

Holy Spirit Baptism: Untangling the Confusion of the Holy Spirit

START: (10 min)

1. How was your week?
2. Conversation Starter (*optional*): What is your favorite way to relax after a long day at work?

GOSPEL: The person, presence and power of the Holy Spirit has existed as part of the trinity from beginning to end (before time existed). When we become Followers of Christ, the person of the Holy Spirit comes to reside in you. The Holy Spirit has a lot of roles as well. However, in this discussion, let's focus on specifically the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was first experienced by the Apostles in Acts 2, and then following that it is experienced throughout the New Testament by the believers and the churches.

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit has a lot of confusion surrounding its meaning, purpose and importance. What confusing questions do you have or have heard from others?
2. Jesus said it is better for him to leave this world so he can send the Holy Spirit (John 16:5-7) Why do you think this is better? How is this better in your life?
3. Jesus made it really clear to his disciples that they should not leave Jerusalem but to WAIT for the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4). When you read the Acts 1, what purpose did Jesus have in making them wait? Have you discovered times in your life the Lord has you wait and you don't know why, but later discovered there was a purpose in the waiting? What did you learn?
4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a specific event in Acts 2. It continued to be specific events in the New Testament believer's lives (see Acts 8:15-17 and Acts 19:1-6 for examples). Have you experienced this event in your life? If yes, share your experience. If no or you are unsure, what are your hesitations? And there is no judgment for being honest!

5. The people in Acts 2 responded with amazement, sincere questions as well as ridicule. What is your response? What do you think the Lord is saying to you right now?

PRAYER: This is a good time to pray for each other. If there is someone who wants to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, lay your hands on them and pray for them. If there are people who have already experienced this, maybe this is a time to pray for each other for a renewal of hunger for the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.