



Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

Week 24 - "Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit"

Synopsis:

The Holy Spirit has been infilling individuals from early in recorded time.

The Spirit's coming upon men in the Old and New Testaments does not always happen the same way.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation.

We must receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit by faith.

We can ask God for the Baptism of the Holy Ghost and He will fill you.

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Spirit

- #1 You must first be born again
- #2 You must believe that He is available for you.
- #3 You must desire the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- #4 You must ask for Him to fill you.
- #5 You must believe by faith that God has filled you.

Old Testament

The first thing we should note is that the term, “Holy Spirit,” seldom occurs in the Old Testament. Actually it is found only three times; once in Psalm 51:5, and twice in Isaiah 63:10-14.

The most frequently used terms or expressions for the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament are:

- the Spirit of the Lord
- my Spirit
- the Spirit
- the Spirit of God
- the spirit of ... (Judgment, fire, justice, etc.)
- your Spirit

In nearly all of these cases, the reference to the Holy Spirit is clear, although there are some instances where the Holy Spirit and the human “spirit” seem almost to merge, so that the Holy Spirit is referred to as the “Spirit of Elijah” (cf. 2 Kings 2:9-15).

This is also the case with the “Spirit” which was on Moses, which also came upon the seventy elders who were to help him (Numbers 11:17-29).

If there were any doubt in our minds as to whether or not the “Spirit” of the Old Testament were the same person as the “Holy Spirit” in the New, all we need to do is to read the inspired New Testament references to the Holy Spirit’s work in the Old Testament, both by our Lord (cf. Matthew 22:43; Mark 12:36), and by the apostles and others (cf. Acts 1:16; 4:25; 7:51; Hebrews 3:7; 2 Peter 1:21).

It is noteworthy, to see that the Spirit’s coming upon men was the sovereign choice of God, rather than God’s response to the initiative of men.

Generally speaking, men did not expect the Spirit of God to come upon them, nor did they do anything to prompt its happening.

God took the initiative, and men responded accordingly.

There is clearly no “pattern” for those who would wish to find some method or formula for obtaining the Spirit’s power. Men did not dispose of God or of His Spirit; rather God disposed of men, using His Spirit to do so.

The Spirit’s coming upon men in the Old Testament is not always the same.

In some instances, the Spirit’s descent upon men seems to have been permanent, perhaps signaled by some unusual manifestation.

The seventy elders of Israel, for example, manifested the Spirit's coming upon them initially but not again, in an unusual way.

In the case of Saul, the Spirit that was given was also taken from him when the kingdom was taken away.

Samson is one on whom the Spirit came only at certain times. Thus, we cannot find a rigid pattern for the way in which the Spirit came upon men.

The Spirit's coming upon men was, as a rule, not the result of their great spirituality nor did it necessarily result in spirituality.

That is to say, when the Spirit came upon men, they possessed supernatural ability (or power). That power or ability was not unlimited but generally was limited to certain tasks, abilities, or functions.

That power did not necessarily make the recipient more spiritual. Samson, for example, was "overcome" by the Holy Spirit, but his life was a moral disaster. He was a man, not dominated by the Holy Spirit—he was not a spiritual man—but a man dominated by his own flesh, or more pointedly, he was dominated by foreign women.

Saul was not a greatly spiritual man before the coming of the Spirit upon him nor was he so afterwards.

Balaam was a man who is perplexing, because we are not even certain that he was a true believer in God, even though he could not but speak for God when the Spirit of God came upon Him.

Thus we could say that men possessed by or filled with God's Spirit did that which they would not and could not ordinarily do. The control of the Spirit assured that God's work would be done through men but not because of man's abilities or inclinations.

This is dramatically illustrated in the life of Saul, the king of Israel and later on the enemy of David.

Although Saul was a physical giant, he was far from self-confident or assertive (1 Samuel 10:20-24). When the Spirit came upon Saul initially, it was to endue him with power in order to reign as Israel's king.

Due to Saul's sin, the kingdom was taken away from him and so was the Spirit. In place of the Holy Spirit came an "evil spirit from the Lord".

More Examples of the Holy Spirit Filling People In the Old Testament

Skilled Workers

Bezalel (and others, involved with tabernacle furnishings): (Exodus 31:3).

David (design of the temple): (1 Chronicles 28:12).

Administrators And Leaders (Including Kings):

Joseph: (Genesis 41:38).

Moses and the 70 Elders who help him: (Numbers 11:17, 25-29).

Joshua: (Numbers 27:18). (Deuteronomy 34:9).

Saul: (1 Samuel 10:6-7), (1 Samuel 10:10). (1 Samuel 11:6).

Saul and his men—preventing them from doing harm to David, God's anointed: (1 Samuel 19:18-24).

