

# ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES TOOLS FOR LIFE

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## THE SOLUTION TO THE CHURCH'S LAODICEAN CONDITION

A very important question for the church today is How can we be changed from “nontherapeutic” to “therapeutic”? God’s message to the Laodiceans gives us the answer. Jesus says He is standing at the door and wants into our lives:

“Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me” (Rev. 3:20).

How do we let Him in? Through the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you” (John 14:16 – 18).

In these verses Jesus tells the disciples that He would come to them when the Holy Spirit was available to live in them. This took place on the day of Pentecost. It is through the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus lives in the believer:

“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us” (1 John 3:24).

What will the baptism of the Holy Spirit do for a lukewarm Christian? The infilling of God’s Spirit will bring revival to the recipient, and revival is the only answer to Laodicea’s problem. Only by revival will the church become therapeutic to this world. Only by revival will the church come to a spiritual condition such that God can use her in a mighty way as a means of delivering men and women from the powers of darkness.

Ellen White knew the importance and urgency of revival when she wrote:

“A revival of true godliness among us is the greatest and most urgent of all our needs. To seek this should be our first work” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

She also understood the relationship between receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit and revival:

“The baptism of the Holy Ghost as on the day of Pentecost will lead to a revival of true religion and to the performance of many wonderful works” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 2, p. 57).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives the Laodicean Christian the power needed to be revived spiritually, and also the power for witnessing. Jesus certainly knew the importance of what would happen when the Holy Spirit would be poured out in early-rain power on the day of Pentecost. Speaking of this, He said:

“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled” (Luke 12:49, NIV).

What fire was Jesus speaking of? The fire of the Holy Spirit:

“John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire” (Luke 3:16).

How does the Laodicean Christian receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and experience revival? The same way believers always have – by prayerfully claiming God’s promise. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was received by the early church on the day of Pentecost as a result of their unitedly praying for 10 days, claiming Christ’s promise:

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” “These all continued with one

accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren” (Acts 1:4, 5, 8, 14).

Ellen White confirmed this:

“A revival need be expected only in answer to prayer” (*Selected Messages*, bk. 1, p. 121).

Every Christian today needs to pray the prayer of David: “Wilt thou not revive us again: that thy people may rejoice in thee?” (Ps. 85:6).

## **Personal Reflection and Discussion**

What is the only solution to the Laodicean problem?

What does Ellen White say is the greatest need of the church?

What two things must the church do in order to experience genuine revival?

How did the disciples receive the reviving power of the Holy Spirit?

What do you think will be seen in the life of a Spirit-filled, revived church and Christian?

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