

What we Believe and Why we Believe It **** The Holy Ghost Baptism ****

Acts 1:5

“For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”

Acts 2:1-4

“And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

The Holy Ghost = The Holy Spirit. This is representative of the manifestation of God in his work of regeneration (or resurrection). Christ’s salvation plan was paved by His death, burial, and completed only by His resurrection. It emphasizes His holiness and His divine nature.

John 3:1-5

“There was a man of the Pharisees, named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him. Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and [of] the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Baptism comes from the Greek word “Baptismo” meaning to immerse or plunge. So the previous references in Acts 1 and John 3 are talking about being immersed in the water and the spirit.

John 14:16-17

“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”

Christ was going to leave in the flesh but would send back his Spirit as the comforter that would abide with and in us. Later we find out that it was more than comfort, but leading, guiding, and trying to bring about a divine nature and overcome our innate carnal nature. Remember that God is a Spirit and not one of many spirits but rather there is only one Spirit...

Ephesians 4:4-5

“[There is] one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism...”

So lets examine this again – ***Acts 1:5*** *“For John truly plunged you in water; but ye shall be immersed with the Spirit of the One true living God not many days hence.”* Therefore, when a person

is filled with the Holy Spirit – you achieve a close personal union with God. You are in constant contact with Him and become a temple in which He dwells!

The Holy Ghost is not a simple one time infilling or indwelling in a person's life, but the scripture refers to being "full" or being "filled". This means to let the Spirit be continually indwelt and be in control. You can see instances of this in Acts 6:3,5 when they were looking for men in the area to wait on the widows as well as in the words of Paul to the church of Ephesus in **5:18** "*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit*". This seems to be synonymous with the scripture refers to someone who should "walk in the Spirit" or "walk after the Spirit".

Some have commented that the Holy Ghost outpouring that we have looked at thus far was only for the day of Pentecost – yet Paul even refers to this again in **I Corinthians 12:13** by saying "*For by one spirit are we all baptized into one body.*" referencing the Acts 1:5 and 2:1-4 experiences. The spirit baptism is indeed essential to Salvation.

So was the way that God would pour out His Spirit completely a new and novel concept or was there old testament scriptures concerning this???

Joel 2:27-29

"And ye shall know that I [am] in the midst of Israel, and [that] I [am] the LORD your God, and none else: and my people shall never be ashamed. And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit."

Jeremiah 31:31-33

"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [that] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this [shall be] the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."

Ezekiel 11:19-21 ; 36:24-27

"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh: That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God. But [as for them] whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD."

"For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do [them]."

These scriptures pointed to a day and time where God would stop working the way that he currently was under the law but that a new day would dawn where he moved upon a man's heart directly and would pour himself (His Spirit) out upon them.

Then we see this fulfillment in his promises -> **Hebrews 11:39-40**

“And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”

God promises His Spirit to all who ask (Luke 11:13), who believe (John 7:37-39), and obey the word (Acts 5:32) through Faith (Hebrews 11:6)!

Luke 11:13 *“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall [your] heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”*

John 7:37-39 *“In the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet [given]; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”*

Acts 5:32 *“And we are his witnesses of these things; and [so is] also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”*

Hebrews 11:6 *“But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.”*

So only at a point of complete submission and released faith will someone receive HIS promise. But how do you know that someone has received the Holy Ghost???

Isaiah 28:10-12

“For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little: For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This [is] the rest [wherewith] ye may cause the weary to rest; and this [is] the refreshing...”

And even Jesus gave instructions before He ascended into the heavens in regards to this in **Mark 16:15-17**

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

According to the scriptures Acts 2 – they received the Holy Ghost, Acts 8 – they received the Holy Ghost, Acts 10 – they received the Holy Ghost, etc... Wait a minute, Acts 10 – those were gentiles and the Jews believed that they had to completely convert to the Jewish way of life and traditions before they could receive an experience with God (see Acts 15). So what was the difference in this situation? **“For they heard them speak with other tongues”**. In fact in Acts 11 as Peter is explaining what happened to them that were there – that was the defining factor in that they received it the same as they had.

Even Jesus spoke somewhat prophetically at the beginning of his ministry of how you would know someone was born of the Spirit...

John 3:8

“The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.”

But this still makes no sense – why tongues???

- 1) God always chose an outward physical sign to accompany a covenant with his people (Noah-rainbow; Moses-circumcision, etc)
- 2) The tongue is easily the most difficult member of the body to control.

James 3:2-6,8

“For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same [is] a perfect man, [and] able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though [they be] so great, and [are] driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue [is] a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell... But the tongue can no man tame; [it is] an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”

As part of our surrender and submission to God, he takes complete control and demonstrates for everyone around, including yourself, His Lordship in your life.

3) Reversement of the Tower of Babel experience:

Rebellion/Disobedience – brought division and many tongues and many nations.

Obedience – brings unity and one heavenly language with all nations.

Revelations 19:7

“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”