

Vol 19 Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Is water baptism or Baptism of the Holy Spirit necessary for Salvation

Is either Baptism necessary for Salvation?

No! Obedience is!

Is the speaking in tongues necessary to evidence salvation?

Speaking in tongues can occur as a result of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not necessary for salvation, then speaking in tongues is not necessary for salvation.

Consider the following passage in Acts 19:

Acts 19:1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

v1 The people at Corinth were declared to be followers of Jesus. They were called disciples and were not asked to confess Jesus as Lord as they already had done so.

v2 They had never even heard of The Holy Ghost let alone being Baptized by him. However, they would have been sealed by Him as they belonged to Jesus.

v3-5 They had been baptized by John the Baptist so to identify them with Jesus they were baptized in Jesus' Name.

v6 Then they were later baptized with The Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

As it can be seen they had a salvation before they even knew of the Holy Spirit so to say that any type of baptism or speaking in tongues is necessary for salvation is to contradict The Word of God.

It also means that many Christians are going around saved but not baptised by The Spirit because no one was there to tell them about The Holy Spirit but they listen to their conscience which He guides so obey God as best as they are able to and that is all God requires.

The other reason they do not have the Baptism of The Holy Spirit is that their denomination does not believe in it and so hinder the role of The Holy Spirit in their denomination because they do not understand or believe in His role in the life of a Christian.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Many people are troubled by this Baptism. This is because it is not understood properly by them.

The anointing of the Baptism of The Holy Spirit surrounds the person like a cocoon so that the person is immersed in it. This is why it is called a baptism and not a filling.

People do not realise The Baptism of The Holy Spirit was the second time The Holy Spirit had been given to the disciples and this second filling was to empower them. The first filling was before Jesus left earth and was to mark them as belonging to Him. They were already empowered as they went forth before Pentecost and demonstrated the reality of Jesus and The Kingdom (signs and wonders in their ministry).

From this it can be seen that the Baptism of The Holy Spirit is not necessary to evidence Jesus when doing evangelism as they were doing signs and wonders before The Spirit was given at Pentecost.

The sequence of events was as follows:

John 20:23: Jesus gave them The Holy Ghost to mark them as His.

Luke 24:49: and Acts 1:8 they were to wait until they were empowered from on high (By The Holy Spirit). There is always a condition (preparation) for the filling of The Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:2-4: When they were filled with The Holy Spirit and anointed to minister for Jesus.

We are all sealed (marked) by The Holy Spirit when we choose to follow Jesus as our Lord are not necessarily empowered by The Holy Spirit for any ministry as we first need to grow in (mature in) "*The Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord Jesus Christ*". This empowerment for ministry is a result of aligning ourselves more and more with God's purposes, growing more and more in intimacy with Him and separating ourselves from the values of the kingdom of darkness (Holiness to The Lord) so that Jesus can trust us with a ministry (a service for Him, and not necessarily one associated with a church or denomination). The more of ourselves we give to Jesus the more of the soul He can fill with The Holy Spirit.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is to do with Lordship, holiness and purification. As we are delivered from demons through deliverance our soul is more purified and we walk in greater holiness, The Holy Spirit takes more control of our soul and personality and we are able to hear The Holy Spirit more clearly. This results from continuously choosing to make Jesus Lord in all we do, removing Satan (deliverance) and then asking The Holy Spirit to take his place.

The Christian receives The Holy Spirit as their seal (or mark) that the person belongs to Jesus:

"Rom 8: 16 The Spirit himself doth testify with our spirit, that we are children of God;"

The disciples also received The Holy Ghost from Jesus after He had died. The Holy Spirit could not come in His fullness until the requirements for His coming had been fulfilled (namely Jesus leaving the earth) so that the disciples could not receive the empowerment of The Holy Spirit before then.

This also shows that salvation is separate to the Baptism of The Holy Spirit.

"John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:"

The Baptism of The Holy Ghost in Acts 2:4 was separate to their receiving The Holy Spirit as a mark of being a follower of Jesus. Another example of this subsequent filling is noted in Acts 4:34 (as a result of other disciples wanting to do the work of Jesus).

It can be seen that the Baptism of The Spirit (anointing) is for the purposes of doing the work of God and a request of this for any other purpose is not scriptural. Otherwise, the apostle would have received it before Jesus died so they could do His work before He had died in their own right and not just as His disciples sent forth by Him expressing the Authority of Jesus and not their own..

