

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

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The Problem and Confusion Between the Churches

The traditional church believes in a single experience with the Holy Spirit (born again). While the Pentecost church believes in two separate experiences with the Holy Spirit. Receive the Spirit (John 20:22) The Traditional church; and be filled by the same Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues (Acts 2: 1-18) the Pentecostal church: The traditional Church says that this experience is no longer valid and it was an only one time event. But the scriptures and personal experience totally contradict it. Where does it tell us (in the scriptures) that this event stopped? And what of the millions of experiences that people have had and are having now?

Jesus Appears to the Disciples for the First Time

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, **came Jesus and stood in the midst**, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost**: (John 20:19-22)

In this Encounter with Christ they Received the Holy Spirit and were Born Again:

Up until this moment they had experienced the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit was not in them. Now Jesus breaths the Holy Spirit into them. They were Born Again (Saved, Belonged to Jesus) at this moment. Breathed into them means in the Greek; when you inflate a balloon and the balloon receives your breath. It is the same Word God uses in (Gen. 2:7) when He breathed into Adam the breath of Life.

Notice Some Days Later Jesus said; Tarry Here Until You Be Endued with Power

“And behold, **I am sending the promise of My Father upon you;** but you are to **stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**”

(Luke 24:49) NASB

*Notice, Jesus said it was a future event, and commanded them to wait until they be endued with power. Also notice He said this power would come **Upon Them**. The Holy Spirit was already in them, but Jesus was talking about a new and subsequent experience. Endued with power is the act of putting on a new garment or clothing (ARMOR) of power from on high.*

In the baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus sends us His power (ARMOR) to dress us with victory from head to toe.

The Book of Acts is the Pattern for Victory in the Church

Gathering them together, **He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem**, but to **wait for what the Father had promised**, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for **John baptized with water**, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now**.” (Acts 1:4,5)

At this point they were Saved, Born Again, Going to Heaven, but Jesus told them to wait for the promised Holy Spirit.

But you **will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you**; and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) NASB

This tells us what the purpose is for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Power). The pattern for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is all throughout the Book of Acts. It is a pattern for believers, not a one time event in the past.

The Church’s First Encounter with the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they **were all with one accord in one place**. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And **there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire**, and **it sat upon each of them**. And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost**, and **began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance**. (Acts 2:1-4)

This was the first experience (encounter) the Church had with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. They were all filled and spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance.

One Year Later After Pentecost; Samaria Receives the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and **preached Christ unto them**. And **the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did**. For **unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them**; and **many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed**. And there was **great joy in that city**. (Acts 8:5-8)

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem **heard that Samaria had received the word of God**, they sent unto them **Peter and John**: Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost**: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost**. (Acts 8:14-17)

*The only requirement to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit “**is to be Saved.**” If you don’t have the Holy Spirit inside you, you are not saved. You can’t be baptized in water, and have no part in the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.*

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him. If Christ is in you**, though the body is dead because of sin, **yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness**. But **if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you**. (Rom. 8:9-11) NASB

7 *Years Later After Pentecost; The Roman Soldier Receives the Holy Spirit*

They said, “**Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews**, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.” So he invited them in and gave them lodging. Now on the next day he got ready and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now **Cornelius was expecting them** and had **called together his relatives and close friends**. (Acts 10:22-24) NASB

While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles**. For **they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God**. Then Peter responded, “**Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did**, can he?” And **he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ**.

(Acts 10:44-48) NASB

The Gentiles also receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit!

23 Years Later After Pentecost; Ephesus Receives the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and **finding certain disciples**, He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and **they spake with tongues,** and **prophesied.** And all the men were about twelve. (Acts 19:1-7)

Question; Why would the great Apostle Paul ask such a question? Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? Paul spoke in Tongues more than anybody else! (1 Cor. 14:18)

All throughout the History of the Book of Acts; You'll Find the Same Pattern

- 1. people get Saved***
- 2. people get Baptized in Water***
- 3. people get Baptized in the Holy Spirit***

*P.S... You get Saved Once, but repent continuously for Sin;
You get Baptized in the Holy Spirit Once, but keep getting Refilled.*

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

You can only know the things of God by the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 2:12-16). You can't know them thru education, works, or anything else. There must be an illumination of the Holy Spirit. Living for God is not just a form or rote, or even a liturgical exercise that we go thru to fulfill some type of religious obligation on Sunday. The Holy Spirit is a totally consuming experience that is involved 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, where Jesus Christ will become just as real to you as you want Him to be. The more you become intimate and love the Holy Spirit, the greater fulfillment of life in Jesus you will experience. Without the Holy Spirit you can read the whole Bible and never know its author. You can learn all it says and never know the God that wrote it on a real personal level. The Holy Spirit will cause you to be intimate with Jesus that you'll know Him on a first name bases. Rivers of praise will pour out of your inner most being with hands lifted up. Religion can never bring that experience.

