

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: LESSON 2

We tend to look at the Gospel as a one-dimensional story: God sent His Son to die for us. Many people repent and believe, then stop there – content to be “churchgoing nice people.” Most Christians live in that state of spiritual “suspended animation” of being “nice churchgoing folk.” But Jesus commands all of us: *WAIT in Jerusalem! Just hold on in the place of your salvation. I HAVE MORE FOR YOU! I have Someone who is fully God - My Spirit, My VERY ESSENCE to be with you, to strengthen you, to teach you, to remind you of what I taught you, to guide you, and even to pray through you when you're too distraught to know how to pray.*

The Holy Spirit is likened in the Bible to a dove, and water, and anointing oil, but he did not come as a dove, nor water, nor oil on the day of Pentecost. On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came in the symbol of the two most potent forces in nature: wind and fire.

The only hope for our age is a great outpouring of the Spirit of God. There is no other answer, there is no other way. You can't cure the human heart. This is the only way to make us holy!

The word “baptism” means submersion. So, in salvation the Holy Spirit takes up residence in you. In the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you are submerged in the Holy Spirit. [Matthew 3:11: “He will baptize \[submerge\] you in the Holy Spirit and fire.”](#)

And when you are submerged in God (the Holy Spirit), it is bound to have visible effects. It's always a drastic, dramatic, and life-changing event – “[you will receive power](#)”: boldness in testimony, confidence in teaching God's Word, moral living. You will abhor your sin more. The appeal of temptation will be less powerful. And you will take the Gospel to the lost!

Jesus told the disciples (who had already received the Holy Spirit) right before His ascension: [Acts 1:5,8: “John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”](#)

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an extremely important doctrine, and unlike many other foundational doctrines is taught in all 4 gospels! ([Matthew 3:11](#); [Mark 1:8](#); [Luke 3:16](#); [John 1:33](#)).

John the Baptist taught that Jesus would “[baptize in the Holy Spirit](#).” And we saw that Jesus Himself confirmed it in [Acts 1:5](#). Then, to put the final stamp on it after it had already happened, Peter testifies about it: [Acts 11:16: “Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”](#)

As you read through the NT, you will find words and phrases that are synonymous with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit – **filled** with the Spirit; **full** of the Spirit; the Spirit **poured** out, Spirit **coming or falling** upon; **receiving** of the Spirit. All of these convey the idea of surrender to the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a one-time event. We see it with Peter – he was there on the day of the Pentecost, and then again through the book of Acts we see the descriptor of Peter being filled with the Holy Spirit before speaking repeatedly. This is not a “one and done”. It is impossible to live a Christian life without these “refills”. [Ephesians 5:18: “do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”](#) The verb “be filled” here in Greek is in the continuous tense “**be being filled**” with the Spirit. None of these terms **fully conveys** all that the experience involves. They are all metaphors **attempting** to describe a full surrender to the Holy Spirit.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Speaking in tongues was an integral part of the disciples' experience of Spirit baptism. The source for speaking in tongues was the Holy Spirit. The Greek verb "*apophthengomai*" at the end of Acts 2:4 occurs again in verse 14 to introduce Peter's speech to the crowd. It is an unusual and rare word and may be translated "*to give inspired utterance.*"

The same Spirit who inspired the Scriptures wants to inspire you for your speech – for teaching, preaching, exhortation, and... speaking in tongues!

The Greek phrase for speaking in tongues (*lalein glossais*) - speaking a language one does not know. In Acts 2, the languages spoken by the disciples were unknown to them but were understood by others. They were human, identifiable languages.

However, in the other occurrences in Acts where speaking in tongues is mentioned (10:46; 19:6), there is no indication the languages were understood or identified. Paul's writings imply that Spirit-inspired languages may not always be human - may be **spiritual, heavenly, or angelic** (1 Corinthians 13:1; 14:2,14) as a means of communication between a believer and God.

Why tongues? It's the most evil organ of the body: James 3:6: "**And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.**" So, to speak in tongues would be a sign that we gave up control of it and turned it over to the Spirit of God.

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF SPIRIT BAPTISM: Continuing Evidence of Spirit Baptism

Speaking in Tongues. Speaking in tongues is the initial, empirical indication that the infilling has taken place, but it also benefits the speaker spiritually, for Paul says that "**anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God**" and that "**he who speaks in a tongue edifies himself**" (1 Corinthians 14:2,4). This is the devotional aspect of tongues, which is associated with praising God and giving Him thanks (verses 16, 17).

This praying and praising in tongues is sometimes called prayer language or praying in the Spirit. Believers edify themselves spiritually. It is not something that only happens once at the time of being baptized in the Spirit; it must be a continual, repeated experience. This is implied in Paul's statement to the Corinthians: "**I wish you all spoke with tongues**" (1 Corinthians 14:5).

In addition, praying in tongues **helps us in difficult times**: "**Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.**" Romans 8:26

Openness to Spiritual Manifestations. Spirit baptism opens us up to the full range of spiritual gifts. This does not rule out spiritual gifts among those who have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Both the Old Testament and the Gospels show that most of the gifts occurred prior to the Day of Pentecost. But it was not until after the outpouring of the Spirit that the broader range and much higher incidence of spiritual gifts took place. Since the edification of God's people is the primary purpose of spiritual gifts in the assembly (1 Cor.), Spirit-filled believers should desire them earnestly (1 Cor.).