

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

PART I



The main distinction between the Assemblies of God movement and Protestant (Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist etc.) Churches or Charismatic Churches (Protestant Churches who accept the Gifts of the Holy Spirit and others e.g. Vineyard) is our particular emphasis on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as something which is distinct from Salvation (becoming a Christian) and which is evidenced by speaking in tongues.

We do not often discuss our differences and tend to focus on what we have in common for unity - which is so very important, however, we must also not forget our heritage and the reason there is a need for our movement.



Here is the full text of what we, as a fully cooperating fellowship of the Assemblies of God believe:

All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry.

This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- * *an overflowing fullness of the Spirit*
- * *a deepened reverence for God*
- * *an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work*
- * *and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost*

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?



DEFINITION: *It is the infilling of the believer with the Holy Spirit. This is the coming of the glorious person of the Holy Spirit in power upon the believer for service and witnessing¹*

We get this understanding from a number of New Testament passages which describe the coming of the Holy Spirit using the imagery of Water Baptism.



Read: Matthew 3:11 (c.f. Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)



What is Water Baptism and what images or pictures related to it are useful for our understanding of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

What does Water Baptism represent? (Matthew 3:11)




Read: Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13

Water Baptism is a sign of repentance (a change of lifestyle in-keeping with God's commands).



Referring to the box above detailing what accompanies the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; how is this connected with living a lifestyle which evidences repentance?


The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was not a new idea in Jesus' day, Old Testament prophets had actually foretold it - Isaiah wrote roughly 700 years *before* Jesus!

 **Read: Isaiah 44:3; Joel 2:28**
Compare these two passages: Isaiah 28:11-12 with Acts 2:1-6


WHAT IS THE EXPERIENCE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

There are three distinct aspects of the experience of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1. IMMERSION from above, or “coming down upon”

 **Read: Acts 2:2-3; Acts 8:16** (c.f. Acts 10:41-44; Acts 11:15; Acts 19:5)

2. INFILLING from within, “drinking”, “being filled with”

 **Read: Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:13** (c.f. Acts 8:15-17; Acts 10:47; Acts 19:2)


3. OUTFLOW, or overflow *from* within.


 **Read: John 7:37-39; Acts 2:4**

Speaking in Tongues is the outflow, or overflow of the Holy Spirit within us. Even though the Holy Spirit is invisible He produces manifestations (makes things obvious) that can be seen and heard.

 **Read: John 3:8; Acts 2:33**

The Bible records several instances where people were Baptised with the Holy Spirit.

 **Read: Acts 2:2-4; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:6-7**

 **What was the common manifestation of the Holy Spirit in these groups of people?**

WHO IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR?

There are many groups which believe that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is no longer an experience available to Christians. Quite clearly, we stand against this view - here's why:


 **Read: Joel 2:28-29**

 **Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for: men/women? rich/poor?**

 **Read: John 7:37-39**

 **If who “is thirsty” what will happen if they believe?**

 **Read: Acts 2:37-39**

 **Who is the promise of the Holy Spirit for?**

In the next study in this series we will look at what Jesus taught about the Holy Spirit and what reasons the Bible says we need to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

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