

# a study of the *Holy Spirit*

## Lesson 7: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. 🕊️ "What is Holy Spirit baptism?" (Suggestion: As class thinks of a response read some of the sensational ideas that are often associated with the term).
  - a. *They Speak With Other Tongues*, by John L. Sherrill, p. 110:

"A friend of ours, Lila Ginter, was filled with the Spirit as a child, without even knowing that such a religious experience existed. Lila was standing in her father's apple orchard in Ohio one day, looking up through clouds of white blossoms to the blue sky overhead, when she suddenly had an overwhelming sense of the presence of God. She opened her mouth to talk to Him in the unselfconscious way of children, but the sounds which came out of her mouth were not English, and through she prattled on fluently for a long while, her lips would form no sensible words at all ... there is as much variety in ways of seeking as there was in the Bible. Some take their cue from Christ's injunction, 'And behold I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye ...' The word they stress is 'tarry.' They feel that they must wait, sometimes for days, praying and praising God until the Baptism comes. Others feel that there is no need to tarry. They point to other occasions in the New Testament when the Spirit was given as soon as the believer asked for Him. Some feel the candidate must be in a state of deep prayer before he can receive the Baptism. But others take just the opposite view: they feel that the Baptism is not a kind of Christian spectacular, but an ordinary, almost routine step in the life of a believer."
  - b. From the booklet, *Seven Vital Steps To Receiving The Holy Spirit*, by Kenneth E. Hagin, we find a curious contradiction. In Chapter 1, Hagin discusses the topic, "Seven Steps to Receiving the Holy Spirit." However in Chapter 3 he discusses, "The Bible Way to Receive the Holy Spirit"! Such reveals the error of his position.
  - c. How would you respond to these positions? In what terms will you describe the phenomena to your children? Many Christians are frightened with this topic because they are ignorant about the true Scriptural teaching.
2. As we begin this lesson, we must define the topic. 🕊️ "What IS Holy Spirit Baptism?"
  - a. 🕊️ ***It was verified by the miraculous manifestations.*** Something was SEEN, HEARD, and DONE. There was no subjective, emotional witnessing (Acts 2:2-4).
  - b. 🕊️ ***It was an overwhelming of the Holy Spirit's power on those who were its subjects.*** "Baptize" carries the idea of a total overwhelming, submerging. There was not just "a little." A large measure was given. "Likewise we refer to a certain large, voluminous

measure (we might say) of the Holy Spirit when we talk about the baptism of the Holy Spirit" [BOOK, Nichols, p. 89-90].

- c. ☞ ***It was a figurative description of a literal event.*** This is true because the Holy Spirit cannot be "poured" (Joel 2:28), neither is He actual "water" (John 7:37-39). The term "baptism" is a way of telling us that an overwhelming and complete overpowering of the person by the Holy Spirit took place. The figurative use of "baptism" as an overwhelming submersion is used other places:

1) Moses under the cloud (1 Corinthians 10:2)

2) Suffering (Mark 10:39)

3) Fire (Matthew 3:11)

*"Literally there is no such thing as a pouring forth of the Holy Spirit; or a drinking of the Spirit; or a baptism of the Holy Spirit; these are figures designed by the resemblances they suggest"* [BOOK, Boles, p. 151].

Thus, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the process by which God the Spirit gave an overabundance of power to saints.

3. If you listen to some you would think that Holy Spirit baptism is a common event in the New Testament and even today. ☞ But there are only three instances of Holy Spirit baptism. Two are specifically detailed while one is implied.
- a. ☞ Acts 2—The Pentecostal Baptism of the Holy Spirit came and "overwhelmed" the Apostles. Some contend that "all" [the 120] were overwhelmed—but such is not true. Note these points that limit the Holy Spirit baptism of Acts 2 to the twelve Apostles.
- 1) ☞ The "promise" of the Holy Spirit was made only to the twelve (John 16:7, 16, 17, 24; Acts 1:8).
  - 2) ☞ The pronouns and antecedents refer only to the twelve (Acts 1:26; 2:1-4).
  - 3) ☞ The reaction of the audience shows that only the twelve received the Holy Spirit Baptism.
    - a) They admitted only the "Galileans" spoke (Acts 2:7).
    - b) They identified that only "men" were affected (KJV 2:13). Plural pronouns reflect back to 2:7!
  - 4) ☞ Peter's rebuttal indicates that only the twelve received the Holy Spirit. He was standing with the eleven not the 120 (Acts 2:14).

