

Biblical Readiness - Part III *Austin Disaster Relief Network*

V. Biblical Readiness, Provision #4, Holy Spirit Baptism (Born Again Provisions, part II)

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to be His personal representative to you. He came to bless you, help you, guide and empower you. He came to convict you of sin and righteousness, bring correction, transform your character and protect you. It is impossible to be a biblically ready Christian without the Holy Spirit. We are simply a natural human with no supernatural capacity. The human soul, with all its best intentions, mental prowess and willpower is totally inadequate to live the moral, powerful, true Christian life required of born again believers.

John 3:5 “Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God” (NKJV)

Romans 8:9-11 “But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.”¹⁰ And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.¹¹ But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you. (NKJV)

The Holy Spirit makes available 9 Fruits of the Spirit to transform our character into the image of Jesus.

Galatians 5:22-24 “But the fruit of the [Holy] Spirit [the work which His presence within accomplishes] is love, joy (gladness), peace, patience (an even temper, forbearance), kindness, goodness (benevolence), faithfulness, gentleness (meekness, humility), self-control (self-restraint, continence). Against such things there is no law [that can bring a charge]. And those who belong to Christ Jesus (the Messiah) have crucified the flesh (the godless human nature) with its passions and appetites and desires.”

His grace, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, enables us to walk in His divine nature and live in true holiness. Faith activates this grace.

How do we apply His nature in times of disaster? Four possible responses to any difficult situation:

1. Revenge (want to get back)
2. Reason (why me?)
3. Good Conduct (social sophistication)
4. Walking in the Spirit

Practice: How to walk in the fruits of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit will also infuse you with supernatural power (gifts) to confirm your words of biblical truth and empower us to bring the Kingdom of God into this dark world (grace activated through faith).

1 Corinthians 12:7-11 “But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: ⁸ for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same ^{aj} Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Galatians 5:16 “I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

Romans 8:3-4 “For what the law could not do in that it was weak through the flesh, God did by sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, on account of sin: He condemned sin in the flesh, ⁴ that the righteous requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us who do not walk according to the flesh but according to the Spirit.”

Summary: God’s amazing Grace not only forgives us of our sins, saves us from eternal death, grants us entrance into the Kingdom of Heaven but also:

1. Imparts Divine Nature
2. Enables us to walk in True Holiness
3. Empowers us to bring the Kingdom of God here into a dark world

Grace, even though freely given, can only be accessed through faith! It doesn’t matter how nice you are, how enthusiastic you are, how sincere or busy you are in the ministry, there is no other way to obtain grace but through faith! “..we have access to this grace through faith by which we stand.” *Romans 5:2 (NKJV)*

Grace vs. Mercy: With Grace (empowers us), we get what we don’t deserve and with Mercy (covers us), we don’t get what we do deserve.

The Question is: If Grace is made available to us every moment of every day, how often do we obtain grace by faith on a daily basis? How many times do we fight battles in our own flesh vs. activating a free and powerful gift from God that makes the impossible, possible.

2 Peter 1:3 “We have everything we need to live a life that pleases God. It was all given to us by God’s own power (grace)” (CEV)

* “Grace gives us the ability to go beyond our own ability” – John Bevere

Testimony: Restaurant story (hearing God’s voice), Finding Aunt Pris and Lakeline Mall testimony

Class Discussion: Give your definition of grace? Are His fruits and gifts automatic or made available? What are the 9 fruits of the spirit? What are the 9 gifts of the spirit? How can these be applied in times of disaster?

