

Part Three: WHAT ABOUT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Introduction:

1. Has anyone ever asked you, "Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" A lot of well meaning people ask that question. Yet, it is apparent that many of those same people do not understand many of the basic truths about Holy Spirit baptism in the New Testament. Here are but a few questions that must be answered:
 - a. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
 - b. Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit for today?
 - c. What was the purpose of Holy Spirit baptism in New Testament times?
2. Many in our time who claim Holy Spirit baptism do not act at all like people in the New Testament who received the Spirit.

The Lesson:

I. Do people receive Holy Spirit baptism and the miraculous gifts today?

- A. If so, they disobey the instructions given by the Holy Spirit.
 1. By refusing to perform the signs that men in the first century had, Mark 16:17-20.
 - a. While it is true that some claim to speak in tongues, why do they not take up deadly serpents? Why do they not go to hospitals and heal the sick? _____
 - b. Men in New Testament times did these things, Acts 5:12-16; 28:3-6.
 - c. It is not wrong to challenge those who claim to have spiritual gifts, 1 John 4:1.
 2. By holding conflicting doctrines, John 17:20-21.
 - a. People of many different faiths claim to have received miraculous signs from the Spirit. Diverse groups profess to speak in tongues, claim the gift of healing, etc.
 - b. If all are led by the Spirit, why do they contradict one another? God's people are to be united, Ephesians 4:3-7.
 - c. They cannot be led by the Spirit, or else God is confirming all their contradictory doctrines to be true. See Mark 16:17-20; Hebrews 2:3-4.
 3. By changing the purpose of Holy Spirit baptism and the gifts.
 - a. Some say tongues are necessary in order to be saved. Is that in the Bible? _____
 - b. Some say Holy Spirit baptism makes you live above sin. Is that in the Bible? _____
 - c. Holy Spirit baptism and the gifts of the Spirit had two basic purposes: To reveal and confirm God's message, Mark 16:20; Acts 1:8; 1 Corinthians 14:4, 22.
 4. By professing to speak in tongues in an assembly, yet without an interpreter.
 - a. Assemblies of Pentecostals and Charismatics are often marked by several speaking at once in a babbling gibberish that is no language at all, and where no attempt is made to interpret (translate) into the native tongue.
 - b. Clear instructions are given that one is to keep silent if no interpreter is present, 1 Corinthians 14:27-28.
- B. If so, they limit the power of the Holy Spirit.
 1. By failing to remember all Jesus said, John 14:26. To one who actually was miraculously guided by the Spirit—like the apostles—study was not necessary.
 2. By failing to know all truth, John 16:13. Conflicting creeds would not exist if these men were directed by the Spirit.
 3. By failing to raise the dead, Acts 9:36-41; 20:9-10. The apostles had such power and used it.

4. By failing to blind enemies, Acts 13:7-11. Modern miracle workers are powerless.
5. By failing to remove doubt about their miracles, Acts 4:13-16. The enemies of Jesus were convinced of the power possessed by the apostles. Some who claim miracles today deny that others who make similar claims have any power. They acknowledge that fakers have made false claims. Yet, how do they differ from fakes? If anyone among all the groups that lay claim to miracles actually had miracles, would they not stand head and shoulders above the rest? Where are they?
6. Do not be duped by the three methods used by frauds to deceive men. The case of Simon the Sorcerer illustrates three methods used by modern fakers, Acts 8:9-11.
 - a. *Talk*--How did Simon speak of himself? _____
 - b. *Testimony*--What did others say of him? _____
 - c. *Tricks*--What means did he use to fool men? _____
7. In contrast to the deceptions just mentioned, Christ and the apostles proved they were from God by genuine miracles that could not be denied.

