

Holy Spirit Baptism

Matthew 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:"

The first thing to know is that baptism is two-fold.

0. Water

0. Spirit

John 3:5 "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

We will take a look at the spirit aspect of baptism in this lesson. Once the water has cleansed the heart, then it is ready for the infilling of God's spirit.

We need to take a look at four (4) areas of Holy Spirit Baptism that are very important.

0. The infilling

0. The quickening

0. The empowering

0. The sign

The Infilling

The term "infill" means "to fill in." It would be similar to a hole in the ground and sand was brought in to infill it. There would no longer be a hole.

In the same sense, there was a huge hole or gap in the heart of mankind that was left there when sin separated us from God's presence. Mankind has always been created to be a vessel of the Lord.

- Colossians 1:16 "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:"
- Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."
- Ephesians 2:10 "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."
- We are His product or things that are made. He created us for Himself. We are meant to contain His Spirit.

So when we are baptized in water unto repentance and our hearts are clean from all the sin we have created, and then we are ready for the Lord to infill the hole, or emptiness, in our hearts with His Spirit.

The Quickenings

Since we have died out to sin and have buried our old life, then there is to be a re-creating of our life. This is termed “a new life in Christ.”

John 10:10 “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”

- The word “abundantly” means “superior, or beyond measure.”
- Our spirit now has to be quickened, or made alive again.
- The only way that can take place is with a quickening spirit.

1 Corinthians 15:45 “And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickening spirit.”

John 5:21 “For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will.”

- The “last Adam” referring to Jesus Christ.
- Only Jesus can make alive again what has died.
- (Remember: we are dead to trespasses and sins through repentance.)

Ephesians 2:1 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins:”

Ephesians 2:5-6 “Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:”

Colossians 2:13 “And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

- Through the infilling of the Spirit of Jesus Christ, we are being quickened, or made alive again.
- The quickening is once again causing us to be back in the presence of the Lord.

The Empowering

The word “empower” simply means “to give power or authority.” It is to entrust someone with authoritative power.

There are two forms of mankind’s empowerment.

0. Exousia power
0. Dunamao power

Exousia power is defined as “authoritative power.”

- Luke 10:19 “Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

- Matthew 10:1 “And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.”
- It was the plan of God for mankind to have this power in the beginning, but sin destroyed that plan.
- Now we can be empowered from God through the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Dunamao power is defined as “miracle working power; supernatural.”

- This is the kind that only comes from God.
- Romans 15:13 “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”
- 2 Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”
- 2 Peter 1:3 “According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”

The power of God is needed to overcome the world and all of its temptations. So, how do receive this power?

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.” (emphasis added)

The Sign

This is one of the most misunderstood areas of the baptism of the Holy Spirit; and yet it is also one the most significant.

If we go back to Genesis and look at the tower of Babel, we can see a great lesson being taught.

Genesis 11:1,4 “And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech....And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.”

- Until now, there was only one language. We are not for certain what language it was, but it was understood by all.
- Having one language was not enough, they wanted to be known and recognized.
- There was nothing that could stop them because they were all in agreement through language.
- Genesis 11:6 “And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.”

If they were to be stopped, there was only one thing to be done.

- Genesis 11:7 "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."
- If they were all talking a different language, then they could not understand one another and confusion would be the result.

The enemy of the Lord learned a valuable lesson from this: confound the language of the people so that they cannot get along.

- So, for thousands of years, mankind has developed many different kinds of doctrines through lack of knowledge and communication.
- The Lord needed to bring mankind back to one language and one purpose and this is done through the infilling of the Holy Ghost.

Speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance (or the power to speak) is the sign that the Spirit of God has now taken control of your life.

- Mark 16:17 "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;"
- Isaiah 28:11 "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."
- Acts 10:45-46 "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. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God."
- Acts 19:6 "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."

The Tongue

Why is speaking in another language the sign of the Holy Spirit infilling? Can't a person feel the presence of God? The answer to this is "Yes." We can feel the presence of God, but the Lord chose a sign or evidence.

The sign or evidence tells everyone involved that you have surrendered your life and tongue to Jesus Christ and He has now filled your heart with His Spirit. These are the ones that hear you speak in this unlearned tongue:

0. Jesus Christ (He knows for sure He has complete control.)
0. Yourself (You know for sure Jesus has taken control.)
0. Everyone around you (There is no doubt of the miracle.)
0. The devil (He knows for sure he has just lost you.)

The tongue was chosen as the initial evidence of receiving God's Spirit for one specific reason:

- James 3:8 "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."
- The tongue is something that only God can tame.

Let's read a little about the tongue:

- James 3:3-6
- 3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.

- 4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.
- 5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!
- 6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

Therefore when the Lord has taken complete control of our body, the tongue will be the last to submit. When it has submitted, the Spirit of the Lord is able to speak through us in a language that we have not learned.

This is the proof or evidence of the genuine presence of God infilling us, for it will be the spirit giving us the utterance (or ability to speak).

- Acts 2:4 "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

There is one more note to be inserted here: Do not seek the tongues; seek the Spirit. When the Spirit enters the heart and body, the tongues will be there.

- Do not be afraid or ashamed to speak boldly when it happens.
- It is the greatest miracle that can happen to a person, so do not fight it.

The Miracle

You are now a new creation once you have repented of your sins, been baptized in the name of Jesus for the remission of your sins, and have been filled with the power of the Holy Ghost.