with the Holy Spirit:

"And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:" (Matthew 3:16)

Notice that Matthew doesn't specifically say that it is the Holy Ghost or the Holy Spirit, he just calls it 'the Spirit of God'. Could he possibly be referring to an angel which came to minister to Jesus? As I stated in another paper, depending upon the original translator's preference, just changing 'the' to 'a' can make a very big difference in meaning. For example, 'the Spirit' and 'a Spirit' can mean two very different things, can't they? As I have shown previously, there are indications that in some places a capital 'S' should have been used in place of a small 's'. Could the exact opposite also apply as in the above verse? In other words, in all places where the actual Holy Ghost was mentioned, a capital 'S' should be used, while in all others, when referring to lesser angels or spirits, a small 's' should be used.

I have also always wondered why the writers of the Gospels compared the Spirit to a dove. Was it because it was white? Or because it was a being with wings? Or because it gently came down upon Jesus from up in the sky? Or because it was something else which flew and which had wings? While Christian paintings tend to draw a literal dove above Jesus, just as they paint literal tongues of fire above the Apostles' heads in Pentecost paintings, I tend to believe that these words were the closest terms which the early writers could find to describe something unexplainable which they had never seen or experienced before. They are making a comparison. They are not saying that it was a dove, but rather something which they only knew to relate to a dove.

The Gospel of Mark says about the same as Matthew:

"And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:" (Mark 1:10)

The part about the heavens opening is also interesting. Does this just mean the clouds parted and something white and possibly with wings appeared, and then came down to settle upon Jesus? What exactly did they see? Was an interdimensional gap or vortex opened up as I describe in 'The Manipulation Of Time And Space'? Did this result in the formation of some type of luminescent cloud, what some might refer to as the 'Shekinah Glory'? Was this the dove?

The writer Luke describes it this way:

"And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased." (Luke 3:22)

Notice that Luke is the only one to specifically say that it is the Holy Ghost. Notice his use of the words 'bodily shape.' This is a clear indication that something very physical was in the sky which they could all see. They could actually see the shape of this thing. He then goes on to describe the voice which came down from heaven just like the others did, although I haven't included all of the verses here.

In the Gospel of John, John the Baptist says:

"And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost." (John 1:32-33)

John the Baptist adds more information by stating that the Spirit remains on Jesus. This could be a reference to the actual in-dwelling of the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Body. However, if the Holy Spirit is invisible, how is that they physically saw it? Normally, when we think of God's Spirit, we think of some kind of invisible force which fills the person, right? Some folks consider the Holy Ghost to be an actual spiritual entity. But in all of these verses, those

who are bearing testimony of the incident report a variety of visible or audible signs. These include actually seeing the Spirit descend, seeing the heavens parting, and hearing a voice. All of these things came from above. It all sounds very physical, like something was actually happening in the sky. I will leave it up to my readers to draw their own conclusions. You might wish to refer to my article 'Under The Cloud: UFO's And The Bible' if you are interested in some very unorthodox speculations.

So, the question remains, do the above verses mean that this is the first time that Jesus is receiving or making contact with the Holy Spirit? Can we even be certain that they are in fact stating that Jesus is receiving the Holy Spirit since only one writer makes this distinction? Based on what I have presented in the first half of this paper, I am not convinced of it. Remember also what Jesus said to Nathanael in John chapter one:

"...Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man." (John 1:51)

Could this be what was really witnessed on the day of Jesus' baptism by John? This verse is almost identical to Jacob's dream in the book of Genesis:

"And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it." (Genesis 28:12)

Some have speculated that Jacob had a vision of some kind of celestial craft, a UFO, with some type of angelic beings going up and down a ladder. Is it possible that this 'ladder' was actually a beam of light or gravitational beam? Could Jacob's dream not have been a prophetic vision of the future, of the time when the angels would come to minister to Jesus? Could this be what John the Baptist and others witnessed that day at the Jordan River? As a possible confirmation of this, consider that shortly after Jesus had fasted for forty days in the wilderness and had been tempted by Satan, we find the following verse:

"Then the devil leaveth him, and, behold, angels came and ministered unto him." (Matthew 4:11)

"And he was there in the wilderness forty days, tempted of Satan; and was with the wild beasts; and the angels ministered unto him." (Mark 1:13)

The Apostle Paul also commented on this topic of ministering angels when he said:

"Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?" (Hebrews 1:14)

While in the previous version of this article I had indicated that I could not provide a definitive answer as to exactly when Jesus was filled with the Spirit, with the additional information I have now uncovered, it looks more

and more to me as if it occurred at the very moment of His conception...and for a very good reason as I've already pointed out. If Jesus is the First Creation of the Father, the only begotten of the Father, the Firstfruits of the Resurrection, etc., it seems to me that He would also be the first to be endowed with, filled with, annointed with or created by the Spirit. Afterall, as stated at the beginning of this article, He was a direct result of the union of flesh and Spirit in Mary's womb. He was a physical manifestation of the Spirit of God, so why would He need to be filled with it some thirty years later? It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. It is my view then that the baptism of John has been misunderstood, either due to intentional manipulation by organized religion at some point in history, or possibly due to a slightly inaccurate translation of a few words, or simply due to our lack of a proper understanding of what is really being said in the Gospels. Personally, I don't feel it is really a major issue to debate over. The most important point is that Jesus was filled with the Spirit of God, and not only was He filled with it, but He was filled with it without measure. Just like the River of Life, the Spirit flowing from Jesus was endless. For this reason, so many people were wonderfully healed just by His spoken word or by a mere touch of His garment or a touch of the Master's hands. And more important than a physical healing of our temporal bodies, it is the words Jesus spoke which give us Eternal Life IF we believe in them:

"It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life." (John 6:63)

Jesus promised to send the Comforter to those who believe, God's very own Spirit to dwell in our beings. It is through the power of the Holy Ghost that we receive the annointing and the boldness to proclaim the Words of Truth to a spiritually destitute world. This is not just a promise of the past as some false religionists like to claim. God's promises are just as much for us today as they were for the disciples of yesteryear. God's Spirit is alive and moving. If your spiritual life is feeling kind of dry, if the desire is in your heart to share the Word of God with others, but you just can't seem to muster up the will to do it, perhaps it is because you are lacking something. Perhaps you are lacking that Power that God so desires to give you. Have you been baptised with God's Holy Spirit? If you are not sure, it is yours for the asking, for as Jesus clearly said:

"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13)

It's as simple as that. You don't need to belong to a church or religious organization to do it. You don't need to be dunked in water. All you have to do is ask and believe that you have received. It is an action of faith:

"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" (Matthew 7:7)

"And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." (Matthew 21:22)

"And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." (1 John 5:14-15)

Don't be tricked by those who tell you that you must join their church first and then speak in tongues to be sure that you are filled with the Spirit of God. Personally, the way some of those folks act, jumping up and down, rolling all over the floor, being 'slain in the spirit,' I really wonder what spirit they are being slain with! It sure isn't the one I am familiar with! <grin> God is not the author of confusion, folks!:

"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints." (1 Corinthians 14:33)

In Matthew chapter 24, Jesus said that this Gospel of the Kingdom would be preached in all the world, and then the end would come. To preach the Gospel, we need the spiritual help that God offers. So please, if you aren't sure, or haven't asked yet for the anointing of the Holy Spirit, please do so today. He won't let you down. He promised. And once you do, I guarantee you that the 'holy hounds of Heaven' will be on your tail to preach the Gospel! I trust this article has been a blessing to many.

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