

a study of the *Holy Spirit*

Special Study: Holy Spirit Baptism

☞ The discussion of Holy Spirit baptism is always needed. Many have questions. There are many false theories based on an improper understanding of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Fanatics have found this a fertile field. Every false teacher has appealed to this. There is an urgent need to study this topic (1 John 4:1; 1 Thessalonians 5:21). We need to know the truth about the matter. We need knowledge to rebuke false teaching. It is our duty to examine this topic relying upon a sound objective standard—The Bible.

1. ☞ Our Lord promised Holy Spirit baptism (Matthew 3:11; John 16:13; Acts 1:8).

2. Consideration of the actual cases of Holy Spirit baptism in the New Testament.
 - a. ☞ There are only three actual cases of Holy Spirit baptism in the New Testament.
 1. ☞ The baptism of the twelve apostles (Acts 2).
 2. The baptism of Cornelius (Acts 10).
 3. The baptism of the Apostle Paul (1 Corinthians 15:8-9; 2 Corinthians 11:15; 12:12).
 - b. ☞ Acts 2—Holy Spirit baptism of the Apostles
 1. Acts 1:4-5 reveals the following—
 - a) ☞ This was a promise.
 - b) It was promised to the Apostles alone.
 - c) It was received in Jerusalem
 2. As the Apostles waited in Jerusalem, their spirits were so overwhelmed by the Holy Spirit's influence that it was termed a "baptism" (immersion).
 3. As the text is studied we find five circumstances—
 - a) ☞ Sound like a mighty rushing wind (verse 3).
 - b) This sound filled the house (verse 2).

- c) Visible manifestations like cloven tongues (verse 3).
- d) They spoke in tongues (languages) (verse 3).
- e) Foreigners present could understand (verses 5-11).
- 4. 🕊 IF one is to claim a baptism as the Apostles, *then* they should also claim these circumstances! But they do not!
- 5. 🕊 *The subjects* of this baptism were only the Apostles!
 - a) 🕊 The promise was limited to only them (Acts 1:4).
 - b) 🕊 The grammatical connection verifies the point—"they," the antecedent refers to the Apostles (Acts 2:1; 1:26).
 - c) 🕊 Those who received the baptism were called "Galileans" (Acts 2:7; 1:11).
 - d) 🕊 Too many want to take this specific promise and make it a general one.
- 6. 🕊 THE PURPOSE of this baptism was—
 - a) To provide "power" (Acts 1:8) which was necessary to confirm the Gospel Truth (Mark 16:20).
 - b) To teach and bring to remembrance (John 14:26).
 - c) To guide into all truth (John 14:26).
 - d) *Note:* This was neither for salvation, forgiveness of sins, or sanctification as many claim today!
- c. 🕊 Acts 10—Holy Spirit baptism of Cornelius
 - 1. The attendant circumstances were *exactly* like those on Pentecost (Acts 10:47). Again, those who claim a similar baptism MUST also claim similar circumstances!
 - 2. 🕊 The subjects were Cornelius and his household—Gentiles.
 - 3. 🕊 The purpose was to break down the barriers of racial and religious prejudice and convince the Jews of the Gentiles' acceptability to God (Acts 10:45, 46; 11:15-18).
 - 4. *Note:* IF Holy Spirit baptism was for "sanctification" why was it required for Cornelius to be baptized again? (Acts 10:48)
- d. Observations from these two accounts.

1. ☞ Holy Spirit baptism was a promise (Acts 1:4), to certain persons (Acts 1:5), and was never promised to the world in general (John 14:17).
 2. ☞ It was bestowed to accomplish two purposes—
 - a) To endow the apostles with power to declare all truth accurately (John 14:26; 16:13).
 - b) To convince the Jews of the Gentiles' subjection to the Gospel.
 3. ☞ Since all purposes of this baptism have been fulfilled, we do not expect any demonstration of it in the present age!
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3. ☞ Ephesians 4:5 must be studied in connection with our discussion.
 - a. ☞ Paul wrote this passage in 60 A.D.—at this time there was only *one* baptism.
 - b. ☞ It can be demonstrated that this one baptism is water baptism of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18ff).
 1. The baptism of the Great Commission was water baptism (Acts 8:36).
 2. ☞ Great Commission baptism was (is) for remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and to place one "in Christ" (Galatians 3:27). Holy Spirit baptism was never for these reasons!
 3. Christ alone administers Holy Spirit baptism (Matthew 3:11), but man was to administer the baptism of the Great Commission (1 Corinthians 1:14).
 4. ☞ The baptism of the Great Commission is commanded (Acts 10:47), but Holy Spirit baptism was promised, *never* commanded!
 5. ☞ Consider the time element—Acts 2 (33 A.D.) and Acts 10 (41 A.D.) both fall before Paul's statement is made in Ephesians 4:5 (60 A.D.)!
 - c. ☞ All previous baptisms have been superseded by the "one" baptism of Ephesians 4:5!
☞ Every creature, among all nations, who is capable of hearing and believing the gospel may be baptized with this *one* baptism of Ephesians 4:5.
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4. Conclusion:
 - a. Although our topic is misunderstood, ☞ the Bible speaks clearly concerning it.
 1. ☞ Holy Spirit baptism was a specific promise and given for a specific purposes.

2. 📖 *It is not* available today because there is only *one authorized* baptism (Ephesians 4:5).
 3. 📖 No one today has the miraculous powers of the Holy Spirit. This is not denying the Holy Spirit!
 4. 📖 Any person claiming Holy Spirit baptism today does so without a vestige of Scriptural proof!
 5. 📖 The Bible never tells us what to do to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. *If* such was necessary, *why* do we not find the command?
- b. While we readily admit that there remains much about the Holy Spirit of which we are ignorant, we do know certain points that are revealed in the Bible.
1. 📖 Let us follow that which is written.
 2. 📖 May we be careful that we do not go beyond what is written in the Bible!