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TRAINING UNIT 3 (48.00 MINUTES)

The condition for sending: The power of the Holy Spirit I .....

What shall we do to be saved? .....

10 conversions in the book of Acts .....

A clear, healthy and biblical conversion contains .....

1. Faith .....

2. Repentance .....

To recognize in the heart that I am a sinner .....

Confession with the mouth.....

Turn to God and become a disciple .....

3. Water baptism .....

4. Receiving Holy Spirit .....

Conditions for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit .....

1. Faith .....

2. Repentance .....

3. Baptism .....

4. Thirst .....

5. Prayer including the laying on of hands .....

➔ *Part II: Application* .....

Training Unit 3

The condition for sending: The power of the Holy Spirit I

The ministry of sending is the most important ministry in order to reach the unreached.

John 20:21
Again, Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

Summary of the 10 Commandments of sending:

1. Go into all the world
2. Preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God and be my witnesses
3. Seek people of peace in each village and each city
4. When you find a person of peace, DON'T bring them back into the community of faith, but STAY with the person
5. Heal the sick
6. Raise the dead
7. Cast out evil spirits
8. Be led by the Holy Spirit
9. Be prepared for rejection and persecution
10. Make disciples of all ethnic groups

➔ The 10th commandment of sending requires more effort than all the other 9 together!

With his instructions for the sending the Lord clearly mentioned **two conditions** that need to be fulfilled before we can go and do the mission.

1. **We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit / We first need to receive the power of the Holy Spirit**

2. **We need to pray for the harvest / we need to pray that the Lord would send harvest workers into his (ripe) harvest**

When the Lord talks about our sending, he strongly emphasizes the most important equipment for the ministry of sending.

The most important equipment = the Holy Spirit / the receiving of the power of the Holy Spirit

John 20:21-22
Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."
And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:46-49
He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

In Acts, the Lord repeats the same thing concretely: we absolutely need the Holy Spirit and the power of the Holy Spirit. Without it we are not able to send out people (correctly). The last words the Lord said before he went into Heaven, were:

Acts 1:4+8
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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

For the ministry of sending we ABSOLUTELY need the power of the Holy Spirit!

If we talk about the Holy Spirit in our lives, we need to distinguish two things:

1. The first time receiving the Holy Spirit at our conversion and our new birth
2. Regularly being filled with and the working of the Holy Spirit in the ministry of sending

Twice in the New Testament gentiles ask this question to the apostles: «What shall we do to be saved? »

Acts 16:30-33
He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his household were baptized.

Acts 2:37-39
When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

What shall we do to be saved?

1. Believe in the Lord Jesus
2. Repent, as stated in Acts 3:19: "Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out"
3. Be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins
4. (If 1-3 are met) you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

10 conversions in the book of Acts

The book of Acts only tells us about 10 conversions in total. It is interesting to study those, to see what the main characteristics of a biblical conversion are:
The 10 conversions are:

- Acts 2:37-41 — 3000 Pentecost
- Acts 8:5-6+12+17 — People in Samaria
- Acts 8:13 — Simon, the sorcerer
- Acts 8,35-38 — The Ethiopian treasurer
- Acts 9:17-18 + Acts 22:16 — Saul turns to Paul
- Acts 10:42-48 — The first conversion of Gentiles
- Acts 16:14-15 — Lydia
- Acts 16:30-34 — The prison guard
- Acts 18:8 — Krispus, the head of the Synagogue
- Acts 19:1-6 — The disciples of John in Ephesus

A clear, healthy and biblical conversion contains

1. Faith

Acts 16:31
They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household."

The word "faith" in the original text of the New Testament means
1) Trust and
2) Obedience

1) To trust Jesus, that he died on the cross for our sins, he now wants to come into our lives and save us from death
2) Trust and obedient willingness, that Jesus – when he comes into our lives – can lead and reign in our lives

If we really trust Jesus, then we also trust him to forgive all our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

2. Repentance

Acts 2:38
Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 3:19
Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord,

Sin always has two aspects in each human being:
A) Original sin
B) Moral sins

Original sin means:

- That we didn't love God with all our heart, mind and soul, we didn't trust him and we didn't open our hearts and our lives for him entirely
- That we lived such a long time without him

Moral sin means the repeated breaking of God's moral commandments → for example the 10 Commandments

If we, by the word of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, recognize and know that we are sinners, then we shall repent and turn to God.

