

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are seven ministries of the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation:

- Efficacious grace (Ephesians 2:8)
- Regeneration (Titus 3:5)
- Sealing of the Holy Spirit (2 Cor. 1:21-22)
- Filling of the Holy Spirit
- Distribution of spiritual gifts
- Indwelling of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 6:19)
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit

There are three ritual identifications in the Bible:

- (Baptism of John)
- Baptism of Jesus
- Christian Water Baptism

There are four real identifications in the Bible:

- Baptism of Moses
- Baptism of the Cross
- Baptism of Fire
- Baptism of the Spirit.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor. 12:13 Eph. 4:5; 1 Pet. 3:21) is a visible real identification. God the Holy Spirit places the church age believer in union with Christ the moment they were justified through faith in Christ resulting in a permanent change of condition. The omnipotence of God the Holy Spirit performs the action.

The Holy Spirit indwells the body of every Church Age believer, together with the Father and with Son. The purpose of the indwelling is to make the believer's body a temple worthy of Christ. (2 Cor. 6:16). The believer by himself is not capable of providing an acceptable dwelling place for Christ, the Shekinah glory. The presence of this secret spiritual sanctuary for Christ to dwell made it possible for the believer to obey the command to glorify God in his body (1 Cor. 6:19-20).

To be identified with Christ means that the Holy Spirit has made the justified sinner identical and united with the Lord Jesus Christ and also means that the Spirit ascribes to the believer the qualities and characteristics of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This does not mean that the believer becomes the second person of the Trinity, but rather it means that God views the believer as having been crucified, died and buried with Christ two thousand years ago as well as raised and seated with Him. The baptism of the Spirit results in positional sanctification and the potential to experience sanctification in time and the promise of ultimate sanctification at the resurrection of the church.

The command to glorify God is fulfilled by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit executes and maintains the plan of the Father in the life of the positive volition believer who adheres to the will, plan and purpose of God. Two vital ministries of the Holy Spirit are involved in the glorification of Christ. The Holy Spirit indwells the body of the believer so that Christ may take up royal residence there while the filling of the Holy Spirit enables the believer to reflect the glory of the resident Christ. Indwelling puts the Spirit's help near within the Christian himself; filling actually delivers the Spirit's help as He invisibly energizes the spiritual residence of the believer, that is the divine dynasphere. The divine dynasphere is the will, purpose, and plan of God.

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is permanent while the filling of the Holy Spirit has temporal effect. The Scripture has no commands for the Church Age believers to be indwelt by the Spirit because His indwelling is a constant reality. The Bible commands the believer to be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18, Galatians 5:16). The believer cannot change the indwelling of the Holy Spirit while the filling of the Spirit is a matter of choice.

The believer loses the filling of the Holy Spirit by committing sin. He restores the filling of the Holy Spirit by confessing or acknowledging his sin to the Father (1 John 1:9). The principle of rebound remains the same in all dispensations as the only means of recovering the fellowship with God. The Holy Spirit is the power source in the divine dynasphere. Living outside the divine dynasphere is living under the power of the old sinful nature that leads to grieving or quenching of the Spirit, (Eph. 4:30, 1 Thess. 5:19).

Living inside the divine sphere implies being filled with the Holy Spirit. While the believer concentrates on Bible doctrine and through which the Holy Spirit illuminates the truth in the soul of the believer (1 Cor. 2:9-16).

The indispensable ministry of the indwelling Spirit (like illuminating the Bible doctrine, convicting the believer to rebound, teaching the Word and others) operates only when the believer is filled with the Spirit.

Filling of the Holy Spirit is the access key that opens many doors inside the will, plan and purpose of God. The instantaneous effects of the indwelling is permanent, it cannot be lost, undone, altered, canceled and it does not need repetition or what they called the *second baptism* of the Holy Spirit, because the believer is saved, secured, and sealed in Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred when the believer decided to believe and receive the salvation by grace, through faith alone - in Christ alone. At that very moment the Holy Spirit came to dwell in the believer, He comes to stay permanently. Nothing can make the indwelling of the Holy Spirit invalid not even God because He cannot deny Himself or render void His perfect work (Romans 8:37).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a onetime experience that cannot be repeated because spiritual regeneration happens only once in the life of a person (Ephesians 1:13). At the moment of baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit indwells the believer making him a child of God permanently (Romans 8:9-14). The believer's relationship with God is absolute and permanent, but his fellowship with God is temporal.

