

## Cleansed by the Holy Ghost and Fire

*"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matthew 3:11).*

Isaiah, that honest-hearted man **saw the Glory of God, he saw It in action.** And he cried out, as a sinner, and confessed himself to be a sinner. He had never seen anything like that, so real, before. **He confessed that he was a sinner** (*Isaiah 6:1-8*).

Then what happened? **When the prophet got ready to confess, then come the real cleansing.**

**Until the people gets ready to confess, there is no need of having these healing services. If you will confess your sins, confess your unbelief, confess the things that you are doing wrong, then God can do something. But until there is a confession, there can be no cleansing.**

And as soon as Isaiah said, *"Woe is me! I'm a man of unclean lips, and I dwell with people of unclean lips."* **Then come the confession, that, then come the Cherubim with the Fire.** Did you notice? God never used a seminary to cleanse him with. **He never used a book of laws to clean him with. He cleansed him by Fire.**

**God always cleanses His servants, when He is ready to put them in duty, by the Holy Ghost and Fire. God cleanses by Fire; not by books, not by education, not by intellectual conception, not by denomination. But by the Fire of the Holy Spirit, God cleanses His servant.**

Then notice, then, after the **confession**, after the **cleansing**, then come the **commission**. Then was the commission. **After confessed and cleansed**, it was then that the clean Isaiah answered God, and said, "Here am I, send me." **After he was cleansed, confessed, cleansed by the Fire, then that clean Isaiah was ready for work. He was ready to be an example.** He was ready to have to put his life out, **that others could be influenced by him.**

**But until he had confessed it, until he was cleansed**, then he was a very poor influence, just as a puppet for the king. [1]

Then Isaiah learned another lesson. Did you notice, **God cleanses His prophets by Fire**, not by theology or a book of some kind. See? **He cleans His people by Fire, Holy Ghost and Fire; not by declaration of creeds, or books or something you've got to learn, a bunch of prayers, and so forth. He cleans them by Fire off of the altar. That's how He sets him in order.** Yeah. Yes, sir. That's how He cleansed His prophets at the beginning, when a hundred and twenty was in an upper room (*Acts 1:12-14*), the Holy Ghost fell, **and tongues of Fire set upon them.** They were cleansed and ready for service (*Acts 2:1-4*). **That's how God cleans. Not by learning**, get a Bachelor of Art, or a DD., Ph.D.; **but getting Holy Fire from Heaven, that takes the lying off of your lips, and takes the carnality out of you, burns that stuff away, that dross of the world, and puts His Presence in there and lives through that person. Holy Fire is what God cleans His Church with.**

Isaiah learned that. **We ought to learn it, that God doesn't cleanse by knowledge. He cleans by Fire.** [2]

Notice, He never sent him off to get a Ph.D. degree. He never gave him a book of rules to learn. But He, God, was showing the prophet **that His cleansing power was by Fire off the altar.** Amen.

God's cleansing power today is not recite a creed or join a church. **It's the power of the Holy Ghost and Fire that comes down and cleanses a man from all of his unbelief.** Amen.

God's way of **cleansing** a prophet **is by fire**, not by creed. What would a prophet know about a creed? He is going to be used of God. **The Word was going to be made manifest through him.** So He couldn't give him a creed, he'd be holding on to that creed. So He took the Fire off the altar and cleansed the prophet. [3]

Now notice, **sanctification**, the second stage of it, **cleanses the mind; sets the heart, the mind of the heart, in order of holiness.**

A man can repent of sins and he is still thinking of... Well, maybe he's an immoral man, every immoral looking woman he finds, is still there. Maybe he's a drunkard; every time he smells the drink, it's still there.

**But then when he gets sanctified, that cleanses that desire out of him. It takes the want of it away (Heb. 10:1-2). He can still be tempted (I Cor. 10:13). but He takes the want of it away.** Still, he's not right yet.

**Then, he is baptized with the Holy Ghost and Fire (Matt. 3:11). Cleansed, burnt out, cleaned up; and then put into the service of God.**

**Sanctification only sets them aside for service.**

And notice just exactly how that come, the messages coming. **Martin Luther, justification; John Wesley, sanctification; the pentecostal, the baptism of the Holy Ghost.** The messages, that's where there **can't be no more ages** of it, see. **We're at the end time. Three stages. Baptism cleanses the heart with the Holy Ghost.**

How striking now, He takes the place where we are to dwell in, through the same process.

