

Lesson 10

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

I. What is the relationship of the Old Testament believer to the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit?

- A. The Spirit came upon various men in Old Testament times that enabled them to do special feats of strength (Judg. 11:29).

Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jephthah, and he passed through Gilead and Manasseh, and passed through Mizpah of Gilead; and from Mizpah of Gilead he advanced toward the people of Ammon.

- B. The Spirit of the Lord rested upon men (Num. 11:25).

Then the LORD came down in the cloud, and spoke to him, and took of the Spirit that was upon him, and placed the same upon the seventy elders; and it happened, when the Spirit rested upon them, that they prophesied, although they never did so again.

- C. Men were filled with the Spirit in a temporary fashion to perform certain God-ordained tasks (Ex. 31:3).

And I have filled him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship...

In Old Testament times the Holy Spirit seemed to come upon and then withdraw from certain individuals as the need arose (I Sam. 10:6, 10; 16:14). One of the signs of the Messiah is that He would be one on whom the Holy Spirit would descend and remain (John 1:32-33).

John 1:32-33

And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"

II. How is the ministry of the Holy Spirit seen in the life of Jesus?

It is important to see how the Holy Spirit moved in the life of Christ, for Christ is a pattern of that which is to flow into the Church which is His Body (Eph. 1:22-23).

A. Christ was:

Born of the Spirit (Luke 1:35)
Filled with Spirit (John 3:34)
Baptized with Spirit (Mt. 3:16-17)
Led of the Spirit (Mt. 4:1)
Sealed by Spirit (John 6:27)
Empowered by Spirit (Luke 4:14)
Anointed by Spirit (Acts 10:38)

B. The Church is to be:

Born of the Spirit (John 3:5)
Filled with Spirit (Eph. 3:19)
Baptized with Spirit (Acts 1:5)
Led of Spirit (Rom. 8:14)
Sealed by Spirit (Eph. 1:13)
Empowered by Spirit (Acts 1:8)
Anointed by Spirit (I John 2:27)

III. Is the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” a scriptural term?

Yes! It was used by John the Baptist (John 1:33), by Jesus (Acts 1:5) and by Peter (Acts 11:16).

Acts 1:5

...for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

IV. What is the relationship of Christ to the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A. Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit after His water baptism in the Jordan (Mt. 3:16-17; John 1:19-34). The Spirit came and remained on Him.

Matthew 3:16-17

When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”

- B. Part of Jesus' ministry is to baptize with the Holy Spirit (John 1:33). To make sure that this was not misunderstood, Jesus did not personally baptize anyone with water (John 4:2).

John 1:32-33

And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'"

- C. Jesus prophesied that this would be a believer's experience given on the basis of His exaltation and glorification (John 7:38-39).

"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 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.

- D. Jesus received this provision for the Church from the Father when He ascended into heaven (Acts 2:33).

Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

V. What does the Bible tell us about the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. It is the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4-5; 2:33, 39).

Acts 1:4-5

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; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

- B. It literally means to be "immersed" in the Holy Spirit (John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16).
- C. It is the enduing with power to do the commands of Christ (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49).

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.

- D. It is a definite experience which we can know that we have or have not received (Acts 19:1-2).

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

- E. It is an operation of the Spirit distinct from and subsequent to the conversion experience (Acts 8:12, 14-16).

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized...Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

- F. It is something to be experienced as part of the Christian foundation (Acts 2:37-39).

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 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."

VI. What is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The only way to arrive at a conclusive answer to this question is by examining every case where individuals or groups of people received this experience in the New Testament.

- A. On the day of Pentecost, the waiting disciples were all "filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- B. In Samaria, when Peter and John laid hands on those who were converted under Philip's ministry, we are told that "Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given..." (Acts 8:18). Evidently, there was a

visible sign that Simon saw, which is alluded to in Verse 21 when Peter informed Simon that he did not have “part nor lot in this matter (lit. speech or utterance).

- C. The Gentiles experienced an outpouring of the Spirit after Peter’s sermon at the house of Cornelius and everyone present knew it “for they heard them speak with and magnify God” (Acts 10:44-46).

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

- D. The disciples that Paul encountered in Ephesus “spoke with tongues, and prophesied (Acts 19:6) when Paul laid hands on them. In every case where we have people experiencing the Baptism of the Spirit, we find a common denominator. There was an immediate evidence of “speaking with other tongues.”

And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Ernest Gentile puts it this way, “The Bible does not say that you MUST speak in tongues to have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but it does teach us by illustration that if you have the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, you will be given the immediate evidence of speaking in tongues.”

VII. Who may receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

All believers in Christ are candidates for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Mark 16:17).

Acts 2:38-39

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

For those who believe in Christ, the actual reception of the Spirit baptism is sometimes conditioned on the believer’s knowing that there is such an experience available to them and that it is for now (Acts 19:1-6).

VIII. How does one receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

We do not receive the gifts of God by the works of the flesh (Gal.3:2). All the gifts of God are of grace and are to be received by faith (Eph. 2:8-10). There are, however, several things that will help us to release our faith in this area:

- A. Fulfill the prerequisites of repentance and faith before asking for this experience.
- B. Ask Jesus, the baptizer, with the Holy Spirit, to give you this gift (Mt. 3:11; Luke 11:9-13).

Matthew 3:11-12

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. His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Luke 11:13

If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!

- C. Yield your “unruly member” as an instrument of righteousness, not doubting that God will give you something other than what you desire.
- D. Exercise your faith by speaking in an unknown language unto the Lord.
- E. Once you have received the gift of the Holy Ghost, use your tongue daily as it is a key to spiritual vitality (Jude 20; I Cor. 14:15, 18).

IX. What are some biblical reasons for speaking with other tongues?

- A. It is one of the signs of the believer (Mark 16:17-18).

And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.

- B. It is a way for our spirit to be built up in faith (I Cor. 14:4a).

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...

- C. It is a way to magnify the Lord (Acts 10:46).

For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

D. It is a part of our spiritual armour (Eph. 6:17-18).

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God; praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints...

E. It is spoken of as a refreshing (Is. 28:11-12 with I Cor. 14:21).

Isaiah 28:11-12

For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, "This is the rest with which you may cause the weary to rest," and, "This is the refreshing"; yet they would not hear.

God wants every believer who is born of the Spirit to be baptized in the Spirit as well. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary in every Christian for the service that Christ demands and expects of us. Jesus and the Apostles all waited to enter into their ministry until this "endowment with power" was experienced. Let us never see such a wonderful provision of God as an option, but let us seek and find (Mt 7:7) as we hunger and thirst (Mt. 5:6).

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Reflection Questions
Lesson

1. Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If not, why?
2. What, from your perspective, are the hindrances to believers being baptized in the Holy Spirit?
3. How has your life changed since you were baptized in the Holy Spirit?