Patience

By Apostle Thurston Edison Hamby III

 My B.C. Years

 I remember the days before I believed on Jesus Christ as my Savior, Lord and King. I lived nineteen years almost twenty before I believed on Him for my salvation. Things were different then. God loved me but I didn’t know Him. I only heard of Him but I didn’t understand Him. I always had a desire to know Him but I wasn’t sure if I could. There were so many things that seemed good at the same time. The way I thought seemed good to me. I saw no fault to my understanding. I had no desire to hurt anyone. If I approved of something, I saw no harm in it but when The word of the God defined evil, I considered it from my perception not knowing He was trying to protect me from what He knew would certainly destroy me. Sinners don’t always judge sin as sin but I found God to be faithful. I do remember what it’s like to be a sinner. I remember when God was a stranger to me only hearing from others who did seem to know about Him. I remember the distance I felt, I remember the fears, the uncertainty. My parents were saved, Christians. My father was a Methodist Pastor, a very honorable man. My mother always supported him in ministry. They were very blessed and they always had peace. I saw them live but I had no idea of the measure of peace they enjoyed and the assurance and confidence of salvation which they considered normal until I believed on Jesus for myself. I did desire to be a Christian, to be saved. My cousin explained salvation to me and I heard it from him (for he was only a few years older than I was at the time) and understood that Jesus died in my place to save me. I was drawn to His kind of love but I lived almost 10 years before praying the prayer of Faith for my salvation. When he told me that I must believe on Jesus as my Savior to be saved. I wanted to know so that I could be saved before I die in an emergency. I rode minibikes and motorcycles and I’d do all sorts of stunts and dangerous things in those days. I really wanted to do the right things but I didn’t think I could measure up to God’s rules and expectations. I later found out that no sinner can but in Jesus, we can do all things.

 My Salvation

 The next chapter of my life is when I got saved. I believed on Jesus Christ on the last Friday of May 1983. I worked at Food Giant in Huffman, a community in Birmingham, Alabama. In those days two Coca Cola delivery men were Christians and told the guys that worked in the store about Jesus and we got saved one by one just like falling dominoes. I remember counting about twenty guys believing on Jesus. The moment I believed on Jesus as my Savior Lord and King, I felt brand new, alive. I felt God’s presence for the first time. I don’t remember feeling His presence before. The moment before I prayed the prayer of Faith, a thought from satan came saying if you get saved, you’ll be bored and I actually believed him (his words seemed convincing to the way I thought back then) but I boldly said I don’t care this is right as I thought to myself Jesus paid a high price for my salvation to give me life. After immediate praying in Faith saying “Father God I believe on Your Son Jesus Christ, that His Blood washed away my sins and He arose from the dead to justify me. Please save me and forgive me of all my sins”. I felt His presence, His approval, great peace and I felt brand new inside and I have never been bored since that moment and at this point, I never expect to! Before getting saved I didn’t know what to expect but once I believed, I knew. I got mad at all Christians because they didn’t tell me salvation was so good. The Lord knew my thoughts and said to me the same devil that hindered you from getting saved, hindered them from telling you how salvation is. With this in mind, people are different. Some experience miracles at their new birth while some may only experience salvation. It’s a miracle that I’ve never been bored since the moment I got saved. As a Christian I feel a confident assurance, bold certainty that grows with you through faithfulness, no fear and great peace. I know what it’s like to be a sinner. From that time, I know what it’s like to be a Christian. I’m writing this Living Letter to expose the fact that people don’t feel the same or hear the same. **Salvation requires your faith and the wonderful things Christians express to others can’t fully be realized by those who never believed on Jesus for themselves**. When those who never got saved have problems, their first instinct is to do what seems good to them at the time. They don’ have the peace of salvation. **Peace is fellowship with The Lord**. Without Jesus, no man has fellowship with God. Those who believe from the heart, are made new and their spirit, their heart is made new. Everyone who believes is a new creature and their sin nature is broken. We desire to Love all, but we still must renew our minds training in God’s word. Our minds and our bodies are the same as sinners having the same cravings. We must control it. The mind is the same as the soul which we must renew with God’s Word. As we grow in God’s Word we make progress and change. As a Christian I lived six months before receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. During those six months I had trouble taming my tongue, profanity would slip out from time to time. That was something I had to diligently work on and it wasn’t easy for me either. I did better and better. Nothing just goes away so I’m patient with people in their difficulty because I learned that God helps us grow. Difficulties are not disqualifiers. Jesus is not only our savior but our High priest. He represents believers in Heaven before our Father. The Lord knew I didn’t know everything. He saw me as I was and saved me where I was and helped me grow as I cried out in faith. I know firsthand what it is like to struggle out of a habit. I fully desired to speak without using profanity. For six months I made slow progress in November of 1983, I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and then everything changed for the better.

