



“DISCOVER THE POWER!” **(The Baptism with the Holy Spirit)**

~ INTRODUCTION:

Probably no other doctrine of the Spirit has created more confusion than the baptism of the Spirit. Much of this stems from the fact that the baptism of the Spirit began at the same time that other great works of the Spirit occurred, such as regeneration, indwelling, and sealing.¹

At salvation every Christian is baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ. While there is water baptism through identification, there is only one baptism of the Spirit. The Christian is exhorted to be filled with the Spirit throughout their life and ministry.

I) THE PERSON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit relates like a person: He speaks whatsoever He hears (John 16:13); He came into the world to glorify Jesus Christ (John 16:14); He reproves the world of sin (John 16:8); He teaches (John 14:26; 16:13-15); He speaks (Galatians 4:6); He intercedes (Romans 8:26); He leads (Galatians 5:18; Acts 8:29; 10:19; 13:2; 16:6,7); He appoints to service (Acts 13:2; 20:28); He regenerates (John 3:6); He seals (Ephesians 4:30); He baptizes (1 Corinthians 12:13); He fills (Ephesians 5:18); He can be quenched (1 Thess. 5:19); He can be grieved (Ephesians 4:30); He can be blasphemed (Matthew 12:31); He can be lied to (Acts 5:3).

II) THREE-FOLD WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT - (with, in, upon)

A. John 14:16-18 – *And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.*

- There are three prepositions used for the work of the Holy Spirit. There is “with” (Gk. *para*) which the Holy Spirit is with the entire world and *reproving it of sin, righteousness, and judgment* (John 16:7).

- There is the “in” (Gk. *en*) experience where the Holy Spirit comes into the person that opens his heart by faith to God and the individual asks Jesus Christ to be their Lord and Savior through the repentance of sin.

¹ Chafer/Walvoord, *Major Bible Themes*, p.108

- The third experience is the “upon” which reveals an empowering of the believer’s life for Christian testimony and service. Jesus said in Acts 1:8 - But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

B. Jesus said in Luke 24:46-49 - *Then He said to them, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, ⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things. 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.”*

~ Upon – (Gk. epi) - R.A. Torrey share examples of Jesus life:

- At the baptism of Jesus, He prayed and the Holy Spirit came upon Him - Luke 3:21-22 - *When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”*

- Then “full of the Holy Ghost” He had the temptation experience - Luke 4:1-2 - *Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, ² being tempted for forty days by the devil.*

- Then “in the power of the Spirit” He began His ministry and proclaimed Himself “anointed to preach” because “the Spirit of the Lord is upon me” – Luke 4:17-19 - *And He was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when He had opened the book, He found the place where it was written:*

¹⁸ “The Spirit of the LORD is upon Me,

Because He has anointed Me

To preach the gospel to the poor;

He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,

To proclaim liberty to the captives

And recovery of sight to the blind,

To set at liberty those who are oppressed;

¹⁹ *To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.”*

III) SCRIPTURES REVEAL THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. John the Baptist declares in Matthew 3:11- *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

B. Jesus after His resurrection told His disciples in Acts 1:4-8 - *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 witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

(v5) *baptized* - to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed.

(v8) *power* – (Gk. *dunamis*); force (literally or figuratively); specially, miraculous power, ability to do.

IV) UNDERSTANDING THE “UPON” EXPERIENCE

- A. Acts 8:4-25 - Peter and John
- B. Acts 9:17-22 - Paul receives
- C. Acts 10:43-48 - Cornelius, the Gentile
- D. Acts 11:15-18 - Peter retells the Cornelius story
- E. Acts 19:1-6 - Paul in Ephesus

V) BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT

A. John 7:37-39 - *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 believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

B. Acts 4:31 - *And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*

C. Ephesians 5:18 - *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another in the fear of God.*

C.H. Spurgeon wrote, “The filling of the Holy Spirit is not something that is merely suggested by God; it is a command. All believers are to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit is contrasted with drunkenness. The idea behind each concept is control. While the effects of alcohol control the drunken person, the effects of the Holy Spirit control the believer. Thus, when we speak of being filled with the Spirit, we are speaking of being controlled by the Holy Spirit.”⁵

VI) BELIEVERS IN FULLNESS OF THE SPIRIT WILL HAVE:

⁵ C.H. Spurgeon, *What the Holy Spirit Does in a Believer's Life*

- 1- Knowledge of the actual presence of God.
- 2- Possession of the true joy of the Holy Ghost.
- 3- Words that witness with power.
- 4- Clear sense of the reality of the Kingdom of God.
- 5- Sharp separation between the believer and the world.
- 6- Their new great delight in prayer.
- 7- Their new love for the Scriptures of God.

The empowering of the Holy Spirit does not occur in a specific pattern or sequence. Sometimes the empowerment takes place at the moment of salvation, during or after water baptism has occurred, or at a later time. The evidence of this “upon” experience was displayed with a power for testimony, or service. The question to be asked at this point is how does one know he has received the power from on high, the “epi” experience?

VII) RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

~ **Seven Simple Steps:**

- 1- **REPENT UNTO SALVATION!** – Change your mind about God, about Christ, from unbelief to belief! (Acts 2:38)
- 2- **REPENT & RENOUNCE SIN!** – Change your mind about sin, from a sin indulging and sin-loving attitude to a to sin-hating and sin renouncing attitude (Acts 2:38). Renounce sin, all sin, every sin.
- 3- **BE WATER BAPTIZED!** – This is a public testimony of our new life in Christ! (Acts 2:38)
- 4- **OBEY THE WORD OF GOD!** – Total surrender to the will of God! (Acts 2:38; 5:32)
- 5- **DESIRE GOD!** – Not self-glory! (Luke 11:13)
- 6- **ASK IN JESUS NAME!** (Luke 11:13) – John 16:23-24 - *Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in My name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.*
- 7- **BELIEVE & RECEIVE!** - Mark 11:24 - *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them.*
- 8- **ASK IN FAITH!** - James 1:5-8 - *If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all liberally and without reproach, and it will be given to him. But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for he who doubts is like a wave of the sea driven and tossed by the wind. For let not that man suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.*

