

## The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

### - *Recap*

- Two weeks ago, we gave an overview of WHO the Holy Spirit is.
- The Holy Spirit is not someTHING to use, but rather someONE to know.
- There is an interpersonal relating to the Holy Spirit that was intended to be had, and Katie Rios shared her moving story that about how, in the midst of her crippling sickness, it was the Holy Spirit that was a tangible comforter, and as Katie put it, “The best friend I have ever known.”
- Last week Billy gave an overview of the what the ROLE of the Holy Spirit is.
- The Holy Spirit’s aim, in everything He does, is to exalt Jesus, set His people apart unto God for God’s purposes, and to engage His people in mission.
- HOW does He do that and WHAT exactly does that look like? That’s some of what we’re going to be talking about for the rest of this series.
- The topic that we are looking at today is SO CRUCIAL that Jesus told the disciples that they were forbidden from even leaving Jerusalem and fulfilling the great commission until this happened. The topic we are looking at today is “**The Baptism of the Holy Spirit**”.

You could say that the greatest promise that was ever made to the world is John 3:16, “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.” (John 3:16)

But the greatest promise ever made TO THE CHURCH is found here in Acts 1 (starting in v. 4).

“While he was with them, he commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father’s promise. “Which,” he said, “you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit** in a few days.” So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, are you restoring the kingdom to Israel at this time?” He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority. But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you**, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. **(Acts 1:4-8 CSB)**”

- The greatest promise ever made to the world? Believe in Jesus and you will not perish, but have everlasting life.
- But the greatest promise ever made to the church? “**You will receive POWER when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.**”
  - The first promise was made **about** Jesus—the second was made **by** Jesus.

- The first has to do with being **made new** (it has to do with salvation)—the second has to do with being **made effective** (it has to do with unction — power).
  - **BOTH** are absolutely necessary for the Christian.
- The first is the **means by which we become** Christians—the second is the **means by which we live** faithful and fruitful lives as Christians.
- **The first is putting our faith in Jesus. The second is being baptized with the Holy Spirit.**
- At the beginning of the Gospel of Luke, John the Baptist said **"I baptize you with water, but one who is more powerful than I am is coming. I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Luke 3:16 CSB)**
- John the Baptist was talking about Jesus. And then Jesus says at the end of Luke: **"I am sending you what my Father promised... But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you." (Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8 CSB)**
- Now, when Jesus said this to His disciples, the disciples were already converted, they had been saved. **John 20:22** after Jesus rose from the dead it says that, **"Jesus breathed on them and said to them receive the Holy Spirit."**
- They received the Holy Spirit at that moment, as in, the Spirit came into them. When the Holy Spirit comes into and indwells a person, they are born again. He comes in to them and raises them to life.
- **It is the work of the Holy Spirit 'in us' that causes us to be born again—regenerated—new creations— saved.**
- And someone cannot be a Christian (you cannot be born again) without the Holy Spirit coming **into you**.
- Speaking **to Christians**, Paul says in Romans 8, **"You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him. The Spirit himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children. (Rom. 8:9,16 CSB)**

**If you are a Christian, then you have the Holy Spirit IN you.**

But There is a second work, or experience, of being **baptized with the Holy Spirit** - the Holy Spirit coming **'upon us' and filling us with himself**.

This is what Jesus was talking about when He said to the disciples (who had the Spirit **IN**, but not yet **ON** them):

- **"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come ON you." (Acts 1:8 CSB)**

- The **'in'** experience has to do with **Salvation/Regeneration/Adoption**—this is how we are born again.
- The **'upon'** experience has to do with **Power/Enabling/Boldness**—it makes us faithful and fruitful.
- Two different experiences we see in the Bible.
- **You can't expect to see the kind of power, boldness, faithfulness, and effectiveness that we see in scripture aside from Spirit Baptism.**

- You have been sent, by Jesus, where you are, to **MAKE HIM KNOWN**.
- That's what Jesus said, and He has sent us out to do this **BUT there's a caveat!** He said, "BUT WAIT!" He said, "But before you go and start making me known, YOU MUST WAIT." **Jesus forbid the disciples from fulfilling their purpose of making disciples UNTIL one thing happened:** "He **commanded them not to leave** Jerusalem, but to **wait** for the Father's promise. "Which," he said, "you have heard me speak about; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days. But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come **on** you, and **[then]** you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (**Act 1:4-5 CSB**)

The Spirit coming UPON us is so necessary and vital that Jesus told the disciples that they weren't allowed to go out, UNTIL the Spirit came upon them.

**"While God is in me for my sake, He is upon me for yours." - Bill Johnson**

The disciples received the Holy Spirit IN them for **their** salvation, for **their** adoption. But He came upon them, and filled them up to the point of overflowing them, it was SO THAT THEY COULD BE WITNESSES to **OTHERS** — **it was for the** sake of every single not-yet-saved, not-yet-adopted-into-the-family-of-God person in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and every nation.

- **God's plan for you is to be an agent of spiritual change and awakening everywhere you go.**
- Jesus said, **you** are the light of the world.
- **You were designed to carry with you the power and presence of the living God.**
  - And it is the power and presence of God that changes everything.
- When the Holy Spirit came **upon** the disciples with **power** everything changed!
- **Acts 2:**

**"When the day of Pentecost had arrived, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like that of a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were staying. They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and rested on each one of them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them. Now there were Jews staying in Jerusalem, devout people from every nation under heaven. When this sound occurred, a crowd came together and was confused because each one heard them speaking in his own language. They were astounded and amazed, saying, 'Look, aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? How is it that each of us can hear them in our own native language? Parthians, Medes, Elamites; those who live in Mesopotamia, in Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts), Cretans and Arabs — we hear them declaring the magnificent acts of God in our own tongues.' They were all astounded and perplexed, saying to one another, 'What does**

this mean?” But some sneered and said, ‘They’re drunk on new wine.’ Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice, and proclaimed to them: ‘Fellow Jews and all you residents of Jerusalem, let me explain this to you and pay attention to my words. For these people are not drunk, as you suppose, since it’s only nine in the morning. On the contrary, this is what was spoken through the prophet Joel: ‘And it will be in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit on all people; then your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams. I will even pour out my Spirit on my servants in those days, both men and women and they will prophesy. I will display wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below: blood and fire and a cloud of smoke. The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the great and glorious day of the Lord comes. Then everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’...

