

## ACCEPTING BY FAITH THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### INTRODUCTION

There are several reasons why believers in the Body of Christ have yet to receive or even inquire about the Holy Spirit's baptism. Wrong doctrinal teaching today has permeated the church of Jesus with a teaching that denies the believer's need to be filled and empowered by God's Spirit as promised by both Jesus and the Father. This teaching that says there is no longer any need for the baptism in the Holy Spirit is called *cessationism*. It teaches that the gifts of the Holy Spirit ceased with the dying of the Apostle John, who was the last of the 12 apostles. But when one looks back throughout all of church history, God has always had His witnesses, His servants that took the Bible at its word, seeking for a greater encounter with God than most of the church believers around them. Their pursuit of God resulted in their crying out for the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

If believers today simply took what God's word teaches at face value and accepted by faith what God says is theirs to receive, we would all have a deeper walk with the person of the Holy Spirit. Faith in the Father's promise of sending us the Holy Spirit, coupled with Jesus' promise of a baptism of fire and power, will release the average believer into the fullness that God has for each of us.

***John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." Luke 3:16***

***"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." Luke 24:49***

### I. THE SPIRIT'S BAPTISM OPENS THE DOOR TO THE SUPERNATURAL

- A. Jesus promised every believer power. The word power in the Greek comes from the word *dunamis*, from which we get the English word for dynamite. *Dunamis* means: "force, miraculous power, ability, abundance, mighty deed, worker of miracles, strength, violence, wonderful deed." I believe that each of us who claim to be born again, have every right to walk in God's manifested power working through us.

***And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. . . But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." Acts 1:4-5, 8***

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- B. The first recorded encounter with the Spirit's baptism is found in the book of Acts chapter 2. Here we see how the Holy Spirit fell upon the 120 disciples as they were in one accord and in one place. The Bible doesn't actually say that this took place in an upper room, only that they were together when the Holy Spirit actually fell upon them. Notice what actually happened.
1. The believers were in unity. In other words they were in complete agreement to what God's will was for them. Unity comes from being in the place of prayer (Psalm 133).
  2. There were supernatural manifestations that came upon the disciples. If we are going to enjoy the benefits of God's supernatural power, we must be willing to allow God's Spirit to break into our normal structured lifestyles, allowing His sound, wind and fire to touch our lives (Acts 1:2-3).
  3. The manifestation of "Tongues of Fire" is a major manifestation in the life of the Spirit baptized believer. We see that this manifestation fell upon EVERY BELIEVER who was present in that One Accord Meeting. Each of them experienced something happen with their TONGUES. I believe the Spirit's baptism looses our mouth to be Jesus' witnesses.
  4. The miracle here in the Acts 2 account was that the GIFT OF TONGUES was released, not just praying in tongues (2:7-12).

***When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:1-4***

- C. It is not a coincidence that after the disciples had received the Spirit's Baptism, that they were released into a ministry that expressed itself with great boldness. The fact that Peter was afraid for his life when he denied the Lord three times and was now transformed into a fiery bold preacher demonstrates this. This boldness in the Spirit helps the believer to release God's nine supernatural gifts of the Spirit found in 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

***But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words." Acts 2:14***

***But you denied the Holy One and the Just, and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, and killed the Prince of life, whom God raised from the dead, of which we are witnesses. And His name, through faith in His name, has made this man strong, whom you see and know. Yes, the faith which comes through Him has given him this perfect soundness in the presence of you all. Acts 3:14-16***

(Read Acts 4:5-13, 18-24, 29-31).

## II. FOUR OBJECTIONS TO THE SPIRIT'S BAPTISM FOR TODAY

***Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant. 1Corinthians 12:1***

1. Jesus didn't speak in tongues: While there is no record of Jesus ever speaking in tongues, we do have scriptural support of His support of those who were to receive the Spirit's Baptism.