Examples of non-scriptural Baptism are when a person wants the Baptism for the pleasure of the experience, or in the belief it marks them as being spiritual or saved or when the denomination requires it as a mark of conversion. These are manmade reasons and do not do the work of Jesus so Satan happily obliges these people. This is why many churches have problems. People ask for The Holy Spirit's Baptism for the wrong reason and they either get nothing or a false filling instead by a demon who can enter them as they have opened themselves up to demons through seeking the Baptism of The Holy Spirit for the wrong reason.

We do not receive our entire ministry at once but as we mature in the Christian life, we are given more responsibility and empowerment (spiritual authority) to do this. In other words, we are Baptized (anointed) more by The Holy Spirit! We not only are given more empowerment but also the wisdom and maturity to deal with this new level of authority and the ministry that goes with it. This occurs as we pass the trials God sets us to prepare for each new level of ministry, understanding and authority that is needed for that ministry.

God tests you to show Satan you are worthy of this new empowerment as well as to prepare you to use this new authority and empowerment correctly. Only as God prepares you for it will you be able to handle this new authority in the way God desires you to use it.

The church is full of ministers, who are disillusioned or burnt out as they have taken on authority God has not prepared them for or anointed them for. So, they work in their own strength and eventually wear themselves out. Their heart may be right before God. But the preparation for that ministry is not.

What actually is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Baptize means to immerse so water baptism is immersion in water. Baptism of The Spirit is immersion in The Holy Spirit so that He is like a covering around you. If baptism is sprinkling then Baptism of The Holy Spirit has no meaning as you cannot be sprinkled with The Holy Spirit. It is all or nothing.

Having said that, for the purpose of Salvation it does not matter whether you are dunked or sprinkled as water baptism is not necessary for salvation. It is the heart attitude behind the act that God looks at.

This Covering of The Spirit also marks you in a way that demons can recognise your delegated authority level and role in The Kingdom.

The Holy Spirit in our spirit shows we belong to Jesus and prevents Satan taking his place there. Whoever is in your spirit (Jesus or Satan) is your lord and master.

In your soul the Holy Spirit takes the place of demons that have been evicted (through deliverance) as well as fill any area we ask Him to fill that demons do not occupy.

When we are baptised in the Spirit, The Holy Spirit falls on us as a covering identifying our authority in the spiritual as well as our role in The Kingdom.

Acts 1:6 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.

So, the baptism of The Spirit occurs when you are immersed in the presence of the Holy Spirit and He surrounds you like water surrounds you in water baptism. Usually anointing for ministry occurs then but at times healing can occur instead of an anointing for ministry.

Two separate events

A very clear distinction between receiving The Holy Spirit as a seal of being a follower of Jesus and Being Baptised by The Holy Spirit as a separate event is found in Acts 8:14-17

"Acts 8:14-17 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

The Holy Spirit was granted to the Samaritans so they could be guided by Him in obedience to Jesus so that they could His work. This is the other condition for the Baptism - a desire to do His will as evidenced by a person's life, attitudes and objectives.

As followers of Jesus, they would have been marked as belonging to Jesus so this 'Baptism' was an anointing for ministry, a kind of commissioning of their God-given ministry.

Ignore this Baptism (anointing) and you have a church that has no power or spiritual direction and which must use reason, rules and regulations to maintain its presence because the Guidance and power from God are not believed in as being available any longer for people to live and minister as Jesus said we would.

Problems and excesses occur when the resultant signs and wonders are sought instead of intimacy with Jesus, where the manifestation is sought for the sake of manifestation and exhibition of power, and not for ministry or for the furtherance of the Kingdom of The Father or to bring Glory to Jesus or The Father.

The purpose of signs and wonders is to witness to Jesus and to attract people to Jesus and His Kingdom through what Jesus has done for them - both spiritually and physically - not to

show how spiritual or powerful a church or person is. Any fleshly reason allows the devil entry and will sidetrack and shipwreck that church or revival as has happened in various denominations and revivals this last century.

The person is marked by The Holy Spirit as belonging to Jesus and as that person lives the life of obedience to Jesus, which shows the person is worthy of this baptism (greater authority and ministry), they will be Baptized (empowered/authorised) by The Holy Spirit so they will be able to do greater works of The Kingdom of God.