The only repeatable work of the Holy Spirit in the post salvation life of the believer is the filling of the Holy Spirit, which enables the believer to live a victorious Christian life by the power of the Holy Spirit. The filling of the Holy Spirit needs repetition from time to time as a requirement for the believer to go back to the realm of spirituality.

The book of Acts is a historical book where the narrative is descriptive not prescriptive, therefore the period covered by Acts is transitory. Many of the recorded events were not repeatable experience. The historical context may not be neglected in our efforts to understand the Word of God. There is no second baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, and we are not commanded to have a second baptism of the Holy Spirit. What the cults call baptism of the Holy Spirit is actually called by the Scriptures as filling of the Holy Spirit.

The so-called baptism of Acts 1:5 is defined as filling in Acts 2:4. There is no command to believers for a second baptism of the Holy Spirit but for the filling of the Holy Spirit. The believers of Acts Chapters 1 & 2 were not yet baptized with the Holy Spirit when Jesus ascended to heaven. The disciples of Chapters 8 and 10 did not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Therefore, it was their first (and last) baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The events of Acts 2, 8, and 10 were unique and they are not repeatable and were not meant to be normative. There were no second baptism and there were no consistent pattern of second baptism. There is no necessity for a second baptism because the Holy Spirit is with the believer forever. The reversionist Christians are teaching that unless the believers are slain by the Holy Spirit they are not spiritual and less equipped for doing the work of the kingdom of God. Is being slain by the Spirit Biblical?, does the Spirit of God slay people? Can you cite any situation or event recorded in the Bible where the Holy Spirit had a ministry of slaying people?

During the manifestation of the growing and dominating charismatic phenomena of being slain by spirit, people fall backwards. Often those who fall backwards also start rolling on the floor and some go into uncontrollable fits or seizures (similar to that of epilepsy, which is a form of chronic disorder of the nervous system characterized by partial or complete loss of consciousness).

King Saul was slain not by the Holy Spirit but by evil spirits [1 Samuel 19:23-24] because he disobeyed God. Saul fell down backward and for a day and a night he laid down naked. Eli the high priest fell backwards broke his neck and died [1 Samuel 4:18]. It was divine judgment for Eli. The murderous mob looking for Jesus fell backwards when confronted [John 18:6]. Falling backwards is not a sign of blessing but judgment, not a sign of spirituality but of corruption.

The slaying of the spirit is not Biblical and not the teaching of the Lord Jesus or of His disciples. Slaying people is not the ministry of the Holy Spirit. There is nothing in the Scripture that teaches or implies such work or function of the Holy Spirit. No Bible character ever mentioned that he in any way had experienced the slaying of the Holy Spirit.

The slaying of the spirit is not the work of God but of the devil. The advocates of the devil invented such doctrines to mislead and deceive the ignorant.

The Holy Spirit is God Himself who possesses all the attributes of infinite and perfect deity. He is of the same essence as of the Father and of the Son. The Holy Spirit is same in substance, equal in power and authority with the Father and with the Son. As a Person, He can be lied to (Acts 5:3), resisted (Acts 7:51), grieved and blasphemed (Ephesians 4:30, Matthew 12:31), or insulted (Hebrews 10:29). The post salvation ministry are the filling of the Holy Spirit and the glorification of Christ in the believer (John 7:39, 16:7, 14) in three stages:

- At the point of spiritual maturity
- At the point of spiritual victory in angelic conflict
- At the point of victory in undeserved sufferings

Nothing is said about second baptism of the Holy Spirit or being slain by the Spirit since it is a doctrine that is the product false interpretation and wrong application of the Word of God.



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Tract No. 14