

## 8 The Baptism Of Fire

**BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,  
FOR THEY SHALL SEE GOD.**

Matthew 5:8

Deliverance from a spirit is not complete as long as the iniquity remains, because the enemy can return as long as there is a place for him in the desire of our heart. An iniquity is a desire. That iniquity will remain in our heart until God removes it by the baptism of fire. We may conceal it or cover it, but it will still manifest under the right circumstances. Therefore, in order to be truly cleansed, the iniquity must be submitted to God to be burned out by the baptism of fire. In the baptism of fire, our heart is change. When our heart is changed the evil spirit cannot return except through willful sin.

In the parable in Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist tells us about the baptism of fire that Jesus brings.

**I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance,  
but He who is coming after me is mightier than I,  
whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.**

**He will baptize you with the Holy Sprit and fire.**

**His winnowing fan is in His hand,  
and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor,  
and gather His wheat into the barn;**

**but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.**

M't.3:11,12

In the baptism of fire the "chaff" is burned up with unquenchable fire. The chaff is the waste or refuse that God will not allow to enter His kingdom. The harvest for the kingdom will be "thoroughly purged" with a baptism of fire. Those of the harvest will thus be purified of iniquity.

In the baptism of fire, iniquity is removed from our heart by the all-consuming fire of God.

**Therefore understand today that the LORD your God is He who goes over before you as a consuming fire. He will destroy them and bring them down before you; so you shall drive them out and destroy them quickly, as the LORD has said to you.**

De.9:3

"Them" refers to your enemies which are spirits and iniquities within your life (land). You shall drive them out by the word of God; you shall destroy them quickly by the word of God, spoken and believed.

When the iniquity is burned out, we will have a new heart and a new spirit. This is the fulfillment of God's promise given in the Old Testament.

**I will gather you from the peoples,  
assemble you from the countries where you have been scattered,  
and I will give you the land of Israel.**

**And they will go there,  
and they will take away all its detestable things  
and all its abominations from there.**

**Then I will give them one heart,  
and I will put a new spirit within them,  
and take the stony heart out of their flesh,  
and give them a heart of flesh,**

Eze.11:17-19

The "land if Israel" is the promised land in ourself, in our heart. It becomes ours as we are delivered.

In the book of Joshua, the clearing of the promised land, Canaan, is a symbolic account of deliverance and the baptism of

fire. The tribes and cities and inhabitants of Canaan represent the demons and iniquities that must be overcome to inherit the promised land in us. The burning of the cities with all their inhabitants symbolizes the baptism of fire. Every demon and iniquity must be completely removed and destroyed in order to inherit the promised land. The promised land is a condition within our heart.

**For in deed, the kingdom of God is within you.**

Lu.17:21

We see then that salvation is an accomplished fact with the death of Jesus on the cross, but not deliverance from iniquity. In order to have a “pure heart”, cleansing is required. Jesus bought us with His life that we might receive mercy from God. Through mercy we may have everlasting life (Jo.3:16). But the cleansing of iniquity is by the Holy Spirit of truth in the baptism of fire. Through the truth we may have eternal life (Jo.17:3). By mercy, we may come to the truth. But if we cannot find the way of truth within we remain under mercy.

All those who have eternal life are saved and will see God. However, not all those saved (having everlasting life) shall be in the kingdom of God, or see God’s face. The kingdom of heaven is a place and the kingdom of God is a condition. The kingdom of God is the greater and the kingdom of heaven is the lesser. Yet the greater is always found within the lesser along with those who do not have the greater, and they dwell together in the lesser (M’t.13:47-50). All those in the kingdom of God are in the kingdom of heaven, but not all those in the kingdom of heaven are in the kingdom of God.

<u>PLACE</u> (lesser)	<u>CONDITION</u> (greater)
Kingdom of Heaven (M’t.13:44-51)	Kingdom of God (Ro.14:17)
Everlasting Life (Jo.3:16)	Eternal Life (Jo.17:3)
Mercy (saved by God)	Truth (know God)

By God's grace came mercy through Jesus Christ who brought the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings the baptism of fire through which comes deliverance from iniquity. Whoever stands in the baptism of fire and overcomes all iniquity shall be a pillar in the temple in the city of God, the City of Truth (Zec.8:3), the New Jerusalem (Re.3:12), built by Cyrus (Isa.45) and Zerubbabel (Zec.4) who both represent the Holy Spirit who has come (Jo.16:8).

**I have raised him up (Cyrus) in righteousness (Ze.3,4),  
 And I will direct all his ways;  
 He shall build My city (the City of Truth)  
 And let My exiles go free, (You shall know the truth,  
 And the truth shall make you free)  
 Not for price nor reward, (but because he loves Me)  
 Says the Lord of hosts.**

Isa.45:13

The temple consists of people (Re.21:22;Eph.5:30;Eph.2:20-22) refined in the fire (Re.3:18) with Christ within (Re.3:21;Jo.17:21). This is the condition of the kingdom of God.

**For the kingdom of God is not food and drink,  
 But righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

Ro.14:17

In this condition God, the Father (righteousness), Christ the Word (peace), and Christ the Truth (joy) dwell within (Jo.16:23).

