

# Foundations for Christian Growth

## The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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### I. Introductory Remarks.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of more fascinating subjects in the New Testament. It was the first major experience that the disciples of Jesus received after He ascended into Heaven. Upon receiving this wonderful experience the New Testament church was birthed with the disciples going forth in explosive power giving witness to the resurrection of Jesus Christ and the preaching of the kingdom of God.

My purpose in this lesson is to allow the Scriptures to speak for themselves concerning this wonderful truth, which will show us the reality of how this experience was received by the early disciples and how God wants us as 21st century New Testament believers to receive this experience as well.

### II. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Was Prophesied.

- **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was prophesied by Joel, an Old Testament Prophet, John the Baptist and also by Jesus.**

**Joel 2:28-29** *"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. {29}And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

**Matthew 3:11** *"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.*

**Luke 11:9-13** *"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. {10}"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. {11}"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? {12}"Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? {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!"** (See also Luke 24:49, John 7:37-39 & Acts 1:5)*

- **All of the above Prophecies Were Fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.**

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit that was prophesied by the Prophet Joel, John the Baptist and Jesus was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, which was the birth of the New Testament Church.

**Acts 2:1-4** *When the Day of Pentecost had **fully** come, they were all with one accord in one place. {2}And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. {3}Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. {4}And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The scene in this passage is the Birth of the New Testament Church, which began as a result of the Outpouring of the Holy, which had been prophesied by the Prophet Joel. (See Acts 2:14-18).

- **Peter identifies this experience as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

The Apostle Peter identifies the experience in Acts chapter 2 as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus spoke of in Acts 1:5, which He also identified as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 11:15-16** *"And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. {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.'*

The major sign given in the 2nd Chapter of Acts that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit had actually come was that they spoke with other tongues, of which we will discuss later in this lesson.

### **III. There Are Two Distinct Experiences in the Holy Spirit.**

Before we go any further in this study it is important to point out that the Bible does clearly state that there are two distinct experiences in the Holy Spirit.

The new convert is saved or born again through the Holy Spirit, but there is yet another work of grace. We find an example of this in the lives of the early disciples.

- **The early disciples were born of the Spirit when Jesus breathed on them**

**and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit".**

**John 20:22** *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

- **Jesus then told these same disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the promise of His Father.**

**Luke 24:49** *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

- **The power spoken of in Luke 24:49 is Identified as the power that comes from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

**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."*

- **The above passages of Scripture and the ones below show conclusively that the early disciples received two distinct experiences from the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 8:5-8** *Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. {6}And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. {7}For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. {8}And there was great joy in that city.*

These people had been converted, baptized in water, healed, delivered of demons and made joyful. Yet they still needed to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Peter and John came to Samaria from Jerusalem, when they had heard that these people had been saved and water baptized.

**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, {15}who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. {16}For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. {17}Then they laid hands on them, and **they received the Holy Spirit.***

#### **IV. The Evidence of Having Received the Baptism of the Spirit.**

- **A Tangible Supernatural Sign Is Given.**

It is more than taking it by faith. God gives a tangible supernatural sign in your body. Your tongue will speak a language you have never learned. This is called "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**;*

**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 10:44-46** *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. {45}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. {46}**For they heard them speak with tongues** and magnify God. Then Peter answered,*

Verse 46 says **"For they heard them speaking with tongues"**. In other words this was how they knew that they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 19:1-6** *And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples {2}he said to them, "**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." {5}When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. {6}And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and **they spoke with tongues** and prophesied.*

**The Bible is consistent in the fact that Tongues was the initial evidence.**

**2 Corinthians 13:1** *This will be the third time I am coming to you. "By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established."*

Out of five experiences in the Book of Acts concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, three of them show conclusively that "speaking in tongues" was the sign that they had experienced it. The other two examples are that of the Apostle Paul found in Acts 9:17 and Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8:18-21.

