

# *The Implementation of Our Father's Plan*

## Introduction

- A. Looking at daily life and routine—we fail to see any lasting meaning and purpose. Ecclesiastes 12:8 “Meaningless! Meaningless! ... Everything is meaningless!”
  - B. The Bible shows how wrong Solomon was. Life is filled with meaning for those who understand and live according to our Father’s eternal plan. Matthew 7:24-27
  - C. The plan is to exalt the Lord Jesus and His work (Phil 2:5-11), through the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18-19). The Savior will glorify the Father now (John 14:12,13), and finally turn the Kingdom over to His Father (1 Cor 15:24-28) so that the glory of God will characterize every detail of life (Zech 14:20,21; Rev 22:1-5).
  - D. The amazing and exhilarating truth is that God wants to do this through us.
- I. The Biblical Explanation of Our Father’s Eternal Plan.

### A. The Model in the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus.

*Therefore, when Christ came into the world, he said: "Here I am—it is written about me in the scroll—I have come to do your will, O God." Heb 10:5-7 (See Matt 28:18; John 3:31-36; 5:19-30; 17:2)*

*But if I drive out demons by the finger of God then the kingdom of God has come to you. Luke 11:20*

### B. The Involvement of Every Believer in the Kingdom Plan of the Lord Jesus.

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." John 20:21 (See also John 17:18)*

*And I confer on you a kingdom, just as my Father conferred one on me. Luke 22:29 (See Rom 8:28-30; Eph 1:3-14; 3:10; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Peter 2:5,9; Rev 1:4-6)*

## II. The Biblical Provision for Implementing the Eternal Plan of the Father.

### A. The Model in the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus

*Jesus was baptized too... and the Holy Spirit descended on him ...Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit...read "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me..." Luke 3:21,22; 4:1,14; 18*

## B. The Involvement of Every Believer in the Kingdom Plan of the Lord Jesus.

*And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. John 14:16,17*

*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...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" Acts 1:4,5*

*For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. 1 Corinthians 12:13*

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18*

Comment: It was John the Baptist who said the Lord Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit (Mark 1:6-8). That came to pass on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:33,34). From that time on it is the Holy Spirit who baptizes the believing sinner, at the moment of the new birth, into the “body of Christ” the Church. Note the use of “all” in the text that teaches us how this work is true for every believer.

Some denominations teach a “baptism of the Spirit” that is designed by God to follow the new birth. It is like a “second work of grace” and usually described as evidenced by speaking in tongues. There is no question that a believer may have such an experience. While not wanting to quibble about terms it is better to call such an experience or experiences as “being filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:18). It was R.A. Torrey, who, with many others, spoke of such a “baptism” and strongly urged people to receive such a work of grace. However, he used the term baptism as synonymous with “filling,” “gifts,” “endued,” etc. (See his book, *The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit*, P. 172). I believe most Christians do not know, nor are taught what full surrender means. When they learn, and surrender to God, the result is a filling of the Spirit that is so powerful for many that they speak of it as a revolutionary work of God. At such a time God’s gifts may surface in their life with a deep joy and fellowship with God. It is God’s will for each of us. Without the power of the Holy Spirit we cannot live and serve effectively in God’s plan. Therefore: if we are not filled with the Spirit we are out of God’s will.

## III. The Believer’s Call to be Involved in the Eternal Plan of Our Father.

### A. The Model in the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus.

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

### B. The Involvement of Every Believer in the Kingdom Plan of the Lord Jesus.

*God, who has called you into fellowship with his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, is faithful. 1 Cor 1:9 (See Rom 8:28-30; Eph 1:3-14; 3:10; 2 Tim 1:9; 1 Peter 2:5,9)*

Conclusion: We must surrender to the Lord Jesus and to the Holy Spirit. We must ask to be filled (baptized, anointed) to do the work committed to us. It is imperative for us.