

Union Chapel M.B. Church

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“The Holy Spirit’s Baptism”

(Study Material from Theology You Can Count On)

Baptism is an absolutely necessary ministry of the Spirit of God, one that is critical to our Christian experience. It marks the beginning of the Spirit’s indwelling presence.

I. THE MEANING OF BAPTISM

- a. *baptizō* means “to immerse” or “to dip.”
- b. The Spirit’s baptism is a *time* when true believers become identified with Jesus Christ and place into His body.
- c. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit refers to the Spirit’s taking up permanent residence in the life of the believer, which continues throughout our lives here on earth.
- d. The filling of the Holy Spirit refers to His control and empowerment in the lives of believers to enable us to live the victorious Christian life.
- e. Jesus is the One doing the baptizing (Matt 3:11).

II. THE NATURE OF SPIRIT BAPTISM (1 Cor 12:13; Eph 4:4-5)

- a. It Is Unique.
- b. It Is Universal.

III. THE RESULTS OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

- a. If the baptism of the Spirit is for every believer, what does baptism do for us, since His work is experiential in nature?
- b. A New _____; John 3:3-6.
- c. A New _____; Rom 6:1-5; 1 Cor 15:22.
- d. A New _____; Eph 4:3.
- e. A New _____; 1 Cor 12:7, 11.
- f. A New _____; 2 Cor 5:17.

IV. BAPTISM AND SPEAKING IN TONGUES

- a. Old Testament Prayer & Prophecy
 - i. Numbers 11:16-29.
 - ii. Joel 2:28.
- b. New Testament
 - i. The day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of Moses’ prayer and Joel’s prophecy that God would expand the outpouring of His Spirit from *some* to *all* of His people.

- ii. *glossolalia* is the Greek work for language, *glóssa*.
- iii. Speaking in tongues became an outward sign that the Holy Spirit had descended as promised (Acts 2:4).

V. WATER BAPTISM

- a. Is a visible symbol of a deeper reality. Water baptism followed quickly on the heels of Spirit baptism (Acts 2:41; 8:34-38).
- b. Spiritual baptism identifies the believer with the *universal* church, whereas water baptism identifies the believer with the *local* church (Acts 2:37-47).
- c. Signifies believers' inauguration into a life of discipleship as they begin the process of walking "in newness of life" (Rom 6:3-4).

Application for Life

1. Since the Spirit has given you new abilities in the form of spiritual gifts, you should be seeing some results of that as you put your gifts to work in the body of Christ. List some ways you are using your spiritual gift(s) in Christ's service.
2. Since the Spirit has given His people a new unity, we are called to treat one another as equals in the body of Christ. This is a tough one, because old attitudes are hard to root out. Search your heart, and if the Spirit points out a need or blind spot in this area, claim His power and authority to deal with it.
3. Since the Spirit has baptized you into the body of Christ, you need to be in fellowship with other believers. If you are in a church where the Bible is taught and Christ is honored, thank God for the blessing – and pray regularly for Pastor Davis and his family.

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