

16 DECLARATIONS OF FAITH OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD

VII The baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Baptism of the holy spirit is the promise of the Father to all believers. All believers are entitled to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, therefore they are to expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, according to the command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Luke 24:49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the promise of the Father
- Jesus tells his disciples not to leave because they needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- They would have not been able to fulfill the great commission without being endued with power from on high
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit was the normal experience for believers in the early Christian Church.
- This promise should also be the experience for the modern-day church; to believe, to be baptized in water, and to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- With the Holy Spirit comes the provision of power and productive service for victorious day-to-day living [a believer should have continuous victory over sin]. It also provides believers with specific spiritual gifts for more effective ministry.

Acts 1:1-8

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; **5** for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." **6** Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" **7** And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. **8** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be [c]witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

- This came to pass on the day of Pentecost **Acts 2:1** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
- This promise comes to pass in the lives of believers daily all around the world
- **Acts 2:38** Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the [k]remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."
- The promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for the church today

This experience is distinct from and after the experience of the new birth.

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is separate from salvation and follows the new birth experience
- Such was the case in Samaria

Acts 8 1214 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, **15** who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. **16** For as yet He (the Holy Spirit) had fallen **upon** none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

- The people in Samaria believed in the Gospel, received Jesus, and were baptized in water
- The reason the apostles came was because they had not received the Holy Spirit and needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit
- This was a different experience than believing this is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- An overflowing fullness of the Spirit, described as rivers of Living Water (overwhelming Joy) **John 7:37** On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. **38 He who believes in Me**, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." **39** But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those [g]believing in Him would receive; for the [h]Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.
 - There is no joy in the world that can compare to the Joy that comes with the rivers of living water
- An authentic assurance of Salvation **Roman's 8:16** The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, **17** and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
 - This assurance is subjective, deep in our Spirit, that no one can take away
- A deepened reverence for God **Hebrews 12:28** Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom which cannot be shaken, let us have grace, by which we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. **29** For our God *is* a consuming fire.
 - A deep sense of reverence for the Lord
- An intensified consecration to God and dedication to his work **Acts 2:42** And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.
- A more active love for Christ, for his Word, for his church, and for those who have not yet known him and accepted him.

With the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you experience a fire inside of you like never before.

The significance of this doctrine

Emphasis on the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a major focus of Pentecostal theology. Some have felt that Pentecostals stress this doctrine and the person of the Holy Spirit to the neglect of the other members of the Trinity. And of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith, such as salvation and sanctification.

We believe that the Holy Spirit comes as a helper to help us in our walk and work as a believer. To anoint us to do the work that is before us as a believer and as a church. Every believer in Jesus Christ should experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit.