

PNEUMATOLOGY

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit Bible Institute - *Winter 2025-26* Gulf Coast Baptist Church

Spirit Baptism

- I. Spirit baptism is not synonymous with water baptism
 - A. Baptize - baptizo -
 1. Definition: to immerse, submerge
 2. The Greeks used it to refer to dunking cloth into dye
 - B. In the NT the word is used to reference both literally and figuratively
 1. Literal - Water baptism is a picture, symbolic, of the spiritual reality that one has been placed into the Body of Christ - having been credited with sharing in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection
 2. Figurative - "pictures the introduction of placing a person or thing into a new environment or into union with something else so as to alter its condition or its relationship to its previous environment or condition...In this sense baptism means to be identified with."- PreceptAustin
- II. Spirit Baptism - the Spirit places ones believing the Gospel into Christ
 - A. The Spirit places individuals into "the" Christ - Identity
 1. 1 Corinthians 12:13 - being immersed into the Body (with all believers) is something we all share together in Christ as the Head
 2. Galatians 3:27 - baptism into Christ does away with world system identities
 3. Ephesians 4:1-6 - there is one body that believers are placed into. Local assemblies are local and limited expressions of the one Body of Christ.
 - B. The Spirit places individuals into "the Christ"- His Death, Burial, and Resurrection
 1. Romans 6:3-4 - the one believing the Gospel is baptized into the death and burial of Christ - intimately identified as having participated in Christ's death and burial
 2. Colossians 2:12 - Spirit baptism results in the believer being identified with Christ's resurrection
- III. Spirit Baptism - The Results: Position and Possessions
 - A. Definitions
 1. Position - one's credited standing before God
 2. Possessions - benefits or privileges one receives upon being placed in Christ which they can make us for the glory of God
 - B. The Believer's Position in Christ
 1. Ephesians 1:3 - God blesses (speaks all good things) the believer in Christ. God continuously has good things to say about us in heaven because we share them with Christ.
 2. Ephesians 1:6 - all believers are accepted or graced in the beloved. Every good thing God has said about us is undeserved. See also Romans 5:2; 1 Corinthians 1:4; 1 Timothy 1:12; 2 Timothy 1:9; 2:1.
 3. Romans 6:8, 11 - we died with Christ to the sin nature because we were credited with crucified with Him (Galatians 2:20, Romans 6:11). While Christ was being crucified,

God the Father credited Him with our sin resulting in spiritual death and being separated from fellowship with the Father and the Spirit. God graciously credited us with having participated in Christ's sufferings on the cross as a result of being placed in Him.

4. Romans 6:11 - all believers have been made alive in Him.
 5. Romans 8:1 - having been credited with participating in Christ's death, burial, and resurrection and thus dead to sin and alive to God, the believer does not stand condemned like the unsaved world (John 3:17-18).
 6. Romans 12:5; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; Galatians 3:28 - all believers share equally together in their identity with Christ in the one Body.
 7. 1 Corinthians 1:2 - regardless of behavior, all believers are set apart to God for His purposes. All are saints.
 8. 1 Corinthians 1:30 - God has credited all believers with the Son's righteousness because they are in Him.
 9. Galatians 2:4; Romans 7:4; 8:2 - we have liberty in Christ having been liberated from the power the sin nature held over us and we have also been freed from the Law
 - a) Believers commonly misapply these truths
 - b) This dual-freedom allows the believer to live the life God desires
 10. Galatians 3:26 - all believers are credited with being sons (mature ones) in Christ
 - a) This position can result in the believer living as a mature one as they follow the Spirit's lead (Galatians 4:1-4; Hebrews 5:8)
 - b) The mature one lives as God desires without the Law
 11. Galatians 3:28; Colossians 3:11; Ephesians 3:6 - we are not distinguished by world system identities (religion, gender, socio-economic standing, etc.) which divide into categories. All believers are one in Christ
 12. Ephesians 1:7 - the believer's redemption is complete in Christ
 13. Ephesians 1:13 - we are sealed into Him by the Spirit and therefore we can never be removed from our God-credited standing.
 14. Ephesians 2:5-6 - the believer has been made alive together with Christ, raised with Him out from death, and seated together with Him in the heavenlies
 15. Ephesians 2:13 - believers are now near to God because they are in Christ
 16. Ephesians 3:12 - we have boldness and access to God in Christ producing freedom of speech with God.
- C. The Believer's Possessions in Christ
1. Romans 6:4 - we can walk in an entirely new kind of life
 2. Romans 6:11 - believers can come to the logical conclusion that they are dead to the power of the sin nature and alive to God
 3. 1 Corinthians 15:58 - we can labor in our position in the Lord. No such labor is empty whether the results are observable or not (1 Thessalonians 5:12).
 4. 2 Corinthians 2:14 - we have been made to triumph in Christ
 5. Philippians 3:14 - the Spirit calls us to our position in Christ.
 6. Ephesians 5:8 - in Christ, the believer can live out God's kind of life (light).
 7. Ephesians 6:1 - children can obey their parents in the Lord (Colossians 3:20)
 8. Philippians 4:7 - God's peace will guard our hearts and minds in that position.
 9. Philippians 3:1 - believers are to rejoice in the Lord. This can take place regardless of circumstances because their position in Christ is constant.

10. Philippians 3:9 - we can do righteousness in Him. When we act outside of our position in Christ any good we do is from our righteousness.
11. Colossians 1:28 - spiritual maturity is possible because we are in Christ.
12. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - believers can be thankful in all things in Him.
13. 2 Timothy 3:12 - we can live godly in Christ. Godliness is only possible as we relate to our position in Christ.
14. 1 John 2:27, 28 - we are to be at ease in Christ which will result in us being taught by the Spirit.