

"FIGHTING FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT"

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. *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*