

## C & C: The Spring Board of Life! Take the Dive!

Connections and Comparisons is an ongoing weekly series that deals with many scriptures in the Bible, some of which are not commonly addressed. The purpose of this series is to examine the scriptures at hand comparing what is said and looking at the connections within.

The spring board of life is believing that Jesus is the Son of God and that he was put to death for the sins of the world. Taking the dive is having faith to believe that you will receive everlasting life when you dive into the water. The water is the receiving of the Holy Ghost which is also known as the Spirit of life. So, what are you waiting for? Take the dive.

You can believe that Jesus is the Son of God and never take the dive into the water. You can climb onto the diving board and refuse to exercise your faith and dive into the water. Whether out of fear or simply because you do not want to change your lifestyle.

If it is out of fear that you refuse to take the dive then I ask what is the fear you are having? God has promised to give his Spirit to anyone that obeys him. “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.” (Acts 5:32) However to obey him you must understand how to take the dive. You don’t want to take the dive only to find out that you never landed in the water. How can this be? You didn’t obey him even though you thought you did because you were taught incorrectly. If the reason you haven’t taken the dive is because you don’t want to change your lifestyle then I ask you what is your soul worth to you? “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mt 16:26)

### **John 7:37-39**

37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.**

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him **should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given;** because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

So how do you know when you take the dive from the spring board of life whether or not you landed in the Holy Ghost water? You must apply the scriptures. What do the scriptures teach concerning this.

### **Acts 2:1-4**

1 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.

When these people dove off the spring board of life they landed in the Holy Ghost water. How do we know. They “began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” This is how it was prophesied to come. “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.” (Isa 28:11-12) Are you one that will not hear? What about when those of Samaria received the Holy Ghost? Did they get it automatically because they were believers in Jesus Christ? What does the scriptures teach about it?

### **Acts 8:12-17**

12 But when they **believed** Philip preaching **the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.**

13 Then Simon himself **believed also: and when he was baptized,** he continued with Philip, **and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.**

14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

15 Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:**

**16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)**

**17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

The scriptures show us that the people even though they had believed the preaching of Jesus Christ, had accepted that Jesus Christ was the Son of God, repented of their sins and “were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus”, that these believers still didn’t have the Holy Ghost “For as yet he was fallen upon none of them”. These believers received the Holy Ghost when the Apostles Peter and John “laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”

Simon the sorcerer “himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done”. However, even after wondering at all “the miracles and signs which were done” he didn’t offer any money to have this power also but when he saw that the believers received the Holy Ghost he offered money to buy this gift so that he could make gain off of it and go about laying hands on people that they may receive this free gift. So what did he see? And why was this even greater than “the miracles and signs which were done” insomuch as he offered money for having this power granted to him to make merchandise off of others by selling them the free gift of the Holy Ghost? The answer for what he saw was given already in Acts 2 above “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Simon had to have seen the people receive the gift of the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance because had he not seen anything outwardly taking place after previously “beholding the miracles and signs which were done” and yet not offering money that he might be able to do the same, then it had to be something else. So we know what he saw and he knew this gift of the Holy Ghost was beyond “the miracles and signs which were done” that he had already witnessed.

There are several accounts that show us in the Book of Acts people receiving the Holy Ghost and that when they did they spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance. We will look at those scriptures as well. But first let us look at what Simon said via the scriptures.

### Acts 8:18-24

18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

24 Then answered Simon, and said, Pray ye to the Lord for me, that none of these things which ye have spoken come upon me.

Let us look at another example of people who did not receive the Holy Ghost just because they were believers in Jesus Christ as the Son of God.

### Acts 19:1-6

1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos 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 spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Notice carefully the question the Apostle Paul asks? "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" This question would never have been asked if you received the Holy Ghost just because you believe in Jesus Christ as your personal savior. These disciples said, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Then take careful attention and listen to what the Apostle Paul asks them. "Unto what then were ye baptized?" Why would he ask them this question? Remember the Apostle Paul received the gospel teaching directly by Jesus Christ himself and did not learn it of men. He did not learn the teaching of Jesus Christ from the other Apostles. Jesus Christ revealed to the Apostle Paul by direct revelation the gospel teaching of Jesus Christ. "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, To reveal his Son in me, that I might preach him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood: Neither went I up to Jerusalem to them which were apostles before me; but I went into Arabia, and returned again unto Damascus." (Gal 1:15-17) So why did the Apostle Paul ask these believers who had never heard of the Holy Ghost this question? "Unto what then were ye baptized?" The Apostle Paul knew that to be born again you had to do as the Apostle Peter instructed when the Holy Ghost was poured out. He knew this by revelation of God and not by man. This is what the Apostle Peter said you had to do in order to be born again. "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the

