

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

GOD IS NO RESPECTER OF PERSONS

God has declared in His Word that He treats every one in the same way. Both Old and New Testaments confirm this truth. Deuteronomy 10:17 II Chronicles 19:7 Acts 10:34 Romans 2:11 Ephesians 6:9 Colossians 3:25

HOW WERE YOU BORN AGAIN? You confessed with your mouth that Jesus was Lord and at the same time you believed that God had raised Jesus from the dead like it says in

Romans 10:9+10.

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the LORD Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath RAISED him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. (10) For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

From putting both of the above statements together, we must conclude that every one gets born again as they fulfil those two basic steps. Therefore we must expect the disciples to get born again in the same way as we did. They had to confess that Jesus was Lord and believe in their hearts that God had raised Him from the dead.

Let us check this out before going any further. **John 20:19-22**

'Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. (20) And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, WHEN THEY SAW THE LORD. (21) Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. (22) And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

'THE LORD, HE IS ALIVE!'

Now when they saw Jesus come into their midst, they simply and sincerely said "Lord!". How do we know that? Because what happened was recorded accurately by John. Had they just said, 'Jesus', then the record would have read . . . 'then were the disciples glad when they saw Jesus'. So the disciples acknowledged Him as LORD and obviously they believed in their hearts that God had raised Him from the dead . . . there He was standing right in front of them very much alive! **THE DISCIPLES WERE BORN AGAIN RIGHT THEN JUST AS YOU AND I WERE BORN AGAIN.**

It is recorded that '*Jesus breathed on them, and said, Receive ye the Holy Ghost*'. **Holy Spirit** and **Holy Ghost** are exactly the same in the original Greek. The Greek also says that 'He breathed INTO them'.

Be reminded right here that when you were born again, the Holy Spirit came into you. **I Cor.6:19** confirms this again when it tells us that 'we are the temple of **the Holy Spirit who is in you** . . .' God being no respecter of persons, each one gets born again in the same way — including the disciples and you. **The Holy Spirit IS God . . .** or '*The Lord is that Spirit*' as says **II Cor. 3:17.**

Being 'born again' equates with the '*Feast of Passover*' in your life as Jesus became the Passover Lamb sacrificed upon the cross: '*Christ, our Passover is sacrificed for us*' **I Cor.5:7.**

THE HOLY SPIRIT (already IN you), will come UPON you

The Holy Spirit, as we have seen, came to dwell IN each one of us as we were *born of the spirit* or born from above. Now Jesus introduces us to **THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT** . . . 'in' or 'of' the Holy Spirit doesn't make any difference.

Luke 24:49 Jesus speaking to His born-again disciples, '*Behold, I send THE PROMISE OF MY FATHER UPON YOU, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high.*'

Question! When Jesus speaks, is it suggestion, a prayer, an invitation or a command? The answer all depends on whether **Jesus is Lord** in your life. If Jesus is Lord, then you can only come to one conclusion . . . that when He speaks it is **a command!** The disciples were born again in the same way as we were. They were told it was necessary to receive the Promise of the Father. God, being no respecter of persons, treats us all the same: therefore we are to also receive the same promise, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

When the disciples were born again, did they have sufficient release of power to go forth to 'save' the world? The answer is, of course, 'No'. For if they did, then why did Jesus tell them to WAIT in Jerusalem UNTIL they were fully equipped?

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Jesus told the disciples to **WAIT** for the '*Promise of the Father*' - **Acts 1:4**. As you read the next verse, it tells us that **the Promise of the Father was TO BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Then a few verses further on, it says that, '*ye shall receive power AFTER that the Holy Spirit comes UPON you*.'

Now moving on to **Acts 2: 1-4**,

'And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat UPON each of them. (4) And they were ALL filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance'.

Before we look at what happened and why it happened, let us see the Old Testament background for such an instruction from Jesus. Bear in mind, **THAT GOD DOES NOT CHANGE**. You'll find that confirmed in **Malachi 3:6** and **Hebrews 13:8**. What has changed since we have come into the New Covenant, is **the way** in which God does what He had originally set out.

God told His people back in Moses' day that they were to appear before Him **THREE** times in a year - **Exodus. 23:17**; Deuteronomy 16:16. As you read the context, you will observe that it was for the three feasts brought in by God. **To appear before God, for us it means to experience God in . . . the three feasts**. First - *the Feast of Passover* (**Leviticus 23:4-6**), the second - *The Feast of Pentecost* - also called the Feast of Weeks —(7 x 7) + 1 = 50. (**Leviticus 23: 15-17**) and thirdly, - *The Feast of Tabernacles* (**Leviticus 23:34**).

We have already shown that when we were born again, we experienced our own personal 'Passover'. Referring now back to Acts 2:1, we see that this occasion of experiencing **THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER WAS ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST**. So we can see that being baptized with the Holy Spirit equates with our personal experience of the Feast of Pentecost. (The third feast we will cover another time).

