

# The Holy Spirit

Session # 8 / Wednesday, October 3, 2007

## THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before his execution by crucifixion. Earlier in the day, His disciples, especially Peter, had boasted that they would stay by Jesus no matter what:

### Mark 14:26-31

And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives. [27] And Jesus saith unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep shall be scattered. [28] But after that I am risen, I will go before you into Galilee. [29] But Peter said unto him, Although all shall be offended, yet will not I. [30] And Jesus saith unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this day, even in this night, before the cock crow twice, thou shalt deny me thrice. [31] But he spake the more vehemently, If I should die with thee, I will not deny thee in any wise. Likewise also said they all.

Yet when our Lord was actually arrested, the disciples ran into the darkness of the valley - with the possible exception of John. At Caiaphas house, in the courtyard, Peter (who had just proclaimed so vehemently his support of Jesus) denied even knowing Christ, even swearing during his denial.

What a hapless group of men! But when we turn the pages of scripture past the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) into the great saga of Acts, we find a totally transformed band of Christ's followers, turning their world upside down with their message, their courage and their charisma. What had happened to them?

### Acts 1:8

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

### Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting. [3] And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. [4] And they were

1 **all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit**  
2 **gave them utterance.**

3  
4 This marvelous experience of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was not just for the 120  
5 believers gathered on Mount Zion in the Upper Room; it was for all believers for all time.  
6 Hundreds of years earlier, the prophet Joel had prophesied that such an experience would  
7 happen:

8  
9 **Joel 2:28-29**

10 **And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh;**  
11 **and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream**  
12 **dreams, your young men shall see visions: [29] And also upon the servants and upon**  
13 **the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.**

14  
15 Now, going back to Acts 2, when the early believers were baptized in the Spirit, crowds  
16 gathered to inquire what was going on. Peter answered them:

17  
18 **Acts 2:14-16**

19 **But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye**  
20 **men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and**  
21 **hearken to my words: [15] For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but**  
22 **the third hour of the day. [16] But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;**  
23

*There are those who teach that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in tongues ended for mankind with the advent of the Bible. But scripture does not validate that claim.*

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25  
26 Dr. E. S. Williams: *“The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is important, since the believer*  
27 *needs the enduement (the receipt of) power which the Spirit gives. Some people are*  
28 *willing to believe that fresh quickenings of the Spirit may be had after salvation but*  
29 *refuse to look upon such as a definite crisis experience. Perhaps one of the most*  
30 *difficult subjects to analyze by the human mind is how the Holy Spirit can be received in*  
31 *the new birth (salvation) and yet a further infilling can be realized in a subsequent*  
32 *experience.”*

33 (Systematic Theology Volume 3 / E. S. Williams / GPH Publishing / page 39)

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35 **WHAT ACTUALLY IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?**  
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1        1.    It is a definite experience!

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3        Someone might say, “Well, yes, I believe in this experience.” This is merely an  
4 assent to a biblical truth. The question is: have you experienced it yourself? It is not  
5 essential for salvation, of course, but it is essential for vital, supernatural representation of  
6 Christ in life and witnessing.

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8        2.    The baptism is the promise of Christ and the gift of God to all of us.

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10        Jesus said it was such an essential gift that “it was expedient” that He return to the  
11 Father in Heaven to send it to us.

12  
13        **John 16:7-15**

14        **Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not**  
15 **away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto**  
16 **you. [8] And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness,**  
17 **and of judgment: [9] Of sin, because they believe not on me; [10] Of righteousness,**  
18 **because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; [11] Of judgment, because the**  
19 **prince of this world is judged. [12] I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye**  
20 **cannot bear them now. [13] Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will**  
21 **guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall**  
22 **hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. [14] He shall glorify**  
23 **me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you. [15] All things that the**  
24 **Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall shew it**  
25 **unto you.**

26  
27        Earlier in tonight’s study, I reminded you of Acts 1:8 where Jesus promised  
28 supernatural power to the one baptized in the Holy Spirit. If Jesus commanded the  
29 disciples to “tarry” in prayer until they received the baptism, then that experience must be  
30 incredibly important!

31

The “forerunner” of Christ, that is, the one who would introduce Him to the world, was John the Baptist. In his proclamations, John made it clear what Jesus would do, among other vital ministries: Matthew 3:11-12 “I’m baptizing you here in the river, turning your old life in for a kingdom life. The real action comes next: The main character in this drama—compared to him I’m a mere stagehand—will ignite the kingdom life within you, a fire within you, the Holy Spirit within you, changing you from the inside out. [12] He’s going to clean house—make a clean sweep of your lives. He’ll place everything true in its proper place before God; everything false he’ll put out with the trash to be burned.”

