



# transform

discipleship mentoring



## LEVEL THREE

### Baptized with the Holy Spirit

In order to be effective instruments of Jesus' life in the world, you need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

# 3

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A Discipleship Ministry Resource Provided by  
Faith Assembly of God

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## Baptized with the Holy Spirit

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## Introduction

### Why Do We Need The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

We need a power beyond ourselves for service and ministry in Christ's Kingdom.

When Jesus gave the Great Commission (read Matthew 28:19-20), He knew that His disciples could not fulfill it in their own power. Therefore, He had a special gift in store for them: It was His plan to give them the same power that He had -- the power of the Spirit of God. So, immediately after giving them the Great Commission, Jesus commanded his disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father promised, "which," He said, "you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (read Acts 1:4-5). He further promised: "You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth" (read Acts 1:8).

The disciples waited in Jerusalem as Jesus had commanded, and one day when they were all together (in the upper room), "suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing winds, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance" (read Acts 2:3,4). Then Peter explained to the crowd that gathered that they were seeing the working of God's Spirit and told them about Jesus. The Christian church began that day with the disciples and the three thousand people who joined them as a result of the day's events.

We can undertake making disciples of all nations with some degree of success without the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but when we do, we are undertaking a supernatural task with limited power.

## opening thoughts

### Read Acts 1:1-5 read it slowly and carefully (3X)

Luke's (the author of the book of Luke and the book Acts) introduction to the book of Acts is what he believes to be the outcome of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. He fibers together the book of Acts and the Gospels by giving us the dialog of Jesus and His disciples prior to His ascension.

In Acts 1:4-5, Jesus commands his disciples **“Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.”**

In Acts 1:8, a few verses later Luke also records Jesus' words, describing the outcome / results of the anticipated baptism in the Holy Spirit: **“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”**

In this lesson, the intention of the apostle Luke is to teach Theophilus (read Acts 1:1), and all (meaning “us” today) who later will read his book, will conclude that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an encounter with the Spirit of God that empowers the Church for worldwide witness to the salvation provided through the crucified and risen Christ, Jesus.

In the Gospel according to Luke, he dealt with all that Jesus **BEGAN** to do and teach (**Acts 1:1**), which implies that the book of Acts, will deal with what Jesus **CONTINUES** to do and to teach.

It's critical to understand and believe that the book of Acts is not only the acts (actions) of the apostles, but also the acts of the risen, living Jesus. So, if we are to continue the mission that Christ came for, we must continue in this powerful way, in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Hopefully over these next few weeks you will gain an understanding of the teaching of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. I really believe you will enjoy it. **Also, read the book of Acts** and ask the Lord to baptize you as you seek to be used by Him in a great way like the disciples of the New Testament.

**My prayer is this:** Holy Spirit, come on us and empower us to be all you want us to be in power and might. May we live victoriously in such a powerful witness and may we impact those we encounter each day for your glory!

Pastor John Ogden



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### The need to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit by John Piper

In addition to the salvation experience, verses 4 and 5 of Acts 1, show that there is another utterly crucial thing that the apostles needed in order to be the most effective instruments in the hands of the living Jesus. **They needed to be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

And while staying with them he charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, **"you heard from me, for John baptized with water, but before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit."**

Three years earlier John the Baptist had led a brief renewal movement among the Jewish people by calling them to repent and receive forgiveness for their sins and be baptized as a sign of their new relationship to God (read **Luke 3:3**). But John made it clear that the Messiah was coming soon and would baptize the people not merely in water but in the Holy Spirit. In **Luke 3:16** he says:

**I baptize you with water; but he who is mightier than I is coming, the thong of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**

So Jesus is saying here in **Acts 1:5**, "This is going to happen in just a few days—you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. John immersed you in water; I am going to immerse you in the Holy Spirit. John drenched you in water; I am going to drench you in the Holy Spirit. This is a necessary happening in each of our lives in order to be effective instruments in the world. You need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

**Now what was this baptism with the Holy Spirit?** What did they need and what did they get when this happened?

### What happened on the day of Pentecost?

Let's begin by looking at what happened when the day of Pentecost actually came.

