

Greater Works Christian Church

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The Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Part 2

Introduction: In our last study we found what it means to be “Baptized in the Holy Spirit.” From our initial study we will dig deeper into this subject in order to understand the fullness of this beautiful gift of God. Much has been said of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Much of the teaching on this subject is good and beneficial, while some is actually destructive. It is my hope we can, by the Spirit, make a separation between the good and bad, beneficial and destructive. When we understand the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we find there is much more at our disposal than we may think.

The Initial Filling

Acts 2:1-8

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and *one* sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

8 And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

Note: Here is the first place the Bible speaks of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. There were times when other people were filled with the Holy Spirit (John the Baptist), however this is the place the Holy Spirit becomes accessible to all who believe. This is the place where the Holy Spirit is given to the church as a whole, not merely an individual.

Notice what happened here:

- There came a sound from heaven- a rushing mighty wind
- This sound from heaven filled the whole room
- There appeared to them divided tongues as of fire
- These tongues of fire sat upon each of them
- All the people in the room were filled with the Holy Spirit
- Everyone in the room began speaking in Tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance

- When this sound occurred, the multitude came together
- The multitude was confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language

All of this happened when the Holy Spirit showed up. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit brings power and change. When the Holy Spirit comes into a person's life things change.

Question: *What took place when you were filled with Holy Spirit?*

i.e. What led up to you being filled? What did you feel, see or hear when you were filled? What happened afterward?

Was the Miracle in the Speech or in the Hearing?

Acts 2:5-12

5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.

6 And when this sound occurred, the multitude came together, and were confused, because everyone heard them speak in his own language.

7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans?"

8 And how *is it that* we hear, each in our own language in which we were born?

9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,

10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya adjoining Cyrene, visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God."

12 So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, "Whatever could this mean?"

Note: There has been much debate about the nature of tongues. Many use this passage to say that tongues must always be a language of the earth. Still there are those that hold the position that tongues can be a heavenly language. The truth is both can and will happen.

1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.

Note: Here Paul points out there are, "*tongues of men and angels*". This would be earthly and heavenly languages.

1 Corinthians 12:10

to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another *different* kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues.

Note: Tongues is one of the Gifts of the Spirit, along with the, “interpretation of tongues.” If all tongues were of earthly origin there would be no need for interpretation. When we read the passage in Acts 2, there is no mention of anyone with the gift of interpretation of tongues. This is because it was not needed. Everyone heard the tongues in their own language and dialect.

V.6 of Acts 2 states: “everyone heard them speak in his own language.” This brings up the question on whether this miracle was in the speaking of those who were Baptized in the Holy Spirit, or in the hearing of those who heard the sound of the Holy Spirit. Either way Tongues of “men and angels” can be spoken by those who are full of the Holy Spirit.

Question: *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit bring power. What manifestations of Power have you experienced after being Baptized in Holy Spirit?*

The three accounts where Tongues are NOT mentioned in connection with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

1.) Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Note: Tongues are not mentioned in this passage, although a closer look will reveal it was unnecessary to mention tongues in conjunction with this passage. Most everyone here already speaks in Tongues. This passage describes a *fresh* filling with the Spirit.

Going back to Acts 3 we see this is the continuation of the story of Peter and John healing a man at the Temple (the gate called Beautiful). They were arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. The Sanhedrin forbids Peter and John to speak in the Name of Jesus. After this Peter and John are released. Upon their release we pick up the story.

Since Peter and John were told to not speak in the name of Jesus the Holy Spirit empowered them to speak, “the word of God with boldness.”

Peter and John already spoke in tongues, but now boldness was needed. Holy Spirit empowers us when and how we need it.

Acts 4:23-31

23 And being let go, they went to their own *companions* and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said to them.

24 So when they heard that, they raised their voice to God with one accord and said:

"Lord, You *are* God, who made heaven and earth and the sea, and all that is in them,

25 who by the mouth of Your servant David have said: 'WHY DID THE NATIONS RAGE, AND THE PEOPLE PLOT VAIN THINGS?

26 THE KINGS OF THE EARTH TOOK THEIR STAND, AND THE RULERS WERE GATHERED TOGETHER AGAINST THE LORD AND AGAINST HIS CHRIST.'

27 "For truly against Your holy Servant Jesus, whom You anointed, both Herod and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles and the people of Israel, were gathered together
28 to do whatever Your hand and Your purpose determined before to be done.

29 Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word,

30 by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus."

31 And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Note: Following this story we see many (if not all) were there in the upper room when the Holy Spirit came, and they all spoke in tongues. This filling of the Spirit as we see here is better understood as a refilling of the Spirit. As we have seen already the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is to be continual, not a onetime experience.

Acts 4:8

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders of Israel

Peter was in the Upper Room on Pentecost and was filled with the Holy Spirit. Here it is said that he was filled with the Holy Spirit, and in verse 31 we see the people (Peter included) were filled with the Spirit.

This does nothing to disprove the fact the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and tongues are unrelated. As a matter of fact, it proves that we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and this filling should never stop. It should be a constant filling, everyday and all day.

Question: *In our studies we found the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is to be continual, not a onetime event. What can we do to ensure we are being continually filled with Holy Spirit? What are you doing now to ensure you are being filled with the Spirit?*

2.) Acts 9:17-18

17 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."

18 Immediately there fell from his eyes *something* like scales, and he received his sight at once; and he arose and was baptized.

Note: It does not mention Saul (Paul) spoke in tongues when he received the Holy Spirit, but there was a miracle of the Holy Spirit that occurred as he received the Holy Spirit, "Immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he received his sight at once". There was a sign that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit was received by Saul and Holy Spirit was present.

Take note of the words of Paul in this passage.

1 Corinthians 14:18

I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all

Paul is speaking of himself. It is apparent Paul (Saul) did speak in tongues after being Baptized with the Holy Spirit.

3.) Acts 8:14-19

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them,

15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

18 And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money,

19 saying, "Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Note: There is no mention of the people speaking in tongues in this passage. Although reading this in context we find this passage is not mentioned in the Bible to confirm, nor discount the relationship between tongues and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. The context is more on the differences in the gifting of the Deacon (Philip) and the Apostles. Also, we see the salvation and the sin of Simon the sorcerer. Simon wanted to buy the ability to give (or impart) the Holy Spirit to others. What would make him desire this ability if the Holy Spirit did not manifest Himself in some form (tongues, or some other work of power)? It is my opinion that there was a demonstration of the Holy Spirit here that Simon wanted to capitalize on.

Conclusion:

Acts 1:8

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."

Note: One thing we must always remember about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is that when He comes upon (or into) a believer power will be present and will be manifest through that person. The Holy Spirit always comes and brings the power that gives the believer the ability to bring glory to God, and to properly represent Him.

Discussion and Question: *Please share how this study has helped you in your understanding of Holy Spirit and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. How has your perspective changed in regard to Holy Spirit?*