*Wednesday, May 29, 2013*

**Baptism**

Luke 12:49-50 I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? 50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! (KJV)

I want to focus on the term baptism, what it means, and what it doesn’t mean anymore. Baptism symbolizes what happens when one is born again, renewed in the Spirit. Our Lord knew that He was called to offer Himself as the perfect sacrifice so that the Holy Spirit could be poured out and mankind could be reborn into the realm of the Spirit. When you see those that still hold to the carnal interpretations, you see carnal Christians who have chosen to limit the Lord to the outward and their watered down doctrines.

Acts 1:3-5 To whom also he showed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: 4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (KJV)

Up until this point the disciples were not yet born again, or baptized with the Holy Ghost which is why our Lord was encouraging them to stay there a little longer. Our Lord is also explaining the difference between the old and the new, how John was operating in a carnal washing, while He was going to show how to be cleansed and reborn in the Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (KJV)

Throughout the scriptures you will find wind symbolizing the Spirit. What do you really see taking place here? Here, you see the true meaning of baptism taking place, where one is born again and baptized into Christ. Baptism is described as being immersed with a force. For some reason many separate the experience of being born again, and being baptized into Christ, thinking they happen at different times; but what really happens with many is that they just realize later on in their walk what really took place when they were filled with the Spirit, and all that goes with being born again.

Acts 19:1-6 And it came to pass, that, while Apollo’s was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. (KJV)

Today many have limited themselves to the outward realm, rather than immersing themselves into the spiritual one. When you are born again, you are now baptized into Christ.

God bless dearly loved, and have a prosperous day in Christ Jesus our Lord.