

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Ken Birks, Pastor/Teacher

I. Introductory Remarks

Following the resurrection of Jesus and His ascension into the heavens, one of the first essentials Jesus exhorted His disciples to acquire was the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In fact, He told them to wait in Jerusalem and not to go anywhere until they received it.

Luke 24:49 “Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.”

The disciples had been on their journey for three and a half years before Jesus was crucified and put to death. After His resurrection, He made it clear that they would need the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the power that comes with it. It wasn't enough to be just born of the Spirit; they needed to be fully baptized or immersed into His Spirit. We are not complete without it. It is indispensable in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ. We all desperately need it just as much as the early disciples did. It is the baptism of the Holy Spirit that gives us the power and authority to carry out His will in our lives.

This lesson is designed to give you a doctrinal view of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as well as an experiential view of why it is so vital to our Christian experience.

John 7:37-38 *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. ³⁸“He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” ³⁹But 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.*

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that God wants every believer to experience. It is to be major part of our life and fellowship in the Lord Jesus Christ as we are involved in carrying out His will and purpose.

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.”*

The baptism of the Holy Spirit that was prophesied by the Prophet Joel, John the

Baptist and Jesus was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost, which was the birth of the New Testament Church.

Acts 2:1-4 *Now 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. Then 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 with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

The scene in this passage is the birth of the New Testament Church, which began as a result of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which had been prophesied by the Prophet Joel. (See Acts 2:14-18).

The Apostle Peter identifies the experience in Acts chapter 2 as the baptism of the Holy Spirit that Jesus spoke of in Acts 1:5, which he also identified as the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 11:15-16 *“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**’”*

The major sign given in the 2nd chapter of Acts that the baptism of the Holy Spirit had actually come was that they spoke with other tongues, of which we will discuss later in this lesson.

1. There Are Two Distinct Experiences In The Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is more than just being born again of the Holy Spirit. It is a total infilling of the Holy Spirit. The very word baptism means to be fully whelmed or immersed as in water baptism. In water baptism a person is fully immersed into water and in Spirit baptism a person is fully immersed into the Spirit of God.

Before we go any further in this study it is important to point out that the Bible does clearly state that there are two distinct experiences in the Holy Spirit. The following passages of scripture show conclusively that early disciples received two distinct experiences in the Holy Spirit.

The early disciples were born of the Spirit when Jesus breathed on them and said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit”*.

John 20:22 *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit".*

Jesus tells these same disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they receive the promise of His Father, which we have already seen is the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 24:49 *"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."*

Another example is that of Philip preaching in Samaria. These people had been delivered of demons, converted, baptized in water, healed and made joyful. Yet they still needed to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:5-8 *...hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed.*

Peter and John came to Samaria from Jerusalem, when they had heard that these people had been saved and water baptized. They then laid their hands on them and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:12-17 *...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.***

2. Tongues is The Sign of Having Received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

God gives a tangible supernatural sign in your body. Your tongue will speak a language you have never learned. This is called "speaking in tongues".

Jesus said that those who believe would speak with new tongues.

Mark 16:17 *And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; **they will speak with new tongues.***

These first disciples spoke in tongues as the Holy 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.*

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**."*

Notice that it says that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was something that was heard as well as seen.

When the Holy Spirit fell on the Gentile disciples, they also spoke with tongues and magnified God. Verse 46 says **"For they heard them speaking with tongues"**. In other words this was how they knew that they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-46 *...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.*

In Acts 8:21 when Peter rebuked Simon the sorcerer, he said, *"You have neither part nor portion in this **matter**, for your heart is not right in the sight of God."* The word **"matter"** is the Greek word **"logos,"** which means divine utterance. Simon obviously heard and saw something that he was willing to pay money to get it.

3. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Is Still For Today.

One of the primary questions many Christians have concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is whether it is still relevant for our day or not.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13 is the primary scripture used by those who say the baptism of the Holy Spirit with tongues is not for today.

1 Corinthians 13:8-12 *Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But **when that which is perfect has come**, then that which is in part will be done away... For now we see in a mirror, dimly, **but then face to face**. Now I know in part, but **then I shall know just as I also am known**.*

Verse 8 says that tongues shall be done away with as well as knowledge when that which is perfect is come. Those who advocate that the gifts of the Spirit are not for today say that when the Bible as we know it today was canonized *"that which is perfect"* came and so the baptism of the spirit and the gifts are no longer

needed.

