

Baptism of The Holy Spirit

by Mark Legendre

I. INTRODUCTION:

- A. What is the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" and what is its purpose?
There is much controversy over these issues today. Other questions such as "is the baptism of the Holy Spirit for all Christians" are matters of much controversy as well. These issues of controversy can be settled very quickly by simply allowing the scriptures to speak freely and completely on the subject.
- B. What does the Bible say about the "baptism of the Holy Spirit?"

II. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

- A. The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is first spoken of in Joel 2:28-32.
1. Peter, an "inspired Apostle," says in reference to Joel's prophecy that "this is that which was spoken of by the prophet Joel ." (Acts 2:16)
 2. Peter takes the events of Acts 2 and relates them not only to Joel's prophecy, but also to the specific promise given to him and the other Apostles by Jesus in Acts 1:1-8. (" ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost ")
- B. The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is mentioned in the four Gospels. (Mt. 3:10-12 / Mk 1:8 / Lk 3:16-17 / Jn. 1:33)
1. In Matthew's and in Luke's Gospels, both the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" and the "baptism of fire" are mentioned.
 2. In the Gospels of Mark and John only the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is mentioned.
- C. The "baptism of the Holy Spirit" and the "baptism of fire" are two different things!
1. The "tongues like as fire" that sat upon the Apostles is not this "baptism of fire."
 2. The "baptism of fire" is a reference to "eternal punishment in Hell" as the text of Matthew and Luke clearly indicates. (Mt. 3:10-12 / Lk 3:16-17)
- D. There are ONLY TWO cases of Holy Spirit Baptism in the Bible!
1. The first case is in Acts 2 where the 12 Apostles were the ONLY ONES who received it. (Acts 2:1-4)
 - a. It was promised specifically to the Apostles by Jesus in Acts 1:4-5.
 - i. If all 120 disciples were to receive it, then why select 2 men out of which to pick a replacement for Judas?
 - ii. Read Acts 1:23-26 and Acts 2:1 together and you will see that only the 12 Apostles were "baptized with the Holy Spirit" just like Jesus said.
 - iii. Consider these scriptures: Acts 2:14, 37, 43; 4:33; and 5:11-13.

2. The second case of Holy Spirit Baptism took place at the house of Cornelius. (Acts 10-11)
 - a. Peter affirms for us that this is the "baptism of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 10:43-47 / Acts 11:15-17)
 - b. The term "all flesh" in Joel's prophecy does not refer to every individual, but rather to both "Jews" and "Gentiles."
 - c. If all Christians receive Holy Spirit Baptism, then why did Peter have to go all the way back to Acts 2 to find something like what the Gentiles received in Acts 10 and 11? (Acts 10:45-46 / Acts 11:15)
3. There is also evidence that the Apostle Paul also received Holy Spirit Baptism although it is difficult to explain when he received it. (Acts 9:15 / 2 Cor 11:5 / 2 Cor. 12:11-12)

III. WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A. First of all, the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is a "promise to be received" and not a "command to be obeyed!" (Acts 1:4-5)
- B. Jesus is the "administrator" of Holy Spirit Baptism! (Mt. 3:11 / Mk 1:8 / Lk 3:16 / Jn 1:33-34 / Acts 2:33 / Acts 10:44-47)
 1. What happened in Acts 2 and Acts 10 was different than what took place in Acts 6, Acts 8, and Acts 19.
 2. In Acts 2 and 10, Jesus "poured forth" the Holy Spirit "directly from Heaven." In Acts 6, 8, and 19, there was the "laying on of Apostle's hands."
- C. The purpose of Holy Spirit Baptism:
 1. For the Apostles:
 - a. It was to guide the Apostles into "all truth." (Jn. 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13)
 - b. It was to give the Apostles "power to be witnesses for Christ. (Acts 1:8 / 2:32 / 4:33 / 5:29-32)
 - c. It was also to give them all of the "miraculous spiritual gifts." (2 Cor. 12:12)
 2. For The House of Cornelius:
 - a. It was to make known the fact that the Gentiles could now be saved "without circumcision." (Acts 11:1-4, 14-18 / Acts 15:1-2, 4-11 / Acts 10:44-48)
 - b. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit at the house of Cornelius did as much for you and me as it did for them. (Its purpose that is!)

IV. CONCLUSION

- A. Although there is much controversy over this subject, the Bible is very clear about it. If people did not have "preconceived ideas" about Holy Spirit Baptism, then the issue would be clear to them as well.
- B. As of 63 A.D., the Apostle Paul said there was only "one baptism." (Eph.4:5) This is the "baptism of the great commission." (Mt. 28:18-20) It is "water baptism" and not "Holy Spirit Baptism."