Now, He's called the Church through **justification**, called It through **sanctification, then filled It with the Holy Ghost and Fire.** And He took It through a process, **that He Himself, the Holy Spirit Himself, the Son of God, could dwell in the human heart.** Now, It has to go through that **before He can come into It.**

Notice, He done the world, where that Bride is going to live in, the same way, **His same plan of salvation (II Peter 3:1-15).**

Notice now how He makes His way known by His prophets, in the beginning. He has never changed it.

**He justified a man; sanctified him; sent the Holy Ghost and Fire, and burnt the sin out of him, and dwelt in him, Himself.**

He does the earth, that He's going to **use in a plan of redemption**, the same way. It repented and **was baptized in water, by Noah. Jesus come and sanctified it, by dripping His Blood upon it, and claimed it. And in the New Earth that's to come,**

**it's to have a holy Fire baptism, to clean it of every devil, every germ, every sickness, everything that there is, and make it anew. "I saw a New Heaven and a New Earth." (Rev. 21:1-3).**

**You become a new person (Eph. 2:14-18; II Cor. 5:17). Amen! Not just an old one patched up, by joining church or trying to turn a new page, but you are a complete brand-new unit. God takes the old man and burns him completely out (Rom. 7:1-6), with the Holy Ghost and Fire, and comes Himself, sends down your representation. "No man can come to Me except My Father has drawn him. And all the Father has given Me will come to Me." (John 6:37-39,44). You see it? Same plan; same way. [4]**

Now, we find, this life holds all kinds of evils, so therefore the life that is to come won't have it. **This one has lust, and sickness, death.** Because, what is it? It's not the house that He's gone to prepare. **This is a pesthouse.** How many knows what a pesthouse is? (Phil. 3:20-21). Sure. Well, that's what you're living in. A pesthouse is where they put all the diseased people. Well, **that's just what sin done to us, put us in an earthly pesthouse.** They wouldn't let anyone else come in the pesthouse, because there's all kinds of germs flying around in there, and the people will take these germs and be sick, themselves. **And sin brought us into the Devil's pesthouse.**

Oh, but the other one is called, **"My Father's House."** (John 14:1-3). **"I'll go and prepare a place for you.** Take you out of this pesthouse and deliver you into My Father's House." Amen. There you are; take you out of this old earthly pesthouse. He's gone to prepare a place, **a perfect place where no evil exists, no sickness exists, no old age exists, no death exists.**

**It's a perfect place calling you to that perfection, and you have to be perfect to get there.** The Bible said so. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father in Heaven is perfect." (Matt. 5:48). **It's a perfect Kingdom, so it must be a perfect people come. Because, you have to stand and be married to a perfect Son of God, and you must be a perfect Bride.** So how can you do it through anything else **but the perfect Word of God,** which is, "The Waters of separation, that washes us from our sins"? (Eph. 5:26-27). Amen. That's right. **The Blood of Jesus Christ, think of It, the dripping, Bloody Word. Amen. The Blood, the Word of God bleeding Blood, to wash the Bride in (John 1:1-3,14). Amen. Yes, sir. She stands perfect, virgin, unadulterated. She never sinned, in the first place. Amen. She was trapped into it.**

In the beginning, when the world had its birth, when God pulled back the water, first, off the earth, like He did the water from the mother's womb, there was a world born (Gen. 1:1-10). Yes. And peoples begin to live on it when God put them on there. And then they begin to sin. **And it was baptized, by immersing, in the days of Noah. Then it was sanctified by the Blood of the Creator dropping upon it.**

And now that's the way you come, **through justification, to believe God. You were baptized unto repent, or, too, for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38).** You confessed your sins before God, and He forgave you for it. And you were baptized, to show that you had been forgiven; confessing to the people, and showing

to the world, that you believe that Jesus Christ died for you. **He took your place, and now you stand in His place. He became you, that you might become Him.**

**Then the sanctifying power of God cleansed all the habits out of your life.** You used to smoke, drink, do things that wasn't right, tell lies, everything. **Then the sanctifying power of the Blood of Jesus Christ comes into your life and takes all the things away from you** (*John 17:17-19*). If you happen to say something's not wrong, quickly say, "Wait a minute. Pardon me. I didn't mean to say it like that." See? The Devil got a trap setting there. **But you got grace to come back, if you're a real Christian, say, "I was wrong."** Yes.