David: (1 Samuel 16:13-14). (2 Samuel 23:2; cf. also Acts 1:16; 4:25).

The Judges Of Israel:

Othniel: (Judges 3:10).

Gideon: (Judges 6:34).

Jephthah: (Judges 11:29).

Samson: (Judges 13:25). (Judges 14:6, 19). (Judges 15:14).

The Prophets:

Balaam: (Numbers 24:2).

Elijah and Elisha: (1 Kings 18:12). (2 Kings 2:9, 13-15). (2 Kings 5:26). (Isaiah 48:16-17).

Ezekiel: (Ezekiel 2:1-3; cf. also 3:12, 14, 24; 11:1, 5, 24; 13:3; 43:5).

Daniel: (Daniel 4:8-9). (Daniel 4:18). (Daniel 5:11).

Micah: (Micah 2:6-7) (Micah 3:8).

Others, Who Spoke To Men For God:

Amasai: (1 Chronicles 12:18).

Azariah: (2 Chronicles 15:1).

Jehaziel: (2 Chronicles 20:14).

Zechariah: (2 Chronicles 24:20).

The Holy Spirit In Prophecies Concerning Israel's Future

Isaiah ([Isaiah 59:20-21](#)).

Ezekiel ([Ezekiel 39:29](#)).

Joel ([Joel 2:28-32](#)).

Haggai ([Haggai 2:3-9](#)).

Zechariah ([Zechariah 4:6-9](#)). ([Zechariah 6:1-8](#)). ([Zechariah 12:10-14](#)). ([Zechariah 13:1-9](#)).

The Old Testament Foretells a Change in How the Spirit of God Will Fill Man

Joel 2: 28 "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. 29 Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit."

John the Baptist and Jesus Foretells the Coming Ministry of the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist

Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but he who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

John 1: 32 And John bore witness: "I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God."

Jesus

John 16: 7 But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. 8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment:

Acts 1: 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Holy Spirit Comes

When the disciples were obedient to wait and were all in one place the promise was fulfilled.

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Peter begins to preach and tells the crowd that this new outpouring is for everyone from then on!

*Acts 2: 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 The promise is for you and your children and for all who are **far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.**"*

The Holy Spirit is For All Believers From Then On

"far off" is the Greek word – Makran

A long way off ... or even ... a long time off

"for all whom" is the Greek word – Pas

A.each, every, any, all, the whole, everyone, all things, everything

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation.

The disciples were born again in the locked upper room after Jesus rose from the dead.

John 20:19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" 20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord. 21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." 22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. 23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

After this Jesus tells them to wait for the Holy Spirit to come in power.

Acts 1:4 ..."but wait for the gift my Father promised"

When you are born again, you are born again by the Spirit and God's Spirit seals us, which means we belong to God (Eph. 1:13).

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation that every believer should seek and receive.

Other New Testament Examples of People being Baptized In the Holy Spirit

Acts 8: 14 Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent to them Peter and John, 15 who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1 And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. 2 And he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." 4 And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Born again believers receive the Holy Spirit by asking God to give them the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11: 9 "So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. 11 "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? 12 Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

The Holy Spirit can also fill a person as they have hands laid on them by another believer.

Acts 19:1–6: "While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed...' They answered, 'No.' ...When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."

Steps to Receive the Baptism of the Spirit

#1 You must first be born again

John 3: 3 Jesus replied, "Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again."

Acts 2:38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

#2 You must believe that He is available for you.

Acts 2:39: "The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

Acts 2:17–18: "In the last days, God says, 'I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.'"

#3 You must desire the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

John 7: 37 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. 38 Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." 39 By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.

#4 You must ask for Him to fill you.

Luke 11:13: "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in Heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

#5: You must believe by faith that God has filled you.

Acts 2:4: "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit enabled them."

Things to Mull:

1. Do Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they are saved? If so, how is this experience different from the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
2. Can a person receive eternal life in heaven without the baptism in the Holy Spirit? If so, why should we be baptized in the Spirit?
3. Once a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, why is it necessary to be refilled later?
4. Is it possible to be saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit at the same time?
5. First Corinthians 13:8 says "Whether there be tongues, they shall cease" (KJV). Wouldn't this indicate the baptism in the Holy Spirit was only for those first followers 2,000 years ago?
6. Is there proof that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit experienced today is genuinely biblical?
7. Who should be baptized in the Holy Spirit?
8. When a person is filled with the Holy Spirit, is he in a semi-conscious state, or is he totally coherent and aware of what is happening?
9. Why are some people baptized in the Spirit immediately, while others seek so long without receiving the experience?
10. When an individual is seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, can anything be done to prepare his life or environment that will quicken the infilling?

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