

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Is a spiritual experience with many names:

1. The "pentecostal" experience or the "pentecostal blessing"- that's what it was called since about 100 years ago. Called "pentecostal" because the church first received this experience in Acts 2:4 on the Day of Pentecost.
2. The "charismatic" experience- from the 1970's during a wave of worldwide renewal. The name comes from the Greek word "charisma" which means "a gift", used in the Bible about the spiritual gifts of God, in 1 Cor.12:1,4 14:1, Heb.2:4, 1 Tim.4:14. "Charismatic" means "gifted" and is used to refer to those who believe in, and seek to demonstrate, the gifts of the spirit.
3. "Third Wave" Christians- the 1st wave were the Pentecostals in the early 1900s, the 2nd wave were the Charismatics in the '70s, and the 3rd Wave are more recent Christians who embrace the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
4. "Full Gospel" for containing more Bible truth
5. Jesus called it the baptism of the Holy Spirit in Acts 1:5. What does this mean?

Baptism is from the Greek word "baptizo" which means "to immerse, to make fully wet" and was used when speaking of dipping cloth into dye, putting a cup into water, or when a boat sinks into the sea. The first translators of the English Bible did not translate this word, because they would have exposed the wrong doctrines of their religious groups, who taught that "sprinkling" was water baptism!

So the baptism of the Holy Spirit means that we are immersed, completely soaked, dyed, or filled with the Holy Spirit.

The phrase "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is very scriptural:

Jesus- Acts 1:5

John the Baptist- Jn.1:33

Peter- Acts 11:15-17

1. Prophesied of in the Old Testament- Is.28:11-12, 1 Cor.14:21
2. Promised to believing Christians, Mk.16:17
3. The Bible evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit:
 - a. Acts 2:4 The day of Pentecost: tongues, fire, wind
 - b. Acts 8:17-19 The Samaritans. The evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism was not miracles, signs, healing or casting out devils-but it was something obvious, and wonderful!
 - c. Acts 9:17 Paul- no evidence stated here, but we read in 1 Cor.14:18
 - d. Acts 10:44-47 The Gentiles- were speaking in tongues and magnifying God
 - e. Acts 19:1,2,6 The Ephesians- were speaking in tongues and prophesying.

-3 Times the consistent first evidence was tongues.

-1 Time (Paul) the evidence was not written in the Book of Acts.

-1 Time (Samaritans) the evidence was not specified, but there was clear evidence of the baptism (Acts 8:18) It was not miracles, signs, or healing (Simon had already seen those things, but He wanted the power of imparting the Holy Spirit because it brought unique results!).

The verdict: the clear scriptural evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. Many people can have many wonderful experiences with the Holy Spirit, and still not yet have the full baptism! You can also

have other secondary blessings at the same time as you receive the baptism, such as the 1 occurrence each of wind, fire, healing, magnifying God, and prophesying in the Book of Acts.