GOD'S PURPOSE FOR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The quick answer as to God's purpose with this baptism is to say, 'power for service'. While that is not wrong, it is however, one of the fruits of such a baptism. So let us search for the foundational reason for this. **I Corinthians 2:16** says that *we HAVE the mind of Christ*. When we were born again, we received Him Who is the WORD. . . **John 1:1** tells us that God is Word. Receiving the Spirit into our lives when we came to Christ, is the same as receiving THE LIVING WORD and therefore He, being Word, would reside in a MIND . . . obviously HIS!

Now, are we all convinced that HIS MIND is far superior to our minds? We have just one difficulty and that is to get His thoughts into action **BEFORE** our thoughts. Most times our thoughts get blurted out first and God's words don't get a look in anyway, anyhow!

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS BREATH

The Greek word translated '*spirit*' is *PNEUMA* and also means *wind* and *breath*. We all know that breath is required for speaking. The Holy Spirit, Who is God, comes to dwell within us to change us from the inside outwards. He changes us by causing our thinking to be changed into His thinking. Remember Jesus, Who

is our example, only spoke the things that His Father told Him (**John 14:10**).

THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IS FOR GOD TO GET HOLD OF OUR TONGUES! AND RELEASE ONE INTO THE WORD OF GOD.

James 3:8-10 *But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. (9) Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. (10) Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.*
Also Proverbs 18:21 *Death and Life are in the power of the tongue. . . .*

WHO NEEDS HELP WITH THEIR TONGUE?

There is no believer that doesn't at this point of time. There is no man that can control his tongue perfectly. **The only one who can do that is the Holy Spirit.** The Holy Spirit coming **UPON** you will release the Holy Breath **from within** you in words of His choosing. At such times you will speak life and blessing, which in turn will release His Power that will see **His Will** accomplished.

A ONE-TIME ONLY DEAL ? ... NO!

There are four occasions in the book of Acts where the Feast of Pentecost was fulfilled and they were spread over a period of about 21 years. If such an outpouring was for the start of the Church only, then why did God do it another three times ? It is also pertinent that the book of Acts does not have an 'Amen' at the end like all the other New Testament books with the exception of James.

Each one of these four accounts include THE SPIRIT COMING **UPON** (or **ON**) **THEM**:

Pentecost was released at **Jerusalem in A.D. 29 . . . Acts 2:1-4,**

Pentecost was released in **Samaria in A.D. 30 . . . Acts 8:14-17,**

Pentecost was released in **the home of Cornelius in A.D. 37 . . . Acts 10:44-46,**

Pentecost was released in **Ephesus in A.D. 50 . . . Acts 19:1-6.**

Pentecost was released **in YOU in**!

Just as the Feasts of **Passover** was separate from **Pentecost** by **50** days (The word '*Pentecost*' means '50'), so your 'salvation' experience is separated from your 'baptism in the Holy Spirit'. The second experience does not automatically get included in your salvation experience although they can be very, very close together! The 'IN' relationship of the Holy Spirit is distinct from the 'UPON' relationship even though it is the same Spirit that blesses you.

WHAT HAPPENED IN ACTS 2?

The record of their personal Pentecost, which will be the same as ours' because *God is no respecter of persons*, is laid out clearly. Remember it has nothing to do with getting 'saved'. It has all to do with releasing Him who came to dwell within us. The Holy Spirit came to be **IN** us when we were born again and now He comes **UPON** us **TO RELEASE HIMSELF OUT FROM US...**

RELEASE JESUS, THE LIVING WORD, OUT OF US WITH WORDS!!!

First note that they of the upper room were all seated. They were relaxed. A flame of fire looking just like a tongue appeared **ON** each of the 120. *They were ALL filled with the Holy Breath/Spirit* (filled means filled, until their lungs would burst!) *and began to speak* (HE had got hold of their tongues) *with other tongues* (languages) *as the Spirit gave them the utterance.*

WHO DID THE SPEAKING?

'Utterance' is simply THE WORDS. HE was the Breath **and** HE supplied the words — it only left the disciples to **OPEN THEIR MOUTHS AND TURN ON THEIR SOUND-BOXES!**

Now it was mighty considerate of the Lord to bring out of HIS MIND WITHIN THEM languages that they did **not** understand with their own minds. Had they understood any of what initially came forth, they would have stopped speaking **TO REASON OUT** what was going on.

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive POWER, after that the Holy Ghost is come UPON you: and ye shall BE WITNESSES unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

POWER TO 'BE' not 'DO'

The POWER one receives AFTER the Holy Spirit comes UPON one, is for ONE PURPOSE. That purpose is to **BE A WITNESS!** If one IS a witness, then obviously that one will witness! However the Greek word translated 'witness' is *MARTUS* which means *martyr* and (judicial) *witness*. The baptism of the Holy Spirit will cause you to become a **MARTYR**. What dies? Answer = your own carnal thinking. . . and **THEN** your life will **BE** a WITNESS with HIS WORDS coming through you to others.