***And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues." Mark 16:15-17***

***Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord." So the Lord said to him, "Arise and go to the street called Straight, and inquire at the house of Judas for one called Saul of Tarsus, for behold, he is praying." Acts 9:10-11, 17***

2. You might be getting tongues from the devil by receiving a demon: Nowhere in all of scripture is the born again believer who is seeking God for greater intimacy, to be afraid of receiving a demonic spirit either by mistake or by intention. On the contrary, the Bible tells us that we receive good things from our Heavenly Father.

***If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him! Luke 11:13***

***For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. 2 Timothy 1:7***

3. Tongues and all the gifts ceased when the last apostle died: Nowhere in scripture can you find support for such a devilish lie. Satan wants the church powerless and therefore loves that we would believe this. Cessationists use 1 Corinthians 13:8-12 completely out of context to support their point. However, a close look at this will reveal that Paul was speaking in the future tense, at the 2nd coming of The Lord.

***But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. . . For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. 1 Corinthians 13:10, 12***

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4. Only the Apostles were able to lay hands and administer the Holy Spirit: Not true! In Acts 9:10 The Lord spoke to a simple disciple of Christ from Damascus, Ananias. In a vision, Jesus told him to go to a specific house and pray for Saul of Tarsus that he might be healed and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

***Now there was a certain disciple at Damascus named Ananias; and to him the Lord said in a vision, "Ananias." And he said, "Here I am, Lord". . . And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit." Acts 9:10, 17***

### III. HOW THEN DOES THE BELIEVER RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. The testimony in the book of Acts gives us a record of several instances of how and when believers received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. We see the pattern of being filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately after the initial infilling, the disciples began to speak.

***And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:45-46***

***And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:6***

- B. The Apostle Paul tells us how the gift of tongues, or praying in tongues is supposed to operate and function in the life of the believer. What happens when the Holy Spirit comes? Does the Spirit begin to speak through us? Do I have a role in the infilling process?

***For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. . . I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all. 1 Corinthians 14:14, 18***

- C. Example of the Tea Kettle and testimony from the girl in Russia.

#### IV. STIR YOUR FAITH TO RECEIVE AND RELEASE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. Don't allow the enemy to persuade you to doubt your worthiness in Christ, thus preventing you from being able to receive the Holy Spirit. The Corinthian church was a group of Christians that had come out of deep paganism and immorality. Paul had to rebuke them for their tolerance of carnality on many issues, yet he commended them for their openness to their reception of the Holy Spirit and His gifts along with His ministry.

***“. . .that you were enriched in everything by Him in all utterance and all knowledge. . . so that you come short in no gift, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ.”***

**1 Corinthians 1:5, 7**

***Your glorying is not good. Do you not know that a little leaven leavens the whole lump?***

**1 Corinthians 5:6**

- B. It's the blood of Jesus that qualifies us to receive all that Jesus affords us. John Osteen was ministering to a woman who just wanted prayer to get to the place where she would be ready to receive the Holy Spirit. She felt she needed to dig deeper into personal preparation to be qualified for the Holy Spirit's infilling. John Osteen replied by asking her a few questions to which she answered yes to each one; "Aren't you saved sister?" ("oh yes"), "aren't you a blood-washed, born again child of God?" ("yes"). "Do you believe that if you were to die this minute, you'd go to heaven?" ("why yes, I know I would"). Brother Osteen then replied, "Well then sister, if you're good enough to go to heaven, you're good enough to have a little of heaven in you."
- C. We must not allow the devil to convince us of the "little" manifestation we might have received. Some believers receive the baptism in the Spirit after being prayed for. THEY begin to SPEAK a few words or a short phrase but soon begin to doubt their experience because they aren't fluent in tongues the way other believers are or they begin to think how ridiculous they must sound, so they just stop speaking altogether. Rather than allowing the enemy to convince us of such lies, we are instructed to stir the Gift of the Spirit within us by speaking (practicing) in faith and releasing from within us what God has preciousy given to us.

***Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 2 Timothy 1:6***

***But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit. Jude 1:20***