

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: LESSON 1:

Man prays: 'Lord, so far today I've done all right. I haven't gossiped or lost my temper, and I haven't been nasty or greedy or grumpy. But in a few minutes, I am going to have to get out of bed, and then I am going to need all the help I can get.' Christians cannot live without the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. We can't live the supernatural life in the hostile world. *"Without the Spirit of God, we can do nothing. We are as ships without the wind, branches without sap, and like coals without fire, we are useless."*—Charles Spurgeon

I. Salvation is not the only work of the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a new teaching. It was revived in the 20th century as part of systematic teaching, but it has existed all along **since the inception of the church**. As you study Church history, you can see evidence of believers being baptized in the Holy Spirit all throughout.

II. The church was born on the Day of Pentecost. The birth of the church itself was marked by the Baptism of Holy Spirit.

[Read Acts 2:1-4](#)

III. The Holy Spirit is a Person.

Have you ever compared how serenely the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus as a dove to the way the early Church was baptized? We have fires and tornados descending on the newborn church! It's amazing to see the personality of the Holy Spirit and the facets of God's power – strong and serene at times, and at other times – massive, all-consuming and world-changing! And so it can be with you, as you get baptized in the Holy Spirit. It can manifest differently. Don't try to copy or expect it to happen the same way with you as it did with your friends. Jesus is the Prince of Peace, but He is also the Prince of Power who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit and fire. The Holy Spirit is a Person with emotions, intellect, personality, and a range of actions.

IV. The stages of normal spiritual birth:

1. **R**epent.
2. **B**elieve (in Christ as Lord and Savior).
3. **B**e baptized (in water)
4. **R**ecieve the Holy Spirit (baptized in the Holy Spirit)

(RBBR – “Rubber”)

Sadly, most Christians in today's world are walking around soaking wet - they are stuck in phase 3: having been baptized in water, they have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Some even keep getting baptized in water over and over, because in their soul they know they are missing something. Centuries of bad teaching have caused protracted Spiritual births and millions of believers got stuck in the wet phase. And as protracted physical births are rife with complications for the babies, so are the protracted spiritual births - causing difficulties in our walk with Jesus.

V. The water baptism.

It is an outward expression of the inner change. It is a confession that Jesus is now Lord of your life, that your sins are now washed away.

VI. The purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

To be endued with power to do God's work, to proclaim the Gospel, and to live a holy life. It brings us into complete alignment with the Holy Spirit and His will.

"The greatness of a man's power is the measure of surrender." - J. Wilbur Chapman

As we read the Gospels, Jesus' presence and power were necessary for any work to be done. As we move into the book of Acts and the Epistles, it becomes clear that the Holy Spirit takes on Jesus' role – just as Jesus foretold and planned. He ascends to be at His Father's side, and the Holy Spirit takes His place, thus letting more than a small group of disciples continue His mission: to seek and save the lost and to make disciples.

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift – you cannot earn it or become "deserving of it." [Luke 11:13](#) "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"
2. God the Holy Spirit desires to fill us. (We know He is a Person with desires)
3. Types of baptism in the New Testament:
 - a. Water baptism.
 - b. Baptism by the Holy Spirit into the body of Christ – this is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This is the work of regeneration: when a person surrenders to Jesus, he receives the indwelling of the Holy Spirit: [1 Corinthians 12:13](#): "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit." In this baptism, the Holy Spirit is the baptizer.
 - c. Baptism in the Holy Spirit: [Matthew 3:11](#): "He [Jesus] will baptize you with [en] the Holy Spirit and fire." In this baptism, Jesus the baptizer.

This is a beautiful symmetry: The holy Spirit baptizes us into the body of Christ, and then Christ baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. (Greek **en** means "in" and "with")

To reiterate: all believers have the Holy Spirit dwelling in them even before the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. That's the work of regeneration/salvation. The Holy Spirit brings your dead spirit to life. He now resides in you. You are alive in Christ.

VII. Key passages that indicate that the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are 2 separate events:

It is extremely important to understand this sequence of events: [John 20:22](#): "He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit was imparted to the disciples at that time – before the Pentecost. Then a little later, we read: [Acts 1:4](#): He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father." Having the Holy Spirit is not enough; the Holy Spirit must also have us. God will not take control of our lives by force!

So, they already had the Holy Spirit given to them by Jesus in person, and yet Jesus tells them to wait in Jerusalem for something more – for the Promise of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and fire. They had the *indwelling* of the Holy Spirit, but still did not have the *power* to fulfill the Great Commission – to preach the Gospel and make disciples. They were still "stuck" in phase 3!

Jesus didn't die just to get us saved. He offers more. A lot more – an abundance.