When you get baptized in the Holy Spirit such a transformation takes place that your total being becomes a witness for Jesus. Your very presence becomes a witness for Jesus and people will literally sense it. Your presence at work, at church, shopping at a store, will manifest His presence and people will be affected by it. Some will react positively and some will react negatively. People can tell who you are without knowing you, it's the silent flow of the Holy Spirit in you that people sense. The Holy Spirit is the only power that can change the Church into what it ought to be. The only one that can destroy the power of the devil is the Holy Spirit. Nothing and no one can do it!

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.** (Zech. 4:6)

There are Three Essential New Testament Baptisms

*The English word "**baptism**" comes from the Greek word "**baptizo**," which is translated to dip, plunge, immerse, submerge, bury or overwhelm. Example;*

I baptize you with water (*water baptism*) to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire** (*baptism with the Holy Spirit*). He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. (Matt. 3:11)

1). - The Holy Spirit Baptizes us into Jesus (*Salvation through the Cross*)

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.** (1 Cor. 12:13)

For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ.** 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.** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal. 3:27-29)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were **baptized into his death**? Therefore **we are buried with him by baptism into death**: that **like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father,** even so **we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we **have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection:** (Rom. 6:3-5)

Whom also ye are **circumcised** with the **circumcision made without hands**, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the **circumcision of Christ**: **Buried with him in baptism**, wherein also **ye are risen with him through the faith** of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, **hath he quickened together with him**, having **forgiven you all trespasses**; **Blotting out** the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, **nailing it to his cross**: (Col. 2:11-14)

2. **Water Baptism** (human administrators) **Not the Holy Spirit**

*The baptism mentioned in Matt. 28:19 **had human administrators**. Christ commissioned the apostles to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Inasmuch as an apostle could not baptize “in the Spirit” (only Christ could do that - Matt. 3:11), one is forced to conclude that the baptism of (Matt. 28:19) **is water baptism, not Spirit baptism**.*

3. **Jesus Baptizes us in / with the Holy Spirit** (power to witness)

But **you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you**. And **you will be my witnesses**, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) NLT

John answered them all, “I baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I am is coming - I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire**. (Luke 3:16) NET

For **John truly baptized with water**; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence. (Acts 1:5)

I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest **is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit**.’ **I saw this happen to Jesus**, so I testify that **he is the Chosen One of God**.” (John 1:33,34) NLT

The greatest strength of the Pentecostal Church is to bring in the end time harvest. This could not be done without the Power of the Holy Spirit. The Pentecostal Church around the World has been growing so fast that some historians refer to the 20th century as the Pentecostal Century. The Spirit is backing them up with miracles and healing powers.

Also giving them great boldness to proclaim the name of Jesus under very difficult circumstances. One reason is the people experience God personally, and the Moving of the Holy Spirit in a supernatural way. The people are finding out God is real and wants to fellowship with his people (Believers). Pentecost enables ordinary disciples to do extraordinary things for God. Pentecost power has been manifested throughout history following the apostolic era. Scholars believe this end time harvest (flow of the Spirit in the 20th Century) started in a Bible school in Topeka Kansas which blossomed in the Azusa Street revival (California), from there it sent the fire of the Spirit around the world. Although everyone should seek this second Grace in the Holy Spirit, it should be noted that tongues (Glossolalia) is not a sign of Christian maturity. Baptism in the Spirit and speaking in tongues are not a guarantee of a life dramatically marked by the fruit of the Spirit. The Church at Corinth was highly gifted with many gifts but were far from mature. Christian maturity and Holy Ghost power must go hand in hand! As I close, remember, speaking in tongues is not a sign of Christian maturity nor is a lack of tongues a sign of immaturity.

In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, **out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water**. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.) (John 7:37-39)

The Greatest Gift God gave the World is Salvation:

The Greatest Gift God gave the Church is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: