

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Introduction

- 1) We believe in the experience we call the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and that this experience is evidenced by speaking in an unknown tongue (language) as the Holy Spirit directs.

Q – Have you heard about or experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- 2) There has been a LOT of misconception and poor teaching on this subject. Some has been poor interpretation from people who have not experienced this Spirit Baptism and some from those who have had the experience but who define what the Bible says about the Spirit Baptism by the experience itself.
- 3) We just finished a class on interpreting scriptures, that gives us the tools, or the proper process to rightly understand what the Bible teaches about the work of the Holy Spirit.
- 4) Using these tools we will take what the Bible does say, compare it to practical experience, (experience is indeed a valid part of the process of interpreting scriptures) to understand the work of the Holy Spirit and to rightly apply God's work for us today.

Q – The Bible clearly talks about the work of the Holy Spirit and supernatural nature of God's interaction with man, the manifestation of His presence, or the operation of His Spirit. Should we not expect God to continue working in our lives in a supernatural way?

- 5) We will concentrate on passages in 3 books (not limiting all teaching on the subject to these three): a) the book of John (Jesus Himself teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit He will send after He is gone) b) the Book of Acts (the record of how the Spirit worked in the lives of Christians in the early church) and c) the 1st letter to the Corinthians (Paul specifically writing to instruct and correct with regard to the working of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers and in corporate worship services).

Q – Who was teaching about the purpose of the Holy Spirit's work in our lives in chapters 13-16 of the book of John? Who was He talking to?

Q – Why should we be careful in our use of the scriptures in the Book of Acts when teaching on the work of the Holy Spirit or any doctrinal position?

Q – What was the purpose of Paul’s writing to the church in Corinth? What was the specific context of his instruction in chapters 12 and 14?

- 6) We will ask ourselves 7 questions, which we will answer from scripture, making sure we take nothing away nor add anything to what the Bible says about this experience. We will compare what the Bible says to actual experience (as in the book of Acts) but we will not let experience speak where scripture is silent (many Pentecostals are guilty of this), or in any way to contradict what scripture does say (many non-Pentecostals are equally guilty on the latter point).

Q – How might some of our own personal experiences interfere with our correctly interpreting, understanding and applying God’s word with respect to the “Pentecostal” experience?

- 7) Tonight we will examine our preconditioned ideas or personal experiences that may influence us or predispose us to think one way or another.

Chapter 1

What it is Not!

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not...

1. ...speaking in _____.

Q – What is speaking in tongues with regard to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Q – Why do you think God uses speaking in tongues for us to experience the work of the Holy Spirit in this way?

2. ...being Spirit _____.

Q – What is the evidence of being Spirit filled?

Q – Can a Christian be Spirit filled without having spoken in tongues?

(For clarification we will ask it a different way)

Can a Christian demonstrate the fruit of the Spirit without having spoken in tongues? Yes / No

Do all who have spoken in tongues always manifest or express the fruit of the Spirit? Yes / No

3. ...a sign of spiritual _____.

4. ...a sign of spiritual _____.

Q – Doesn't the enemy also use "signs" to try to deceive us? Give examples:

Q – What is the authoritative basis for our faith and conduct? _____

5. ...one of the _____ of the Spirit.

Q – How is the “gift” of tongues different from the evidence of an experience with the Holy Spirit?

The gift of tongues is for _____ in the church, to the congregation.

Praying in the Spirit (in tongues) is for personal _____.

Chapter 2

What is it?

1. It is a gift promised by the Father.

Q. Why do you think Jesus said in John 16:7, that it is better for Him to go away?

Q. What is the importance of Jesus “commanding” us to wait to receive the promise from the Father?

2. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience – a supernatural experience!

Q. What is the one prerequisite to receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Q. When does this experience occur?

Q. How can you tell whether or not someone has received this experience?

Q. Can a person be Spirit-filled without speaking in tongues?

Additional comments:

- It depends on the definition of the term “Spirit-filled.” The idea that speaking in tongues is evidence a person is living a life that demonstrates the work of the Holy Spirit in their every day life is Biblically indefensible and experientially unrealistic.
- We must also understand that, by the same token, living a godly life that demonstrates or manifests the fruit of the Spirit is NOT evidence you have received the promised experience of empowerment that Jesus commanded us to receive, which we refer to as the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Speaking in tongues is also evidence prayer in the Spirit and our communication with God on a Spiritual plane in an ongoing personal and intimate relationship with God.
- Experientially speaking, we know there is a level of communication, interaction with God in a Spiritual sense and a participation in the supernatural that simply does not occur outside of those who have experienced the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. (More about that in chapter 4)
- I don't mean to minimize the importance of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit as evidenced by speaking in tongues, but neither do I want to exaggerate the role of speaking in tongues beyond what we can defend scripturally.
- The experience of speaking in tongues is clearly a vital experience that is a doorway to a whole new level of relationship with God that is difficult to understand without having experienced it for oneself.
- As we said, the experience varies from one person to the next with the exception of distinguishing characteristic of speaking in tongues.

Lesson 3

Who is it for?

Remind everyone we are not talking about the state of being Spirit filled, or one of the gifts of the Spirit, the message in tongues which is to be accompanied by the interpretation. We are talking about the experience referred to as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, an experience identified by speaking in tongues, and the ongoing devotional prayer in the Spirit.

