

## Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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***For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. 1Co 12:13***

Often in the Word of God baptism is in reference to the immersion of a believer into water. But there are instances where that is easily proved not to be the case.

*Mt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire ...*

*Mt 20:22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, We are able.*

*Lu 12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished!*

*Ac 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

In these few verses there are three *kinds* of baptisms referenced: one baptism with water, another baptism with the Holy Spirit, and yet another baptism with *fiery* trial. 1Co.12.13 cannot be a reference to baptism in water. Even the grammatical construction of the sentence tells us that much. This statement can be divided into these parts of speech:

There is a single subject: we

There are two verbs; both are passive: are baptized (into one body), and have been made to drink (into one Spirit)

Both verbs are governed by one prepositional phrase which is functioning as an adverb: by one Spirit.

The action of the passive verbs *are baptized* and *have been made to drink* are performed on the subject *we*. To be certain that we understand the sense of this statement correctly convert the passive voice into active. To do this the subject becomes the object of the verb, and the passive verbs become active. And since we know *how* the action was performed (by the Spirit) the Spirit will be the subject. It would read like this:

The Spirit baptized (into one body) and has made to drink (into one Spirit) us. Or, The Spirit baptized us (into one body) and has made us to drink (into one Spirit).

There should be little doubt that this baptism is synonymous with the text of Acts 1.5. *Ac 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.* And the fulfillment of Acts 1.5 is the event at Pentecost. Like promised to the first Jewish church of Jerusalem,

## *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

---

we also we see the Spirit of God come upon the first church of the Samaritans in Samaria and the first church of the Gentiles in Caesarea.

The Samaritan church

*Ac 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:*

*16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)*

*17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*

The Gentile church

*Ac 10:44 ¶ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.*

*45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

The Uttermost Parts of the World: The Twelve Ephesian brethren

*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.*

*7 And all the men were about twelve.*

This manifestation of the Spirit never manifests like this again. Does that mean that the Spirit of God doesn't come as promised upon those who have covenanted together in the name of Christ to be a N.T. church because they lack that overt manifestation of the Spirit's coming and presence? That cannot be so! These three occasions show us how that the disciples of Christ went out from Jerusalem, Judaea, Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts of the earth and constituted churches in those places which became the habitation of the Spirit of God. (Ac 1.8)

Paul's conversion experience was unique. If we lack a similar manifestation in our conversion experience, does that mean our conversion to Christ was not genuine? Certainly not! Since those three special manifestations, no church needs a Pentecost manifestation to know that the Spirit of God is with them. We know that the Spirit of God is in our midst by the direction, teaching, gifts, and comfort we receive in conjunction with the Holy Word of God. (Jn.16.13) When genuine, baptized believers come into, or form into, a church of the Lord Jesus Christ they come into real, living, corporate fellowship with Christ by the Holy Spirit. Coming into a church is not only an instance when physical people come to a physical church and say 'I want to be counted with this church as a member of it.' Coming into a church is a spiritual act done by the Spirit of God. It is by the Spirit that every genuine professor of

## *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

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Jesus Christ will desire to come into a body. And by so doing each member will participate in the things of that very same Spirit of God.

This word is from the Hidden Hills Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, located at 50130 S. Caswell Lakes Loop, Willow, Alaska – pastors Leon King/Craig Thurman – Contact info: HC 89 Box 1420, Willow, AK 99688 – [brercraig@mtaonline.net](mailto:brercraig@mtaonline.net) – [www.sermonaudio.com/hiddenhillssgbapt/](http://www.sermonaudio.com/hiddenhillssgbapt/) – [www.hiddenhillssgbaptistchurch.org](http://www.hiddenhillssgbaptistchurch.org)

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