

156. Baptism With The Holy Spirit #1

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Supreme Scripture

Acts 1:8 (NKJ): *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.*

Sticky Statement

The Holy Spirit is your “go-to” Person.

It’s About This & Why

What makes a believer continue living like a believer is the fact that the truth is incarnate in them. The ministry of the Holy Spirit inside a believer causes truth to grow inside them and they begin to grow and change. Otherwise, they would remain a baby or a runt (small due to stunted growth).

Why Jesus Gives Us The Power Of The Holy Spirit

- To cause His life to be so evident in us that *we become the evidence* that He is alive and ministering to people today – through our verbal testimony, through our character and by our actions
 - It is impossible for Jesus to be evident in our character except the Holy Spirit comes and *indwells* us
- So that His ministry will continue through us so that the Father’s will is fully accomplished
 - We cannot have the power of Jesus flowing through us unless the Holy Spirit *overflows* us

The Holy Spirit comes to *indwell* the believer so that the *person of Jesus* can be seen in us, and He comes to *overflow* our lives so that *the power of Jesus* can happen through us. All that Jesus came to do and to say continues through us as we cooperate with the Holy Spirit.

When a believer is filled with the Holy Spirit and experiences this overflow of the Spirit in his or her life, we use the term *baptism with the Holy Spirit* to describe it.

The Term ‘Baptism With The Holy Spirit’

It’s important that we learn what the Bible reveals about the terminology we use. We can become so familiar with biblical phrases and terms that we begin to lose sight of the richness of their meaning.

- Jesus used this terminology

Acts 1:5 (NKJ): *For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*

The terminology isn’t as important as the experience as the Bible uses at least 5 other terms to describe this same event throughout the remainder of the book of Acts:

- baptized as in “but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now” Acts 1:5
- poured out as in “pour out of My Spirit” Acts 2:17, 18
- given as in “and when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostle’s hands, the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money” Acts 8:18
- received as in “receive the Holy Spirit” Acts 19:2
- filled as in “filled with the Holy Spirit” Acts 2:4; 4:31
- come upon as in “the Holy Spirit came upon them” Acts 19:6

So, we can’t be dogmatic about the use of this term as the only one which properly describes the infilling of the Holy Spirit but we would be equally mistaken if we supposed that this term was only a religious “label”, invented to describe a certain event.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit seems to be the over-arching term that Jesus used and encompasses all other biblical descriptions of the same event.

- John the Baptist introduced the term when he introduced Jesus

His ministry was to highlight who the Messiah was and in so doing, he made dual and discerning observations:

- he declared the work of Messiah was to *redeem*

John 1:29 (NKJ): *John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!*

- he declared the *enabling* work of Messiah

John 1:32-34 (NKJ): *And John bore witness saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove and He remained upon Him. ³³ I did not know Him but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.*

Jesus' Dual Role

- Redeemer

Our most fundamental need relates to being lost and without God. We needed redemption and cleansing and a way back to God. Sin severed our relationship with God and we lost the ability to live purely before God.

- Restorer

Sin not only severed our relationship with God but also it severed our authority and dominion from God.

Enter Jesus who will “take away the sin of the world” and be the One who “baptizes with the Holy Spirit.”

Hereby, we meet the Savior, who will save us through His cross by transferring His righteousness into us and the Baptizer, who will restore our ability to rule by sharing with us His anointing and power for ministry.

He comes to pour out the same Spirit upon us that anointed Him for ministry.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit then, is an intrinsic part of the *restoring* aspect of Jesus' dual role. It is something He desires to do in us after redemption has taken place that will equip us with all the fullness of His life.

The Meaning Of Baptized

This *pouring out* or overflowing is one of the six terms used to describe the experience of baptism with the Holy Spirit. An examination of the Greek word “baptism” gives further insight into its meaning and the harmony between the other terms used:

- “Baptized” = to dip

This refers to complete submersion as with a sunken ship in which the ship would be in the water but water would also be in the ship! This is just as the prophet Joel spoke of.

As Jesus

- (1) baptizes us, the Holy Spirit is
- (2) poured out *or lavishly available to any who come* and
- (3) given *to those who willingly open to Him* to
- (4) receive *i.e. in submitted faith and yieldedness* His
- (5) filling *or complete overflowing* as he
- (6) comes upon *or fully embraces them*.

Together these six words richly fulfill Jesus' prophecy in John 8:37-39 as believers experience the *overflow* of rivers of living water in order to release an *outflow* of ministry to the world.

Baptism “Of” or Baptism “With”

This will warrant mentioning so as to remove any doubt as to whom it is who does the baptizing.

Using the term “baptism of the Holy Spirit” implies that it is the Holy Spirit who is doing the work of baptizing, but John said this is Jesus’ work. He is the one who does the baptizing when we are baptized *in* or *with* the Holy Spirit.

When we fix in our hearts that Jesus is the One who baptizes us with the Holy Spirit, it gives a richer dimension and a greater depth to our perspective. It moves it from “something that happens to me” to “Someone Who ministers to me” and that someone is Jesus Himself. It is similar to symptoms from an unknown reason and the person asks, “What is happening to me?” to a personal touch from someone you love.

When we focus completely on Jesus we realize this experience:

- Is not a mystical experience - rather, it is a Person-to-person encounter with Jesus.
- Is not an experience to fear – Satan uses fear to keep us from anything God wants to give us.
- Is a clearly focused experience – we come to Jesus, trusting Him and simply ask Him to baptize us with the Holy Spirit.

When we begin to think in these terms we will no longer see being baptized with the Holy Spirit as an “experience” at all but just a natural part of our continuing to “come to Jesus” and receiving all He intends for our lives. We can lay aside all anxiety about when and how it might take place and just let Jesus be in control.

The Timing Of The Baptism With The Holy Spirit

- In terms of timing, the baptism with the Holy Spirit is a distinct experience in the life of a believer in Christ. The following verse is critical in understanding this. Jesus spoke a word late at night on the day of His resurrection. He spoke a word to them combined with an action. This was highly significant.
John 20:22 (NKJ): *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit.*
- Genesis 2:7 (NKJ): *And the Lord God ... breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.*
When man sinned and died spiritually, the breath of God (Holy Spirit) departed from him and all that remained was the breath of *his nostrils*. Isaiah alludes to this in a passage where he is warning against dependency on human resources, *Sever yourselves from such a man, whose breath is in his nostrils* (Isaiah 2:22).
- When Jesus rose from the dead it signified that redemption had now been completely provided. The transition from the old covenant to a new covenant had been made. Just as the old creative order began with the breath of God, so now the new creative order Jesus was establishing began with the breath of God the Son. Some have interpreted the actions of Jesus to be symbolic but the Greek denotes the immediacy of this action. Jesus is saying for them to receive the Holy Spirit *right now*.

This is when they were born again but He still told them to wait in Jerusalem before beginning their mission because the baptism with the Holy Spirit would happen to them later. It was a distinct and future experience.

Luke 24:49 (NKJ): *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.*

The Holy Spirit Both Dwells And Overflows

- The Fountain (singular) describing the Holy Spirit's indwelling to satisfy our thirst for God.
John 4:13-14 (NKJ): ¹³ *Jesus answered and said to her, "Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."*
- The Rivers (plural) describing His outward flow to touch others at their point of need.
John 7:37-38 (NKJ): ³⁷ *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."*