

**Subject: *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit***  
**Scripture: *1 Corinthians 12:12-14***

### **1. The two views of this baptism**

Not everyone agrees as to what the baptism of the Holy Spirit means and how it applies to the Christian life. This doctrine has sometimes been the source of sharp contention and deep division among Christians. There are basically two views:

- A. The Pentecostal-charismatic view – The baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that happens after a person is saved and the evidence of the baptism is speaking in tongues. In this view the baptism is something every believer should seek and ask God for, and like the disciples in Acts 1-2, it comes only after waiting and longing for it. This experience is sometimes called “the second blessing.” In this view, some believers have received the baptism of the Spirit and some have not.
- B. The Biblical view – The baptism of the Holy Spirit is something that happens at the moment of salvation and there is no evidence of speaking in tongues. The baptism is something that we don’t have to seek or ask for, since it is accomplished for us the moment we are saved. All believers have experienced the baptism of the Spirit.

### **2. The biblical references to this baptism**

The Bible has seven specific references to this baptism of the Spirit and four other indirect references (Rom. 6:3-5; Gal. 3:27; Eph. 4:5; Col. 2:12):

- A. Predicted by John the Baptist  
*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 Spirit, and with fire. Other parallel references are: *Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33.*
- B. Promised by Christ  
*Acts 1:5* For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence.
- C. Described by Peter  
*Acts 11:15-16* <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning. <sup>16</sup> Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Peter is describing the conversion of Cornelius and his family which occurred in Acts 10.
- D. Explained by Paul  
*1 Corinthians 12:13* 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. This is the only reference in the New Testament that explains the baptism. All other references speak of the event either before it happened or after it happened. This is the only commentary on that experience. There is no command for any believer to be baptized with the Spirit or to seek such an experience. Notice carefully the truth

in this verse: 1) All believers have been baptized by the Spirit (“we all”); 2) This baptism places all believers into one body, the body of Christ (the church); 3) All people, regardless of race or social standing, are one in the body; 4) This baptism is something that is done for us at conversion, not something we should seek after conversion; 5) This baptism establishes our place of ministry within the body (1 Cor. 12:18); 6) This baptism is not to be connected with speaking in tongues as an evidence of the experience (1 Cor. 12:29-30). All are baptized with the Spirit, but not all speak in tongues.

### **3. The unique differences of this baptism**

- A. Baptism of the Spirit is not the same as water baptism. Spirit baptism is a spiritual reality; water baptism is a physical act of obedience.
- B. Baptism of the Spirit is not the same as the filling of the Spirit. These are different works of God. Here are some of the differences:
- Baptism of the Spirit takes place at salvation, but filling of the Spirit occurs after salvation.
  - Baptism of the Spirit is a one-time event, but filling of the Spirit is a repeated and ongoing experience. The Bible gives a command to be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18). The disciples were repeatedly filled with the Spirit.
  - Baptism of the Spirit has to do with our spiritual position, but filling of the Spirit has to do with spiritual practice.
  - Baptism of the Spirit is not a command for any believer, but filling of the Spirit is a command for all believers.
  - Baptism of the Spirit happens to all believers, but filling of the Spirit does not happen to all. Some believers may not be filled constantly, and some may not be filled at all.

### **4. The eternal impact of this baptism**

What difference does the baptism of the Spirit make? What does it accomplish?

- A. Baptism of the Spirit unites every believer with Christ – Every believer is in Christ and Christ is in every believer. Jesus said in **John 14:20** *At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you.* The baptism gives us a new position (“in Christ”). When we were baptized by the Holy Spirit we were placed into Christ. We were united permanently in Him. Scripture describes us as being “in Christ.” Unsaved people are “in Adam.” They are in a position of condemnation. Believers are “in Christ,” a position of justification. This new position is true for all believers. Our union with Christ is spiritual, not physical. Our union with Christ is supernatural. Our union with Christ is personal. **2 Corinthians 5:17** *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.* Our union with Christ is eternal.

- B. Baptism of the Spirit unites every believer with all other believers – We are not only “in Christ,” but we in the body of Christ, the church. There is not only union with Christ, but communion with other believers. **1 Corinthians 10:16-17** <sup>16</sup> *The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the communion of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the communion of the body of Christ?* <sup>17</sup> *For we being many are one bread, and one body: for we are all partakers of that one bread.* **Galatians 3:28** *There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.*

Water baptism is a beautiful picture of Spirit baptism. Believers identify with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection. It is a picture of being united with Christ or “in Christ.”