

**John the Baptist baptized with water for repentance.**

**Matthew 3:11** *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with **the Holy Spirit and fire**.*

*2 distinct baptisms (really three, because John baptism was old covenant)*

John's purpose was to remove the barrier of sin so that people could receive the good news. John was the forerunner of Jesus Christ and one his favorite titles for Jesus was **"baptizer"** In all four gospels. Jesus is the baptizer. John's baptism was repentance from sin that would prepare the heart for Jesus.

Once Jesus was crucified and raised back to life , He introduced a new water baptism that was superior to John's.

**Matthew 28:18-20** (NKJV) 18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, [even] to the end of the age." Amen.

**Paul brings understanding to what is happening in the sacrament of water baptism.**

**Romans 6:3-4** (NKJV) 3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? 4 Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

## **Holy Spirit Baptism**

Jesus would offer a brand new baptism after His ascension that would anoint Men, women and children with the purity of a sanctified heart and life and the power of a Spirit filled life.

**Acts 1:4-5** *Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."*

**1:8** *but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."*

**Same Greek word is used for baptized concerning water and Holy Spirit (, to immerse, to submerge), to cleanse by dipping or submerging, to overwhelm)**

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not simply an add on but is a primary goal of God for all believers.
- Purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was not so we would have a specific gift but that we would have the gift and fullness of the Holy Spirit who possesses all gifts and can display any and all of God's gracelet's in their various forms.

**His fire both purifies and empowers.** *A fire that is available for every believer who will not settle but will pursue the fullness of His Holy Spirit.*

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a two fold work that we enter into by faith. Bringing both purity and power.

### The Jerusalem Council

***Acts 15:6-9** Now the apostles and elders came together to consider this matter. <sup>7</sup> And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up and said to them: "Men and brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. <sup>8</sup> So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by **giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us,** <sup>9</sup> and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.*

*The validation here given by Peter for receiving the Gentiles (Cornelius) was the fact that when God gave them the Holy Spirit, just as He did to us He **purified their hearts by faith.** Peter then points back to Pentecost when the Holy Spirit baptized the 120 and in the midst of the power encounter (Fire, wind, tongues) highlights that this was when their hearts were purified. Power and Purity are both released when the Spirit fills a life!*

Purity is the foundation that power lands and is sustained upon! Remember blood purifies and consecrates and the Holy Spirit (oil) empowers.

**If you are not filled with the Holy Spirit then you are holding back giving your all to God and not receiving from Him everything He wants to give you and everything that you need.**

**The truth is there is a diversity in teaching about being filled with the Holy Spirit but perhaps that is because there is diversity in the New Testament itself. God doesn't follow our systematic and doctrinal systems, He is not contained by us though often times our unbelief confines Him from moving fully.**

What if God did not intend for everyone of our experiences with Him to look the same because He knows what we do -we make tidy boxes.

1. **Acts 2** the 120 believers were all filled with the Holy Spirit at a prayer meeting with **wind, flames of fire and tongues** and emboldened to share the good news of Jesus Christ to a multitude of people.
  2. In **Acts 4:31** another prayer meeting where we do not know how many believers were there, they were **filled with the Holy Spirit and boldness after they had already been filled.**
  3. In **Acts 8:14-17** **revealed that** Sometimes the Holy Spirit came after baptism with the laying on of hands with no tongues mentioned.
  4. **Acts 9:17-19** When Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit we are not told all the particulars but we know the scales fell from his eyes, he was also water baptized and he went and started sharing the Good news.
  5. In **Acts 10** while Peter was talking to Cornelius and His family, the Holy Spirit fell upon them and this group of Gentiles were speaking in tongues and exalting God prior to being baptized in water with no laying on of hands.
  6. In **Acts 19** Paul came through Ephesus and found some disciples that had not heard of the Holy Spirit, they had simply repented of their sins through John the Baptist message. They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus and the Spirit came upon them through the laying on of hands. They spoke in tongues and prophesied.
- **Baptism in the Holy Spirit according to the word of God can happen at the time of conversion, before baptism, with tongues, with prophecy, with boldness, with joy accompanying it. It is evident that God likes diversity. The Holy Spirit is free to do it any way He pleases and our job is to hunger and thirst for everything that He has. The one consistent evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is a life that is supernaturally transformed to become like Jesus.**
  - It is repeated (Acts 2 → Acts 4).
  - It is experiential.
  - It is observable (speaking boldly, tongues, prophecy, joy, etc.).
  - It is for empowerment, not salvation.

The NT does not treat “being filled” as a one-time experience.

**When we read the history of church Fathers and their interpretation and experience of what it looked like to be filled with the Holy Spirit you once again came into a variety of encounters and experiences that add to the conclusion of an incredibly big God who manifests His Spirit in a variety of ways.**

### Different works of the Holy Spirit

#### 1. Receiving the Holy Spirit

In John 20 after Jesus death and resurrection but prior to His ascension Jesus breathed upon His disciples

*John 20:21-22-So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you." <sup>22</sup> And when He had said this, He breathed on them and \*said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.*

- In receiving the person of the Holy Spirit the **disciples are born again and receive the indwelling Holy Spirit**. Making them a new creation
- This passage parallels the Father breathing on Adam in the first creation and a new creation began.
- This is **John 3:3 being born again**

#### 1. Being filled with the Holy Spirit

*Acts 2:1-4* When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

- A deeper work of full consecration, fully yielding your life to the life of Jesus Christ. Without this yielding there will be no filling.
- Being equipped from power on high to fulfill your mission to the world.
- Both purifies your heart and empowers
- A crises moment, (Jesus is not only Savior, He is Lord)

#### 1. Fellowship, abiding, getting to know and understand Holy Spirit. Ongoing encounters and fillings with the Holy Spirit. Continual growth. **More!!**

*Acts 13:52 (NASB)* And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

*Luke 11:13 (NKJV)* "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!"

## APOSTOLIC FATHERS (1st–2nd Century)

Writers like Ignatius, Didache, Justin Martyr, and Irenaeus assume:

- The Spirit fills believers for holy living.
- Prophecy, tongues, healing, exorcism, and boldness continue.
- Worship gatherings included charismatic expressions.
- “Being filled” was seen as an ongoing empowerment for ministry and holiness.

## FOURTH CENTURY:(Athanasius, Basil, Gregory of Nyssa, Augustine)

**Being filled = participating in the divine life** (theosis- becoming more like God by being united to Him through Jesus and filled with the Holy Spirit.

It is a continual, increasing participation

Moravians spoke of the Spirit filling believers with “liquid love.”

John Wesley taught: Being filled = entire sanctification, “perfect love.”

The real “qualification,” according to A.W. Tozer, is: Absolute surrender, Honest repentance, A will yielded to Christ as Lord, A sincere, hungry desire for God and Childlike faith that receives

*We receive Him by faith as we receive the Lord in salvation by faith. He comes as a gift of God to us in power. First He comes in some degree and measure when we are converted, otherwise we couldn't be converted. Without Him we couldn't be born again, because we are born of the Spirit. But I am talking about something different now, an advance over that. I am talking about His coming and possessing the full” A. W. Tozer*

## Home groups

1. Discuss the difference between water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism and also discuss your testimony pertaining to both baptisms.
2. Discuss the twofold work of the Holy Spirit to purify and to bring power. Discuss the Theology as well as the mystery.
3. Discuss-If you are not willing to fully yield to the Holy Spirit then you are not ready to be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. Discuss-The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a primary goal of God for every believer, it is not an add on!
5. Discuss the diversity of God and how it's important not to put Him in the box of perfect doctrine But leave room for mystery.