

CONFUSION ABOUT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Matthew 3:11

Introduction: The term "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" is just not found in the Bible. Although the term is used much, abused much, yet it is not in the Bible. The only reference to the term is when John the Baptist prophesied about Jesus' coming (text). One would perhaps expect pages and pages about the baptism of the Holy Spirit but there are none.

- *Acts 1:5; 11:16* - speak of the baptism of the Holy Spirit but that's it, nothing else anywhere.

Another amazing fact is that nowhere is anyone ever told to SEEK the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- There are those who wait and pray for such an experience.

- There are those who believe that only a "chosen" few shall receive such a thing.

- There are entire doctrines built on such a belief that some call a "second blessing."

- The first blessing comes at salvation, then comes the baptizing into a deeper consecration which is the second blessing.

I. BAPTISM BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE GOSPELS AND EPISTLES

1. It is not mentioned in the Gospels except in the text - *Matthew 3:11*.

2. It is not mentioned in Acts except in *1:5; 11:16*, both dealing with God's purpose.

3. What is - When does it happen - who baptizes - into what is one baptized - results of such a baptism - signs of such a baptism ever happening?

- The who and what - *Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:5; 11:16*

- Jesus Christ is the baptizer

- The Holy Spirit is the "what."

- *1 Corinthians 12:13* - The Holy Spirit is the baptizer and believers are baptized into the body of Christ.

4. What about John the Baptist's baptizing? *Matthew 3:11* - Why isn't the Holy Spirit baptism discussed in the Gospels?

- *John 7:39* - The Gospels are PRE- ascension events - before the Holy Spirit was given.

- Think about the events leading up to the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Spirit came.

- Water baptism in a way pictures "pre" ascension events.

- Holy Spirit baptism is FACTUAL, Pentecost is described in very vivid detail when the Holy Spirit came upon those believers gathered together after Jesus' ascension.

- There was no outpouring of the Holy Spirit until AFTER the Gospel events.

5. Thus Jesus Christ was the giver of the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- The Holy Spirit took Christ's place

- In taking Christ's place, the Holy Spirit became the "baptizer."

- *1 Corinthians 12:13* - Jesus Christ is the ultimate source of the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 3:11*) but Jesus sent the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and now the Holy Spirit baptizes believers into Jesus Christ.

II. THE TIME OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

1. John the Baptist said the Holy Spirit was coming. *Matthew 3:11*
2. Jesus Christ said the Holy Spirit was coming. *John 14:16, 26*
3. Jesus Christ said that the Holy Spirit was almost here. *Acts 1:5*
4. *Acts 11:16* said the Holy Spirit was here.
5. Thus Pentecost fulfilled the Promise of the Father -
 - Brought in the Church age, the mystery of God.
 - Baptism of the Holy Spirit places the believer into the body of Jesus Christ.
6. God has always had things planned out: birth, death, resurrection, ascension of His Son, Jesus Christ, then Pentecost.
 - The Holy Spirit is not bestowed on just certain ones after they "seek" or to be "rewarded."
 - *Luke 24:49* - God's people (disciples) were told to "tarry", that is to go sit down and stay.
 - Therefore (*Acts 1:8*) no working, no seeking, no praying for the Holy Spirit, just WAIT.
 - The Holy Spirit came at God's appointed time at God's appointed place.

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PENTECOST IS HERE FOREVER

1. *John 14:16, 17* - The Holy Spirit is to remain with the believer forever.
2. There is NO second Pentecost as there is no second death of Jesus Christ.
3. The Holy Spirit is HERE in all power to every single believer in Jesus Christ.
4. There is no waiting, not even a split second for the Holy Spirit indwells right now every single believer in the Lord Jesus Christ.
5. The only waiting the believer does is to wait for empowerment by the Holy Spirit, however it is really the Holy Spirit who does most of the waiting - waiting for US TO YIELD TO HIM.
6. The Holy Spirit is not reluctant to fill the believer, the believer is reluctant to yield.
7. The sins of the believer blots the Holy Spirit out leaving so little of the believer for the Holy Spirit.
8. The believer does not wrestle with the Holy Spirits as much as with him/herself.

CONCLUSION:

1. The Holy Spirit indwells every single believer immediately upon his/her profession of faith in Jesus.
2. The Holy Spirit gives the believer a special gift to be used in that believer's life of service for the Lord.
3. The Holy Spirit fills and empowers the believer many times throughout the believer's life of service for the Lord Jesus.
4. There is no command to "seek" the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Believers are told to "be filled" with the Holy Spirit but they already have the Holy Spirit within them.
5. Remember, God is in charge, God's Word reveals what God has done, what God is doing and what God is going to do. Believe God and His Word and not anybody else.