1 Note the results the Baptist said would happen when the Holy Spirit filled us:

2  
3 1) He will ignite the kingdom life within you. I believe, sadly, that so many  
4 Christians believe in Jesus and love Him, but know almost nothing about the Kingdom  
5 life God requires of us. They still live their old worldly lives blissfully unaware of how  
6 short they come in Kingdom living.

7  
8 2) He will ignite a fire within you! This has to do with passion for Christ and His  
9 work. There is so much “passionless Christianity” today. It’s what the Bible calls: **2**  
10 **Tim. 3:5 Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such**  
11 **turn away.**

12  
13 3) He, the Holy Ghost, will clean out of your life all those things that offend God.  
14

The story is told of a fellow who had his house up for rent. It was a large place and quite attractive. He was taking a couple through it, room by room. At the conclusion of the tour, the prospective renter said, “I noticed you took us into every room but one. What’s in that locked room you didn’t open for us?” The landlord said, “Oh, that’s where I keep my deadly venomous snakes. I will reserve that room for myself so I can come and tend for them as necessary.” Needless to say, the renters passed on that house! Yet isn’t that what we do to God? We say, “Lord, you can have our lives – except for this area or that area.” When the Holy Ghost takes control of our lives, there is A CLEAN SWEEP OF THE ENTIRE PROPERTY!

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16  
17 4) The Holy Spirit will burn like trash all the false values within you and in their place  
18 install those values that are pertinent to God’s work.

19  
20 In other words He, the Spirit, will replace worldly values for Godly ones, eternal in  
21 nature.

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23 THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM IS AN EXPERIENCE SUBSEQUENT TO  
24 SALVATION.

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26 This is an absolutely vital truth. Please let it sink into your both your heart and mind.

- 27  
28 • The Holy Spirit baptism does NOT replace personal salvation. We are saved  
29 because of the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We are “justified by faith” not of  
30 •

1 our own works or comprehension.

- 2
- 3 • But, following salvation, comes a second “work of grace,” and that is the baptism  
4 of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit baptism may follow salvation by a few  
5 minutes or a few months or years (depending upon the seeker’s desire for it and  
6 faith to receive it.) But it definitely comes AFTER salvation. It is  
7 categorically impossible for a non-believer to be baptized in the Holy Ghost.  
8

9 Is there scriptural evidence of this statement that Holy Spirit baptism follows  
10 regeneration? Absolutely.

- 11
- 12 • The disciples themselves are a strong case in point. Jesus said the disciples were  
13 citizens of His kingdom long before Pentecost: John 17:14 **I have given them**  
14 **thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world,**  
15 **even as I am not of the world.**
  - 16
  - 17 • The names of the disciples had already been entered in the book of life in Heaven  
18 before Pentecost: Luke 10:20 **Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the**  
19 **spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are**  
20 **written in heaven.**

21

22 SO THERE CAN BE NO QUESTION THE DISCIPLES WERE BORN AGAIN -  
23 SAVED - LONG BEFORE PENTECOST WHEN THEY RECEIVED THE BAPTISM  
24 OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- 25
- 26 • Here is another example: Those believers who received the baptism in the Spirit  
27 in Samara had (Acts 8:12) “believed Philip preaching the things concerning the  
28 kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and  
29 women.” It was some time later that the church in Jerusalem sent Peter and John  
30 to Samaria: Acts 8:15-17 **Who, when they were come down, prayed for**  
31 **them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [16] (For as yet he was fallen**  
32 **upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)**  
33 **[17] Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**
  - 34
  - 35 • One of the strongest examples was found in Ephesus. When Paul arrived there,  
36 he found a dozen converts to Christ. He asked them if they had received the  
37 Baptism in the Holy Spirit and they replied, “We’ve never even heard of the Holy  
38 Spirit.” Paul instructed them in this post-salvation experience and (Acts 19:2-7)  
39 **He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And**  
40 **they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy**  
41

1 **Ghost. [3] And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said,**  
2 **Unto John's baptism. [4] Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of**  
3 **repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should**  
4 **come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. [5] When they heard this, they were**  
5 **baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid his hands upon**  
6 **them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**  
7 **[7] And all the men were about twelve.**

8  
9 **THERE ARE ABOUT AS MANY WAYS TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM AS THERE**  
10 **ARE PEOPLE SEEKING IT!**  
11

(Dr. E. S. Williams) *“Each experience of receiving the Baptism with the Spirit is in some ways dissimilar. The disciples who received at Pentecost had enjoyed a long period with our Lord Jesus. Those at Samaria had some days between their conversion and their receiving the Holy Spirit. At Ephesus the disciples were walking with God according to the enlightenment which they had received from Apollos, until Paul came their way. At the home of Cornelius, while Peter was speaking concerning Christ and redemption the Spirit fell. We are thankful that each of these experiences was different from the others. Were it not so, man could endeavor to harness the working of the Holy Spirit to his set form of doctrine. The Holy Spirit is free. He knows the hungry heart. He is not so much concerned as to our ideas as to how He must work. He works according to His will as He sees need. But when He comes in power it is readily known that He is there.”*

