



The essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is when a person, who is already a believer, receives extraordinary spiritual power for Christ-exalting ministry. -John Piper

I. The Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement

All charismatics (including historic Pentecostal denominations, individuals within non-charismatic denominations, and those in post-denominational networks) have grown from less than a million in 1900 to around 425 Million in 2010.¹

II. The Old Covenant Experience of the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit has always been active in the world. People under the Old Covenant were filled with the Spirit at different times, and they received empowerment from the Holy Spirit when he came upon them. (Gen. 41:38; Mic. 3:8)
- Yet, God promised to pour out the Spirit in a unique way in a New Covenant. (Eze. 36:26-27)

III. The New Covenant Advantage

- Jesus taught that the Spirit would be given in a unique way under the New Covenant after His ascension to the Father (John 16:7).
- If the Holy Spirit was in the world during the time of the Old Testament, what is Jesus referring to? Joel's prophecy offers two powerful truths that help us understand the difference between the Old and New Covenant experiences of the Holy Spirit. (Joel 2:28)
 1. It is global (all ethnicities).
 2. It includes unique empowerment for making Christ known.

IV. Eight References to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- Four are parallel references from John the Baptist's preaching. Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33.
- Two references to the baptism of the Holy Spirit are from Jesus.
 1. Acts 1:4-5 (referring to the Father's promise in Luke 24:49). In both Luke and Acts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an endowment with power from the Spirit and a preparation for ministry to reach the nations with the gospel. Those who were to receive this baptism of the Spirit would already be born again. They would already be filled with the Holy Spirit at an earlier point. For this reason, it is unlikely that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, as it is referred to in Luke-Acts, refers to regeneration (John 20:21-22). This is essentially what Pentecostalism highlighted.

We see the fulfillment of "the promise of the Father" in Acts 2:1-4. It is for every believer, of every gender, nationality, time, and generation. Endowment with power

¹ Mandryk, Jason. *Operation World: The Definitive Prayer Guide To Every Nation*. Complete Revised-7th Edition. Pg. 3-4.

is purchased for every believer in the New Covenant. Acts 2:39 implies that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is, in fact, *a pattern*. Believers of all times and places should seek to experience the Holy Spirit in the way that believers in Jerusalem experienced him in Acts 2.

2. Matthew 28:19 - Jesus' command to baptize in the name of the Spirit shows the deeply trinitarian nature of the gospel message.
- The next reference to the baptism of the Holy Spirit is from the apostle Peter in Acts 11:15-16 when he was sharing the gospel with the "*household of Cornelius*."
3. Saying that they have received the Holy Spirit *just as we have* indicates that *receiving* the Holy Spirit means receiving the Holy Spirit in the same *way* as on the day of Pentecost.
- The final reference to the Spirit's baptism is from Paul in 1 Corinthians 12:13. This verse does not contradict the Pentecostal view. Paul envisions a baptism into Christ that happens at conversion. In contrast, Luke is referring to a baptism of power after conversion.²
- Example of "baptism of the Holy Spirit" Acts 8:12-17: There is more to experience of the Holy Spirit than what happens in initial salvation, and after one receives an initial empowerment of the Spirit, like the gift of tongues. All believers should seek more of the Spirit in their lives!

V. Acts 3:20 - What is Revival?

- I suggest that *baptism of the Holy Spirit* and being *filled* with the Spirit should be seen as this "*refreshing...from the presence of the Lord*." All believers have the Holy Spirit immediately in conversion and regeneration, yet not all believers have experienced an immersion with power as in Acts 2:1-4; 4:31; 8:17; 11:15 or 19:7. These unique experiences of power and infilling correspond to *times of refreshing* for the saved and are part of the New Covenant promise.
- Often, we use the term "*revival*" to describe events today that may resemble those in the book of Acts. People associate healing, mass salvation, renewed passion for God, and manifestation of gifts of the Spirit with revival. Biblical language for this is the *baptism of the Holy Spirit*, *outpouring of the Holy Spirit*, or even *times of refreshing from the presence of the Lord*.

VI. Conclusion

- The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which people experience an immersion of the Spirit, are *filled* with the Spirit, and have a greater present awareness of God's blessing, power, and gifts. This is something that believers should seek to experience, and it is sometimes followed by speaking in tongues, prophecy, boldness, and/or other spiritual gifts. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential to fulfilling the Great Commission before the Lord returns.

² Piper, John. *You Will Be Baptized with the Holy Spirit*, 24 January, 2018.