

# The Baptism With (of) The Holy Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The Baptism from Above

Born of the Spirit, Baptized by the Spirit, Blessed in the Spirit

## ***Ephesians 4:3-6***

3 Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. 4 There is one body and **one Spirit** -- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- 5 one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

## ***1 Corinthians 12:13***

For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

## ***Acts 2:38-39***

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for **all whom the Lord our God will call**."

## ***Joel 2:28-29***

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

## 1. **A Word About the Term “Baptism With Holy Spirit”**

1. Terms we use get confusing. Synonyms mean the same thing.
2. No such thing as “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” or “in the Holy Spirit” The Bible always calls it Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit does not do the baptizing. He is not the baptizer, Jesus is.
3. The main thing... have you been? Are you now filled? Have you received power? The main thing is not the terminology or expression you use. This is not an English class. “Your grammar needs fixed.”
4. Otherwise it is straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

## 2. **A Word About The Holy Spirit**

You cannot put him in a bottle. He is not a formula.

1. He does as he wishes. John 3:5-8
2. He doesn't always do it the same way.
3. He cannot be confined to a theological formula.

## 3. **A Word About Biblical Interpretation (Doctrine & Theology)**

1. You cannot build teaching, doctrine, or theology on experience alone.
2. Experience must be interpreted and explained. “This is that...”
3. Two Sources:
  - a. The Book of Acts - experiences
  - b. The Teachings of the Gospels (Jesus) and the Apostles.

## 4. **A Word About Biblical Facts About “The Baptism”**

1. All believers are promised it will happen.
2. All believers must be baptized with Spirit order to be partakers of Christ.
3. No believer is ever commanded to be baptized with the Spirit.
4. All Apostles wrote factually that every believer is baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit. (Seven Proof Texts)

## **Conclusion:**

The issue really is not about the Holy Spirit at all but the question before us is really, “Do You Have Jesus?” Have you repented, believed and received him?

**“He that has the Son has life and he that has not the Son has not life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” I John 5:12**

# 1. A Word About “Baptism”

We are talking about the same event or experience but using different terms. “He says ‘tomato’ I say ‘tomahto.’ – Interchangeable terms or synonyms, words that mean the same thing.

1. What is the “Baptism of or with the Holy Spirit?”
2. How do you get it?
3. How do you know when you have it?

## Synonyms

(never baptism of the HS, or in the HS, by the HS)

Baptized with the Holy Spirit (Mt, Mk, Lk, Jn, & Acts 1:5)

1. Promise of the Father (Acts 1:4)
2. Filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4, Acts 9:17 Paul)
3. Gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:17)
4. Poured out (Acts 2:17-18)
5. Receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15&17)
6. Falling on (Acts 8:16, Acts 10:44)
7. Coming on (Acts 1:8, Acts 19:6)

## Five Instances in Acts

Baptism, infilling, pouring out, falling on, gift of, receiving, coming on them.

1. Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)
2. Samaria (Acts 8:12-17)
3. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:17-18)
4. Cornelius (Acts 10:44-45)
5. Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6)

## Elements Necessary for Any Baptism

1. The Baptizer – Jesus
2. The Baptizee – You
3. The *Ingredient* in which to baptize – water, Spirit
4. The Purpose – unto repentance and faith, into the body

## **The Word “baptizo” and Pickles**

To dip in and pull out again. It is never to pour on, or sprinkle. Yet God termed it “I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh.”

The clearest example that shows the meaning of **baptizo** is a text from the Greek poet and physician Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C. It is a recipe for making pickles and is helpful because it uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (**bapto**) into boiling water (*blanching*) and then 'baptised' (**baptizo**) in the vinegar solution (*soaked, marinated*).

## **Baptism – We Need to be Drenched!**

It is not a sprinkling, not a pouring, not a drip here, a dab there, but a dousing, a drenching, a deluge, or a super-soaker divine deluge.