**Now, the next thing you receive, was the baptism of the Holy Ghost and Fire** (*I Cor. 12:13*).

Now, **God, when this Millennium is over, God is going to give the world a baptism of fire** (*Rev. 21:1-5*). It's going to blow the whole thing up. *"The heavens and earth will be on fire."* Peter said so (*II Peter 3:1-16*). **And the thing will have a baptism of fire, renovation of the whole thing.** And then there'll be a new heavens and a new earth. That's where dwelleth righteousness.

That's where we are. **We have become from mortal beings, from time beings, to Eternal beings, when the Word of God lit our souls, and we become sons and daughters of God, with the attributes, the gene of God in us,** to be sons and daughters of the Father, God in Heaven, crying, "Abba, Father! My God, my God, in my Father's House." (*Rom. 8:15-16*). [5]

When I was a little boy, brother and I, we went back out in field behind us; we met an old, old terrapin. He was the funniest looking thing to us little kids; he looked so horrible. Here is them big old legs, you know, reaching out like that. And I said, "Isn't he a funny looking thing, brother?"

He said, "Yes, he does."

I said, "Let's go look at him." When he did, went like a lot of these Christians, you know, so called: whew, draw hisself right up in the shell. "Oh, you're Brother Branham that holy-roller." "Ah, you're that guy that believes in Divine healing, you're that Divine healer." Oh, you old turtle.

So then, the first thing you know, I said, "Well, wait a minute, brother." I said, "I'll fix him." We wanted to see him walk. And he wouldn't walk for us. He was just setting there like he's dead. That's what the church has done, all got up in your Presbyterian hull, your Methodist, Baptist, and Pentecostal hull, just all packed in, "We don't want to have nothing to do with the rest of them."

You know what I said? I said, "I'll get me a switch; I'll pour it on him." I went over and got me a great big willow switch, and I just whipped him for all it was, and he didn't do a thing. You can't whip it into him. I said, "I'll tell you; I'll fix him." I took him down to the creek and got him by the shell, I said, "I'll drown him or he will walk." And I put him under the water and just a few bubbles come up, and that was all, didn't do a thing. Brother, you can baptize them three times forward, three times backwards, pour them, any who you want to, and he'd just go down a dry sinner and come up a wet one.

But you know how I made him move? I built me a little fire and set the old boy on it. He moved then. **And what the church needs today is not a whipping, not a**

**theology, but the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire. Amen. That's going to make the church move: set the church afire with the Gospel. Set the fire of God down on them through the baptism of the Holy Ghost, that'll make them move. Praise God forever. That's what it takes to make the church move.** [6]

What we need today is not an arguing on a little creed, **but what we need today is the Holy Ghost and fire, the old fashion powers of God to burn sin and selfishness, disrespect for each other, burn it out of us with the love of God.** That's right. [7]

**Under the Blood, and the Blood brings the fire.** The sacrifice was offered by fire. The blood on the fire, making smoke, the sweet smelling savour that went up to the Saviour Himself. The sweet smelling savour was the prayers of the people on the altar of the blood that went up as he prayed under the shed blood. And today when the sacrifice has been burnt by the Holy Spirit, **when you take your own sacrifice by the Blood of Jesus Christ, and throw yourself on the altar, covered by the Blood, and the Holy Ghost gets a hold of that, it sends a sweet smelling savour to God that brings you into the Shekinah Glory, and that's the only place of fellowship.** Amen.