Therefore let all the house of Israel know with certainty that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah.’ When they heard this, they were pierced to the heart and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles: “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” With many other words he testified and strongly urged them, saying, “Be saved from this corrupt generation!” So those who accepted his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand people were added to them.” (Acts 2:1-21,36-41 CSB)

- Everything changed when the Holy Spirit fell upon the disciples.
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- This is a result of the “**power from on high—upon**” experience of Spirit Baptism! The world was never the same after the Spirit fell on them in power!!!!
- **So there are two different things happening here right?**
- There is the Holy Spirit converting us and then there is the Holy Spirit filling us through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (2 different experiences).
- Every Christian has the Holy Spirit *in* them for salvation and new life (conversion/regeneration/adoption)
- But not every Christian has had the Holy Spirit come *upon* them for power and boldness that leads to faithful and fruitful Christian living.
- **That experience IS available for every Christian— but not have had it.**

But don’t take my word for this. Let’s see this in the book of Acts.

- **The testimony of the Book of Acts concerning The Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a second experience:**
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- 1. The disciples on Pentecost (Acts 1 and 2)
- 2. Christians in Samaria (Acts 8:14-17)

- **Acts 8:14-17:** "When the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. After they went down there, they prayed for them so the Samaritans **might receive the Holy Spirit** because he had not yet come down ON any of them. (They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (water Baptism in response to repentance and faith in Jesus.) Then Peter and John **laid their hands on them**, and they received the Holy Spirit.
- They had heard the gospel. They had responded to the gospel, been saved, AND WATER BAPTIZED. **But they had not yet been Baptized in the Holy Spirit.**
- **3. Christians in Ephesus (Acts 19:1-6)**
  - (20 years after pentacost)
  - **Acts 19:1-6:** "While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions and came to Ephesus. He found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" "No," they told him, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." "Into what then were you baptized?" he asked them. "Into John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John baptized with a baptism of repentance, telling the people that they should believe in the one who would come after him, that is, in Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began to speak in other tongues and to prophesy."
  - **So**, what we see here is that sometimes people are born again (the Spirit lives in them)—but they don't receive the fullness of power (the Holy Spirit coming upon them) until a later time.

Now **sometimes**, the two events happen simultaneously. You are saved (Spirit **comes in** you) and you are Baptized with the Holy Spirit (Spirit comes **upon** you) at the same time.

- **We see this happen with the household of Cornelius in Acts 10 (turn over to Acts 10)**
  - **Act 10:**
    - **"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came down on all those who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and declaring the greatness of God. Then Peter responded, "Can anyone withhold water and prevent these people from being baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (Acts 10:44-48)**
- **When I was 14...**
  - Believed in Jesus...
  - And then, a couple of years later, I went to a meeting...
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  - At that moment, everything changed for me...

- I remember going home and I actually WANTED to read my Bible. I actually WANTED to hang out with my youth Pastor. I WANTED to meet other Christians. I WANTED to worship. I WANTED to obey God.
- I had become pretty heavily addicted to stealing things...
- When the Spirit comes upon you, you are full of the Holy Spirit and power, and you have everything that you need to be faithful and fruitful witness of Jesus.
- DL Moody preached for years, as a born again believer who lacked the power of the Holy Spirit. But after he received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, everything changed for DL Moody.
- He would later say:
- "I have lived long enough to know that if I cannot have the power of the Spirit of God on me to help me to work for Him, I would rather die, than to live just for the sake of living." - **D.L. Moody**
- It wasn't that he wasn't going any where or doing anything, but there was more to be had once He received the POWER from on high.
- It is possible to have some of the work of the Spirit in your life, but come short of the **fullness** of His work of enabling and empowering through the Baptism of the Spirit.
- **The Holy Spirit is the Father's gift to us.**
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- **But like any gift there are things that can hinder you from receiving.**
- **And like any gift there is participatory element to the receiving.**

### What are some barriers to Spirit Baptism?

- 1. A lack of a deep conviction of need (AKA: pride and self reliance)
- 2. A refusal to yield your will (lack of surrender)
- 3. A refusal to repent of sin (Acts 2:37-38)
- 4. Ignorance (eg. the believers in Ephesus in Acts 19)
- 5. Wrong Motives

### What must be done?

- 1. Recognize our need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- 2. Be willing to forsake the sin that is holding us back from pursuing God's will.
- 3. Be willing to surrender our will to God's will.
- 4. Ask
- **Luke 11:9-13:** "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you. Seek, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to

your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"

- **1 John 5:14-15:** "This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him."

### **What is going to happen, and how will you know you have received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

- 1. By faith
- 2. Possible signs
- 3. Future faithful and fruitful living
- "I was powerfully converted on the morning of the month of October, 1822. In the evening of the same day I received overwhelming baptisms of the Holy Ghost, that went through me, as it seemed to me, body and soul. I immediately found myself endued with such power from on high that a few words dropped here and there to individuals were the means of their immediate conversion." -**Charles Finney**

**The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not optional.**

**The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a reward—it is a gift.**

**The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for you.**