

## **"FIGHTING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT"**

**Acts 2:11-16**

*Indian Conference: Prayed for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Out of a large number of people who stood to receive, maybe only 1 or 2 indicated that they spoke in tongues. Some kind of resistance. Brings up the issue of resistance to the Holy Spirit, and what we should do about it.*

### **I. RESISTANCE**

#### **A. The Bible calls the Devil the adversary: One who stands against to resist**

1. Anything good God wants us to have – the Devil resists: *He is a thief*
2. Anything the Devil fears he will resist/fight *a. Pharaoh killing the male children b. Herod trying to kill Jesus*
3. This is true concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – speaking in tongues
  - a. No accident at the same time people are being filled – there comes mockery
    1. **Acts 2:13** *But others were making fun of them, saying, "They have had too much wine."*

#### **B. Look at how the enemy resists**

1. **The enemy uses ignorance:** *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*
  - a. If you don't understand clearly/Biblically as your own conviction – you can be moved away from
2. **The enemy uses our own intimidation:** *A battle goes on in our minds*
  - a. *What if I pray for them and they don't get filled?*
3. **The enemy uses mockery:** *Some men are intimidated by a website/someone online mocking/attacking*
4. **The enemy uses religious people:** The most common kind of resistance
  - a. They try and resist using false doctrine: *1 Cor 14...*
  - b. They try and persuade you to tone it down: *KF – more people would come if you didn't praise out loud*
  - c. They 'sit' on the service: *Deliberately resisting when you preach/pray for the Holy Spirit*
5. **The enemy uses occasional spiritual resistance:** Perhaps not rooted in any one person
6. **The enemy uses struggles to get people filled to intimidate us:**
  - a. This may be occasional b. Every church has a person who struggles for a long time
7. **The enemy uses new ideas to resist:** *Don't speak in tongues out loud – you'll scare people away*

### **II. THE BIGGER PICTURE**

#### **A. There is more going on than just struggles with 1 service or 1 person**

1. The enemy is trying to block God's supernatural power to transform
  - a. *People getting saved is a miracle b. People locking in... c. People being transformed... d. People surrendering/giving...*
    1. No accident after the HS is poured out: Salvation/surrendering to God/giving/miracles
2. If the enemy can stop powerful baptisms in the HS: He will kill the atmosphere of revival/conversion
  - a. I have never seen a church where there is no HS dimension that has conversions/disciples
    1. *1 man Pastoring was never able to get anyone filled: Never had conversions*

### **III. CONTENDING FOR A HOLY GHOST DIMENSION**

#### **A. Jesus's command to His disciples in Luke 24:49 & Acts 1:4**

1. Wait/stay in Jerusalem praying until you receive the power of the Holy Spirit
  - a. **Acts 1:4** *On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about."*
2. This means you have to make the Holy Spirit a priority!
  - a. Personal convictions Biblically:
    1. So you have faith for it
    2. So you can defend it Biblically: **Acts 2:16** *No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:*
  - b. Personally seeking to have a Holy Ghost dimension inside you: *They had a 10 day prayer meeting*
  - c. Make this a priority of prayer: *Fill our new converts – powerfully!*

#### **B. Some practical contending**

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit should be a priority for your new converts: Be telling/praying
2. Pray in tongues out loud (in the prayer room)! Praise in tongues out loud (on the platform)
3. Preach and teach on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit/speaking in tongues
4. When you feel resistance – you attack that/fight against
  - a. *Pray again b. Preach another sermon c. Pray & rebuke resistance*
5. If there is a particular religious person resisting: Deal with them
  - a. *Try and convince – if not, deal with them so they will leave*