

Foundations Lesson #5

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience whereby God the Father and God the Son bestow upon the believer an infilling of the Holy Spirit. The five instances in Scripture that give an account of this experience are:

1. Acts 2:1-18, 37-39 at Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost
2. Acts 8:4-25 at Samaria, the revival that started under Philip's ministry
3. Acts 9:1-19 at Damascus, the conversion of Saul
4. Acts 10:44-48 at Caesarea in the home of Cornelius the centurion
5. Acts 19:1-7 at Ephesus as Paul was ministering to twelve disciples

I. The background of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- foreshadowed in the Old Testament
 - Isaiah 44:3 / Ezekiel 36:26-27 / Joel 2:28-29
- spoken of in the New Testament
 - John the Baptist – Matthew 3:11 / Luke 3:15-16
 - Jesus – Luke 24:49 / Acts 1:4-8
 - Peter – Acts 2:17-18 (Joel's prophecy now fulfilled) / Acts 2:38-39 (future promise)

II. The prerequisite for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit – Salvation

- At salvation, the Holy Spirit comes to live in the believer. – Romans 8:9 / Ephesians 3:17
- At the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit fills the believer. – Acts 2:4 / Acts 9:17

III. The purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- power to witness – Acts 1:8 / Luke 24:49
- the opening up of the supernatural realm – Joel 2:28-29 / I Corinthians 12:7-11

IV. The evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- In Acts 2, 10, and 19 (see above) tongues were present.
- In Acts 8 (see above) tongues are not specifically mentioned, but are clearly implied.
- In Acts 9 (see above) tongues are not specifically mentioned, but we know Paul spoke in tongues a whole lot (see I Corinthians 14:18).
- We therefore believe that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It's the common thread that occurs each time.
- tongues: the speaking of a language by the Holy Spirit, which the believer does not understand with his/her mind

V. The blessings of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- speaking in tongues as a language in praying to God
- greater fullness in God
- possible gifts from the Lord

VI. The opposition to the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- because it is not natural for someone to speak in a language they don't understand
- because the kingdom of darkness opposes the power of God being manifested

VII. The importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- the command to be filled with the Spirit – Ephesians 5:18
- being filled continuously

VIII. The bestowing of the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- through the laying on of hands – see above: Acts 8, 9, and 19
- without the laying on of hands – see above: Acts 2, 10

IX. The preparation for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- Be saved.
- Be hungry for and desirous of more of the Lord in your life.
- Renounce any past involvement in the occult or the demonic realm.
- Realize that the Holy Spirit will not force you to speak in tongues.
- Realize that you cannot speak in tongues and in English at the same time.
- Realize that emotions are secondary.
- Realize that perseverance may be necessary. – Luke 18:1
- Ask, pray, and believe. You can be filled. Relax and be confident. It will happen.
- Trust. It is a gift from God. It is for you. – Mark 16:17 / Acts 2:38b-39 / Luke 11:9-13
- **SAMPLE PRAYER:** Lord, I thank you that you have rescued me from my sins, and that Jesus Christ has come into my heart to be my Savior and my Master. I'm grateful for all you've done for me. Lord, I desire to please you and to live for you, so I'm asking to be clothed with power from on high. I'm asking you to fill me with your Holy Spirit, and to let me praise you in a new language I've never learned. Thank-you. Amen.