

Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

Intro: This is a very important subject in our day. Many religious groups are now claiming that they, as individuals, are baptized of the Holy Spirit. This has been the impetus of the modern day miracle worker. Sadly, there are those in the Lord's church who are now teaching that the church today is baptized of the Holy Spirit. Thus, it is of importance that we understand the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and to that end we study this important question.

I. WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

A. The basis is found in the statement of John the Baptist.

1. Mat. 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"
2. There are two baptisms mentioned here, not just one.
 - a. Baptism with fire.
 - (1) This has reference to eternal torment in hell.
 - (2) Mat. 3:12 "Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."
 - b. Baptism with the Holy Spirit.
 - c. Another baptism is involved—water baptism. This is what John was engaged in.

B. The significance of the word "baptize."

1. This word simply means to submerge, immerse, or overwhelm.
2. The element in which one is submerged or immersed is not inherent in the word itself.
3. While the usual element is water, our discussion concerns the Holy Spirit, thus to be overwhelmed or immersed in the Holy Spirit.

II. TO WHOM WAS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMISED?

A. If we can determine to whom this was promised, we will then know who received it.

1. The prophecy of Joel.
 - a. Joel 2:28-29 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: ²⁹ And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."
 - b. The term afterward refers to the Christian age.
 - c. "All flesh" obviously does not literally mean all flesh.
 - (1) Beast, birds and fish have flesh, however, they are not the subjects of the promise.
 - (2) Not all human flesh, as this would include heathens, infidels, etc.
 - (3) It is a representative statement, representatives of mankind.

2. John's promise
 - a. Mat. 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:"
 - b. Some would be baptized in fire, some in water, some in the Holy Spirit.
 - c. John never promised Holy Spirit baptism to all people.
3. Jesus limits the baptism of the Holy Spirit to the apostles.
 - a. John 14-16
 - (1) John 14:25-26 "These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. ²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."
 - (2) John 15:26 "But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"
 - (3) John 16:7,12-13 "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.... ¹² I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. ¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
 - b. After His resurrection.
 - (1) John 20:22-23 "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: ²³ Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained."
 - (2) Luke 24:46-49 "And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved 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 among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ And ye are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."
 - c. Speaking to His apostles at His ascension; Acts 1:4-5,8 "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵ For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.... ⁸ But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

B. Who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

1. The apostles.
 - a. Acts 2:1 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

- b. Some say that the word “they” refers to the 120.
 - (1) Acts 1:15 “And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said, (the number of names together were about an hundred and twenty,)”
 - (2) To use the 120 as the antecedent of they (in Acts 2:1) would violate every rule of grammar.
 - c. Only the apostles were baptized of the Holy Spirit.
 - (1) The word *they* refers back to the apostles (in the last verse of chapter 1) in Acts 1:26 “And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”
 - (2) Acts 2:1-4 “And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”
 - d. The rest of Acts 2 shows the baptism of the Holy Spirit only fell upon the apostles.
 - (1) Acts 2:7 “And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?” It would be unlikely that the 120 would all be Galileans.
 - (2) Acts 2:14 “But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:”
2. Cornelius.
- a. While I do not believe it is of great importance, I do not believe Cornelius received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - b. It is based upon one’s understanding of Acts 11:15-17 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”
 - (1) The Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius in the same manner, directly from God without the intervention of the apostles laying hands on them.
 - (2) This reminded Peter of the Lord’s statement concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

III. THE DESIGN OR PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. To effect revelation.

- 1. John 14:25-26 “These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you. ²⁶ But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”; John 16:12-13 “I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. ¹³ Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself;

but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

2. From these two passages we learn four things the Holy Spirit would do.
 - a. Teach the apostles all things.
 - b. Bring to their mind all that Jesus said to them.
 - c. Guild the apostles into all truth.
 - d. Show the apostles things to come.

B. To effect confirmation.

1. Mark 16:20 “And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.”
2. Heb. 2:3-4 “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; ⁴ God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?”

IV. THE ONE BAPTISM OF TODAY.

A. Holy Spirit baptism was never related to salvation, as a condition of salvation or evidence of salvation.

B. Today there is only one baptism.

1. Eph. 4:5 “One Lord, one faith, one baptism,”
2. We must submit to this one baptism (water baptism) for salvation.
 - a. 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.”
 - b. Acts 22:16 “And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

Conclusion: You cannot be baptized of the Holy Spirit today! However, all men are commanded to be baptized in water for the forgiveness of their sins. If you have not partaken in this baptism, do so now. 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”