

THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY GHOST

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- Introduction:
- (1) Who is the Holy Spirit? -- He is a **Person**, One of Three who make up the Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit).
  - (2) What are some other names that refer to the Holy Spirit? - Holy Ghost (Acts 2:4), Spirit of grace (Hebrews 10:29), Spirit of Truth (John 14:17), Spirit of Life (Romans 8:2), Spirit of Promise (Ephesians 1:13), Spirit of glory (I Peter 4:14), Spirit of God and of Christ (I Corinthians 3:16 & Romans 8:9), the Comforter (John 14:16).
  - (3) What is so special about the Baptism with the Holy Spirit? One of the greatest gifts available to a born-again, cleansed believer is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. This baptism was first experienced when the Holy Spirit was sent by the Father and Son to the Church on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4).

I. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit.

- A. He is the One who **reproves** us of sin (John 16:8-11); it was the Spirit Who first convicted you of sin and drew you close to Jesus.
- B. He is the **Agent** of salvation - the One Who applies the blood of Jesus to cleanse us of sin (John 3:3-5).
- C. He is the **Comforter** (literally "one sent along side to help") when received in baptismal fullness (John 16:7).

II. What the Baptismal Fullness Means to You.

- A. You are **in-filled** (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 5:18).
- B. You are **empowered** (Acts 1:8).
- C. The Spirit will produce His **fruit** in your life (Galatians 5:22-23).

- D. The **Manifestational Gifts** are made available to when you need them (I Corinthians 12:4-11).
- E. The Spirit will **guide** you, using the Word (I Corinthians 2:9-10).
- F. You receive a "**prayer language,**"  
An ability to pray in unknown tongues (a language you do not understand). Some of the benefits:
  - 1. Our spirit-man is **edified** (means "built up") (I Corinthians 14:4).
  - 2. Aids in **petition** and **intercession** (I Corinthians 14:14-15).
  - 3. Helps us **glorify** God (John 16:13-14) - when we are frustrated because of our limited vocabulary of praise, we can praise Him in tongues.
  - 4. **Refreshes** and **renews** our spirit (Isaiah 28:11-12; John 7:38-39).
  - 5. **Builds** our faith (Jude 20-21).

III. Some Descriptive Terms for this Experience.

- A. "**Baptism**" (Acts 1:5) - Greek *baptizo* means "the dying as of a garment" or "the dipping into wine," implying being totally covered with His qualities.
- B. "**Come upon**" (Acts 1:8) - speaks of enablement (gives supernatural abilities).
- C. "**Pour upon**" (Acts 2:17) -- describes The abundance of the Resource with which God is blessing (a bathing).
- D. "**Fallen upon**" (Acts 8:16; 10:44) - Greek *epipto* means "to draw up close, to embrace, to cover up with."
- E. "**Receiving**" (Acts 2:38 - has to do with a stance or attitude of receptivity, a hunger for the next stage of God's working in your life.

- F. **"Being filled"** (Acts 2:4) - this speaks of the completeness. Many of these disciples were filled again in Acts 4:8, telling us that there is need for a regular re-filling.

IV. How To Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit:

- A. **Ask** just as you did for salvation (in faith) (Luke 11:13) - you cannot earn Him; He is a gift.
- B. Confess with your mouth that you **Recieve** Him (Psalm 116:10).
  - 1. You do not have to tarry - the reason they had to tarry in Acts 2 is because the Holy Spirit had not yet been sent.
  - 2. You do not have to be totally perfect in order to receive Him. God is more interested in your direction than your perfection. (Note: the Corinthian Christians had the gifts, as seen in I Corinthians 1, yet still had problems with carnality, as seen in I Corinthians 3).
  - 3. Don't worry about receiving the wrong thing; you can't because your Father in heaven is faithful (Luke 11:11-13).
- C. As you **confess** your faith by praising God for baptizing you with the Holy Spirit, release the language that begins to come forth in your spirit-man. (The Holy Spirit does not force you to speak in tongues or control you like a robot. Rather, He will give you the utterance and you must speak it forth in faith. It will probably sound like "gibberish" to you because your understanding is unfruitful but it is 'heavenly language.'" (Acts 2:4; I Corinthians 14:14).