

The Holy Spirit
Baptism of the Holy Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:13

October 21, 2018 a.m.

HDBC

Baptism is a public sign of a person's commitment to follow Christ. In it the individual is immersed in water, then raised out of the water in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It is a sign to the church and to the world of a faith commitment to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus commanded it and the apostles and early Christians practiced it. We continue it today.

But water baptism is not the only baptism mentioned in the Bible. There is a spiritual baptism that is even more important than water baptism. As we continue our series on *The Holy Spirit* let's consider **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**. Even the title can be misleading because the Bible doesn't use that phrase. There is quite a bit of confusion on this topic. This morning I want us to see what the Bible says on this subject. **What is Spirit Baptism?** Two things included:

First, it involves the coming of the Holy Spirit to live in the life of a believer. In other words, the Holy Spirit moving into the individual life of the believer. Internal aspect. HS moving in. Acts 2.

Second, it involves the Holy Spirit placing the new believer into the spiritual body of Christ. He immerses us into the family of faith. This means we have a new family, new environment and new influences on our lives. External aspect.

He moves into the believer's life. He places believer into the body of Christ.

There are only seven verses in N.T. that reference baptism by the Holy Spirit. Six of those are predictive. Five relate John's promise and one Jesus' promise. Seventh offers explanation by Paul in the letter of 1 Corinthians.

1. Baptism Promised

There are no less than three individuals who predicted the coming baptism of the Holy Spirit. The prophet, Joel. John the Baptist. Jesus.

Joel, the Old Testament prophet. Joel 2:8-29

It will come about after this, that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. Even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days.

John the Baptist. All four gospels. Peter referenced it in Acts 11:16. *I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.* Mark 1:8

John's baptism was temporary, physical and limited in scope. His baptism was a sign of repentance in those who were baptized. Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This would be a baptism that would extend beyond the current time, would be spiritual instead of physical, and would have eternal implications. **It would be radically different!**

Jesus' Promise.

Acts 1:5 records the words of Jesus on this subject. Just before his ascension into Heaven. *John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*

Note a couple of things in Jesus' promise:

First, he reiterated what John had promised. This will happen.

Second, he indicated that it would happen soon.

Third, he pointed to two immediate results. (8) Power and Witness

2. Baptism Initiated

Now let's consider the initial experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus had said they would experience it in a few days. And, indeed, they did. Luke, in writing Acts, clearly ties the events of Acts 2 (the coming of the Holy Spirit) with the promise of Jesus in Acts 1.

Acts 2:1-4 records the initial fulfillment of the promise that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. They were waiting in Jerusalem, like Jesus had instructed. When suddenly the Holy Spirit descended upon them, moved into each of their lives. Evidence of this initial indwelling included the sound of a rushing wind, tongues of fire that were seen over them, the supernatural gift of communicating in languages that they had not learned that enabled them to share the gospel, power and boldness to proclaim Jesus.

In two instances later in Acts, we see Holy spirit coming upon Samaritans and Gentiles. This was to show that the Samaritans and Gentiles were equally part of God's plan of salvation and would receive the same Holy Spirit as the Jews. In each case this opened the door to these groups outside of the Jewish people. Acts 8:14-17 and 10:27-48.

Some have suggested that these experiences in Acts are **descriptive**, but not **prescriptive**. Meaning they describe what happened at that time, but were never meant to be seen as the normal experience for succeeding generations. I would agree with that.

Acts is the record of the transitional period as the old covenant was replaced by the new. Though divinely inspired and absolutely true, it is not designed to teach doctrine as much as to reflect the practice of that era. The initial coming of the Holy Spirit to the Jews in Acts 2 and to the Samaritans and Gentiles a little later were **descriptive**. They simply describe what happened then, not what would happen to everyone later.

That brings us to the one passage in the letters of Paul that specifically mentions baptism by the Holy Spirit.

3. **Baptism Explained** (1 Corinthians 12:13)

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

I just want to point out three things taught in this verses. Spirit Baptism is . . .

1) Transformative

As I mentioned earlier, the Holy Spirit immerses us into the body of Christ. When you were born again, you instantly became part of God's family. There was an interesting use of the word **baptism** in that day that sheds light on what it means to be **baptized** into the body of Christ.

This word was used to describe the process of dyeing cloth. If you wanted a piece of cloth to be purple, you would dip it in purple dye. When the cloth came out of the dye, you had a different looking piece of cloth because it had been immersed in a colored dye. Transformed to match the environment into which it was immersed.

So, this process of immersion, this baptism was not just an act. It was a transformation, because the cloth took on a whole new color. When God wanted to describe the ministry where the Holy Spirit places us into a whole new environment, this is the word He chose.

Like the cloth that is immersed in dye, takes on the color of the dye, so the new believer is transformed by the new family that we are immersed in. The church, the body of Christ, is used by the Holy Spirit to help change us, reform us and to make us more like Christ.

2) Universal

Note that Paul indicates that we were all baptized. Meaning that this is an experience that has happened to every believer. Some would suggest that some Christians have been baptized by the Holy Spirit while others have not. This is not what Paul indicates.

If you have been born again, you have received at the moment of your salvation the baptism by the Spirit. **Remember**, it is the Holy Spirit coming to live in you and the Holy Spirit placing you into the body of Christ. Both happen at the moment of salvation. It is not something you go looking for. You have already experienced it.

Romans 8:9 says . . .

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit is not truly born again. It is impossible to be a Christian and not have the Holy Spirit in you. Having the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with how mature you are as a Christian.

Paul was not writing to a spiritually mature group of believers. These were not pillars of the early church. Yet, Paul clearly indicated that they possessed the Holy Spirit and had been baptized by the Holy Spirit.

3) Unifying

We are all baptized by the same Spirit, into the same body and therefore have become one with each other. The distinctions between Jew and Gentile, slaves or free, have been broken down. **Our common** experience brings us together as one.

Ephesians 4:4-6 confirms this unity.

There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.

Baptism in the Spirit refers to two simultaneous acts:

First, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in you! Jesus shared a lot about that in John 14-16 the night before he was crucified.

Second, the Spirit places us into the body of Christ, giving us a new identity and new community. We are then forever identified as a part of God's family. This is a one-time, non-repeated act that happens at the moment of salvation.

This act is critical to our eternal, for the Holy Spirit brings and preserves that life. This act is critical to our ability to serve Christ. His presence in us and our presence in the body of Christ impowers us to live for Christ in this broken world.

Imagine that you've decided to go sailing. The problem is that you know nothing about sailing. So you go to the store and you purchase several books to find out what's involved. You carefully read them and then you talk to a veteran sailor who answers questions for you. The next day, you rent a sailboat.

You examine it closely to make certain that everything needed for a successful sailing experience is present and in good working order. Then, you take your boat out onto the lake. You are excited and a little nervous. But you follow the instructions you've read and the counsel received, and you launch your boat into the water. You carefully monitor each step and hoist the sail.

At that precise moment you learn a crucial lesson. You can study sailing. You might even build a sailboat. You can seek from the wisest counsel. You can cast your boat onto the most beautiful of lakes under a bright and inviting sun. You can successfully hoist the sail.

But, without the wind, you are going nowhere. The wind makes the difference.

It is not a coincidence that the word for spirit is *pneuma*. It means **wind!** Like the wind that fills the sails of a boat and empowers it to do what it was created to do, the Holy Spirit enters a person's life at the moment of salvation bringing all the power needed to experience the absolutely fulness of life on this earth and life in Heaven. **Praise God for the presence of the Holy Spirit!**