

Introduction: As we conclude this portion of the series, this overview is intended to touch on all aspects of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Scriptural reference is given for each subject for your further study.

I. Points of Understanding

- A. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is part of God's eternal plan for the church of the "last days."
 - 1. Prophesied by the prophet Joel (Joel 2:28-29) in about 800 BC.
 - 2. According to the World Christian Encyclopedia, the number Pentecostals/Charismatics have grown from only one million in AD 1900, to 524 million affiliated (with unaffiliated believers, 602 million) in 2000.

- B. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a definite experience subsequent to salvation (Acts 19:2).
 - 1. It is the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4), the gift of the Father and the Son (Acts 2:38), and the command of the Lord (Acts 1:4, Eph.5:18).

- C. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is a baptism of power: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; (Acts 1:8).*
 - 1. Power for service (Acts 1:8, John 14:12), power for spiritual warfare (Eph.6:12), power for overflow (John 7:37-39), and power for ability (John 14:12, Acts 1:8).

- D. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was *not* just intended for those living in apostolic times.
 - 1. It is intended to be the normal Divine provision for a fully adequate Christian work and witness, available to all believers of all stations, all times, all races, and all callings.
 - 2. *"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."* (Acts 2:39).

- E. Conditions for Receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
 - 1. Repentance: *"Men and brethren, what shall we do?" . . . Peter said, "Repent. . . be baptized... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:37-38).*
 - 2. A definite experience of salvation: *"...your heavenly Father (will) give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" (Luke 11:13).*
 - 3. A deep conviction of need - a hunger for more of God: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled. (Mat 5:6); "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. . . But this He spoke concerning the Spirit" (John 7:37-39).*
 - 4. A yieldedness and surrender of the self-will to the will of God.

- F. How to Receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit
 - 1. By faith - *that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.(Gal.3:14).*
 - a. God has promised to give the Holy Spirit, and He will keep His word (Luke 11:11-13).
 - b. Faith that the promise is for you (Acts 2:38,39; Luke 11:10)
 - c. A persistency of faith that will not be denied (Luke 11:5-10; 18:1-8).
 - d. Faith will manifest in praise and thanksgiving.
 - 2. By full yieldedness of the entire being to the Lord Jesus Christ & the indwelling Holy Spirit.

- G. The Manner in which the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is Received
 - 1. Suddenly, while sitting and expecting Him to come (Acts 2:1-4).

2. Unexpectedly, while listening to preaching of the Word (Cornelius' household in Acts 10:44-46).
3. Through prayer and the laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-17; 9:17; 19:6).
4. Through personal prayer and faith (Luke 11:9-13; John 7:37-39).

H. The Evidence and Results of Holy Spirit baptism.

1. Speaking with tongues is directly associated with the baptism (Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6).
 - a. It is not viewed as a *qualification for fullness* of the Holy Spirit, but as one *indication of that fullness*.
 - b. It is said to be the 'initial physical evidence' of being filled with the Holy Spirit.
2. Other immediate evidences may include: praising God (Acts 2:11; 2:47; 10:46), an overflowing joy (Acts 2:46), a burden to tell others about Jesus (Acts 1:8; 2:14-18; 3:31; 19:6).
3. Some ongoing and permanent evidences may include:
 - 1) a deeper love for Jesus (John 14:21; 15:26),
 - 2) a deeper passion for the lost (Acts 2:14-41; 5:29-33),
 - 3) a greater power to witness (Acts 1:8; 4:19-20),
 - 4) a new power in, and spirit of, prayer (Acts 3:1; Rom.8:26; Eph.6:18),
 - 5) a deeper love for and increased insight into the Word of God (John 16:13),
 - 6) the manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit (1Cor.12:4-11), 7) Fruit-bearing life; the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23).

I. Not just a one time experience:

1. *Be (being) filled with the Spirit (Eph.5:18)* - a continuous way of life.
2. In Acts there are specific instances noted where believers were 'refilled':
 - a) For defending the faith (Acts 4:8);
 - b) for rebuking the power of the devil (Acts 13:9,10);
 - c) to give the disciples new boldness and power (Acts 4:31); and
 - d) for grace and power to endure persecutions (Acts 13:52).