Read **Acts 2:1–4**: **Read it slowly and carefully!**

"When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a sound came from heaven like the rush of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

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**Filled with the Spirit:** So when the baptism with the Spirit comes, it is like a mighty wind immersing and filling all the house with sound. The effect on the disciples was they were filled with the Spirit (notice the word in verse 3: "They were all FILLED with the Holy Spirit"). Tongues of fire appeared on each of them and they began to speak in languages that they did not know.

Verse 11 tells us what they were saying: "We hear them speaking in our own tongues the mighty works of God." So what they were filled with was an overwhelming sense of God's greatness and a sense of wonder at his works. The Spirit was filling them with his own vision of God and his own passion for God and his own prophetic words of praise.

**Peter's Explanation of the day of Pentecost:** So when Peter explains what is happening to the disciples who were baptized with the Holy Spirit, he says in verses 16–17:

This is what was spoken of by the prophet Joel: "And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy."

So, when Jesus said in **Acts 1:4**, "Wait for the promise of the Father," what he meant was, "Wait till the promise of Joel 2 is fulfilled." The promise of the Father is what the disciples are now experiencing. This is confirmed in **Acts 2:32–33**. Peter goes on with his sermon interpreting what is going on and says:

"This Jesus God raised up, and of that we are all witnesses. Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this which you see and hear."

Here we see Jesus doing the actual work of baptizing the disciples with the Holy Spirit. He enters into heaven. He receives from the Father what he had promised. And he pours out what the Jews are seeing and hearing at Pentecost, namely, the rushing wind, the tongues of fire, the speaking in other languages, the prophetic praise and exultation. Wow!

**Daily Prayer from Pastor John:** Father in heaven, I am thankful for my relationship that I now have with you because of your love demonstrated on the cross by the sacrifice of Jesus your son. I am born again and your Holy Spirit lives in me. Daily I am seeking to renew my mind and become more and more like Christ in my character. My desire is to be a testimony of your love in my life. I also desire to be used of you to bring others into this wonderful and right relationship. I pray that you Baptize me with your Holy Spirit and empower me for service in your kingdom and ministry to the church and others.

This I pray for your glory alone, Amen!

## What's the Essence of Baptism with the Spirit?

**Now what is the heart of the matter here?** What is the essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit? Is it the sound of wind, the tongues of fire, the other languages, the words of praise, the prophecies and dreams and visions?

I think we can get at the essence, and I want to get at it by saying first of all what I think it is not. I think that being baptized with the Holy Spirit (the way Luke means it) is not the same as being born again or being united to Christ by the work of the Holy Spirit. In other words I don't think that what Paul is talking about in **1 Corinthians 12:13** is the same as what is happening here in Acts.

Paul says, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free." The context shows that he is referring to a work of the sovereign Spirit who unites all believers to Christ. This is virtually the same as the work of conversion. When you are born again and you put your faith in Christ, the Spirit of God unites you to Christ so that you are part of his body and a fellow-heir with him of eternal life.

I used to just assume that Paul and Luke were talking about the same thing when they used the word "baptism" and connected it to the Holy Spirit—in other words, that the baptism by the Spirit in **1 Corinthians 12:13** and the baptism with the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 were the same. Many very able scholars and teachers still make that connection. The view I am about to give you is not the only orthodox one, however, it is one that I am increasingly persuaded is correct and desperately needed in the church today.

**Receiving Extraordinary Power for Ministry:** We are trying to answer the question: What is the heart or essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit? I have said that I do NOT think the essence is new birth or conversion or being united to the body of Christ. What then is it? And why do I not think it is the same as what Paul speaks of in **1 Corinthians 12:13**?

I think the essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is when a person, who is already a believer, receives extraordinary spiritual power for Christ-exalting ministry.

So let me try to show you the reasons why I think this is the heart of the matter.



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**1 - Jesus' focus on being clothed with power:** First, let's start back at **Luke 24:49**. Keep in mind as we turn there that in **Acts 1:4** Jesus said, "**He charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, namely, the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**" Now in **Luke 24:49** Jesus says virtually the same thing. "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but stay in the city, until you are clothed with power from on high."

