

# THE HOLY SPIRIT

## Acts 2:4

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

## HE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

There is a great deal of confusion and misunderstanding concerning the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the baptism with water. This lesson lays out the sequence of events that lead up to the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It also explains both the baptism with water and the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

### The Baptism with Water

John the Baptist was the forerunner before Jesus, preparing the way for Jesus' arrival. Isaiah prophesied about John's coming. (The voice of one crying in the wilderness; prepare the way of the Lord; make His path straight. Is 40:3)

In those days there appeared John the Baptist, preaching in the wilderness of Judea, saying repent for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand. Matthew 3:1-2

The Amplified Bible explains repent as:

Think differently  
Change your mind  
Regretting your sins  
Changing your conduct

John the Baptist said, I indeed baptize you in water, because of repentance (that is because of your changing your minds for the better, heartily, amending your ways and with abhorrence of your past sins) but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy or fit to take off or carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Matthew 3:11

John had the authority to baptize with water, for the repentance of sins. The baptism of water was an outward sign of an inward change, of repentance.

Jesus' Holy Spirit Baptism

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Jesus was the first person to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus came to be baptized by John the Baptist.

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. Matthew 3:16

The spirit of God is the Holy Spirit. When Jesus came up out of the water, the Holy Spirit entered Him and He received power and began His ministry,

## **When Did the New Covenant Begin?**

After Jesus was crucified and arose from the dead, He appeared to His disciples.

So Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you! As My Father has sent Me, I also send you."  
And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:21-22

Up until this time, the disciples walked with Jesus, and believed in Him, After Jesus' death and resurrection, the disciples:

- Became born again (received salvation)
- Received a measure of the Holy Spirit, but were not baptized with the Holy Spirit
- Were relieved of the Law of Moses (Old Covenant) and began living under the New Covenant with Jesus.

## **Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

In Acts, Jesus spoke about the promise of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus while being in the company of His disciples and eating at the table with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait for what the Father had promised, of which you have heard Me speak. For John baptized with water, but not many days from now you shall be baptized with (placed in, introduced into) the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:4-5

So even though in John 20:22, Jesus breathed on the disciples and gave them the Holy Spirit, they did not receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. They were to wait for this in Jerusalem.

The Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost

The prophet Joel foretold the day that the Holy Spirit would be poured out:

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters will prophesy. Your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29

Joel's prophesy was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost

And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4

- This pouring out of the Holy Spirit was not just for the disciples, but is for all who seek it. It is for us today.

### **Baptism with Water is not Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

In Acts 8, we are given an example of the baptism with Water followed by the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Philip the Evangelist went down to the city of Samaria and proclaimed the Christ ( t h e M e s s i a h ) t o t h e m : •

And when they believed the good news about the Kingdom of God in the name of Jesus Christ, as Philip preached it, they were baptized, both men and women. Acts 8:5, 12

- They were baptized with water, not the Holy Spirit.

Now when the Apostles of Jerusalem heard that the country of Samaria had accepted and welcomed the Word of God they sent Peter and John to them. They came down and prayed for them that the Samaritans might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen on any of them. But they had only been baptized in the name of Lord Jesus (with water). Acts 8:14-15

Then the Apostles Peter and John laid their hands on them, one by one, and they received the Holy Spirit. Acts 8:17

- When the Apostles laid hands on the people, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

As you can see from these Scriptures, the baptism with water and the baptism with the Holy Spirit were two separate events. They did not take place at the same time. The believers were converted, and baptized in water, but still needed to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

### **You Can Never Have Enough of the Holy Spirit**

Back in Acts 2:1-4, we saw how the Holy Spirit came upon the group in a powerful way as they waited in the *upper* room. Yet in Acts 4:24-31, we see that this group was meeting and praying together - and they received a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit!

When meeting together and when they had prayed, the place in which they were assembled had shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they continued to speak the Word of God with freedom and boldness and courage. Acts 4:31

So we see that there is a baptism with water, a baptism with the Holy Spirit and fresh fillings (additional anointings) of the Holy Spirit. You can never have enough of the Holy Spirit!

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## Why Do We Need the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

We need the baptism with the Holy Spirit to give us power to do the ministry of Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit gives you power.

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 ends of the earth.  
Acts 1:8

After the disciples became born again in John 20:21-22, they were still not endowed with power to undertake the Great Commission. They did not preach the Gospel. The Apostles did not perform miracles until after Pentecost. They needed the Holy Spirit power to do this.

- Upon receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, there was no stopping the disciples. Peter immediately began preaching about Jesus and 3000 were saved and added to the church. See Acts 2:14-41
- Also, many signs and wonders and miracles were performed by the Apostles. Acts 2:43

Jesus did not begin His ministry until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit. He did not do any miracles or healings until He received the power of the Holy Spirit.

Many of us desire to serve the Lord. We want to preach the Gospel. We want to see signs and wonders and miracles. In order to fulfill our calling, we must have the Holy Spirit. We must be baptized with the Holy Spirit, with fire and power.

## How to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The procedure to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not difficult:

Ask for the Holy Spirit

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.  
Luke 11:13

- Ask God to give you the Holy' Spirit.

Thirst for the Holy Spirit:

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. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out 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. John 7:37-39