

Study 0020

Scripture Text: *Hebrews 6:2a; Acts 2:1-4*

In our last study, we introduced the subject of Holy Spirit baptism and looked at the Medium (The Holy Spirit), and the baptized (the person who qualifies to be baptized in the Holy Spirit). In the course of introducing the Holy Spirit and His work, we saw that there is a difference between the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon the believer in Christ, and the in-filling of the Holy Spirit within the believer. While the former is Holy Spirit baptism, the latter is not; it is in fact likened to receiving the genes of God, as a result of the new birth.

The next set of studies will make the issue of the ‘coming upon’ and the ‘coming into’ of the Holy Spirit very clear. It should also clarify one of the misunderstandings people have about Holy Spirit baptism. In this study, we shall focus on the other two issues about Holy Spirit baptism that were mentioned in the last study: that is, the evidence of Holy Spirit baptism; and the fruit of Holy Spirit baptism.

The Initial Evidence of Holy Spirit Baptism

In every place where the Holy Spirit mentions Holy Spirit baptism or the ‘coming upon’ of the Holy Spirit upon believers in Christ, the evidence has always been that the recipients spoke in other tongues or in a language that they had not hitherto learned before (**Acts 2:1-13; 10:44-47; 19:1-6**). In Scripture, ‘tongues’ has always been the initial evidence that a person has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 11:15-18**). Unfortunately, some people think that if they cannot speak in tongues, then they are not born again. This is not true! When a person is born again, the Holy Spirit comes into him, and this is the mark or sign that he is now a child of God, and may not even be able as yet to speak in tongues. However, when the Holy Spirit comes upon that individual, he would then be able to speak in tongues, as the Holy Spirit gives him utterance. The person so baptized in the Holy Spirit cannot control what he is saying!

Some have confused speaking in tongues with the presence of the Holy Spirit in a person. So, let us state categorically that when a person is born again, the Holy Spirit comes into him as a sign that he is a child of God (**Romans 8:9; John 20:22**); but this is not Holy Spirit baptism! Holy Spirit baptism takes place after a person has been born again, and the Holy Spirit comes upon him—the evidence of this baptism is the speaking in tongues! In the case of Cornelius’ household, both the ‘coming into’ and the ‘coming upon’ seemed to have taken place simultaneously, or at best, within seconds of each other.

The Fruit of Holy Spirit Baptism

When the Holy Spirit is within a person, He (the Holy Spirit) works in that person to make him like Christ; but when the Holy Spirit comes upon a person, that is, when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he does things that will benefit other people. In **Acts 10:38**, we are told of what the Lord did after He had been anointed by the Holy Ghost (Holy Spirit baptism). He went about doing good and healing all that were oppressed by the devil. The anointing of the Holy Spirit on the Lord Jesus Christ got Him to perform miracles, signs, and wonders, among others.

Here is another difference between the ‘coming upon’ and the ‘coming into’ of the Holy Spirit. The fruit or evidence or outward result of the Holy Spirit within a person is known as

the *'fruit of the Spirit'* (**Galatians 5:22-23**), whereas, when the Holy Spirit is upon a person, it is known as *'the gifts of the Holy Spirit'* (**1 Corinthians 12:8-11**). The *'gifts of the Holy Spirit'* are in reality *'tools'* that the believer in Christ is given to enable him *'do good and heal all that are oppressed by the devil'*! Thus, while the *'fruit of the Spirit'* evidences the working of the Holy Spirit within a person making him good (**Matthew 12:33**); *'the gifts of the Holy Spirit'* evidence the presence of the Holy Spirit upon a person making him able to serve God acceptably.

There are quite a number of spiritual gifts in scripture, but the popular ones are those mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12:8-11**, and they are; a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, diverse kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues. In **1 Corinthians 12:28**, two more spiritual gifts are mentioned, and they are the gifts of helps and administration; and in **Romans 12:6-8**, six more spiritual gifts are mentioned as follows: ministry (service), teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy. These spiritual gifts or tools for spiritual work can be categorized into Revelation gifts (a word of wisdom, a word of knowledge, discerning of spirits); Power or Demonstration gifts (faith, gifts of healings, working of miracles); Inspiration or Vocal gifts (prophecy, diverse kinds of tongues, interpretation of tongues); Serving gifts (ministry, teaching, exhortation); Support gifts (helps, giving, mercy); and Administration or Organization gifts (administration, leadership). We shall take a brief look at these spiritual gifts or implements of the Spirit in the next study, but for now, it is sufficient to know that when a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, by the Lord Jesus, such a person has been equipped to become God's hands and heart to meet the needs of people, whether they are believers in Christ, or unbelievers!

Holy Spirit baptism is therefore for employment, not for enjoyment!

EXERCISE

Answer true or false to the following:

- 1) When a person becomes born again, the first thing he notices is that he can speak in tongues.
- 2) The initial evidence of Holy Spirit baptism is interpretation of tongues.
- 3) Even if the initial evidence is not present, it does not mean that a person does not have the Holy Spirit in him.
- 4) Tongues show that a person has just returned from the 'Jordan'.
- 5) A person does not have to be born again to be able to speak in tongues, it happens all the time!
- 6) Even if the initial evidence is not present in a person, there are other evidences to show that Holy Spirit baptism has taken place.
- 7) The fruit of the Spirit is another evidence of Holy Spirit baptism.
- 8) Spiritual gifts are given as presents by God to people who have impressed him.
- 9) The anointing of the Holy Spirit and Holy Spirit baptism are one and the same.
- 10) Holy Spirit baptism is a sign that a person is being engaged to work for God.
- 11) There are essentially nine spiritual gifts mentioned in scripture.
- 12) Doing good and healing all that are oppressed by the devil is a sign of Holy Spirit baptism.