



HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE PROMISE?

Study 8 Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Have you received **the promise**? It's surprising that there could be any more to receive considering the greatness of our gift of salvation. And for centuries many churches did not fully understand the 'Promise,' but it was there all along, recorded in the writings of the ancient prophets.

- Jesus knew about the 'Promise.' Fill in the missing words from Luke 24:49.

"I am going to send you _____; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

- John the Baptist knew about the 'Promise.' *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."* (Matthew 3:11)

- The disciples knew about it too. Jesus told them exactly. Read Acts 1:4-5. What did Jesus tell them the promise was?



BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a definite experience where the believer's whole personality is "immersed" (surrounded, baptised) in the Holy Spirit. When it first happened, Peter explained,

"This is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: '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.'" (Acts 2:16-18)

Yes, it is a supernatural experience, but don't be afraid. It is Christ himself who baptises us in the Holy Spirit. (John 1:29-34) Pray as you read Luke 11:11-13. Do you think that your Father in heaven would give you anything that wasn't going to do good?

TERMS USED FOR THIS EXPERIENCE

Don't be confused by different names used to describe the experience. The following terms are all used in the New Testament, and **all** refer to the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

- Baptised with the Holy Spirit _____
- Filled with the Holy Spirit _____
- Received the Holy Spirit _____
- The Gift of the Holy Spirit _____
- The Gift the Father Promised _____
- Pouring out of the Spirit _____

Read all of Acts chapter 2 with careful attention to the following verses about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Write the verse reference next to the appropriate term above. (Acts 1:4, Acts 1:5, Acts 2:4, Acts 2:17, Acts 2:38, Acts 8:17)

HOW DO WE KNOW WE'VE RECEIVED THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

To answer this, lets look at the four descriptions in the book of Acts when various groups of people received this gift.

1/ What happened to the group of believers in the house described in Acts 2:1-4? _____

2/ How did they know that the gentile believers had also received the 'Baptism' in the story of Acts 10:44-46? _____

3/ What happened to the group of men at Ephesus who were baptised in water, and in the Holy Spirit? (Acts 19:1-6) _____

4/ Can you guess what Simon saw when the Christians in Samaria received the Holy Spirit? (Acts 8:14-19) _____

DO ALL SPEAK IN TONGUES?

This is a question which has created a lot of argument among Christians. There are 3 views concerning it:

View 1

The Pentecostal experience described here was a **temporary** display of power necessary for the establishment of the church. 'Tongues' have now ceased and the promised Holy Spirit comes automatically (without outward evidence) at the same time as receiving Christ.

View 2

Speaking supernaturally in other languages was, and still is, the **initial evidence** of having received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is separate and subsequent to receiving the Spirit of Christ at conversion.

View 3

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate blessing to salvation but **occurs variously** for different believers. One may get the gift of tongues, another may prophesy and another something else. It is the Holy Spirit who decides.

Discuss this fair-mindedly with Christian friends then share your point of view here. Explain your reasons why:

WHEN SHOULD YOU RECEIVE THE 'BAPTISM'?

You may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit at any time you desire; the Father is simply waiting for you to ask. In recent times many have received the experience after years of being a Christian. In New Testament times they expected to receive the experience straight after water baptism. Compare the experience of Jesus (Matthew 3:16) with these scriptures. (Acts 2:38, Acts 19:1-6) If you haven't however, don't be disappointed. There were cases in the Bible where people waited, e.g. the Samaritan example - but they didn't have to wait for long.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We are God's witnesses concerning the great things that Christ has done for the world. This is what Jesus told his disciples in Luke 24:46-49, but he added that we must wait until we are ... *"clothed with power from on high."*

This is really what the Holy Spirit baptism is for; not simply that we might have a special gift for our private benefit, but so that we might have supernatural power to **do** what we have been told to do. Fill in the lines below from Acts 1:8.

"But you will _____"

and you will be _____"

IS THE PROMISE FOR ME?

Apart from differences in opinion concerning what happens today, one thing is agreed - the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a special gift which is available to every Christian. Here it is in Acts 2:38,39.

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 ..."

The promise is for _____ and your _____ and for all who _____

- for all whom _____"

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