Acts 3:19
Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.

Acts 2:38
Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

➔ **Repentance includes three things precisely:**

To recognize in the heart that I am a sinner

John 16:8
When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment

Confession with the mouth

1. John 1:8-9
If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Turn to God and become a disciple

Acts 26:20
First to those in Damascus, then to those in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and then to the Gentiles, I preached that they should repent and turn to God and demonstrate their repentance by their deeds.

Repentance =

- ➔ Recognize sin in the heart
- ➔ Repent the sin to the Lord, possibly together with someone else (confess with your mouth)
- ➔ Stop living a sinful life and…
- ➔ Begin to walk the ways of the Lord and to follow his commandments. Directly after repentance, water baptism

3. Water baptism

Acts 2:38-39
Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Faith, repentance and water baptism are conditions to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit!

But when all that happened, then we can - being assured by the promises of the word of God – believe that we will receive the full gift of the Holy Spirit. The receiving of the Holy Spirit is a matter of faith and trust that Jesus will send the Holy Spirit as he promised - if we meet the requirements.

4. Receiving Holy Spirit

Towards the end of his time on the earth Jesus spoke about the following…

- ...that he will return to the Father
- ...but he won't leave us behind as orphans
- ...instead the Father and Jesus will send us the Holy Spirit
- ...and the Holy Spirit will remain in us (sealed within us)

John 14:16-18
And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.

When the Holy Spirit comes to us, two key things will happen:

A) HE will bring the life and power of Jesus into our lives

B) HE will lead and help us in following Jesus. The receiving of the gift of the Holy Spirit is the absolute crucial part of the conversion and the new birth!

- Acts 1:4-5 You will be **baptized with** the Holy Spirit

- Acts 1:8 You will **receive power** from on high and will be my witnesses
- Acts 2:4 And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit

- Acts 2:17-18 I will **pour out** my Spirit (2x)

- Acts 2:38 you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

- Acts 8:15-17 that they want to receive the Holy Spirit…he had not yet been poured out on anyone among them…and they received the Holy Spirit!

- Acts 8:18 that **by the laying on of** the apostle's **hands** the Holy Spirit was **given**
- Acts 9:17 that you may see again and would be **filled** with the Holy Spirit

- Acts 10:44-48 the Holy Spirit **came on all**…the gift of the Holy Spirit had been **poured out**…those who **received** the Holy Spirit like us?

Summary: the terms for the first coming of the Holy Spirit

- Baptism with the Spirit
- Receiving (of the power) of the Spirit
- Pouring out of the Spirit
- Spirit coming on people
- Be filled with the Spirit
- Born out of the Spirit

➔ All these terms describe the exact same experience. Only the observation and the description happen from different perspectives.

In 10 of the mentioned conversions in the book of Acts the following is being described – they:
- believed
- repented and turned to God
- were baptized in water
- and what kind of the 5 different experiences they made when the Holy Spirit entered their life for the first time:

- Acts 2:4 and they started to speak in foreign languages
- Acts 2:11 we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own languages!
- Acts 9:17-20 immediately he preached in the synagogues that Jesus is the Son of God.
- Acts 10:44-46 they heard them speaking in other languages and lifting up God
- Acts 19:1-6 and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- Gal 4:6 God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, who cries out: "Abba, father!"

The receiving or the gift of the Holy Spirit is a unique and unmistakable experience!

➔ **Task: Receiving the Holy Spirit**

Before you pray to receive the Holy Spirit, ask the Lord for help to prove your heart:

Make sure that **FAITH** in Jesus and **FAITH** to receive the Holy Spirit are in your heart.

Test your heart to see…

A) If there is still sin left and if repentance must happen – if YES, take your time to repent. You can take a look at the following verses as a guidance and ask the Lord if repentance must take place.

Matthew 22:37-38
Jesus replied: " Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

John 16:8-9
When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment, because people do not believe in me.

Exodus 20:1-20
God spoke these words:

1) *"I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. You shall have no other gods before me."*
2) *"You shall not make for yourself an image in the form of anything in heaven above or on the earth beneath or in the waters below.*
   You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, punishing the children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me, but showing love to a thousand generations of those who love me and keep my commandments."
3) *"You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name."*
4) *"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your male or female servant, nor your animals, nor any foreigner residing in your towns. For in six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but he rested on the seventh day. Therefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy."*
5) *"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you."*
6) *"You shall not murder."*
7) *"You shall not commit adultery."*
8) *"You shall not steal."*
9) *"You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor."*
10) *"You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male or female servant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."*
    When the people saw the thunder and lightning and heard the trumpet and saw the mountain in smoke, they trembled with fear. They stayed at a distance and said to Moses, "Speak to us yourself and we will listen. But do not have God speak to us or we will die." Moses said to the people, "Do not be afraid. God has come to test you, so that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.