What is important here is to see that what Jesus focuses on, of all the things he might focus on in the baptism with the Spirit, **is being clothed with power.** So that is the first pointer that the heart of this matter of baptism with the Holy Spirit is a matter of empowerment. He told them in **Luke 24:47** that they are to preach to all the nations. And the point of verse 49 is we cannot do that with greatest success unless we are clothed with power from God—that is, **unless we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.**

**2 - Pictured as power for witnessing:** The second pointer that this is the essence of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is found in **Acts 1:6–8, read it.** Right after Jesus says that they would be baptized with the Spirit (v. 5), the disciples say, "'Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?' He said to them, 'It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has fixed by his own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you and you shall be my witnesses." So here the baptism with the Spirit is seen as a "coming upon" that gives **power for witness.** So that is the second pointer to empowering as the heart of being baptized with the Spirit.

**3 - Issues of New Birth/Conversion Not in View:** Notice that neither of these texts suggests that what is happening in the baptism of the Spirit is rebirth or conversion or union with Christ. There are good reasons for believing that these disciples were already born again and converted and had the Holy Spirit dwelling in them (read **John 13:10; 15:3; Romans 8:9; John 3:5**). But even more important than that is the fact that the issue of the new birth and conversion of the disciples are simply not in view at all in Acts chapter 1 or 2.

Jesus doesn't say, wait in Jerusalem until you are born again or converted or put into the body of Christ. He says wait **until you are clothed with power.** He doesn't say, You shall receive membership in the body of Christ when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. He says,

**"You shall receive power when  
the Holy Spirit has come upon you." - Acts 1:8**

Make it your prayer today and wait upon the Father and ask Him to baptize you with His Holy Spirit! Hallelujah!!!!!! – Pastor John

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Also notice that when Peter explains what promise of the Father is being fulfilled in the baptism of the Spirit, he focuses on the promise recorded in Joel 2. There are promises that might have stressed the promise of the Spirit to bring new birth (like **Ezekiel 11:19; 36:26f.**). But that is not what Peter or Luke focuses on. Peter says that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a fulfillment of Joel 2; and what Joel 2 promises explicitly is not new birth or conversion or membership in the body of Christ, but a new power to prophesy. "I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams" (2:17).

### 4 - Described as Filling with the Holy Spirit

The fourth and final reason I give for seeing baptism with the Spirit as a **special empowering for ministry** is that it is described as a **FILLING** with the Holy Spirit, and this idea of filling is almost always associated with this extraordinary power for ministry in the book of Acts. Notice that when the baptism with the Spirit happens in **Acts 2:4**, Luke says, "And they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**." The effect of that filling was a powerful and even miraculous testimony to the truth of Christ that resulted in 3,000 people being converted (**Acts 2:41**). Wow! You have to read this account of God's mighty outpouring.

1. In **Acts 4:8** Peter is again **filled with the Holy Spirit** and speaks with such power that the Jewish leaders were amazed at his boldness in spite of his being relatively uneducated (4:13).
2. In **Acts 4:31** other disciples were praying and the place where they were was shaken and they were all **filled with the Holy Spirit**. The effect of their fullness was that they spoke the Word of God with extraordinary boldness and Christ-exalting power.
3. In **Acts 6** we meet Stephen who is **full of faith and the Holy Spirit** (v. 5). And Luke tells us in verse 8 that he was therefore full of power and did wonders and signs among the people, but especially in verse 10 the leaders could not resist the wisdom and Spirit with which he spoke. His fullness gave him an extraordinary power for Christ-exalting ministry.
4. In **Acts 9:17** Paul is **filled with the Holy Spirit** at his conversion and the result was that he spoke with such extraordinary power that the Jews of Damascus were confounded (9:22).
5. In **Acts 11:24** Barnabas was **full of the Holy Spirit and faith** and the effect Luke mentions was that "a large company was added to the Lord" (as at Pentecost).
6. In **Acts 13:9** Paul was **filled with the Holy Spirit** as he spoke to Elymas the magician and God gave him the extraordinary power to pronounce Elymas blind for a season (13:11). Wow! Lord, baptize us again! Empower us !



### Conclusion & closing thoughts to consider

So here is my conclusion: being baptized with the Holy Spirit is when a believer in Jesus Christ receives extraordinary power for Christ-exalting ministry.