Practice: Hearing God’s voice and Grace Practice

VII. Biblical Readiness, Provision #5, Word of God

Luke 4:4 “But Jesus answered him, saying, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.’” (NKJV)

2 Timothy 3:16 “Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action).” (AMP)

Hebrews 4:12 “For the Word that God speaks is alive and full of power [making it active, operative, energizing, and effective]; it is sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating to the dividing line of the ^[a]breath of life (soul) and [the immortal] spirit, and of joints and marrow [of the deepest parts of our nature], exposing and sifting and analyzing and judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart.” (AMP)

Psalms 29:3-9 (**God's Secret Weapon in times of distress**) “The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of glory thunders; the Lord is upon many (great) waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful; the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars; yes, the Lord breaks in pieces the cedars of Lebanon. He makes them also to skip like a calf; Lebanon and Sirion (Mount Hermon) like a young, wild ox. The voice of the Lord splits and flashes forth forked lightning. The voice of the Lord makes the wilderness tremble; the Lord shakes the Wilderness of Kadesh. The voice of the Lord makes the hinds bring forth their young, and His voice strips bare the forests, while in His temple everyone is saying, Glory!” (NKJV)

Summary: We must have a lifestyle of reading the Word of God, daily if possible. It exposes us for what we really are vs. what we project ourselves to be or what people perceiving us to be. Also, faith comes through the reading of the Word. Who grieved the Lord the most? Those who simply did not believe that God would do what He said He would do. Who delighted/marveled Jesus the most? Those who simply believed that God would do what He said He would do (Centurion and Greek woman). In times of Crisis/Disaster, will you be a Blind Bartimaeus or like those who walked with Jesus as He headed towards Jerusalem?

Testimony: Apostle Paul and his snake bite (Acts 28:1-6); **Daniel's Cancer Story**
“But he shook off the creature (viper) into the fire and suffered no harm.” Acts 28:5 (NKJV)

Class Discussion: How can the word of God be used in times of disaster? What are some great scriptures to use in times of disaster?

Practice: Share your favorite bible verse with a partner. Share how you use it when you pray or encourage others.

VIII. Biblical Readiness, Provision #6, Spiritual Armor of God

Ephesians 6:10-18 “Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. **Put on the whole armor of God**, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, ^[a] against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places. Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of righteousness, and having shod your feet with the preparation of the gospel of peace; above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints” (NKJV)

How do You Stand on Your Legal Position or on the Word of God?

Standing means to be unwaveringly committed to your position, regardless of circumstances or opposition. We find a good example of what the bible means when it says “stand” in the story of Eleazar, David’s mighty man of valor.

2 Samuel 23:9-10 “Next to him was Eleazar son of Dodai the Ahohite. As one of the three mighty warriors, he was with David when they taunted the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim^[a] for battle. Then the Israelites retreated,¹⁰ but Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword. The LORD brought about a great victory that day. The troops returned to Eleazar, but only to strip the dead.” (NIV)

Eleazar strapped on his armor and stood by himself against a Philistine army. Humanly speaking he was doomed, being hopelessly outnumbered. But God stood with him and brought a great victory that day. God expects us to have the same kind of faith that Eleazar demonstrated in battle. When it looked impossible, he did not run, doubt, or fear.

The same God that brought victory to Eleazar has directed you to put on your spiritual armor, take your place on the battlefield and stand. Your spiritual armor and weapons are more than sufficient. There will be times when you feel overwhelmed or defeated, but your Lord says that when you have done all to stand against your enemy the devil, keep on standing. Do not quit, but instead go to war. Use the weapons (provisions) the Holy Spirit has made available and He will fight along with you to make you victorious.

Example: Leaning on your strength (poverty mindset) vs His (kingdom mindset)

John 6:4-13 “Now the Passover, a feast of the Jews, was near.⁵ Then Jesus lifted up His eyes, and seeing a great multitude coming toward Him, He said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?”⁶ But this He said to test him, for He Himself knew what He would do.⁷ Philip answered Him, “Two hundred denarii worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that every one of them may have a little.”⁸ One of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to Him,⁹ “There is a lad here who has five barley loaves and two small fish, but what are they among so many?”¹⁰ Then Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.¹¹ And Jesus took the loaves, and when He had given thanks He distributed them to the disciples, and the disciples^[a] to those sitting down; and likewise of the fish, as much as they wanted.¹² So when they were filled, He said to His disciples, “Gather up the fragments that remain, so that nothing is lost.”¹³ Therefore they gathered them up, and filled twelve baskets with the fragments of the five barley loaves which were left over by those who had eaten.” (NKJV)