My Holy Spirit Baptism

 The next chapter of my life is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. A guy I worked with told me about the baptism of the Holy Ghost and after a few months, I listened to him. I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost at the house of another friend in Bradford, Alabama. Again, my life was changed. I had read about the baptism of the Holy Ghost and speaking in tongues in the book of Acts. I received the baptism of the Holy Ghost that night and spoke in tongues just like they did in Acts Chapter 2. Keith’s mother showed me in the scriptures that the Holy Spirit is a gift which we should receive. She showed me the scriptures and led me in the highest praise Halelujah and I spoke in tongues that night for the first time in my life. Also they told me how it was prophesied that I would come there and I did. After receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit, everything I struggled to defeat was much easier and I felt much more powerful than I did my first six months of salvation. There is a notable difference before and after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Those who have never received the Baptism really don’t know what it is like. **Human description poorly matches the experience**. We are to always live by our faith we receive the Holy Spirit Baptism by faith as well. The purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is to help us minister (St John 7:37-40 also Chapters 14-17). **Every believer in Jesus Christ have the Holy Spirit on the inside!** The Holy spirit within the heart of a believer is his or her comforter, a guide a helper (St John 14: 16-31 & 16: 7-16). While the Holy Spirit upon is to help us minister others and live with power. The Holy Spirit within is like our personal well of living water (St John 4: 1:54 key verse 14) while the Holy Spirit upon us is like Rivers of living water (St John 7:38-39 & Acts 1:8 & 2:1-47)! We all need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2: 38&39. Some theologians disagree but they are wrong! Since the time I first received the baptism of the Holy Spirit and His revelations, power and guidance in my life, it would take books to word it all and I still have a long life ahead of me! I used to read about others whom the Lord used mightily such as Moses, Job, Isaiah, Jeremiah, David, Ezekiel, Daniel and many others and wondered what it was like to hear God’s voice and do mighty works. I wanted to know. After being baptized in the Holy Ghost and speaking with tongues I began to experience God’s presence like never before. I’ve heard His voice of guidance. I’ve received His wisdom and lived with Power. Confidence multiples as you continually win in life. Even in failure God is with you to help you in spite of it. The Holy Spirit descended upon Jesus like a dove a very gentle bird. Though he is so mighty and powerful full of love and great wisdom, He must be invited and received by **your** faith. Without **your faith** He would be intruding and He doesn’t intrude against your will. If you too desire His fire baptism, yield to him in faith. Believe God’s word in faith concerning Him and by all means obey Him and you too will know how good it is to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Those who teach against the baptism of the Holy Ghost or that it’s an unnecessary option, **do not** share biblical understanding about Him and they have no biblical faith in Him as well; and they never experienced Him in full. They are saved if they believed on Lord Jesus but they do lack knowledge. A man can be a Christian and not receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost because you have to be a Christian in order to receive the baptism in the first place (St John 14: 16-17). Good kind and even loving Christians sometimes teach against the baptism of the Holy Ghost through ignorance, lack of knowledge and poor teaching which they received as truth. satan is afraid of Christians who love and know God. Jesus gave us authority which we all must use to progress in victory by our faith (Matthew 16:18-20 & 18:18-20 & Luke 10:19-21). Every aspect of salvation is by faith even willing obedience which leads to all forms of prosperity. So there is a great difference. The best form of prosperity comes from biblical obedience, living fully surrendered to The Holy Spirit’s guidance.

Communion

 The next chapter of my life is communion, learning the ways of God, learning to yield, to believe and trust Him. To follow His lead. Those who believe God and take Him at His word doing God’s word will know Him. They ‘ll know him not only what they’ve heard but by their faithful interaction with Him (Job 11:5-6 & 42:1-5). There are those who have been saved and received the gift of the Holy Spirit but won’t always follow His lead. They’ve spoken in tongues and rejoiced but they won’t draw near and learn from Him. They treat the Holy Spirit as if He is not around at all! This is caused by distractions, laziness, fear of being called upon, love of the world, lack of example, poor teaching and wrong teaching and sometimes what they believe to be convenience. So, those who are baptized but inactive will also give inactive advice. Uncommitted people don’t give the advice of a committed person. And committed people won’t give uncommitted haphazard advice. Those who don’t draw near to the Lord usually won’t value the blessings from having drawn near to Him because they never experienced the many blessings for themselves. Many Christians are unnecessarily missing out on God’s best. The Lord draws near to those who draw near to Him giving them life changing revelations as they need it or as they can receive it. In other words, all who never draw near to the Lord in faith are unnecessarily missing out on great things and many blessings of God.

The Contrast

The reason for writing this particular Living Letter is to contrast our various stages of life. People’s understanding is formed based upon which stage they happen to be in their life. With this thought in mind the first authority figures in a person’s life shapes the way they see God until they can notice greater light. **Jesus said to believers in Him you are the light of the world and the salt of the earth, the example, the preserver**. As the truth of the God’s word is spoken, people relate to it based upon the stage of life they’re experienced. Those who’ve never been saved don’t have a reference to match our description those who have yet to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost have no reference in their pass to relate to our testimony of Him. So as we grow in the Lord, it still becomes undoubtedly noticeable to them until a trust is formed in them. **The same speech at a faithful man of God can be received differently by those of various stages**. Whenever I minister to people, I have noticeable reception of those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit and who are wise and seek to follow Him. Those who are reluctant to follow God are noticeably those who are more apt to argue against the perfect wisdom of God. **God is the same yesterday today and forever but the way people receive the good news of God’s word is shaped by what they experienced** **and also what they have never experienced**. We must always love others that we may represent God more perfectly. It’s not legal for God to represent Himself while Adam’s Earth lease is still unfinished. It is mankind’s responsibility to teach and preach the gospel of Jesus Christ that all others may live however, The Holy Spirit can help us do what is our responsibility. It is illegal for angels to preach or teach the good news of Jesus. We all have to learn and the things of God are too important and valuable to misinterpret.

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