

Baptisms 2024 (Part 2)

Jesus, after His resurrection, for 40 days was teaching and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. Before He ascended, He told the disciples to not depart from Jerusalem and wait for the promise of the Father.

Act 1:4-5, 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."

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."

The promise of the Father was the baptism in the Holy Spirit. When they received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit they received power and were able to be witnesses to all nations starting from Jerusalem throughout the world.

In Acts chapter 2, we see that the 120 waiting in the upper room, received the promise of the Father and began to speak in tongues and look like drunken people. Peter was the first to preach the gospel in the anointing of the Spirit. During his preaching, he testified of the man named Jesus that God raised from the dead, who is now been exalted at the "right hand of God".

But Peter explained that what everyone now sees and hears (speaking in tongues and seeming in some manner to be drunk) was the promise of the Father spoken to them that they would receive.

2:32,33 - This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit that raised up Jesus from the dead. This was the Spirit that now indwelled the 120 disciples and quickened (made alive) their mortal bodies to live for God (Romans 8:11). They could now walk in the Spirit because the Spirit of God dwelled in them. Paul said if you do not have the Spirit of Christ (which is the Spirit of God) you are not His (Romans 8:9).

Peter then spoke to them saying that this promise was also for them, but that they needed to obey the gospel he just preached. The listeners asked Peter and the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" for having crucified the Lord of Glory Himself. Peter answered:

Acts 2:38 - Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The promise was not only for the disciples (turned apostles of Jesus Christ). The promise was for all men who would obey the gospel. Peter answered them to repent (turn from their sin and turn

toward God), get baptized in the name of Jesus so their sins would be forgiven, and receive the same promise of the Holy Spirit that they had. This was the fruit of that response.

Acts 2:41 - Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Almost 3000 lives were ushered into the kingdom. The Holy Spirit is the kingdom of God (according to Luke 17:21) that now indwells His people and is manifest to the rest of the world through His people. We are the witnesses of Jesus Christ by His Holy Spirit. Though, we were not there to witness His resurrection with our own eyes, we witness of His resurrection by the Holy Spirit of resurrection that now dwells in us. “Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed” (John 20:29). Therefore, we are witnesses of Jesus to the whole world (Acts 1:8).

We will also note, in this first account, that baptism in water and Spirit were not separated (John 3:3-5).

*Acts 8:5,12,14-17 - Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, **and preached Christ unto them.***

But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. [Emphasis added are mine]

Here we read of Phillip preaching to the Samaritans. Phillip preaches Christ (the gospel of Jesus) and the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. They received what he preached and were baptized, both the men and the women. Even for half Jews, we see here that even baptism in water in Jesus’ name is still the required.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Notice the required response did not end with water baptism though. Peter and John were sent all the way from Jerusalem to pray and lay hands on them to also receive the Spirit, for they had not received the promise as of yet. They had only been baptized in the name of Jesus. So they laid their hands on them and the Samaritans also received the Holy Spirit. No one, at this point, was exempt from responding to the gospel in this manner; repenting, which leads to baptism in water and receiving the Spirit. They are undeniably inseparable according to these scriptures.

*Acts 10:44-48; 11:16 - While Peter yet spake these words, **the Holy Ghost fell on all them** which heard the word. **And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized,***

*which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? **And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord.***

*Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; **but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.** [**Emphasis added are mine**]*

Here Peter preaches to Cornelius and his household. They represent the Gentiles. Before he could finish preaching, before he could baptize them in Jesus' name or lay hands on them to receive the Spirit, Jesus immersed them in His Spirit. They spoke in tongues and magnified God. The Jews who accompanied Peter could not believe it. They were completely awestruck. The Holy Spirit had been poured on the Gentiles - the unclean! But they could not argue the matter because they spoke in tongues, supernaturally, just like they did when they received the Spirit. God had declared the Gentiles chosen and able to take part in the kingdom of God by this very act.

Notice here also, that even though they were not baptized in water, Peter commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus afterward. He would not separate the two. He would not say, "Oh, they got the Spirit just like we did. The work is complete." He continued, regardless of the order of experience, and baptized them in the name of Jesus.