Testimony: 1st ADRN Fundraiser (missing checks, wrong volunteer, no time left)

IX. Biblical Readiness, Provision #7, Body of Christ/Overseer/Pastor

The last vital provision in becoming Biblically Ready is to have covenant relationships with Christians that can speak into your life, love you, equip and train you, provide covering, protection and essential foundational input. These friends will become a life line to you in times of crisis that Jesus can work through.

What does covenant relationship look like? Matthew 18:19 “Again I tell you, if two of you on earth agree (harmonize together, make a symphony together) about whatever [anything and ^[a]everything] they may ask, it will come to pass and be done for them by My Father in heaven.”

Ephesians 4:11-16 “And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, ¹² for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, ¹³ till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; ¹⁴ that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, ¹⁵ but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—¹⁶ from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”

1 Cor. 12:12-14 “For just as the body is a unity and yet has many parts, and all the parts, though many, form [only] one body, so it is with Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One). For by [^a] means of the personal agency of] one [Holy] Spirit we were all, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free, baptized [and ^b] by baptism united together] into one body, and all made to drink of one [Holy] Spirit. For the body does not consist of one limb or organ but of many.”

Question: If a hand has been cut off from the body and placed in a different location, is it part of the body – is it still receiving the life flow of blood from the body? If a Christian leaves the body, no longer attends a church/fellowship, are they receiving the blessings that come from being part of the Body of Christ? Sheep have no defense mechanism; Who is speaking into your life?

God’s Response to Difficult Situations within the Body of Christ

(To Her Beloved v. 6-7) “Do not look upon me, because I am dark, because the sun has tanned me. My mother’s sons were angry with me; They made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard I have not kept. Tell me, O you whom I love, where you feed your flock, where you make it rest at noon. For why should I be as one who veils herself by the flocks of your companions?”

(The Beloved v. 8) “If you do not know, O fairest (most beautiful) among women, follow in the footsteps of the flock, and feed your little goats beside the shepherds’ tents.” Song of Solomon 1:7-8 (NKJV)

1. Commitment to Body life (v. 8c): Refuse unsanctified isolation – In our walk with God, it is common to find ourselves in a place where we feel rejected or mistreated by the “angry sons” (v. 6) / His church and/or we feel shame related to the sins/mistakes we’ve made with His church. In this place, we tend to isolate ourselves and become bitter towards the Body. The truth is that Jesus wants us to stay in fellowship with His people rather than isolation, which is His way to heal us.
2. Commitment to servant ministry (v. 8d): Refuse unsanctified idleness - Be cautious not to fall into a temptation of selfishness and fear and become idle. Jesus wants us to take care of His little ones. We will always encounter Him in the context of serving others.
3. Commitment to spiritual authority (v. 8e): Refuse unsanctified independence - There is a temptation in all of us to resist spiritual authority. The truth is, embracing spiritual authority is the place of great spiritual growth and protection, the opposite of what our flesh is telling us.

Testimony: A need for a financial break-through - miracle at Austin Cornerstone Church!

Summary: 7 Provisions needed to become Biblically Ready

1. Relationship with Jesus
2. Blood of Jesus: saves you from the penalty of your sins
3. New Identity (Born Again Provisions – Part I): As sons and daughters, Jesus gave us provisions that save us from the power of sin in times of temptation
4. Holy Spirit Baptism (Born Again Provisions – Part II): provides the necessary provisions for developing Christ's character (fruit of the Spirit) and power (gifts of the Spirit). Gives wisdom and divine personal revelation and direction
5. Word of God
6. Spiritual Armor of God
7. Body of Christ/Overseer/Pastor

Without one or more of these 7 Provisions and applying them, we become spiritually handicapped to handle a situation in times of disaster.

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