



# Holy Spirit Baptism

**Examining Baptism in Acts 1-2**

# About the Holy Spirit:

- The Holy Spirit is a person:
  - Has qualities of personhood – Speaks (John 16.13); Grieves (Ephesians 4.30); Moves (2 Peter 1.21)
- The Holy Spirit is Divine:
  - Acts 5.3-5; Matthew 28.18-20; Hebrews 9.14
- Often the source of controversy because of the comparative lack of information.



# Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- Recent discussions revealed some new teachings circulating about the Holy Spirit and baptism.
- The argument, which seeks to dismiss the necessity of water baptism, is ordered like this:
  - Acts 2 could not be water baptism because it would violate the law of Moses and was a practical impossibility.
  - The baptism must have been "metaphysical/mystical baptism in the realm of the spirit."



# Responding to the Argument:

- Would water baptism violate the law of Moses?
  - While no "common [laborious NASB; ordinary ESV] work" was to be done, this does not preclude religious acts (Lev. 23.16,21).
    - Water baptism, a religious act, would not violate the restrictions of a feast day.
  - Beyond this, the law of Moses had been taken away by Christ's work at the cross (Eph. 2.13-16; Gal. 3.18-26).
- Several pools (Siloam, Virgin) and springs (Gihon) would have provided sufficient water for baptism.



# What was Holy Spirit Baptism?

- It would be administered by Jesus.
  - Matthew 3.11; Mark 1.8; Luke 3.16
- It was promised to the apostles.
  - Acts 1.4-5
- It was to be administered/received in Jerusalem.
  - Acts 1.4-5; Luke 24.49
- Equipped the recipients with "power".
  - Luke 24.49; Acts 1.8 (cf. Acts 2.1-4)



# Synonyms for Holy Spirit Baptism

- "The Promise of My Father"
  - Luke 24.49
- "Power from on High"
  - Luke 24.49
- "What the Father had Promised"
  - Acts 1.4





"**You** are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending forth **the promise of My Father** upon you; but you are to **stay in the city** until you are clothed with **power from on high.**"

*Luke 24:48-49*

"Gathering **them** together, He commanded them **not to leave Jerusalem**, but to wait for **what the Father had promised**, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** not many days from now.'"

*Acts 1.4-5*

# What was Holy Spirit Baptism?

- A promise, not a command to obey (Mt. 3.11; Mk. 1.8).
- A promise to the apostles alone (Acts 1.4-5; Lk. 24.48f).
- It was to be administered soon (Acts 1.4-5).
- It equipped recipients with power; it did not save (Acts 1.8).
- It was administered by Jesus without human agency (Acts 1.5,8; cf. John 16.7).



# Additional Considerations:

- If we are to understand the command to be baptized in water as a command to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, there are several additional difficulties:
  - What is the "one baptism" of Ephesians 4?
  - What is the "washing of water by the word" of Ephesians 5.26?
  - What about the Samaritans in Acts 8.16?
    - They had "received the word of God" by believing and being baptized in water (Acts 8.12-16). Yet the HS had not fallen on them.



# What is the baptism of Acts 2.38?

- It is a baptism connected with repentance.
  - It is a baptism connected with Jesus Christ.
  - It is a baptism connected with the forgiveness of sins.
  - It is a baptism connected with the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit, salvation to all who want it (Galatians 3.8,29).
  - It is the baptism we see commanded of penitent people all throughout Scripture – water baptism into Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 8.36; Gal. 3.24ff; Eph. 5.26).
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