

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

David C F Wright DD

There is more false teaching about this subject than many others. Some people state that there is a difference between baptism OF the Spirit, baptism IN the Spirit and baptism BY the Spirit.

Let us get the facts right.

There is one baptism of, in and by the Spirit. Of, in and by are all the same

Of means belonging to or coming from

In means coming inside, receiving

By means the action, the means and method used

The baptism comes from the Spirit; the Spirit comes to dwell in the believer who receives the Spirit and the method used is the action of the Spirit.

Let me quote the explanations given by well-known and respected Christian teachers

1. Nowhere in the Scripture do we find a command to be baptised in the Spirit but there is a very clear statement that every Christian possesses the Spirit. Leith Samuel
2. In the epistles the apostles never told or encouraged anyone to seek or wait for the Spirit or to wait for the "second blessing" or to seek the baptism in the Spirit. A Seibel
3. The baptism of the Spirit brings you into the Body of Christ. It is what makes you a Christian. Romans 8 says you cannot be a Christian unless you have received the Spirit and Paul writes, " For by one Spirit have we been baptised in the Body." The baptism in the Spirit is synonymous with being converted. H L Ellison
4. By the baptism of the Spirit we are, at the moment of our conversion, incorporated into the Body of Christ Graham Scroggie
5. The baptism of the Spirit is the placing of the new convert immediately into the invisible Body of Christ at the moment of their conversion. The tense of the verb in 1 Corinthians 12. 13 refers to the past when at conversion converts were baptised in the Spirit A Douglas
6. What happened at Samaria in Acts 8 was a kind of extension of Pentecost made necessary because the church was expanding in what was hostile territory. There was Jewish prejudice against the Samaritans that it would need a tremendous power of the Spirit to convince die-hards among Jewish Christians that it was right to bring the Gospel to the Samaritans A A Hoekema
7. The baptism in the Spirit is never referred to as something to be experienced after conversion nor is it described as some mysterious personal experience. Quite clearly the baptism is the means by which someone is converted to Christ. The baptism is the synchronisation of the conversion of the believer. This is a doctrinal fact. Many confuse the baptism with the filling of the Spirit, which, unlike the baptism, is dependent on the spiritual condition of the individual. The Christian was baptised in the Spirit upon regeneration. He is filled with the Spirit to the extent that he allows it and permits the Divine Guest full authority in his life. F A Tatford
8. There is one baptism in the Spirit but many fillings John Blanchard
9. The baptism of the Holy Spirit becomes every believer's unconditional blessing at the moment of conversion. The filling of the Spirit is conditional depending on the individual's complete surrender

to the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

R E Harlow

10. Every sinner who is converted and believes the Gospel receives the Spirit there and then; simultaneously he is added to the Body of Christ which was formed at Pentecost through the baptism of the Spirit.

H J Heikoop

11. The baptism in the Spirit is once for all, the filling of the Spirit is oft repeated. Baptism and filling are opposite features. We are made Christians by the baptism which happens once for all believers and we can be made Christlike by the fillings

Graham Scroggie

12. A man once told me that he had just come from a great “tarrying meeting”. He said, “Hundreds have been tarrying for days in San Jose waiting for the baptism in the Holy Spirit”. I asked him, “What authority have you for this?”. The man replied, “Jesus said, ‘Tarry in Jerusalem until ye be ended from on high’”.

I told him he was in the wrong place, many thousands of miles away, as well as 2000 years too late

Kurt Koch

So there is no doubt that the baptism in or by or with the Holy Spirit is the same as conversion. In John 3 where the Lord is talking about being born again and being born of the Spirit he actually says that believers are born of the Spirit. Being born again is being born of the Spirit. The word baptism means to dip or immerse as in water baptism by it also means to become identified with. Baptism in the Spirit is a new identity. The old unsaved person is no more. As Paul states they are a new creation in Christ.

There are people who state that any remarkable or dramatic Christian event is a baptism in the Spirit. But there is one baptism in the Spirit as we have shown from Scripture.

There are also those who state that the evidence of receiving the baptism in the Spirit is the ability to speak in tongues. Paul refutes this emphatically when talking to those who have been so baptised because they have converted, “Do all speak in tongues?”.

I have heard a lot of drivel about this subject. One clergyman says that his daughter spoke in tongues from the age of two. A theologian wrote a book highlighting charismatic and pentecostal teaching and performing tongues with evidence. Fellow believers turned against him and he died mysteriously

This false teaching states that unless you speak in tongues you have not been baptised in the Spirit. Some say that you have not received the Spirit.

Let us put this into perspective. A man is converted on January 1st. He dies six months later but he has never spoke in tongues and so he has not been baptised in the Spirit asserts some charismatics. What false teaching. He was baptised in the Spirit on 1st January when he received Christ as Saviour.

The word tongues is the word languages and includes dialects. When we read speaking in tongues it is speaking in languages.

On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2 there was speaking in tongues which were known languages, real languages understood by those standing by. There were called unknown tongues but that does not mean that they were unknown to the hearers. On the contrary, everyone heard in their own language of the country of their birth. It was not ecstatic speech, the language of angels but unknown in the sense that the apostles who uttered them had not learned them or had any inclination to do so they had not studied languages at Jerusalem University.

This pentecost baptism was the means to spread the Gospel dramatically and that happened... 3000 were converted that day but as there was one Calvary there is one only Pentecost. There was one day when you were converted by the baptism of the Spirit. You are not baptised in the Spirit many times but once. You are physically born once. You are born again once.

Some Pentecostals and charismatic teach that there is another type of speaking in tongues. Some say it is a heavenly language and quote Paul saying, Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels and interpret this as a fact that there are non-earthly languages spoke by angels. But Paul is using hyperbole here just as we might say, “If I had a million pounds I would give it to the poorest people in the world”. Paul continues this hyperbole by saying, “If I have faith so as to remove mountains...” he also said, “If I give my body to be burned...” but this was not a fact, but an expression.

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