

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Introduction

Luke 3:21 Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened,

Luk 3:22 and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased." Luk 3:23 Jesus, when he began his ministry, was about thirty years of age...

Jesus began His ministry when He was about thirty years of age after He was baptized in the Holy Spirit when the Holy Spirit descended upon like a dove. There was no miracle recorded in His first thirty years of life. The Bible tells us that after the Holy Spirit had come upon Him, He was full of the Holy Spirit. "Luk 4:1 And Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness."

Then after the temptation was over, the Bible also tells us that Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit in Lk.4:14 "And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit to Galilee, and a report about him went out through all the surrounding country." Jesus then went into the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath day and read from the book of Isaiah the following as recorded in Luke 4:18-21,

18 "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed,

19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing."

Peter in his sermon to the Cornelius and his household said in Acts 10:38, "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power. He went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him."

We can see how therefore Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and the power of the Spirit when He ministered on earth. Before He ascended to heaven, He promised to send the Holy Spirit, Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:5-8, "...you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and..."

At Pentecost, 10 days after Jesus had ascended to the Father, 120 disciples including 12 apostles were all filled with the Holy Spirit. They began to speak in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance, Acts 2:2-4. Thereafter the disciples were changed people and were full of boldness and power. From these examples of Jesus and the early disciples, we can see that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is important so that the believers in Christ can be filled with the power of the Holy Spirit for ministry, service and victorious living.

Peter in his sermon at Pentecost in Acts 2 said in verses 38-39:

"And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself."

Here we can see that the promised gift of the Holy Spirit is for all who have believed in Jesus. So as believers in Christ, we can be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit so that we can serve the Lord more effectively in the power of the Spirit.

2. Terminology used for the baptism of the Holy Spirit

- a. Baptise with the Holy Spirit Mat 3:11, John 1:33, Act 1:5
- b. The Holy Spirit comes upon Act 1:8, Act 19:6
- c. Filled with the Holy Spirit Act 2:4, Act 9:17
- d. Pour out my Spirit Act 2:17, Act 2:33, and Act 10:45.
- e. Receive the Holy Spirit Act 2:38 Act 8:17, Act. 19:2
- f. The Holy Spirit fell on Act 10:44

3. Signs of baptism with the Holy Spirit

What are the signs/manifestation or results of early believers receiving the Holy Spirit in the following cases recorded in the book of Acts:

Scriptures in Acts	Place	Who were baptized in the H.S	Who helped them	How did they get baptised	What Sign or Result
2:1-4	Jerusalem	120 Disciples	None	They obeyed and waited in one accord to receive the promised H.S	Sound like a mighty rushing wind, tongues as of fire, they began to speak in tongues
8:14-18	Samaria	Samaritans	Peter and John prayed and laid hands on them	They received the Holy Spirit	Visible sign “Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was given...”
9:17-19	Damascus	Paul	Ananias prayed and laid hands on Saul	Saul (Paul) obeyed to be prayed to receive	Healing of eyes
10:44-48	Caesarea	Cornelius and household	They listened to Peter with expectant hearts	They received the Holy Spirit	They were heard speaking in tongues & praising God
19:1-7	Ephesus	12 Disciples of John the Baptist	Paul prayed and laid hands on them	They desired and received the Holy Spirit	They began speaking in tongues & prophesying

With reference to the chart above, which sign or manifestation show up in more instances?

Based on the examples above, shall we know if we've been baptized with the Holy Spirit?

4. According to Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:8, what is promised also when a believer is baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit?

From the following passages, identify and contrast the character traits of the apostles before and after the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Characteristics BEFORE baptized with the HS	Characteristics AFTER baptized with the HS
Mt. 17:14-16; 19-20	Acts 3:1-8
Mt. 20:20-24 Lk. 22:23-24	Acts 4:32-35
Mt. 26:55, 56 Jn. 18:15-17	Acts 4:5-8; 13 Acts 4:19, 20, 29, 31

5. Gifts of the Holy Spirit

a. List out the spiritual gifts mentioned in the passage 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31

b. Do all followers of Christ given spiritual gifts? Do you desire to receive the spiritual gifts?

c. Who determines which individuals receive which gifts?

d. Are all believers given the same gifts?

6. Gift of tongues

- a. Linguistically, there are two types of tongues
 - Tongue of men (known languages. e.g. Acts 2:6). 1 Cor. 13:1
 - Unknown tongues
 - Tongue of angel, 1 Cor.13:1
 - Speaking to God (not men) or uttering mysteries in the Spirit unto God, 1 Cor.14:2
 - b. Functionally, tongues can be classified into two types
 - Tongues that speaks mysteries to God not to men and that speak to himself and minister for self edification, 1 Cor.14:2, 4, 14, 28;
 - Tongues that minister for the edification of the church or others which require interpretation of the tongues. Here it is God speaking to men, 1 Cor. 12:30, 1 Cor. 14:5, 26-28.
 - c. In Acts 2:4, 10:46 and 19:6, who spoke in tongues, the HS or the believers?
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7. How to be baptized with the Holy Spirit

All Christians can be baptized with the Holy Spirit. How to be baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit and receive the gifts of the Spirit?

- Believe the gift of the H.S is for you as believer (Acts 2:39)
- Earnestly or eagerly desire. It is good to request leaders to pray for you
- Receive by faith
- Began to praise and thank God in tongue