**Any baptism is a dunking, a drenching, a dousing, a deluge, a soaking, an inundation, an immersion, a flood, a dam-break, a white water rapids experience, a tidal-wave of God’s presence – a well of water springing up unto everlasting life. God wants to immerse you in Jesus Christ.**

**God wants to drench you with the Spirit of God. Jesus is the baptizer. He wants to flood your soul with the Holy Ghost, a holy fire, a joy unspeakable, a love unquenchable for the Lord Jesus Christ.**

***We are so soaked up with other things, so drowned in our sins and obsessions, so parched in dryness, so shriveled up with self-centeredness we are of no usefulness to God – until he drenches us in the flood of His Spirit and fills us with himself.***

**God’s purpose for every believer is to be Spirit indwelt, Spirit baptized, Spirit filled, Spirit empowered, and Spirit gifted.**

## 2. A Word About the Holy Spirit

**What's missing is the Power and the Presence.**

*(ie) Story of early Alliance Camp at Mahaffey. Man healed of illiteracy. How can that be? You cannot put God in a bottle.*

When we speak today of “baptism of the Holy Spirit” we wrestle over words and terminologies. What is a baptism? What does the “baptism” of the Holy Spirit mean? What are its expected results? How can we know for sure when we've got it? We often use the term but really mean something different. We sometimes use baptism when we mean fullness, and we say fullness when we mean baptism. It all gets quite confusing at times.

### ***He Does What He Wants***

**5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, `You must be born again. 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit." *Jn 3:5-8***

**The Holy Spirit cannot be put into a bottle or a neat little theological formula.**

*He does what he wants, when he wants, how he wants, to whom he wants to do it.*

Don't be afraid of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is Jesus come in the form of the Holy Spirit. He is the Helper to point us to Jesus, to whisper to us his words, to lead us, guide us, comfort us, bring things back to our memories, show us things to come, and empower us for service. If you are not afraid of Jesus, then you should not be afraid of the Holy Spirit of Jesus. He lives in you. That is how Jesus comes into your heart. He wants to help you. Let him help you.

## 3. A Word About Theology and Doctrine

### The Book of Acts

1. **Pentecost** (Acts 2:1-4)
2. **Samaria** (Acts 8:12-17)
3. **Saul of Tarsus** (Acts 9:17-18)
4. **Cornelius** (Acts 10:44-45)
5. **Ephesus** (Acts 19:1-6)

### The Gospels & Epistles

**It must be noted that there is a conspicuous absence of any instruction regarding how to be baptized in the Spirit. Not one of the disciples ever wrote to any church to urge them to be baptized in the Spirit.**

**Why is there no urgings to “get the baptism of the Holy Ghost?”**

Answer: Because Pentecost was a one-time event for the church. It was unrepeatable. It never again happened in this same way. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the church in the new age. Like ripples of a pond when a stone is thrown in so there were similar ripples from that main outpouring. Yet when the apostles finally sorted it out they understood it right. The event was the watershed experience. The disciples had to wait 10 days in Jerusalem for the arrival of the Promise of the Father. Once the promised Holy Spirit arrived he did not need to re-arrive every time a new believer was converted. He was there. Peter got it right in his very first sermon – “This is that which was spoken of by Joel” Joel 2 was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost and continues to be fulfilled every day for 2000+ years in the church. **The Holy Spirit has come!**

It is like someone giving you a muscle car with a 5.7 liter Hemi engine, with 340 horse power and 6000 rpm, dual overhead cams, fuel injected, etc. but you decide to keep it in the garage. You only start it every once in a while to see that it still runs but you do not utilize the power for yourself. You prefer to walk, bike, or worse push the car that was given to you.

The Holy Spirit is given to every believer – that is the baptism with the Holy Spirit as the apostles explain it in the epistles. We have Pentecost. We don't need to go back and have a Pentecost for every individual.

## **Now Listen, Please!**

With these proofs I am not trying to disprove the experience of any one of you, nor am I suggesting that the Holy Spirit does not come in dramatic fashion into the lives of believers. What I am saying is the term “baptism” of the Spirit is a misuse of the expression. You cannot get theology from examples. You might deduce some patterns but it is highly subjective to do so and leads to many errors and misunderstandings.