Systematic Theology Volume 3 / E. S. Williams / GPH Publishing / page 44

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13  
14 **THE INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY**  
15 **SPIRIT**  
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17 From its founding in 1914, the Assemblies of God theology has clearly recognized that  
18 the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience distinct from and subsequent to the  
19 experience of the new birth. It has also been recognized - and still is - that the initial  
20 (first) physical evidence of the Baptism in the Spirit is speaking in other tongues.  
21

22 Our statement of our 16 foundational truths (section 8) which is found in all our church  
23 constitutions states: “The Baptism of believers in the Holy Ghost is witnessed by the  
24 initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them the  
25 utterance (the ability to do so). Acts 2:4 The speaking in tongues in this instance is  
26 the same in essence as the gift of tongues (I Corinthians 12:4, 10,28), but different in  
27

1 purpose and use. Why do we believe these foundational truths?  
2

3 1. In the Book of Acts there are five recorded occasions on which people were baptized  
4 in the Holy Spirit. In three of these, details are supplied. In the other two, those details  
5 are not given. In cases where details are included, various phenomena are indicated  
6 such as the sound of wind, tongues as of fire, prophecy and speaking with other tongues.  
7 The only phenomenon which occurs each time details are given, however, is speaking  
8 with other tongues. When a specific phenomenon occurs every time a biblical  
9 experience is described, the relationship of the phenomenon to the experience cannot be  
10 overlooked. There is nothing to indicate that phenomena such as the wind and flames  
11 occurred again in the scriptural experiences given.  
12

13 In the two cases where details are NOT given, circumstances seem to indicate that  
14 speaking with other tongues accompanied the experience of believers being filled with  
15 the Holy Spirit.  
16

17 2. At SAMARIA, Simon, a former sorcerer, saw something to indicate that the Holy  
18 Ghost was given to believers. Acts 8:18-19 **And when Simon saw that through**  
19 **laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,**  
20 **[19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may**  
21 **receive the Holy Ghost.** Had the experience been only by faith without any  
22 accompanying sign, Simon would not have known whether the Samaritan believers  
23 actually received the Holy Spirit. When this incident is compared with the three  
24 experiences where details are given, it is only logical to assume that what Simon saw and  
25 heard was people speaking with other tongues.  
26

27 3. After Saul's conversion on the Damascus Road, a disciple named Ananias was sent  
28 that Saul might receive his sight and "be filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 9:17). The  
29 restoration of sight is described but nothing further is said in Acts 9 about Saul's (Paul's)  
30 being filled with the Holy Spirit. In I Corinthians 14:18, however, Paul testified, "**I**  
31 **speak with tongues more than ye all.**" Since Paul began speaking with tongues at  
32 some time, it is logical to assume he began when he was baptized in the Holy Spirit.  
33 This would be in perfect harmony with those events in which the details of the baptism in  
34 the Spirit are given.  
35

36 4. Not only did speaking with tongues accompany the baptism in the Spirit, but also the  
37 apostles and early church leaders recognized it as the initial evidence of the Baptism.  
38 The way Peter and those with him knew that the people of Cornelius' household had been  
39 filled with the Spirit is that "they heard them speak with tongues (Acts 10:45,46). On  
40 the basis of this evidence, Peter put aside his prejudice and arranged for the converts to  
41

1 be baptized in water. For Peter, speaking with tongues was the evidence of the  
2 outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Cornelius' household.

3  
4 Later, when Peter was discussing the Cornelius incident with the apostles and saints  
5 in Jerusalem, he again referred to the phenomenon he had witnessed when he said, Acts  
6 **11:17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who**  
7 **believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?** That  
8 the apostles and brethren accepted tongues as convincing evidence of the baptism in the  
9 Spirit is indicated in the next verse: Acts 11:18 **When they heard these things, they**  
10 **held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles**  
11 **granted repentance unto life.**

12  
13 So from scripture it becomes clear that speaking in tongues is the first (initial)  
14 PHYSICAL evidence of the baptism. HOWEVER.....it should also be very clear that  
15 tongues are not the baptism in themselves, only the physical evidence. The baptism  
16 involves the actual EMPOWERING of the believer when the Holy Spirit takes control of  
17 the body, mind and spirit of the person. THE INITIAL AND ONGOING SPIRITUAL  
18 EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM IS POWER WITH GOD AND MEN IN DOING THE  
19 LORD'S WORK! Tongues are the title deed.

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25 In our next study on the Holy Spirit, the subject will be:

26  
27 **HOW TO PRAY OR SEEK FOR THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

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29 The next session will be next Wednesday night, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7 o'clock.