You will be a witness 'UNTO ME' said Jesus.

You will **NOT BE WITNESSING FOR JESUS**, but you will be a witness **OF Jesus**: which means **what you speak will be just what Jesus would speak** if He were in your shoes. Speaking His words will magnify the Source bringing glory to Him. The Spirit of Jesus — the Holy Spirit — IS IN YOU! No wonder there would be POWER released when such speech is released! The Greek word translated 'POWER' here is *DUNAMIS* from which we get our English word, *dynamite*! It will be that sort of power!

The only problem that we have is BELIEVING what the Lord has written for the building up of our life. In the next study we shall see all the things that speaking in tongues can do for one as God brings our thinking. The Office of the Holy Spirit is to glorify Jesus Christ - **John 16:14**.

THREE BAPTISMS —

Hebrews 6:2 shows us that one of the foundations of our faith is *the doctrine (teaching) of baptismS!* Actually it is three parts to the one baptism mentioned in Ephesians 4.

1. Initial salvation — the Holy Spirit baptizes you into the Body of Christ . . . **I Cor. 12:13**
2. Water baptism — is next on the list but does HAVE to be next — when the Body of Christ (Probably a Pastor or Elder but doesn't HAVE to be) baptizes you in water . . . into His death . . . **Rom. 6:4**
3. Personal Pentecost — Jesus baptizes you in the Holy Spirit. . . **Luke 3:16**.

WHO BAPTIZES YOU IN THE HOLY SPIRIT ?

Read Luke 3:16 — *John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:*

John was speaking of Jesus. It is Jesus that will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and it is accompanied with FIRE. What does fire do? It burns up the *wood, hay and stubble* of our own thinking. Was there fire in the upper room of Acts 2? Yes. The thinking and therefore words, of the disciples did not come to the fore, His did!

IS THIS BAPTISM FOR ALL?

The PROMISE OF THE FATHER is unto YOU, and to your children, and to ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF, as many as the Lord our God shall call.

That is straight from **Acts 2:39**. Context was those present hearing God's voice + the next generation + all those down the passage of time. Don't forget that God is no respecter of persons. . . what He did for those hungry ones back in Acts, He will do for you. He will get hold of your tongue, because if He doesn't, He is limited from performing His will in His way.

THE ENCOURAGEMENT

Many have said that the ‘evidence’ that one has received the RELEASE of the Holy Spirit, is when they ‘speak in tongues’. This quite often sparks the comment, ‘Does one HAVE to speak in tongues?’ You don’t ‘HAVE TO’ do anything . . . the truth is that YOU MAY speak in new languages which can be heavenly or earthly in origin. The whole subject of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is about a STEP OF FAITH. Faith comes from HEARING the Word on a matter, believing it and ‘stepping out on the water’.

At each of the four instances in the Book of Acts, the recipients all spoke in tongues . . . they obviously did not reason away what God was bringing forth from within them by faith. (‘Reason’ is the deadly enemy of ‘Faith’). When you buy a pair of shoes, you get the tongues too!!!

God, Who is the Word in you, will ENCOURAGE you by letting you see that He has come forth from within you and He makes sure that you cannot say it was you doing it! This whole subject is just a doorway into the things of the Spirit. When He moves you will be changed and the control panel for change is what you speak!

IT’S JUST A DOWNPAYMENT

Eph 1:13 *In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, (14) Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

Read these two verses again . . . **AFTER** ye heard the word of truth — therefore it is by **FAITH** as *faith cometh from hearing the word* (**Romans 10:17**). The word ‘earnest’ means what is *given as a security* that guarantees the balance of the transaction will follow. It is like a **DOWNPAYMENT** but is actually a very, very small deposit. Did you notice the ‘**UNTIL**’? You were thus ‘sealed’ when you received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit . . . that ‘seal’ is a ‘stamp’ on the step you have taken declaring that God will complete the transaction of changing you into His image (**II Corinthians 3:17+18**).

YOUR RESPONSE

What have you done with the command of Jesus? When you accepted Christ as your Lord and Saviour, did you only allow Him to be Lord in **certain** areas of your life or in **all** your life? Has the Spirit of God got hold of your tongue? Fully? **God’s purpose is to have a people through whom He can speak.** When He speaks, what is said will come to pass. It will be **life** and **NOT** a choice between ‘good’ and ‘evil’.

‘Lord, I open up my life for you to control. I am hungry for more of You. Please come and take full control of my tongue. Please baptize me in your Holy Spirit that YOU may be released from within me in an ever-increasing way. Fill my cup Lord and then jog me so that I overflow with what You are in it’.

WHAT A GLORIOUS PROVISION

There is an amazing provision for each child of God in the speaking in tongues — praying and worshipping in the Spirit — in the heavenly languages. In re-think No.18 we will cover those blessings and many more. §