This is now the third testimony showing that Peter would not allow the separation of the baptism in water and the baptism in the Spirit when obeying the gospel (to the Jews, half-Jews/Samaritans, and Gentiles).

Let's study the testimony of Aquila, Priscilla, and Paul the apostle in Acts 18 and 19:

*Acts 18:24 - And a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly. And when he was disposed to pass into Achaia, the brethren wrote, exhorting the disciples to receive him: who, when he was come, helped them much which had believed through grace: **For he mightily convinced the Jews, and that publickly, shewing by the scriptures that Jesus was Christ.** [**Emphasis added are mine**]*

A certain man named Apollos came to Ephesus preaching the things of the Lord. It says that he was "instructed in the way of the Lord" and very articulate when he spoke concerning the scriptures. However, he knew only of the baptism of John. During his preaching a man and woman named Aquila and Priscilla heard him and when he was finished preaching, they took him quietly aside and expounded to him the way more perfectly. It doesn't say exactly what they told him, but they gave him some greater revelation that went further than the baptism of John.

To find out what they told him, we must realize that Aquila and Priscilla were traveling companions with Paul, the apostle (Acts 18:2,18), as he went to Syria. They went about with him as he preached the gospel to the Jews and the Gentiles. In knowing this, they heard the truth from

an apostle - called and sent of God. They picked up what he taught and shared it with Apollos. What exactly they shared is not recorded in detail for us, but the next few verses, which followed this event with Apollos, should shed even more light on this question.

Acts 19:1-6 - And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

This account immediately follows the account recorded of Apollos, Aquila, and Priscilla. Paul came to the upper coasts of Ephesus. He ran into some “apparent” disciples. During their conversation, (which is not recorded in detail) a “Wait, what?” moment occurred. Paul asks, “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” They answered they never even heard of such a thing.

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Paul then asks, “Unto what then were you baptized?” Just by looking at these two questions, **Paul is showing that he is in complete agreement with Peter.** He would not separate the baptism in water in Jesus’ name and the baptism in the Spirit either. They were both essentially important to Paul in identifying who were these “apparent” disciples. They answered that they were baptized into John’s baptism.

Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

At this point, we realize that these “apparent” disciples were in the same predicament as Apollos. They only knew of John’s baptism. This account of Paul’s encounter with the “apparent” disciples shed’s light on what Aquila and Priscilla “expounded” to Apollos.

Paul then said to them that the baptism of repentance, which John carried out, was good and well. However, even John the Baptist told the people to focus on the one that would come after him, referring to Jesus Christ. He is one who that would baptize in Spirit and in fire.

*When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.** [Emphasis added are mine]*

The “apparent” disciples heard this and believed the words that Paul spoke to them. They were immediately baptized in the name of Jesus. Paul then laid hands on them and they received the Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues.

If Paul spoke this to them, and Aquila and Priscilla traveled and learned under Paul the things to preach and teach, then it is a safe assumption to say that what Paul did with these “apparent”

disciples, who only knew of John the Baptist's baptism, is what Aquila and Priscilla did with Apollos. This "way of God more perfectly" was what Aquila and Priscilla expounded to Apollos. Jesus is the Christ that died, was buried and rose again. You need to get baptized in Him for the remission of sins now and receive His most precious Holy Spirit.

The testimonies are overwhelmingly in favor of the inseparableness of water baptism in Jesus' name and the baptism in the Spirit. Jesus didn't die and stay dead. He didn't die and remain buried. Jesus died, was buried, and rose again. To obey the gospel of Jesus Christ you must obtain for yourself the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. From the first New Covenant gospel preaching, it was expected that you must "... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).

The initial willingness to repent and change your ways is a beautiful thing, but repentance in your own strength is doomed to fail. That being the case, God has made a way. If you will die with Him and in Him, since He already died in your place, and if you will resurrect with Him and in Him, since He has already resurrected in your place, then you can obtain mercy, forgiveness of sins, and grace to walk free from sin and death and walk according to the new law of the Spirit of Life in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:2). Grace is the divine empowerment of God's Spirit at work in you, not simply "God's unmerited favor". In contrast to your previous manner of life, walking in the flesh, you can now do something that you could never do before and that's **walk in the Spirit – a life completely dependent on the Spirit of God.**