- b. 📖 Acts 10—The Holy Spirit Baptism of Cornelius and his household. Peter and the six Jews who went with him were amazed when the exact thing happened in Caesarea that had happened in Jerusalem (Acts 10:45; 11:15).
- c. 📖 The third case of Holy Spirit Baptism was the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8, 9; 2 Corinthians 11:15; 12:12). It was necessary for Paul to be overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit so he could do as the other Apostles.
4. 📖 The characteristics of the Holy Spirit Baptism. These characteristics will show that the Holy Spirit Baptism is such a unique event that any other "baptism" cannot qualify!
- a. 📖 It was promised not commanded! Contrary to the instructions of some (i.e. Hagin - "How to receive the Holy Spirit"), this baptism cannot be commanded. There is no record of it ever being commanded; no instruction on how it is to be done. How can we do this when we are not told how? It is clearly a promise.
- 1) Joel 2:28-32—promised in the Old Testament.
- 2) Matthew 3:11—promised by John.
- 3) Acts 1:5—promised by Christ.
- Note: As a promise it was limited. This will become evident as its purpose is discussed.
- b. 📖 It was administered by Christ, not man! Once again this is contrary to the prevailing ideas. Jesus administered Holy Spirit Baptism (Matthew 3:11; John 1:33). God "gave" the Holy Spirit Baptism to Cornelius (Acts 11:17). Christ "shed forth" the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:32-33). Peter did not administer the Holy Spirit to Cornelius—the Holy Spirit "fell" and Peter was surprised (Acts 10:45).
- c. 📖 It was accompanied by the miraculous! Since Peter identified the situation in Acts 10 as "like" that in Acts 2, we may assume everything was similar. This is in contrast to situations today where the Holy Spirit Baptism is claimed but nothing is seen, heard, or done!
- d. 📖 It was not for salvation! It did not place one "into Christ" where salvation is found (Ephesians 1:3). It did not eliminate the necessity for water baptism (Acts 10:47, 48). It did not guarantee a sinless life (Galatians 2:11-14). "Holy Spirit baptism was not given to make men holy" (BOOK, Lanier, p. 327).
5. 📖 For what reason was Holy Spirit Baptism given? If it was a limited promise to a restricted group, WHY does the Bible discuss it? Why is there such an emphasis upon it? The answer becomes clear when the three situations are studied.
- a. 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."

1) 📖 Revelation was necessary because:

- a) They needed to be guided into ALL Truth (John 16:13; Ephesians 3:1-5).
- b) They needed to be taught ALL things (John 14:26).
- c) They needed to know "things to come" (John 16:13).
- d) They needed to make known the terms of salvation (John 20:23).
- e) They needed to speak foreign languages (Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15).
- f) They needed inspiration (1 Peter 1:12; 2 Timothy 3:16).

2) 📖 Confirmation was necessary because:

- a) It would confirm their authority (Matthew 19:28; Luke 22:28-30).
- b) It would empower them to serve as Apostles (Luke 24:49; John 14:12; 2 Corinthians 12:12).
- c) It would make them able ministers (2 Corinthians 3:6).
- d) It would verify the Gospel (Hebrews 2:3-4).
- e) It would establish and strengthen Churches (Romans 1:11; Acts 14:22).


*Note:* The abundant measure of the Holy Spirit, that overwhelmed the Apostles, enabled them to do that which Jesus had commissioned them to do.

b. 📖 The purpose of the Holy Spirit Baptism in Acts 10 is just as clear. There was a need for revelation and confirmation, but of a different focus.

1) The Jews had long classified the Gentiles as worthless! Thus no association was encouraged (Ephesians 2:11, 12). The Gentiles had been taught that the God of the Jews was not to be their God (note that this is NOT accurate for the Gentiles were included in the focus of God's love (John 3:16; Galatians 3:8). Even the Gentiles who sought to follow Jehovah had doubts about ever being on equal standing with the Jews (Mark 7:26-28).

2) With this cultural understanding, look at how the Holy Spirit Baptism was necessary as a   "revelation"—God's scheme of redemption included "ALL." However "ALL" were not perceived as suitable prospects. The prejudicial barrier had stood for centuries and it would not go away. God thus began a series of miraculous events that would reveal that Jews and Gentiles were equal prospects for salvation.

a) Acts 10:3 – A vision was given to Cornelius telling him to send for a Jew.

- b) Acts 10:9ff – A vision was given to Peter telling him to go with the Gentiles for God did not sanction the prejudicial barriers.
  - c) Acts 10:19ff – The Holy Spirit spoke to Peter and told him to go with the Gentiles.
  - d) Acts 10:27ff – Cornelius' vision is explained to Peter (verses 34, 35).
  - e) Acts 10:44 – The Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles showing that there are no distinctions and ALL can obey God (verses 45-47; 11:17, 18).
- 3)  The Holy Spirit Baptism on the Gentiles was a "confirmation" of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:28-31). With the Holy Spirit Baptism in Acts 10 "all flesh" (Jew and Gentile) had received the Spirit.
- 4) "After hundreds of years of rejection by the Jews, the Gentiles had to have supernatural evidence of being accepted on equality with the Jews, and God gave this evidence by giving them the Spirit like He gave Him to the Jews" [Lanier, p. 321].
- 5) The purpose for the Holy Spirit Baptism in Acts 10 was clearly understood by Peter. It removed all doubt as to whether they should accept the Gentiles into fellowship (Acts 10:28 compare with 10:34, 35, 47-48; 11:15-18).
6. The uniqueness of Holy Spirit Baptism is evident in the conversion of Cornelius.
- a. Peter could think of no other case except Acts 2 (Acts 11:15-17). Several years had passed since Acts 2 but Peter could not think of any other situation. This contradicts modern teachings.
  - b. It fulfilled Joel 2:28—"all flesh." The prophecy had an immediate impact upon the Jerusalem Church (Acts 11:18).
7. A  summary of conclusions regarding Holy Spirit Baptism. Transparency 7H
- a.  Holy Spirit Baptism was administered by Christ for specific purposes.
  - b.  Since Holy Spirit Baptism can ONLY be administered by Christ, mortals CANNOT administer it.
  - c.  Holy Spirit Baptism stands in complete contrast to the baptism of the Great Commission.
  - d.  The baptism of the Great Commission is the baptism which ALL creation is to obey.
  - e.  Christians today cannot take part in Holy Spirit Baptism because there is only ONE BAPTISM in force today (Ephesians 4:5).
  - f.  Holy Spirit Baptism was never intended to be a universal baptism. It was applicable

ONLY to the Apostles and the household of Cornelius.