Test your heart to see…

B) Are you baptized? If not, be baptized before you ask to receive the Holy Spirit.

Conditions for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit

1. Faith

a) In Jesus: Trust, that he is the Savior and Lord of all my life.

b) For receiving the Holy Spirit: Faith is the crucial factor to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Full of trust I hold on to the promise that I am a candidate for receiving all of the Holy Spirit and I believe the fact that Jesus keeps his promise to me, meaning that when Holy Spirit comes,
   - he will fill me and
   - he will let me overflow with the power of the Holy Spirit

2. Repentance

Understanding, confession, breaking with sin, practicing the ways of Jesus (turning around)

3. Baptism

The book of Acts clearly shows us that normally repentance, faith and water baptism lead to a unique and unmistakable reception of the Holy Spirit.

If faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior comes from hearing healthy preaching over a certain period of time, then oftentimes repentance, water baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit will happen all in one 'moment'. The process of the 3 steps (**repentance, water baptism and the receiving of the Holy Spirit**) should not be interrupted by a sinner's prayer. In the New Testament there are no such things as sinner's prayers. In the New Testament the conversion is «carried out» as soon as faith rose within the heart by these three steps (repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit).

4. Thirst

We need a longing, an inward desire.
Jesus says: "...whoever is thirsty, come to me ..."

- In the New Testament there are no sinner's prayers

5. Prayer including the laying on of hands

Additionally, sometimes special (ongoing) **prayer including the laying on of hands** are helpful and necessary to receive the Holy Spirit.

Example from Acts 19:
In this passage we read of how Paul meets 12 disciples of John who hadn't received the gift of the Holy Spirit, even though they had already believed and repented. Paul baptized them and laid hands on them and they started to pray in tongues.

Paul completed the conversion/new birth

A) First, baptized them «the right way» in water in the name of Jesus Christ

B) Then laid hands on them and they received the Spirit

Acts 19:1-7
While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.

- Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, nobody else
- Everyone who wants to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit has to look to Jesus and trust that he freely gives the gift of the Holy Spirit
- As a support of this process we can lay hands on people
- Pray in great faith for the gift of the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:10-13
"For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Matthew 7:9-11
"Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

Example: A Set table
Little Florian once got up in the morning and realized that he was alone at home. He was really hungry – must be time for breakfast. So, he went into the kitchen and there he saw a table generously set with a lot of sweets, milk, bread, butter and cheese – but he thought that can't be for him, it must be for a special guest. Even though he was starving, he only smelt the food but didn't eat from the table.
So, Florian sat down in front of their home and started to cry because he was so hungry. A lady approached him and asked him why he was crying. Florian responded that he was starving but had nothing to eat. The lady had compassion on him and gave him three thin slices of meat. So, he kept waiting for hours in front of the house. When his mother finally arrived, she asked him why he was crying so terribly.
He replied that he was starving – what totally astonished her because she had prepared an extra generous breakfast for him alone – a special breakfast.

So, Florian saw this set table – and yet took nothing because he thought it couldn't possibly be for him! Is this not the way we sometimes deal with the Holy Spirit? The Lord wants to give us the fullness of the Holy Spirit! We must receive these gifts and not only "smell" without taking them.

➔ **Task: Go into the presence of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit**

a) As a group come before Jesus and ask him to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit.
b) Pray for one another (laying on hands). Those among you who have already received the Holy Spirit, pray for those who haven't yet.
c) After a while, practice overflowing with the Spirit (if you've received) by taking a community time to:

- Praise God and his mighty works
- Speak in tongues together
- Call God, our Father in Heaven, lovingly "Abba Father"
- Listen, to see or to receive - meaning to receive prophetic words and then declare them
- Practice the fifth sign of overflowing with the Holy Spirit – the joyful and spontaneous witnessing that Jesus is Christ the Messiah
- The overflow of the Holy Spirit doesn't really work practically "inside a room", but we need to "go out" to the unreached!

Notes: