

WHAT IS MEANT BY THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The term “baptism of the Holy Spirit” is a Biblical expression referring to the supernatural work performed by the Holy Spirit upon New Testament believers. To be *baptised*, means “to come under the influence or power of something.” To be baptised in the Spirit is to come under His control.

In the Old Testament, God promised the people of Israel that when the Messiah comes He would send forth His Holy Spirit to indwell His people (Joel 2: 28-32, Ezekiel 36:24-28). This would be in fulfilment of the New Covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-37).

Because the final fulfilment involves God’s restoration and blessing of the nation of Israel (Joel 2:27, 32, 3:1), only a partial conditional fulfilment of this took place on the Day of Pentecost, when Christ sent the Holy Spirit upon His Disciples and all those Jews who were gathered in His name (Acts 2:1-21). Jesus had told them, “*John baptised you with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit*” (Acts 1:5).

The coming of the Holy Spirit included both an indwelling and empowering of the Disciples. Jesus said, “*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you*” (Acts 1:8).

This power enabled them to perform miracles, *signs* and wonders to convince the Jews that Jesus was their Christ (Messiah) and

it was a “foretaste of the Kingdom age yet to come” (Hebrews 6:5).

“The Jews seek and require signs in order to believe.”
1 Corinthians 1:22
(Cp. Luke 11:16)

They began to experience a partial fulfilment of the Old Testament prophecies concerning the future reign of Christ on earth, called the (Millennial) Kingdom. In fact, Peter told the Jews that if they would believe, God would send the Christ (Messiah) back to them and restore all things spoken of by the prophets (Acts 3:19-21).

The book of Acts records the continual rejection of Messiah by the nation of Israel and the subsequent development of the Church age in which we now live. As this transition took place, the Charismatic miracles and external powers of the Holy Spirit was postponed until the final outpouring when Messiah comes (Joel 2:28-32).

As regarding signs, miracles and healings, it is interesting to note that the Apostle Paul was given extraordinary Holy Spirit powers while the Kingdom was being offered to Israel.

Acts 19:11-12 states, “God did extraordinary miracles through Paul, so that even handkerchiefs and aprons that had touched him were taken to the sick and their illnesses were cured and the evil spirits left them.”

Yet just a few years later after the Church age was fully developed and the Messianic Kingdom program with Israel postponed, this same Paul seems to indicate a change in the Holy Spirit’s ministry, when he “left Trophimus sick at Miletus” (2 Timothy 4:20). Also he was unable to heal Epaphroditus who became seriously ill while visiting Paul in prison (Philippians 2:26-27).

The ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Church age is that of an inward power, rather than that of external manifestations which will take place in the coming Kingdom, when Jesus reigns on earth.

“Love will last forever, but prophecy and speaking in tongues (unknown languages to the hearers) will all disappear.” 1 Corinthians 13:8

At that time, miracles, healings and a host of physical changes will take place by the power of the Spirit of God. (Isaiah 2:4, 11:1-9, 35:1-10).

The Lord revealed to the apostle Paul that every person who believes in Christ in this Church age has experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation. He says, “*Some of us are Jews, some are Gentiles, some are slaves, and some are free. But we have all been baptised into Christ's body by one Spirit, and we have all received the same Spirit*” (1 Corinthians 12:13 NLT).

Again he says, *“For we know how dearly God loves us, because He has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts with His love”* (Romans 5:5 NLT). Only true believers have the Holy Spirit in them. He says, *“You are only controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all)”* (Romans 8:9 NLT).

Therefore every genuine believer can say on the authority of God’s Word, *“I have been baptised by and in the Holy Spirit.”*

The Bible says nothing about a so called “second blessing” baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is believed that those who advocate this are trying to copy Acts 1:8 and go “back to Pentecost,” which was the beginning days of the Kingdom, when the Jesus the Messiah King was being offered to Israel, (Acts 1:6, 3:19-21) with many signs and miracles.

**Every believer in Christ can say,
“I have been baptised by the
Holy Spirit.”
1 Corinthians 12:13**

To go back to Acts 2, is to try and force God’s program for the Kingdom onto the Church!

The Kingdom miracles, signs, speaking in tongues and other wonders, were not part of God’s plan for the Church. They are part of the future Millennial Kingdom age.

It is God’s will that we understand that all who believe in Christ are “fully baptised by the Holy Spirit” at salvation and this is not a repeatable event!

We believe that it is our responsibility as Christians, who have the Holy Spirit living within us, to “live in the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25) and “let the Holy Spirit fill and control us” (Ephesians 5:18) and manifest his fruits to the glory of God (Galatians 5:22-23 NLT).

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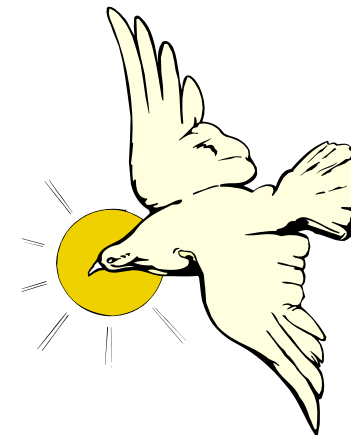
***“When the Holy Spirit controls our lives, He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.”
Galatians 5:22-23 (NLT)***

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