name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38) So the reason that Apostle Paul asked the question to the believers who had never even heard if there were any Holy Ghost “Unto what then were ye baptized” was that he understood that you had to “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” The Apostle Paul then teaches the believers of Jesus Christ and “**When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**” So the believers even after being baptized in Jesus name **did not receive the gift of the Holy Ghost until** the Apostle “Paul had laid his hands upon them” and when the Holy Ghost came upon them “they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

Make sure that when you get on the spring board of life and take the dive that you land in the Holy Ghost water because you can take the dive and land somewhere else if you believe that you have received the Holy Ghost and haven't spoke with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance as we can now see from scriptures that the Holy Ghost only comes into a person when it is evidenced by the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Rm 8:9)

#### **John 4:5-14**

5 Then cometh he to a city of Samaria, which is called Sychar, near to the parcel of ground that Jacob gave to his son Joseph.

6 Now **Jacob's well was there.** Jesus therefore, being wearied with his journey, sat thus on the well: and it was about the sixth hour.

7 There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: **Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink.**

8 (For his disciples were gone away unto the city to buy meat.)

9 Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans.

10 Jesus answered and said unto her, **If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

11 The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from **whence then hast thou that living water?**

12 Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?

13 Jesus answered and said unto her, **Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again:**

**14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

The spring board of life and taking the dive is not a one time experience nor is it intended to be.

#### **Acts 4:19-31**

19 But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, **judge ye.**

20 For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

21 So when they had **further threatened them**, they let them go, finding nothing how they might punish them, **because of the people**: for all men glorified God for that which was done.

22 For the man was above forty years old, on whom this miracle of healing was shewed.

23 And being let go, **they went to their own company**, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together,

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, **behold their threatenings**: and grant unto **thy servants**, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; **and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

We know that the Apostle Peter and John already received the Holy Ghost when the day of Pentecost had fully come when the Holy Ghost was first poured out upon the believers. We can also see that the company of the Apostles Peter and John from their prayer were “thy servants” of Jesus Christ and so we know when “they were all filled with the Holy Ghost” that they were refilled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance.

Being renewed in the Holy Ghost is something we are instructed to do.

#### **Titus 3:4-5**

4 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared,

5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, **by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost**;

We are saved “by the washing of regeneration, **and renewing of the Holy Ghost**;”. You can’t renew the Holy Ghost unless you first have the Holy Ghost of which we have seen only comes with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. This also reveals to you that you can’t have any of the gifts of the Holy Ghost if you never received it in the first place. Which also shows you that divers kinds of tongues, which is a gift of the Holy Ghost, is not the same as receiving the Holy Ghost which will always be evidenced by the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance and we are saved not only “by the washing of regeneration” but also by the “**renewing of the Holy Ghost**”.

#### **Jude 1:17-21**

17 But, **beloved**, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ;

18 How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19 These be they who separate themselves, sensual, **having not the Spirit.**

20 **But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,**

21 Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

Jude who was addressing "...them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called" (Jude 1:1) which would be people who had already partook of being born again which also refers to the Holy Ghost as "them that are sanctified by God the Father" would be people who had received the Holy Ghost as it is by the Holy Ghost we are sanctified. "That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, **being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.**" (Rm 15:16) So when he says, "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost" he is speaking to those who "are sanctified by God". Unless you believe that all these believers had quit praying and he was only encouraging them to start praying again then Jude was meaning to build up yourselves by praying in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance. It is highly improbable to believe the saints he was addressing had quit praying since the letter was sent to those "preserved in Jesus Christ, and called" (Jude 1:1).

#### **Romans 8:26-27**

26 Likewise **the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought:** but **the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**

27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, **because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

The Apostle Paul is here referring to praying in the Holy Ghost "for we know not what we should pray for as we ought". So the Holy Ghost within us "maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

It's time to get on the spring board of life and take the dive the correct way!