

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is different than salvation or water baptism.
 - a. Every believer receives the Holy Spirit upon salvation (Eph. 1:13)
 - b. The disciples were saved (the same as we are) before being baptized in the Spirit (John 20:19-22)
 - c. John the Baptist and Jesus both made a distinction between water baptism and Spirit baptism (Mark 1:7-8, Luke 3:15-16, Matthew 3:11, John 1:32-34, Acts 1:5)
2. Jesus commanded the disciples to wait for the Promise. (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4)
3. The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to make us powerful witnesses for Christ.
 - a. Acts 1:1-8
 - b. If the very people that walked and talked with Jesus, saw miracles, saw the resurrected Lord and the ascension needed an enduement of power to be effective witnesses, how much more do we need that enduement of power?
4. Five Scriptural accounts of Christians being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Pentecost 30 A.D. (Acts 2:4)
 - b. The Gentiles received the exact same gift in same way, says Peter 40 A.D. (Acts 10:44)
 - c. Disciples of John at Ephesus 54 A.D. (Acts 19:4-7)
 - d. Believers in Samaria 32 A.D. (Acts 8:14-20)
 - e. Paul's conversion (Acts 9:17-19)

(Three out of the five accounts list speaking in tongues as initial evidence. The fourth passage refers to an outward physical sign which is understood to be tongues; the fifth passage refers to Paul, whom we know spoke in tongues according to 1 Cor. 14:18.)
5. Jesus said believers would speak in new tongues (Mark 16:17)
6. Paul encouraged believers to speak in tongues. (read all of 1 Corinthians 14)
 - a. Praying in tongues = "praying with the spirit" versus "praying with the mind" (v.15)
 - b. Paul prayed in tongues a great deal (v.18)
 - c. Paul specifically told the church not to forbid speaking in tongues (v.39)
 - d. Paul refers to Old Testament prophecy regarding tongues (v.21) // Isaiah 28:11-12
7. Why is tongues the initial physical evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit?
 - a. That's the pattern established in Scripture (see #4 above)
 - b. The tongue has great power (James 3:3-10)
 - c. The spoken words of God are powerful (Genesis 1:3, Psalm 107:20)
 - d. God often chooses the "foolish" things of the world to shame the wise (1 Cor. 1:27-29)
8. How should we use tongues? (often—not just a one-time experience, but a regular prayer language)
 - a. Speak to God in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:2)
 - b. Pray and sing in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:14-15)
 - c. Edify yourself by speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:4)
 - d. Build up your faith by praying in tongues (Jude 20)
 - e. Pray in the Spirit in association with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:18)
 - f. When you don't know how to pray, the Spirit can pray perfectly through you in tongues (Rom. 8:26-27)
9. The promise of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all who desire it (Acts 2:39, Luke 11:11-13)
→ There are no examples given in Scripture of individuals who sincerely and honestly desired the baptism in the Holy Spirit and did not receive it!

Baptism in the Holy Spirit Follow-up

Congratulations on getting baptized in the Spirit! I'm SO EXCITED for you! I want to follow up with you immediately and give you some guidelines regarding what just happened:

1. **It is VERY COMMON for your flesh & the enemy to lie to you and try to get you to believe you made everything up. You did not! You yielded control to God and offered your tongue on the altar, and He gave you a language as a result. Rebuke the enemy and speak the truth rather than entertaining that lie!!**
2. Pray in tongues as much as you can over the next 7 days—while you walk to class, in the shower, driving in the car, etc. God is going to expand your vocabulary as you utilize the language He's given you. You may just have a few syllables now, but rest assured, more is coming as you use it!!! Find the next prayer meeting you can attend, and pray in tongues the whole time! You'll find it energizes your prayer life beyond anything else you can do in the natural.
3. You may feel like it's "just you" when you pray in tongues—and that's because it *is* you praying! You do the natural, and God does the super. You don't have to have an emotional experience to use this new prayer language—you can choose to speak in tongues any time you want. (Just like I can logically choose to speak in English or Spanish whenever I want). Sometimes I have emotions when I pray in tongues, but most of the time, it's just a logical choice to utilize the prayer language God has given me.
4. Check out www.YouGotTheHolySpirit.com where you can subscribe to a weekly devotional about the baptism in the Spirit and how to grow in the gifts. It has excellent personal testimonies to help you learn more!

Please don't hesitate to e-mail me with testimonies and/or questions. It's a joy for me to hear what Jesus is doing in you!

Blessings,
Linda

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