II. What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- A. In the Gospels, Holy Spirit baptism was first spoken of by John the Baptist, Matthew 3:11.
 1. "Baptism" is used here in figurative sense—to be overwhelmed by the power of the Spirit.
 2. What is the "baptism of fire?" Matthew 3:10-12. _____
 - a. Is the baptism of fire the same as Holy Spirit baptism? _____
 - b. Why do men today pray for the baptism of fire? _____
- B. Holy Spirit baptism was a promise, Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5.
 1. The apostles received it on Pentecost, Acts 1:8, 26; 2:1-4.
 2. Cornelius is the only other example of a like happening, Acts 10:44-48.
 - a. When Peter spoke of this in Acts 11:15-17, he compared the incident at Cornelius' house to what happened "at the beginning."
 - b. Peter's language indicates that all believers had not received this.
- C. Holy Spirit baptism was received directly from heaven.
 1. No man was used to lay hands on another to receive it, Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48.
 2. Only one is spoken of in the scriptures who could administer this baptism, John 1:33.
- D. Holy Spirit baptism served as a sign from God.
 1. In Acts 2:14-16, it proved the apostles were God's spokesmen. It was given to them to reveal all truth, John 16:13.
 2. In Acts 10:44-48, it revealed one truth—that Gentiles could be saved by faith, Acts 15:7-9.
 - a. Holy Spirit baptism did just as much for you and me as it did for Cornelius, because it established that Gentiles could be saved just like the Jews.
 - b. Neither Cornelius nor the apostles were saved by Holy Spirit baptism. The apostles were already saved before Holy Spirit baptism, John 15:3; Cornelius was not saved until he was baptized in water, Acts 10:47-48; 2:38.
 - c. Holy Spirit baptism did not prove Cornelius was already saved.
- E. Holy Spirit baptism was not administered to all believers.
 1. When Paul wrote Ephesians (about 64 A.D.), only one baptism was authorized and administered, Ephesians 4:5.
 2. If we insist that Holy Spirit baptism is the "one baptism," what does that do to water baptism? Some say "water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism go together to make the one baptism." Strange math, don't you think, where 1+1=1?

III. Holy Spirit baptism is not water baptism.

- A. Holy Spirit baptism was a promise to a few; water baptism is commanded of all.
 - 1. Holy Spirit baptism was promised to the apostles, Acts 1:8. Cornelius received it, though it was not promised to him; he yet had to be baptized in water, Acts 10:47-48.
 - 2. Water baptism is for the remission of sins, Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:19.
- B. Holy Spirit baptism was administered by Christ; water baptism is administered by men.
 - 1. Jesus is spoken of as the one who administers Holy Spirit baptism, John 1:33.
 - 2. The disciples were to go, teach and baptize believers, Matthew 28:19; Mark 16:16. When they went and taught, they baptized believers, Acts 8:35-39.
- C. Holy Spirit baptism was a sign from God; water baptism is an act of faith by man.
 - 1. With both the apostles and Cornelius, Holy Spirit baptism revealed truth, John 16:13.
 - 2. Water baptism is a response of man's faith, Mark 16:16; Acts 2:36-41; 8:35-39.
- D. Holy Spirit baptism was temporary; water baptism continues to the end of the world.
 - 1. Miraculous outpourings of the Spirit were never intended by God to continue indefinitely, Ephesians 4:5; 1 Corinthians 13:8-10.
 - 2. Water baptism is to last throughout the gospel age, Matthew 28:19-20.

IV. How are we born of water and the Spirit?

- A. John 3:5 demands two elements in one birth. It is not two births, nor is it two baptisms, but two elements in one birth.
 - 1. The birth of John 3:5 is a spiritual birth, John 3:3-6.
 - 2. Jesus is not discussing physical birth as a requirement for entering the kingdom. That was the old Jewish idea, and did not continue into the gospel age.
- B. The only mention of "water" involved with salvation is water baptism.
 - 1. Water baptism was commissioned by Jesus, Matthew 28:18-19.
 - 2. Water baptism was exemplified in the case of the Ethiopian, Acts 8:35-39.
 - 3. Water baptism was commanded by an apostle, Acts 10:47-48.
 - 4. Water baptism is the only baptism that saves, 1 Peter 3:21.
- C. In obeying the Spirit's word, we are said to be born again.
 - 1. Read 1 Peter 1:22-23. We are born again by obedience to the truth.
 - 2. The word given by the Spirit is able to save your soul, James 1:21.
- D. Those saved on Pentecost demonstrate the new birth.
 - 1. The things they heard were the words of the Holy Spirit, Acts 2:4; John 16:13.
 - 2. They believed on Jesus and were told to repent and be baptized, Acts 2:36-38.
 - 3. Those on Pentecost were born of water and the Spirit.
 - 4. Read Ephesians 5:26. It teaches that we have been sanctified and cleansed with "the washing of water (baptism) by the word (revealed by the Spirit)."

Conclusion:

- 1. Sometimes Pentecostals and Charismatics ridicule those who do not claim to speak in tongues; they treat them as though they were second class citizens in the kingdom.
- 2. In reality, those who profess Holy Spirit baptism and spiritual gifts today, rather than being on a higher plane spiritually, are among the most confused of professing believers. It is ironic that they generally have little understanding of the very thing they claim for themselves!
- 3. No one who has submitted to the gospel of Christ needs to feel any intimidation regarding the Holy Spirit. Those who have obeyed the gospel are the only ones who have truly submitted to the Holy Spirit.