

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT **(Acts 1:5)**

I. What is meant by Holy Spirit baptism?

- A. In reality, the phrases “baptism of the Holy Spirit” and “Holy Spirit baptism” are not found anywhere in the Bible.
- B. When it comes to any mention of the Holy Spirit and baptism there are only a few phrases:
 - 1. “He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit” (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16).
 - 2. “He who baptizes you with the Holy Spirit” (John 1:33).
 - 3. “You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5; 11:16).
- C. 1 Corinthians 12:13 does mention the Holy Spirit and baptism in it but it has nothing to do with the subject of Holy Spirit baptism.
 - 1. This verse tells us that by the teaching of the one Spirit each of us were baptized into the one body, or church.
 - 2. We all drank from the same Spirit, or teaching.
 - 3. It has nothing to do with the topic we are discussing in this sermon.
- D. When thinking about what this means, we need to remember that this was a promise and not a command.
 - 1. Nowhere in scripture do we read that we must be baptized with the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. Joel wrote long ago that God would pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Joel 2:28-32).
 - 3. We need to understand what all flesh means.
 - a. It doesn't mean all people.
 - b. Notice what Wayne Jackson wrote: “The expression “all flesh” obviously is not employed in an unrestricted sense (which would include every human being - or even animals, since they have “flesh”). Rather, the phrase “all flesh” merely embodies the two major segments of humanity, from that ancient vantage point, i.e., the Jews and Gentiles.”
 - c. Robert Taylor, Jr., simply wrote: “All flesh consisted of Jews and Gentiles.”
 - 4. This was something God promised to do, not something we are commanded to do.
 - 5. John the Immerser said it was a promise (Matthew 3:11).
 - 6. As did Jesus (Luke 24:49).
- E. It is described as a baptism.
 - 1. This word, the same used for immersion in water, means a plunging, a burial, an overwhelming.
 - 2. Holy Spirit baptism was an overwhelming of the spirits of certain people with the Holy Spirit.
 - 3. This made their minds, mouths and pens under the control of the

Holy Spirit.

- F. It is not the same thing as being filled with the Spirit.
 - 1. John the Immerser was filled with the Holy Spirit in the womb (Luke 1:15) but he was too early for Holy Spirit baptism.
 - 2. His parents were as well (Luke 1:41; Luke 1:67).
 - 3. The seven servants of Acts 6 were as well but we never read where they were baptized with the Holy Spirit.
 - 4. In fact, you and I are commanded to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).
 - 5. What this means is found in the sister passage to Ephesians 5:18-19, which is Colossians 3:16.
 - 6. You and I, and anyone else, is filled with the Spirit when we let the word of Christ richly dwell in us.
- G. So we see that Holy Spirit baptism was an overwhelming by the Holy Spirit promised by God.

II. Who received it?

- A. Joel said it would happen to all flesh, and we noticed that meant Jew and Gentile.
- B. The truth is, there are only two occurrences of this that we read about in the New Testament.
- C. The first is that of the Jewish apostles being overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. This is recorded in Acts 2:1-4.
 - 2. We know this was a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy because the inspired apostles said it was (Acts 2:16-17).
 - 3. This cannot refer to the 120 mentioned in Acts 1:15 because the grammar does not allow for it to do so.
 - a. The 1st chapter closes with Matthias being joined to the 11.
 - b. The antecedents they and them refer to the 12, not the 120.
 - 4. The 12, upon being overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit, then began to speak in other languages.
 - 5. Paul must have received the same at some point because he was not behind any of the apostles in knowledge or ability.
- D. The second is that of the Gentile Cornelius and those of his household who were preached to by Peter (Acts 10:44-47).
 - 1. When Peter, who came because the Holy Spirit told him to go with the messengers, came to Cornelius, he began to preach to him after hearing why he had been called.
 - 2. He preached to them about Jesus and salvation.
 - 3. While he was preaching, the Spirit came on the Gentiles as He had come upon the apostles.
 - 4. Peter described it this way to the Jews in Jerusalem who had called him in for a report (Acts 11:15).

- E. These are the only ones about whom we read in the New Testament who received Holy Spirit baptism.
- F. Every other person about whom we read having received the Spirit, at least after Pentecost, received Him by laying on of the apostles hands.
 - 1. This happened to the Samaritans in Acts 8.
 - 2. This is what happened with the 12 men in Acts 19:1-6.
- G. No one other than the apostles and the household of Cornelius received Holy Spirit baptism.

III. Why was Holy Spirit baptism given?

- A. In each case it was for a different reason.
- B. For the apostles, it was to fulfill the promise Jesus made to the apostles the night before His death.
 - 1. In John 14-16, we have recorded for us some of the conversation that Jesus had with the apostles about His impending death.
 - 2. He promised them that the Father would send them the Holy Spirit after His death in order to do certain things:
 - a. To remind them of all the things He had taught them while on earth (John 14:26).
 - b. He would guide them into all truth and show them things to come (John 16:13).
 - 3. By Him, they would be able to what Jesus had promised them (Matthew 10:19-20).
- C. For the Gentiles, Cornelius and his household, it was to show the unbelieving Jews that God wanted the gospel taught to Gentiles.
 - 1. This was a major hang up for the Jews.
 - 2. Peter didn't want to at first (Acts 10:14) and the Jewish leaders didn't for sure (Acts 11:2-3).
 - 3. However, when the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius this opened the eyes of the Jews (Acts 10:47-48; Acts 11:16-18).

IV. Is Holy Spirit baptism for today?

- A. In neither case was salvation obtained by baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. The apostles had obeyed the message of John and been baptized under his baptism while it was valid so they didn't need saving.
 - 2. When the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius, Peter still told them they needed to be baptized in order to be saved.
- B. Those who argue that Holy Spirit is for us today totally miss the design of it when it did occur.
 - 1. It was never for admittance to the church.
 - 2. It was not for salvation.
- C. Paul wrote to the Ephesians and told them, and us, that there is one baptism (Ephesians 4:5).
 - 1. That is the baptism of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

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2. This is the baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:35-39).