Again, I want to remind everyone we are presenting the teaching on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit purposefully addressing arguments used by non-pentecostals in opposition of our specific doctrinal positions with regard to this experience. For that reason, as we look tonight at the question “Who Is It For?” I want us to clearly see what the Bible does NOT say about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1) The Bible never says it was intended for only the _____.

Q – Who did Jesus give the command to tarry in Jerusalem to? How many were gathered together when He gave the command?

Q – According to Acts 2:38-39 who is the promise of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for?

Q – In Acts 19 what does Paul’s question to the believers he found in Ephesus imply as far as what he expected of all Christians expressing faith in Christ?

2) The Bible _____ says that the Spirit Baptism experience was for a time that has now passed and is no longer to be a part of the Christian experience.

Q – 1 Corinthians 13:8 says that a day will come when tongues shall cease, but what other things does this passage say will cease in the day that tongues do?

Q – What does verse 1 Corinthians 13:12 say will happen when tongues cease? What or Who will we see and what or Who will we know?

Q – Has the day described in this passage come to pass yet? Then why would we think tongues has ceased?

3) The Bible does NOT ever say that _____ is for only some and not for others.

Q – Remembering the difference between devotional/personal prayer in the Spirit (in tongues) and the ministry gift of the Spirit in the church, to which is Paul referring in 1 Corinthians 12:29-30?

*Discuss the difference between the gift of tongues and praying in the Spirit.

Q – In 1 Corinthians 14:5 who does Paul say he wished spoke in tongues?

Q – in Ephesians 6:18 and Jude 1:20, how are we all, as believers, instructed to pray?

Chapter 4

What is it For?

1) To answer this question accurately we should focus more on the _____
Jesus taught us about the experience in the book of John and less on the
general descriptive comments in the Book of Acts.

Q. What are some of the specific things Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do once He
was sent to us?

* John 14:15 _____

* John 14:25,26 _____ and _____

* John 15:26,27 _____ see also Acts 1:8

* John 16:7-11 _____

* John 16:12-15 _____

Q. What does Paul say about the Holy Spirit's work or purpose for us as believers?

* Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:20 _____

* Ephesians 1:17-19 _____

* Ephesians 2:18 _____

* Ephesians 5:18 and 6:18 _____

2) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit can be seen as a _____.

Q. What is the context in which the tool is to be used?

3) The Baptism experience can also be described as a _____ to
interaction with the Spirit.

- Q. Do you think this experience can or should lead to other supernatural experiences and to being used by the Spirit? (Spiritual gifts)
- Q. Why is it that churches where the Holy Spirit Baptism is taught and practiced, also experience the gifts of the Spirit, while those churches where it is not taught or practiced do not?
- 4) The Holy Spirit Baptism empowers us to be _____ – to testify of Christ. (Note that we are not to testify of the Holy Spirit, but of Christ)
- Q. What does it mean to be a “witness?”
- Q. Does the Holy Spirit empower us to holiness, to live free of sinfulness?
- Q. Do people that have spoken in tongues still struggle with sin and temptation?
- 5) The primary purpose is to empower us to _____.
- Q. Does the Holy Spirit help us in our communication with God?

Chapter 5

When Can I Receive It?

- 1) Though seemingly simple, it is extremely important that we understand this point and remind everyone we are NOT talking about the general work of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer but a specific experience that is very personal in nature.

Q. What is the one scriptural prerequisite to receive this experience?

Q. How is the experience (the Baptism of the Holy Spirit) identified?

- 2) While there is a common evidence of the Spirit Baptism experience, the experience itself is unique to each believer.

Q. What are some of the examples given in the book about individuals receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Q. What is your own personal experience? How does it differ from that of others?

- 3) There is no other scriptural or experiential reference that would specify when or in what order one may receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Q. Why is it important for us not to impose our experience on others?

Q. Why is it sometimes a hindrance to seek to “speak in tongues”?

Q. What should be the focus of those seeking to experience the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Chapter 6

How Do I Receive It?

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience, promised of the Father, intended for and available to every believer. It is an essential part of spiritual growth, living and operating in the supernatural and for intimacy with God.

Q. What do John 11:13-14, Luke 11:13 and Mark 11:24 tell we must do to receive from the Lord? _____

Q. What condition does James 4:2 add to this instruction? _____

Q. Will God force you to have something you do not want? _____

Q. What lesson do we learn from Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8 with regard to wanting to receive from God? _____

Q. Why is faith necessary to receive from the Lord? See John 1:6-7, Matthew 21:22, Mark 11:24 _____

Q. What is the evidence of faith? (it is not the absence of doubt) _____

Q. What one thing must every believer do to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____

Q. Why is praying out loud in the church so important with regard to receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____

Chapter 7

Now What?

- 1) It is important to continue to study the Word of God and grow in _____.
- 2) If you have not experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit careful to seek the Lord and not so much the _____, but you must _____ for the experience to happen.
- 3) If you have experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, don't _____!

Q. According to Romans 8:26-27, 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14, 1 Corinthians 14:4, and Jude 20, why is it important to continue to pray in the Spirit (in tongues)?

We should _____ in the Spirit.

We should _____ in the Spirit.

We should seek to be _____ by the Spirit.