What I am trying to explain and teach is that Acts 2:4 is not a proof text for the “baptism of the Spirit.” It is not an example for all to experience in the same manner. It is not the litmus test for receiving or experiencing the Spirit’s fullness.

## **Understand me on this. Please do not misquote me.**

I believe in the “baptism of the Holy Spirit.” I have experienced the “baptism” and the “fullness” of the Holy Spirit. I believe in the second work of grace. I believe in the experience of sanctification as a crisis and a process. I believe every believer needs a deeper life experience with the Holy Spirit. What I don’t want to do is to call this experience “The baptism of the Holy Spirit.”

WHY? Because it is not biblically precise or correct.

It might be straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel, or it might be splitting hairs, but I think not. We must be guided by the teaching of the apostles not the examples or stories about them. Presumption is to say, “This is that.” The disciples later defined the events and taught us concerning it.

It must be noted that there is a conspicuous absence of any instruction regarding how to be baptized in the Spirit. Not one of the disciples ever wrote to any church to urge them to be baptized in the Spirit.

## **We Need to Be Filled! We need to be empowered!**

Any baptism is a dunking, a drenching, a dousing, a deluge, a soaking, an inundation, an immersion, a flood, a dam-break, a white water riptide, a tsunami or tidal-wave of God-presence – a well of water springing up unto everlasting life.

God wants to drench you with the Spirit of God. Jesus is the baptizer. He wants to flood your soul with the Holy Ghost, a holy fire, a joy unspeakable, a love unquenchable for the Lord Jesus Christ.

*We are so soaked up with other things, so drowned in our sins and obsessions, so parched in dryness, so shriveled up with self-centeredness we are of no usefulness to God – until he drenches us in the flood of His Spirit and fills us with himself.*

### **(3) More Words About Theology and Doctrine**

#### ***Explanation of the New Testament Church***

Luke is a historian. He is writing about events. Events don't make theology. Teachings make our theology and doctrines. Experience is does not dictate our theology or practice, teaching does. The disciples were experiencing new things never before experienced by mankind. No one had ever been "baptized with the Spirit" before. It was always with water prior to this. Now it was a dunking in the Holy Spirit, not by the Spirit – Jesus was the baptizer not the Spirit. Jesus is the baptizer, we are the baptizees, and the Spirit was the substance with which were baptized.

The events are taking place at breakneck speed, too fast to digest it all. They were reacting, playing it by ear, shooting from the hip, dealing with things as they came. It was not a time for theological debate. It appears that with time the disciples (apostles) came down from their high and began to interpret events and establish norms of behavior. Thus the Epistles were written to the churches to deal with matters previously unaddressed. Problems arose and confusion often ensued. The letters of the Paul and the other Apostles were permanent teachings based on the events and their understanding and interpretation of those events.

**It must be noted that there is a conspicuous absence of any instruction regarding how to be baptized in the Spirit.**

Perhaps the question never arose, everyone was. Everyone had received the Holy Spirit with signs following. Those who might have not were scrutinized and hands laid on them and they got it. There was no coaching, no urging, not three easy steps to the baptism. There was no telling people how to let go and let God or instructing how to loose your tongue to speak in heavenly languages. It simply happened. What was there to debate? Nothing evidently, until the chaos and confusion at Corinth woke Paul up to some serious misunderstandings and misuses of the baptism and gifts of the Spirit. He had to write to set things straight and untangle the confusion. Experience came first. Theology came later.

It is hard to believe that if life were a simple and baptism of the Spirit so obvious, in every place as it was in the short record of the Book of Acts then the church would not have to have had to address any problems. If everyone followed the few recorded examples of Acts 2, 10, and 19 then the Christian life would have been very simple indeed. The disciples could have just stated simple truths like, 'After believing in Christ pray to receive the Holy Spirit, if that doesn't work call for the apostles to lay hands on you.' But they didn't. Samaria was the only place we know of where that happened. (Acts 8:1-15)

**Not one of the disciples wrote to any church to urge them to be baptized in the Spirit.** Certainly there must have been a few who didn't get it the way the Acts Christians did, for within 50 years the church had no custom of speaking in tongues at all, except in a few isolated cases, some of which were heresies.