Fellowship, that's what we need, **God's way of fellowship.** There's only one way. God provided the way of fellowship. We cannot educate ourself into it. We cannot dress ourself into it. You cannot denominate yourself into it. **You've got to be born into it through the Blood of Jesus Christ, takes you into the Divine fellowship.** Then, *"If we walk in the Light, as He is in the Light, we have fellowship one with the other, and the Blood of Jesus Christ God's Son cleanses us from all sin."* (1 John 1:6-8). Amen. [6]

**That's what the church needs today, needs the Holy Ghost and Fire, to get a church to move for the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 4:20). It'll walk then. A revival, accept Christ, the Word! (Jer. 23:29). Believe It, let It sink down** below the fifth rib on the left side, till It anchors down, the bottom of the heart. **Then, floods of joy will spring up, and joy unspeakable, and full of glory.** And the Holy Spirit will make you sing, "Fill my way every day with love, as I walk with the Heavenly Dove." It'll do something to you. What we need, it'll puts energy in there. **It'll do something for you.** [8]

What we need is an old-fashioned, God-sent, scalding religion that will scald that worldliness out of the church. **We need to come back to the Holy Ghost and fire, back to the thing that burns out the dross,** brings the old-fashioned preaching back, make Heaven high, and hell hot, gun-barrel straight (*Matt. 3:7-12*). We need that kind of a preaching. But you do it today, your congregation will vote you out. [9]

**Repent from the bottom of your heart, and lay yourself as a sacrifice on the altar, and you'll be consumed of the world, and born again of the Spirit (1 Peter 1:22); and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:36-41); He'll fill you with the Holy Ghost. Go through the right process,** not come shake hands with the

preacher and put your name on the book; **but die so dead that you don't know the world no more** (*John 12:24-25*).

Abel died on the same altar with his lamb. **And the only way you're ever going to get right with God is die on the altar with Christ** until everything becomes blackened around you. **Die there. And when you raise again, you'll be a new creature in Christ** (*Rom. 6:1-4*). Sure. [10]

I said to a young girl one time, coming on the platform, I said, "Are you a Christian?" Why, she felt stepped on. She said, "I'll give you to understand; I belong to Such-and-such a church."

I said, "That doesn't have anything to do with it, not a thing."

Brother Bosworth asked a young girl, I heard him on the platform, said, "Are you a Christian?" She said, "I'll give you to understand I burn a candle every night." Like that's got anything to do with it.

**To be a Christian means to be Christ-like, born of His Spirit, cleansed by the Holy Ghost and fire, a new creature** (*Gal. 6:14-16*), created in the likeness and the power of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. [11]

Painted fire will not warm. **What we need is an experience of the same Holy Ghost and fire, that warms the heart, and performs the Word**, and does the things, **because that same Spirit lives today in all of Its power**, much as It ever had. [12]

**The kind of Fire we need is "Holy Ghost and Fire," to burn carnality and churchanity out of us to get us back to sons and daughters of God;** where this mental theology and what you learn in the seminary out here, and so forth, will pass away, **and God can get into your heart. That's what counts.** [13]

Then John's prophecy was vindicated in God's Own order. Said, "I'm not worthy to unloose His shoes. But there is One standing among you, somewhere, He'll be the One that'll baptize you with the Holy Ghost and Fire (*Matt. 3:7-12*). How he knew where he was standing! He knew exactly. **He heard from God, and it was exactly with the Word, so he didn't care what people said.** He preached It and prophesied It, anyhow. **And watch, when a man stands for what is Truth, then God is obligated to vindicate that man the Truth.** [14]

Reference:

[1] "Influence" (63-0803E), par. 160-166 / [2] "Influence" (63-1114), par. 216 / [3] "The Influence of Another" (62-1013), par. 185-186 / [4] "The Future Home" (64-0802), par. 95-102, 142-145 / [5] "Things That Are To Be" (65-1205), par. 61-64 / [6] "The Basis of Fellowship" (61-0214), par. 56-59 / [7] "Thirsting For Life" (58-0611), par. 50 / [8] "Be Not Afraid" (63-0607), par. 162 / [9] "A Guide" (62-1014E), par. 54  
[10] "If God Be With Us, Then Where Is All The Miracles" (61-1231E), par. 193-194 / [11] "Thirsting For Life" (59-0414), par. 25 / [12] "A Missionary Talk" (58-0330A), par. 22 / [13] "The Uncertain Sound" (55-0731), par. 172 / [14] "Events Made Clear By Prophecy" (65-0801E), par. 101-102

---

Spiritual Building-Stone No. 209 from the Revealed Word of this hour, compiled by:  
Gerd Rodewald, Friedenstr. 69, D-75328 Schömberg, Germany, [www.biblebelievers.de](http://www.biblebelievers.de)

---

*There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.*

*[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]*