

Biblical Perspectives From God's Word

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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I. Introductory Remarks.

Acts 19:1-2 *And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"*

This is a question we should ask ourselves. Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? Maybe you are like these disciples mentioned here and you are not sure whether this experience is for you or not.

Acts 19:2 *...he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."*

The purpose of this lesson is to assure you that this is an experience God desires for you to receive and enjoy. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for you today just as it was for the 120 disciples who received it on the day of Pentecost.

Acts 2:1-4 *Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

In this passage we have the record of how the 120 in the upper room first received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It says, "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues." Peter says in verses 38-39 this promise is to everyone to whom the Lord calls, which means it is for you today! God wants you to be baptized in His 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."*

It is my conviction that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that God wants every believer to experience. It is to be major part of our life and fellowship in

the Lord Jesus Christ as we are involved in carrying out His will and purpose. We are not complete without it. It is indispensable in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. We all desperately need it just as much as these early disciples did. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that gives us the power to carry out His will in our lives.

Acts 1:8 *"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."*

This is a gift God wants each one of us to receive so that we can be fully empowered to pursue our destiny with a greater sense of fervency and zeal.

II. What Is The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?

1. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Is A Full Immersion Into God's Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is more than just being born again of the Holy Spirit. It is a total infilling of The Holy Spirit. The very word baptism means to be fully whelmed or immersed as in water baptism. In water baptism a person is fully immersed into water and in Spirit baptism a person is fully immersed into the Spirit of God.

It is an experience that is subsequent to the new birth. We find in the scriptures that the disciples were both born of the Spirit and baptized in the Holy Spirit. One example of this is found with the people of Samaria in Acts chapter eight.

Acts 8:4-6 *Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word. Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.*

Acts 8:12 *But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.*

These people were saved, water baptized, delivered of demons, and experienced miracles, yet they did not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit until the apostles at Jerusalem sent Peter and John to them. The apostles in Jerusalem thought it was so important for them to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit that they sent Peter and John to minister it to them.

Acts 8:14-17 *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

2. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Is Accompanied By Speaking In Tongues.

The scriptures consistently show that whenever the baptism of the Holy Spirit came to believers, it was accompanied by speaking in tongues.

Acts 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Acts 2:33 *"Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.*

This experience with tongues as the accompanying sign also happened when the Gentile believers were brought into the church.

Acts 10:44-46 *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*

Acts 11:16 identifies both this experience and the one in Acts 2 as the baptism of the Holy Spirit that John the Baptist prophesied would happen.

Let's remember that in the gospels the truth of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues is introduced, but there is no indication of what takes place when it happens. We find now in the Book of Acts that when the disciples experienced this truth that both Jesus and John the Baptist prophesied would happen that it was accompanied with speaking in tongues.

Mark 16:17 *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.*

John 7:37-39 *Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit,*

whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

III. Why The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Is Necessary.

As we see from these scriptures, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is something Jesus said all believers should receive – *“these signs will follow those who believe...”* He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive. What is it about the baptism of the Holy Spirit that makes it so necessary to our walk with the Lord?

1. It Is A Vital Part Of Our Spiritual Foundation.

Hebrews 6:1-3 *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.*

If we are to grow up and be mature into all that Christ desires for us, we must have this experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. We are a spiritual house that is to come into the full measure of Christ.

2. It Brings Us Into God's Supernatural Power.

Acts 1:8 *"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."*

Ephesians 1:19 *...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...*

As Christians we are called to do great exploits for God and to wage a spiritual warfare with our enemy, Satan. Without the power that comes forth from the baptism of the Holy Spirit we will find ourselves coming out on the losing end. Our enemy has supernatural power, but God says that He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world - 1 John 4:4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit releases this power in our lives.

3. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Helps To Purify Us.

Matthew 3:11-12 *"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who*

is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. "His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

Part of our calling as Christians is to be Holy as God is. We have been called to be holy and blameless. Jesus is coming back for a bride without spot or blemish. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus shows us that it is the oil or the baptism of the Holy Spirit that prepares us for this beautiful relationship between Christ and his purified bride.

4. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Builds and Strengthens Our Faith.

Jude 1:20 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...*

1 Corinthians 14:4 *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*

5. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray In God's Will.

1 Corinthians 14:2 *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

Although the scripture below isn't necessarily speaking about speaking in tongues it is talking about a very similar experience when the Holy Spirit takes over. In light of the above Scripture, I believe the same principle is being incorporated when we pray in tongues or in the Spirit.

Romans 8:26 *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...***

1 Corinthians 14:15 *What is the result then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

6. It Brings Us Into A Deeper Level Of Intimacy With God.

1 Corinthians 14:2 *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

7. It Brings Us Into A Deeper Level Of Revelation Of God's Word.

1 John 2:20 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*

1 John 2:27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

8. It Brings Rest To Our Souls.

Isaiah 28:11-12 *For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, "This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; yet they would not hear.*

IV. Summary & Concluding Remarks.

In this lesson we have seen that it is God's desire for each one of us to be filled with His Spirit to the fullness. It is in receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the accompanying sign of speaking in other tongues that continually allows us to be filled by His Spirit.

I encourage those of you who have not received this wonderful gift to do so. As we have seen, it is a vital part of our spiritual foundation, it brings us into God's supernatural power, it helps to purify our vessels, it build us up in our faith, it helps us to pray according to God's will, it brings us into a deeper level of intimacy, it also brings us into a deeper revelation of His word and brings peace and rest to our souls. These are good reasons to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit today.