

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Concept:

One of the last sets of instructions that Jesus gave His disciples was to go to Jerusalem and wait. What a command the Lord gave to them. The disciples are charged with excitement about His resurrection and they have just experienced the power of the new birth. Peter has personally experienced the joy of being restored by Christ, Himself. All of their hearts had to be overflowing and I am sure that Jesus was the talk of the town. In their thoughts they cried, “You all know the resurrection does not happen every day. Could there be a better time to hit the streets and begin to share this new love with everyone than right after the resurrection?” But the Lord had a better plan that would be more fruitful. His plan was to send the disciples to Jerusalem and have them wait. Can you imagine how hard waiting would be especially when you didn’t know what you are waiting for? Jesus told them to wait for the promise of the Father. In John 14:16, Jesus told them that another Counselor just like Him was going to come. He also explained, in verse 26, what the Holy Spirit would do when He came.

The amazing thing is that 120 of His disciples actually obeyed and spent ten days together praying and being in one accord. There is a miracle! Then the day of Pentecost happened and Jesus fulfilled what John the Baptist had prophetically declared. John said Jesus would baptize in the Holy Spirit and He certainly did. There was a sound like a rushing wind. Could the Holy Spirit be showing that He is real and He can change the natural environment just like Jesus did? Everyone had tongues of fire on their heads, showing that this baptism is for everyone. They got so filled, that they ended up in the streets but this time not just with excitement but also with power. There was great joy and a great harvest of souls had come into the kingdom. This is always the acid test, were lives changed? The answer was definitely yes. The disciples moved with a new boldness, Peter preached with a new authority, and people responded with a new eagerness. That sure sounds like something that we need today. Is this Pentecostal experience truly for today? Are tongues real and necessary? We want to look at the scripture and allow the Word to answer our questions about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and its relevancy to us today.

Scriptural Definitions:

Acts 1:8

- Receive power: Take hold of miracle power, violent encounter, ability to respond, ability to serve and share
- Come on you: Arrive, attack, influence
- Witness: record, martyr: Acts 2:38
- Gift: Dorea, The very person of the Holy Spirit, the entire person not just a part
Luke 24:49
- Promise: announcement, pledge, divine assurance of good
- Endued: sinking into a garment, cloth, anyone clothed with this power will be able to have confirmation of His truth:
- Ephesians 5:18 - Filled: cram, level up, be complete, “be being filled”, a continually being filled

Scripture Application:

1. Acts 1:8
2. Acts 2:1-4
3. John 7:37-39
4. Acts 2:33, 38,39
5. Joel 2:28
6. Acts 4:31
7. Acts 6:5
8. Acts 10:44-48
9. Acts 19:1-7
10. Acts 8:14-18
11. I Corinthians 14:18, Acts 9:17
12. Luke 11:11-13
13. John 1:33

Scriptural Consequences:

1. Luke 24:45-49
2. Isaiah 28:11,112
3. I Corinthians 14:15-17
4. Acts 1:8
5. Jude 20
6. Romans 8:26,27
7. I Corinthians 14:14,15
8. I Corinthians 14:4

9. I Corinthians 14:16

10. James 3:8

11. John 16:13

12. Ephesians 6:18

13. Ephesians 5:18,19

14. I Corinthians 12:30

15. I Corinthians 1:4-9

Summary:

Has anyone ever questioned you about the necessity of being baptized with the Holy Spirit? Their argument usually is “I received the Holy Spirit when I was saved”. Our response should be, you are absolutely right. We cannot get saved without the Holy Spirit being involved. However, we have already looked at a number of scriptures that emphasize this “second” work of the Holy Spirit. The disciples were certainly born again before the day of Pentecost but they were directed by the Lord to go and receive this infilling, which was promised by the Father. Cornelius, in Acts 10:4-48, was saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and baptized in water. Acts 19:1-7 shows us being “born again” and receiving the Holy Spirit are both important ingredients for believers. The Baptism was certainly not given to cause separation in the Body but to bring unity. We must not get preoccupied with the gift and forget who gives the gift. It is about an opportunity for us to receive from the Lord the enabling that better testifies of the greatness of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Also you may have been confronted with the question about “tongues”. Are they necessary? Are tongues the only evidence of the Baptism? I don’t think anyone can read these scriptures and say that tongues are not part of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit but they are certainly not all of the Baptism. They were part of the first initial evidence but the evidence of the Baptism didn’t stop there. Right after the outpouring they begin to share the goodness of the Lord with a real supernatural power. Tongues are not necessary for those filled with the Holy Spirit but why would I not want to receive this good gift from the Lord. You don’t have to choose one part and leave the rest, take the whole package and enjoy it all. Remember that everything we are given is so that we can be blessed to be a blessing. If you are running over, then you will spill on everyone around you. You will experience new authority and a joy that hasn’t been part of your life before. You will pray with a new confidence and boldness, and the revelation of the Father’s heart will become more real than ever before.

Action:

If you are not filled with the Holy Spirit let someone in your group of 12 pray with you to receive this great gift. If you have received the Baptism, then begin to pray in the Spirit for 30 minutes a day. Then share the dynamic that happens because of your praying in the spirit with the group next meeting. Get ready for the supernatural to open up like never before in your life.