

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

As we have seen in the Scriptures, when Jesus left this Earth to return to Heaven, He left us a job to do. We know it as the Great Commission. The instructions He gave to those early disciples were to go back to Jerusalem and wait. Wait until the Father sent the Promise. The Holy Spirit is the Promise. Remember, Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them alone, as orphans, but His Father would send someone else who would comfort them, counsel them, teach and guide them; Someone who would help them fulfill the commands Jesus gave them.

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power [ability, efficiency, and might] when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends [the very bounds] of the Earth.

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place, when suddenly there came a sound from Heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them. And they were all filled [diffused throughout their souls] with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other [different, foreign] languages (tongues) as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].

- So the Promise came. Third Person of the Triune God--Holy Spirit.
- He came rushing in--the whole city heard Him arrive!
- He appeared as tongues of fire, settling on each disciple.
- He filled them with Himself.
- They were so full of Him, it spilled over in their speech.
- Notice the first thing He did--He began helping them praise God and tell of His goodness!
- The attesting sign to everyone was the ability to speak in foreign

tongues.

- The result of His arrival--others heard the plan, they saw it proven by the miracle of tongues, and 3000 souls were added to God's Kingdom!
- God's plan has not changed--this is the way we are to do it, too!

The Early Church understood the necessity of being filled with Holy Spirit. Through the years, the Church, for the most part, has forgotten Him. The result is evident in the lack of power the Church walks in. You can't even tell the difference between those who confess Christ and those who don't. The same problems fill both their lives. The difference comes with the infilling of the Holy Spirit. He brings the courage and the power to enforce the victory that Jesus died to give us!

Greater is He that lives in you than he that is in the world...the 'He' spoken of here is the Holy Spirit. Just as Holy Spirit hovered over the waters at the time of creation, waiting for God to speak, He waits for the human heart to speak of faith in Jesus. Once those words of repentance and invitation are spoken, He moves! He moves to create a new creature--created in Christ Jesus for good works! Scripture is not silent about this 'forgotten' God.

All down through the ages, God has foretold about His Spirit coming to live within mankind. He brings the power and the ability to live for God. Greater is He that is in me, than he that is in the world. The reason Jesus came as a man was to destroy the works of the devil and as soon as Holy Spirit alighted upon Him as He came up out of the water, He set about doing just that. Scripture tells us that Jesus came back from the wilderness experience full of and under the control of the Holy Spirit--full of power! He immediately began destroying the devil's work by turning water into wine, casting out demons from a man in church, healing Peter's mother-in-law and on and on and on. John tells us that if everything that Jesus did was recorded there would not be enough room to contain it! That same Holy Spirit now dwells in us! He gives us the ability to do the same works that Jesus did!

Peter established who could receive the gift of the Holy Spirit and what the requirements are to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39

Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the Promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.

- ALL who are called to be children of God are to receive three major baptisms.
- Baptism of repentance where one receives Christ into their life.
- The evidence of that baptism is a born-again experience resulting in the person living the life of Christ.
- Baptism in water where the old man of sin is buried and the new man arises to walk in resurrection life.
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit where a person is filled with the Holy Spirit to overflowing in other tongues.
- The result and evidence of a person receiving the promised gift of the Holy Spirit is speaking in the unknown tongue of their newly received spirit language.

The Early Church doctrine and practice was for everyone who received Christ to receive water baptism AND the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1 John 5:8

There are three that bear witness on Earth: the Spirit, the water, and the Blood, and these three agree in one.

- We receive the witness of the Blood with the baptism of repentance.
- We receive the witness of the water with water baptism.
- We receive the full witness of the Spirit with the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- We can see the Triune God at work here.
- Father God gave the gift of His Son and requires everyone to repent and accept the sacrifice of the cross in order to become His child.

- Jesus, the Son of God, died on the cross and shed His Life's Blood for the remission of sins; water baptism in the Name of the One who died for all identifies the new child of God with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.
- Holy Spirit baptizes believers with the gifted ability to pray in a spirit language. That spirit language becomes a part of the new Spirit-born person's nature, character, and capability.

If we are going to make the commitment to enter into a covenant relationship with the God of the universe, we should be prepared -- more than that -- we should be eager, to receive **every** benefit that is part of that covenant agreement.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is received the same way one receives the gift of Eternal Life. It is only for believers. It cannot be received if you have not repented of your sins and entered into a redemptive covenant relationship with Jesus Christ. Even if you are a believer, you should confess Christ and repent of any sins in your life and put them all under the Blood of Jesus. Declare your heart cleansed and renewed through the Blood of Jesus.

- First, you must receive revelation and understanding that this gift is for you.
- Second, you must have the confidence that whatever you ask the Lord for is exactly what He will give you. Then, ASK the Father for this gift.
- "Father, You promised that You would pour out Your Spirit in the last days, and I am hungry for the gift of the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' Name, baptize me in the Holy Spirit. I receive the gift now! Impart to me my prayer language of the Holy Spirit for Your glory!"
- Third, you must receive it by faith. When you asked Jesus to forgive you of your sins, you had to believe first that when you asked for forgiveness that you would receive it and confess with your mouth to receive salvation. When you ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you have to exercise the faith to begin speaking in other tongues. As you are receiving syllables--you have to allow these things to form into a language and by faith speak forth your new, gifted language of the Spirit. The Holy Spirit imparts the ability into your redeemed spirit. The spirit language originates in your spirit and flows out of your

innermost being.

- Fourth, take action by speaking in tongues by the empowerment of the Holy Spirit. God does the giving, but YOU do the speaking! Just begin to worship the Lord with your mouth--words that you understand coming out of your mouth--as you continue praising God, you begin to hear 'words' forming deep in your spirit.
- Go ahead! Just speak them out with your mouth.
- The moment you utter the first syllable, the rivers of living water will flow out of your belling in tongues that you don't understand! You will NEVER be the same again!

Everyone who has received Christ Jesus as their personal Savior can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The evidence that you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit is the ability to speak in languages you don't understand. Speaking in tongues enables you to build your faith levels, recharge your spirit, and your spirit is talking directly to God.

Before Babel, the original language given to Adam was directly inspired from God Himself. Adam spoke the 'God-Tongue' in the Garden of Eden, and the 'one language' in early history would have been the same words and tongue spoken in the Garden of Eden. The divisions of languages at the tower broke the single language that united the world.

Pentecost restored the language of God. Holy Spirit Himself--a member of the Triune God--imparts a supernatural language to the spirit of believers, enabling them to speak directly to the Almighty in the same manner that Adam did when he stood face-to-face in Eden, fellowshiping with his Creator and Father. When you speak in prayer tongues, either Earthly or Heavenly, you have restored the 'language of God' to your own spirit.

God used this blessing to provide each believer a special path of communication to reach directly into His presence, assisting us when we are uncertain of what to pray for or when we need our faith built or we desire spiritual edification.

If you have received the gift of Holy Spirit, then tap into the fresh insight for spiritual growth. If you have not received, then take the instruction coupled with spiritual hunger and seek God for this baptism--this special gift of Holy Spirit. Once you have received, exercise the gift and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you throughout your life~!