The disciples were not too concerned about teaching the doctrine of the Trinity or the Deity of Christ either, until it became a problem and John had to write his Gospels to try to correct the erroneous teaching.

If the doctrine of the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** was so important and tongues such a needed gift in the church why did not one, not one, disciple (apostle) write about it? None did. Why? Luke, a medical doctor and historian is the only one to mention it at all. Paul only comments on it to correct abuses. John says nothing. James says nothing. Peter says nothing. Jesus' brother Jude says nothing. And Jesus himself says nothing to the errant churches of Asia minor about the baptism or fullness of the Spirit. You would think with the problems of Corinth, Laodocia, Galatia, and Ephesus someone would have said something about the "baptism." But no one does. Why?

Could it be because the promised Baptism came? Could it possibly be that Peter was right in his first sermon? "This was that spoken of by Joel the prophet." It has been fulfilled. **The baptism**, or initiatory experience, **of the Holy Spirit** being poured out was completed. Jesus' earthly tasks are done. Now the Holy Spirit remains in his stead. He had arrived as Jesus said, and did not need to arrive over and over again for every individual believer in every individual church in every individual country throughout every age since Christ? Could it be that now the church and every new believer were "automatically" indwelt by the Spirit as his new birth? Could it be that this is that which was spoken of by John the Baptist? Could it be that this is exactly what Jesus predicted in John 14-16?

**Do you mean pastor that there is no baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

Do you mean there is no pouring out of the Spirit on individual believers?

No, not at all. There is certainly the work of the Holy Spirit in **sanctifying** the believer, of **empowering** us with a special anointing, and **gifting** us with Holy Spirit gifts and graces.

**But to seek a baptism as though you had not the Spirit within you is to make His Promise vain.** For it is not a conditional or exclusive privilege for a few, but to all! (Acts 2:39) What is missing is not the Baptism, for that took place for all believers according to John 3 and John 7 and John 14 and 16.

## 4. A Word About Facts (Proofs)

### *The Teaching of the Apostles*

#### **Proof Texts (13 in all here, there are more)**

*Seven are listed here.*

If you need proof there are ample proof texts throughout Scripture. In N.T. Times proof required the testimony of 2-3 witnesses. Here we offer seven proof texts to prove the point. They are the explanatory proofs the apostles give us in the Gospels and Epistles.

#### **Proof #1 - John 3:5-8 – The Born of the Holy Spirit**

5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is **born of water and the Spirit**. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but **the Spirit gives birth to spirit**. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.' 8 The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. **So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.**"

#### **Proof #2 - John 14:16-17 - He Will Be In You**

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- **the Spirit of truth**. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for **he lives with you and will be in you**. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you**.

#### **Proof #3 - Acts 1:4-5 – The Promise of the Father**

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but **wait for the gift, the promise of my Father**, which you have heard me speak about. (John 14-16) For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (*Did he mean for all believers to go to Jerusalem, find an upper room, wait in prayer until the Spirit comes? No!*)

#### **Proof #4 - Acts 2:38-39 – Everyone Gets the Spirit**

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, **every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And **you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. **The promise is for you and your children** and for **all who are far off**--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

### **Proof #5 - Romans 8:9 – If You Don't Have The Spirit**

You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.**

### **Proof #6 - I Corinthians 12:13 – We were all baptized with the Spirit**

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

### **Proof #7 - I & II Corinthians– You are God's Temple**

#### **I Corinthians 3:16-17**

Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy him; for God's temple is sacred, and you are that temple.

#### **I Corinthians 6:19-20**

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.

#### **2 Corinthians 6:16**

What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

## **Other Proof Texts**

### **Romans 5:5**

And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us.

### **I John 3:24**

Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

### **I John 4:12-15**

12 No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us. 13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. 14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. 15 If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in him and he in God.

### **I Thessalonians 4:7-8**

7 For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. 8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

### **Romans 8:14-16**

14 because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. 15 For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the Spirit of sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." 16 The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.