In Summary

When we become a Christian (through making Jesus as our Lord and entering into an intimate personal relationship with Him and The Father), our spirit is filled by The Holy Ghost so that we are marked (sealed Romans 8:15-17) as belonging to Jesus. Satan sees this and knows we no longer belong to him. Any further filling can only be to our soul (house) where demons and our self 'live'. As demons are removed from our soul, The Holy Spirit fills their place (we need to ask Him as He will not enter without our permission). As we allow more and more self to be removed, The Holy Spirit takes its place. As we are more and more purified and more of the old self is removed, The Holy Spirit fills us to take its place and this is how we are filled and our soul is purified on a continuing basis by The Holy Spirit.

This baptism is the anointing (authority and empowerment) for serving Jesus and indicates a person's authority and position in The Kingdom of God. It has nothing to do with filling the soul or Holiness but is a mark of maturing as a Christian.

The example of Jesus

Jesus was baptized by John and The Holy Spirit came upon Him. It was after this baptism that His earthly ministry began and not before. In this is our example that the anointing for a ministry has to be given by God for a person to be able to do it as God desires them to do it.

Attitude to the Receiving the anointing of the Holy Spirit

Let me start by saying that God looks at the heart reason for what you do and not what you do or say. So, while an action may appear to be wrong, God looks at the heart and sees it was not incorrect because of the reason you did it. His Love and Mercy takes over and He then makes the situation work for your best. Even when the motive for desiring the thing is wrong, God still works for our best (Rom 8:28 principle).

This applies to beliefs where our heart is right but we have been misled by people who do not know the truth so that we are in error but not of deliberate rebellion against God (which is what sin is). It is an error of ignorance where one who should have guided us into truth led us into error. That is why you should not condemn people as their heart may be right but the outworking of their desire incorrectly expressed because of erroneous teaching and God alone may know the truth. Even then we all have a responsibility to examine scripture to see whether what we have been taught is correct.

The Baptism of The Holy Spirit is an empowerment as that is how Jesus described what happened at Pentecost.

Luke 24:2 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Empowerment is to do with authority which is why Jesus said to them to wait until they were authorised by God to minister. So, it is something you wait for until God provides it for you. Unless you have the authority, you do not have the power or the right to use it.

So what attitude are you to have?

Patient obedience while God trains and matures you until God determines it is time to receive the empowerment (Baptism of The Holy Spirit) for the purposes of the new ministry He desires you to do for Him.

Some requirements to receive the Baptism of The Holy Spirit (from Acts)

You must follow Jesus wholeheartedly - there should be no compromise with the world in your life

You must be one with Jesus and His Body and not one with a church, denomination or other Christian type organization because Jesus does not recognize these. Jesus recognizes only his body and its parts. You may go to church activities but the reason to go is for the spiritual purposes of Jesus and His Will for you. To go for any other reason may be disobedience.

You must be where Jesus wants you to be (Acts 1:8, they waited in Jerusalem as instructed by Him).

Their obedience and heart for Him bought them blessings. They were anointed for service and after that event spoke boldly for Jesus instead of hiding in a room.

What does Eph 5:8 mean?

(Eph 5:18) And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;

When the Holy Spirit falls on a person there are various manifestations. The person may become 'slain in the spirit' where the power of The Holy Spirit is so strong in the person the conscious mind cannot handle it so they pass out (or similar). They may 'laugh in the spirit' for which there is no biblical precedence but note that David danced when overcome by The Spirit when they were bringing the Ark of Covenant back to Jerusalem. There is 'rejoicing in the spirit' but that is not uncontrolled laughter but a feeling of joy at what God has done.

The problem with seeking a spiritual experience for the sake of it or for being seen to be spiritual, is that God does not honour that endeavour, but Satan does. So, you may demonstrate a spiritual thing but it will not be The Holy Spirit but a demon behind it.

So, we are told not to 'get drunk with wine' using the flesh to get the feeling of The Holy Spirit filling but to seek His Spiritual filling instead.

Does the filling of the Holy Spirit decrease as the day grows older?

The anointing of the Holy Spirit is done to empower you for ministry. For it to decrease as the day grows old means your empowerment for ministry must also decrease. This does not happen. What usually happens is the day grows old, we do not feel as close to God as we should because we are tired, the flesh seeming to be stronger and more demanding on the mind and the Holy Spirit feels further away. The same thing happens when we lust or have an inordinate desire. The flesh overpowers in some degree The Spirit's influence on our mind.

If you do not control your emotions and mind, Satan will use it to control you.

This does not mean we are further from God. We are always in Jesus and never move from that position as that is guaranteed by scripture to all who faithfully follow Jesus as Lord. Our earthly feelings are variable according to mood and this is what makes us feel further from God.

We are to discipline the flesh so it does not block or diminish The Holy Spirit's influence on us.