In the case with Paul, he said in I Corinthians 14:18 *"I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than you all.* In the case with Simon the Sorcerer, when Peter rebuked him for offering money to have the power to lay hands on people so that

they could receive the gift, Peter told Simon in Acts 8:21 that he had no part in the matter. The word *matter* is the *Greek word **logos***, which means word or divine utterance.

In the New Testament you will often find the introduction of a truth or doctrine in the gospels and the experience of the truth in the Book of Acts and then further teaching and explaining in the Epistles, which is the case concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

## V. The Two Kinds of Tongues.

The apostle Paul elaborates on this truth quite extensively in the Book of 1 Corinthians. He explains the difference between tongues as a sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues.

### 1. The Gift of Tongues that must Be Followed with an Interpretation.

One Scripture that has been very confusing to many is the one found in 1 Corinthians 12:30 where the implication seems to be that all don't speak in tongues.

**1 Corinthians 12:30** *Do all have gifts of healings? **Do all speak with tongues?** Do all interpret?*

It is important to understand this Scripture in the context in which it is written. Paul has just finished defining to the Corinthians the nine gifts of the Spirit of which tongues is one of them.

**1 Corinthians 12:10** *to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another the interpretation of tongues.*

The “tongues” that he is speaking of here is the tongue that is to be used in the congregational setting that must follow with an interpretation. Not everyone has this gift.

### 2. The Devotional Tongue That Comes with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- **Paul wished that all spoke with tongues.**

**1 Corinthians 14:5** *I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you*

*prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.*

**1 Corinthians 14:18-19** *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; {19}yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

- **We are to pray in the Holy Spirit with the devotional tongue.**

**1 Corinthians 14:15** *What is the conclusion 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.*

**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.*

**1 Corinthians 14:14** *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

This unknown tongue is the tongue given with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is not the gift of tongues mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:10 & 29, which must be followed by an interpretation.

## **VI. Is The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit Still For Today?**

This is a valid question and must be answered in the context of New Testament Christianity. The primary scripture used by those who say the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with Tongues is not for today is found in 1 Corinthians 13:8-9

**1 Corinthians 13:8** *Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are **tongues, they will cease**; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away.*

**Notice** that Verse 8 says, “tongues shall be done away with as well as knowledge when that which is perfect is come.” Those who advocate that the gifts of the Spirit are not for today say that when the Bible as we know it today was canonized "that which is perfect" came and so the gifts or the supernatural manifestations of God are not needed anymore.

The problem with this thought is that 1 Corinthians 13:12 identifies very clearly what Paul is talking about.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.*

It says "**when we see face to face**" that which is in part shall be done away with. Also, if tongues is to be done away with knowledge must also be done away with. I John 3:2 identifies what this passage is talking about. It's at the second coming!

**1 John 3:2** *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.*

- **We have all been called to receive this gift.**

**Acts 2:39** *"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."*

This passage of scripture makes it clear that this gift which was received here, which we have already seen clearly is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for as many as the Lord our God shall call.

**Have You Been Called by God?** If so, then this experience is for you.

- **The gifts and callings of God are irrevocable.**

**Romans 11:29** *For the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable.*

This means God can't take back a gift He has given to the Church.

## **VII. How Do we Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

- **Our hearts must be properly prepared through repentance.**

**Acts 2:38** *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.*

**Acts 3:19** *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that **times of refreshing** may come from the presence of the Lord,*

- **There needs to be a real hungering and thirsting for it.**

**Matthew 5:6** *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

- **There must be a sense of expectation.**

**Luke 11:9-13** *"So I say to you, **ask, and it will be given to you**; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. <sup>{10}</sup>"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. <sup>{11}</sup>"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>{12}</sup>"Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? <sup>{13}</sup>"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!"*

- **There must be an active response to your faith.**

**James 2:20** *But do you want to know, O foolish man, that **faith without works** is dead?*

**James 2:26** *For as the body without the spirit is dead, so **faith without works** is dead also.*

**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.*