

a study of the *Holy Spirit*

Lesson 7: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

How would you respond to if you were asked "What is Holy Spirit baptism"? Could you describe it for your children? Many Christians are frightened with this topic.

What is Holy Spirit Baptism?

- It was verified by the miraculous manifestations (Acts 2:2-4).
- It was an overwhelming of the Holy Spirit's power on those who were its subjects.
- It was a figurative description of a literal event (Joel 2:28; John 7:37-39).

There are only three instances of Holy Spirit baptism

- Acts 2—The Pentecostal Baptism of the Holy Spirit "overwhelmed" the Apostles. Some contend that "all" (the 120) were overwhelmed but the Holy Spirit baptism of Acts 2 was limited to the twelve Apostles.
 - The "promise" was made only to the twelve (John 16:7, 16, 17, 24; Acts 1:8).
 - The pronouns and antecedents refer only to the twelve (Acts 1:26; 2:1-4).
 - The reaction shows that only the twelve received the Holy Spirit Baptism (Acts 2:7).
 - Peter's rebuttal indicates that only the twelve received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:14).
- Acts 10 – The Holy Spirit Baptism of Cornelius and his household (Acts 10: 45; 11:15).
- The Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8, 9; 2 Corinthians 11:15; 12:12).

The characteristics of the Holy Spirit Baptism

- It was promised not commanded (Joel 2:28-32; Mt 3:11; Ac 1:5).
- It was administered by Christ, not man (Matthew 3:11; John 1:33).
- It was accompanied by the miraculous.
- It was not for salvation (Ephesians 1:3; Acts 10:47, 48).

For what reason was Holy Spirit Baptism given?

- The purpose of the Holy Spirit Baptism for the twelve in Acts 2 and Paul can be summed up with two words – "revelation" and "confirmation."
- The purpose of the Holy Spirit Baptism in Acts 10 was also for revelation and confirmation, but for a different reason.

The uniqueness of Holy Spirit Baptism is seen in the conversion of Cornelius

- Peter could think of no other case except Acts 2 (11:15-17).
- It fulfilled Joel 2:28—"all flesh" (Acts 11:18).

A summary of conclusions regarding Holy Spirit Baptism

- Holy Spirit Baptism was administered by Christ for specific purposes.
- Since Holy Spirit Baptism can ONLY be administered by Christ, mortals CANNOT administer it.
- Holy Spirit Baptism stands in complete contrast to the baptism of the Great Commission.
- The baptism of the Great Commission is the baptism that ALL creation is to obey.
- Christians today cannot take part in Holy Spirit Baptism because there is only ONE BAPTISM in force today (Ephesians 4:5).
- Holy Spirit Baptism was never intended to be a universal baptism. It was applicable ONLY to the Apostles and the household of Cornelius.

Looking Ahead

Lesson 8: The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

Suggested Reading: Rom. 8:9-11; Gal. 4:6;
1 Cor. 3:16-17; 2 Titus 1:14