

"Friend, do let us remember in our needy lives-in this needy age-that God, indeed, is faithful to His Word and that prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness."

Unknown

Prayer Study #281

THE EFFECT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM ON THE APOSTLES

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

Mark records the reaction by His closest friends and followers of the arrest of Jesus at Gethsemane, "*And they all forsook Him and fled*" Mark 14:50. Yet this same group, including both the disciples and some of the other followers, were so embolden that all except John died a martyr's death for their belief in Christ Jesus. What made them change? No doubt there were two factors: First, they had seen the risen Lord, and secondly, they were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost 50 days after the Resurrection. Below is the fate of each one:

1. Matthew was killed by a sword in Ethiopia.
2. Mark died in Alexandria, Egypt, after being dragged by horses throughout the streets until he was dead.
3. Luke was hanged in Greece as a result of his tremendous preaching to the lost.
4. John was boiled in a huge basin of boiling oil in Rome. This not only did not kill him but seemingly did not harm him at all. The results so angered the Roman emperor that he had John banished to the Isle of Patmos where he stayed until the emperor died and a new emperor came into power. John eventually returned to Ephesus in modern Turkey and died as an old man, the only original apostle to die peacefully.
5. Peter was crucified upside down on a cross. He asked to be crucified upside down because he felt he was not worthy to be crucified in the same manner as Jesus was.
6. James, the leader of the church in Jerusalem, was thrown down a hundred foot drop from the southeast pinnacle of the Temple because he refused to deny Christ. This did not kill James so his enemies then proceeded to beat him to death with clubs.
7. James, the Apostle and brother to John, was beheaded at Jerusalem. The Roman officer who guarded James during James' trial was so overcome by James' defense and by conviction, that he declared his

- own faith in Christ to the judge of the trial and knelt beside James to also accept beheading as a new Christian believer.
8. Bartholomew, also known as Nathaniel, was a missionary to Asia. He did extensive work, as a missionary in Turkey, and was skinned alive in Armenia.
 9. Andrew was crucified on an x-shaped cross in Greece. After being whipped severely by seven soldiers, they tied his body to the cross with cords to prolong his agony. When he was led to his cross, Andrew said, "I have long desired and expected this happy hour. The cross has been consecrated by the body of Christ hanging on it." He continued to preach to his tormentors for two days until he died.
 10. Thomas was stabbed with a spear in India during one of his missionary journeys to establish the Christian church there.
 11. Jude was killed with arrows when he refused to deny his faith in Jesus.
 12. Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace Judas, was stoned and beheaded.
 13. Barnabas, one of the 70 disciples, preached throughout Italy and Cyprus and was stoned to death because of his refusal to deny Christ.
 14. Paul was tortured and then beheaded by the evil and demented Roman Emperor Nero at Rome in AD 67, after having endured a lengthy imprisonment.

Before the end of the age, perhaps many other Christians around the world, as some are even today, will be killed for their faith in Christ. We must remember that Jesus said, "*And you shall be hated of all men for My Name's sake: But he that endures to the end will be saved*" (Matthew 10:22).