

The Importance of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

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One of the elementary principles of the doctrine of Christ, is the foundation of **the doctrine of “baptisms.”** Hebrews 6:1,2.

The first baptism is the baptism in water. Acts 2:38, Acts 2:41, Acts 8:16, Acts 9:18, Acts 10:48, Acts 16:15, Acts 19:5. This baptism is our baptism into Jesus Christ, Galatians 3:27, Romans 6:3, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:16, Acts 10:48, Acts 19:5, and through Christ into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. John 14:6, Matthew 28:19.

The second baptism is the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and with fire. Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4,5, 8, Acts 2:1-47, Acts 8:14-17, Acts 9:17, Acts 10:44-48, Acts 19:1-6.
(**The baptism with “fire” is the baptism with the fire of the Word of God. God’s Word in our mouths is the fire of God.** Jeremiah 23:29, Jeremiah 20:9, Jeremiah 5:14, Jeremiah 1:9, Isaiah 59:21. **The Holy Spirit and the Word of God work together.**)

The third baptism for the believer in Christ, is our baptism into the Body of Christ, the Church. 1Corinthians 12:12-31.

In this article I will focus on the second baptism, **the baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire**, and its importance.

After Jesus rose from the dead, he was seen by His disciples for forty days, and He spoke to them of things concerning the Kingdom of God. Acts 1:3.

During this time He gave them **the “Great Commission”**. Luke 24:46-48, Matthew 28:18-20, Acts 1:3-8.

But He warned them, **that before they went out to fulfil the “Great Commission” ,they were to wait in the City of Jerusalem for the coming of the “Promise of the Father”** ,Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4, **which would clothe them with power from on high for the fulfilling of the Commission they had been given.** Luke 24:49.

Jesus described **this equipping of power from on high as the baptism with the Holy Spirit.** Acts 1:5.

Jesus said that **“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea, and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”** Acts 1:8.

This “coming upon” of the Holy Spirit, in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, is for **the power of service.**

But in John 14:17, Jesus said that **the Holy Spirit would be with us, and in us.**

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a well of water within us, welling up unto eternal life, to meet the needs we have, so that we “never thirst again”. John 4:10,14. Acts 1:12-15.

After His resurrection, but before Jesus ascended to heaven, He breathed on His disciples and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” John 20:22.

This was the receiving of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit for the 12 disciples.

This is the point at which the 12 disciples were “born again.” John 3:3,5.

After Jesus had instructed the disciples to remain in Jerusalem, until after they had received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, He ascended into heaven, and was enthroned at the right hand of the Father. Acts 1:9-11, Mark 16:19, Luke 24:50-52, Hebrews 1:3.

The 120 disciples that witnessed His ascension, Acts 1:9-11, **obeyed the command of Jesus and spent the next ten days in prayer** in the “upper room”, waiting for the coming of the “promise of the Father”. Acts 1:12-15.

This was the coming of the Holy Spirit upon them to enable them to fulfil the “Great Commission”. Acts 1:4-8.

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 house where they were sitting, and there appeared unto them divided tongues like as of fire, and it sat on each of them. And they were all filled the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4. **They were baptized with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

(The Feast of Pentecost is fifty days after the feast of Passover. Leviticus 23:16.

Jesus was crucified at Passover as our Passover Lamb.1Corinthians 5:7.)

Having received the promise of the Father, the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the 120 disciples went out onto the streets filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues or languages they had never learned. The people who had gathered at Jerusalem for the Feast of Pentecost, who had come from 16 and more different nations, heard them speaking in their own native language the wonderful works of God. Acts 2:5-12. **This is the baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire at work.**

This amazed the gathered multitude and caught their attention. Acts 2:12.

Peter stood up with the others and preached the Gospel. Acts 2:14-41.

3000 people were saved, baptized in water and were baptized with the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:41, 38,39.

The fulfilling of the “Great Commission” had started.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not an optional extra. It is vital and necessary. Without it we cannot do the work of the Gospel and fulfil the “Great Commission”.

When I was 30 years of age, married with three children, having been a Christian since I was 11 years of age, I met, Neil, a younger Christian of 18 years of age.

I said to him, “What have you got in your Christian life that I have not got in mine?”

He said, “I have received the baptism with the Holy Spirit.” He explained to me what that meant, with relevant Scriptures.

I asked him how he received the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

He was not willing to tell me, but said, “Seek God and He will show you how to receive.

We lived in a small country town in Northland, New Zealand, and as far as I knew, there was no one else who was baptized with the Holy Spirit in that town.

From January to July of 1964, I prayed as consistently as I knew how, for God to baptize me with the Holy Spirit.

I was aware of the promise of Luke 11:13, but I still had at the back of my mind that I needed to be a better Christian to be able to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

One night, in July, as I was praying, the Lord gave me a vision of the one word GIFT, in gold letters.

From that moment I said, “I receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, now, as the gift from the Lord.”

I continued to do this for one week. Believing and proclaiming my belief.

At the end of one week my life was changed in five main ways.

I noticed that:

1. I had a much increased level of joy in the Lord.

2. I received more from the Word in one reading, than I had previously in a month of readings.

3. My prayer life was much more spontaneous and alive and powerful.

4. I had anew ability to overcome sin and say, “No!” to sinful desires.

5. There was a new level of boldness in my life to be a witness to Christ to the unsaved.

I said to someone, “Before I received the baptism with the Holy Spirit, I was like a car without petrol, **but after receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit, I was like a car filled with petrol.**”

There was a power within me from God, that was enabling me to live the Christian life, as God intended me to live it.

There are four conditions for receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

1. **Conversion and salvation through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.** John 3:3,5, Ephesians 2:8,9,10.
2. **Cleansed from all sin through repentance and faith in the blood of Jesus Christ.** Acts 2:38,39, 1John 1:7,9.
3. **Full surrender to Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour, and making Him number one.** Romans 10:9,10.
4. **Receive by faith the gift of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, with all the heart.** Matthew 3:11, Mark 11:24, Luke 11:13, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:39, Ephesians 5:18,19.
(Converted, Cleansed, Consecrated, Claim.)

About six weeks after receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit, while we were holding an evangelistic outreach, I received the **gift of tongues**. This came as a few words at first, but increased to a full language of the Holy Spirit after several months. Mark 16:17, Acts 2:4, Acts 10:46,47, Acts 19:6, 1Corinthians 12:10, 1Corinthians 14:14-18, Jude 20.

As I continued to speak in tongues frequently, **there was a release of the other eight gifts of the Holy Spirit** into my life. 1Corinthians 12:4-11.

As we mature in Christ **the seven function/gifts** develop in us. Romans 12:3-8.

When we reach maturity **the five “ministry gifts”** appear. Ephesians 4:7-16.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit and with fire empowers us to disciple ourselves, our family, other believers, the neighbourhood, our town, our nation and the nations of the World. Matthew 28:19.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is often received through the “laying on of hands”, Hebrews 6:2, Acts 8:14-17, Acts 9:17, Acts 19:6.