The problem with this thought is that **1 Corinthians 13:12 identifies very clearly what Paul is talking about.** It says *"when we see face to face" that which is in part shall be done away with.* Also, if tongues are to be done away with knowledge must also be done away with. **1 John 3:2 identifies what this passage is talking about.** It's at the Second coming! (See Acts 2:39 and Romans 11:29 also)

III. Why the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is Necessary!

As we see from these scriptures, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is something Jesus said all believers should receive – *"these signs will follow those who believe..."* He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive. What is it about the baptism of the Holy Spirit that makes it so necessary to our walk with the Lord?

1. It Is A Vital Part Of Our Spiritual Foundation.

Hebrews 6:1-3 *Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.*

If we are to grow up and be mature into all that Christ desires for us, we must have this experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. We are a spiritual house that is to come into the full measure of Christ.

2. It Brings Us Into God's Supernatural Power.

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."*

Ephesians 1:19 *...and what is the exceeding greatness of His power toward us who believe, according to the working of His mighty power...*

As Christians we are called to do great exploits for God and to wage a spiritual warfare with our enemy, Satan. Without the power that comes forth from the baptism of the Holy Spirit we will find ourselves coming out on the losing end. Our enemy has supernatural power, but God says that He who is in you is

greater than he who is in the world - 1 John 4:4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit releases this power in our lives.

3. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Helps To Purify Us.

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 purge His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."*

Part of our calling as Christians is to be Holy as God is. We have been called to be holy and blameless. Jesus is coming back for a bride without spot or blemish. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus shows us that it is the oil or the baptism of the Holy Spirit that prepares us for this beautiful relationship between Christ and his purified bride.

4. Baptism in the Holy Spirit Builds and Strengthens Our Faith.

As we see in the Scriptures below, it is essential in the building of our faith. As we give ourselves to praying in tongues on a daily basis, it build our faith.

Jude 1:20 *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...*

1 Corinthians 14:4 *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*

5. Baptism In The Holy Spirit Helps Us Pray In God's Will.

1 Corinthians 14:2 *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

Although the scripture below isn't necessarily speaking about speaking in tongues it is talking about a very similar experience when the Holy Spirit takes over. In light of the above Scripture, I believe the same principle is being incorporated when we pray in tongues or in the Spirit.

Romans 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, **but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us...***

1 Corinthians 14:15 *What is the result then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.*

6. It Brings Us Into a Deeper Level of Intimacy With God.

1 Corinthians 14:2 *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

7. It brings us Into a Deeper Level of Revelation of God's Word.

One of the wonderful aspects of being baptized in the Holy Spirit, is that it opens God's word up to us in a whole new way. We are able to receive greater revelation and understanding of His word, because we have a more full sense of His anointing working within us.

1 John 2:20 *But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.*

1 John 2:27 *But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.*

8. It Brings Rest To Our Souls.

It also brings rest to our souls as we encounter the Holy Spirit within us as He refreshes and renews us on a daily basis.

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.*

IV. The Difference between both Tongues Mentioned in Scripture.

In 1 Corinthians 12:30 Paul asks the rhetorical questions, *"Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?"* The answer is obviously, no. The tongues he is speaking about here is the tongue that comes forth in a congregational gathering that must be followed with an interpretation. Not everyone has that gift.

In 1 Corinthians 14 he discusses the way in which both personal tongues and congregational tongues are to be used. He also mentions the fact that he speaks in tongues more than anyone^a and that he wishes all would speak in tongues. However when the church gathers together He would rather have them prophesy unless there is someone to interpret the tongues. He says, in 1 Corinthians 14:19 “yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Congregational Tongues

1 Corinthians 12:10
 1 Corinthians 12:30
 1 Corinthians 14:5b
 1 Corinthians 14:26
 1 Corinthians 14:27
 1 Corinthians 14:39

Personal Tongues

1 Corinthians 14:2,4
 1 Corinthians 14:5a
 1 Corinthians 14:13
 1 Corinthians 14:13-15
 1 Corinthians 14:18
 1 Corinthians 14:28
 1 Corinthians 14:39

V. Summary & Concluding Remarks.

As we have seen from this lesson, it is God's will and desire for each one of us to be filled with His Spirit to the fullness. It is in receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the accompanying sign of speaking in other tongues that continually allows us to be filled by His Spirit. My encouragement is for those of you who have not received this wonderful gift to do so.

As we have seen, it is a vital part of our spiritual foundation, it brings us into God's supernatural power, it helps to purify our vessels, it build us up in our faith, it helps us to pray according to God's will, it brings us into a deeper level of intimacy, it also brings us into a deeper revelation of His word and brings peace and rest to our souls. These are good reasons to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

^a 1 Corinthians 14:18