- **This is true** because Luke says that being baptized with the Spirit is being filled with the Spirit, and being filled with the Spirit is always for extraordinary power in ministry.
- **It is true** because Luke says that being baptized with the Spirit is a fulfillment of the promise of Joel 2, and Joel 2 promises an upsurge of prophetic power among God's people.
- **It is true** because Luke describes being baptized with the Spirit as receiving power for witness when the Holy Spirit comes upon you (**Acts 1:8**).
- **And it is true** because Luke says that being baptized in the Spirit is being clothed with power from on high so that message of Christ can be taken effectively to all the nations of the world (**Luke 24:49**).

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**Closing Illustration:** The story is told of a Christian man, who lived in a poor village in the interior of his nation and had the opportunity to visit a big city. Having never experienced the use of electricity before, he was fascinated when he saw electric light bulbs for the first time. He asked his host if he could have one to take back to his home. When he got back to his village, he hung the light bulb on a string in his hut. He was frustrated because it would not work, until a missionary explained to him that it must be plugged into a power source.

To enter into the fullness of what God has planned for our lives, we have no greater need than to be plugged into the power source of the Holy Spirit. We need the mighty baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is the gateway into a new dimension of the Spirit's presence and power in our lives, and to empowers us for ministry.

**Daily Prayer from Pastor John:** Heavenly father, I desire most my relationship with you to be one that you desire of me. I give myself totally to you and seek to walk in step with your Holy Spirit. Grant me a fresh baptism of your Holy Spirit that I may be an instrument of your hand in the lives of others. May your Holy Spirit guide me and equip me for all you have planned for my life and call within your Kingdom. May my life exalt the name of Christ

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### A PENTECOSTAL DEFINITION OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

What do Pentecostals mean by the baptism in the Holy Spirit? I think that a definition can be set out that does not claim to be comprehensive, but identifies the major elements in this Pentecostal experience. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is significant additional power for life and ministry given by God subsequent to salvation. The Baptism is characterized by a deep sense of the immediacy of God's presence. By virtue of this, a deep sense of mystery and emotion is often experienced. It is also characterized by speaking in tongues.

Speaking in tongues establishes a noncognitive and nonrational communication with God. It is not antirational. It is an immediate contact with God that does not include human words, nor can it be expressed in human words. This experience results in added faith in God, increased power and gifts for ministry, increased emotion and passion, and an enhanced awareness of the experiential dimension of God's presence in the life of the Pentecostal believer. The baptism in the Holy Spirit does not and cannot take the place of the other necessary spiritual experiences that God has provided for His believers.

Now, a critical question. If the baptism in the Holy Spirit confers additional power for ministry, how much additional power is gained? A little? Quite a bit? A dramatic amount? Considerable evidence indicates that the baptism in the Holy Spirit confers a dramatic amount of power for ministry on the believer who receives this experience.

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On November 20, 1998, Pentecostal scholar Vinson Synan presented a paper to the Evangelical Theological Society entitled, "Policy Decisions on Tongues As an Indicator of Future Church Growth." Synan demonstrates in his paper that Pentecostals have been dramatically more successful in planting and growing churches than those who have rejected the Pentecostal understanding of the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the necessity of speaking in tongues. His statistics are drawn from the development of Pentecostal missions in the 20th century.

In Chile, the Methodists grew to approximately 5,000 members, while the Pentecostals grew to 2,371,000. In Brazil, the Baptists grew to 1,050,000, while the Pentecostals grew to over 21 million. Worldwide, the Christian and Missionary Alliance grew to 1.9 million, while the Assemblies of God has surpassed 25 million. More current year statistics (2003) show that Assemblies of God worldwide members and adherents have grown to nearly 48 million, not including the nearly 2.7 million adherents in the U.S.

These statistics cannot be ignored. These accomplishments are the reason that Fuller Seminary undertook a study of Pentecostal missions that has drawn attention to the spectacular success of Pentecostal ministry. Other scholars are drawing similar conclusions. Philip Jenkins, distinguished professor of history and religious studies at Pennsylvania State University, recently wrote a new book, ***The Next Christendom***, in which he demonstrates that the growth patterns of the Pentecostals will make the 21st century a Pentecostal century. Pentecostal ministry is not slightly more effective. It makes a dramatic difference. The baptism in the Holy Spirit provides a significant amount of power for supernatural ministry resulting in striking accomplishments for the Kingdom.

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Enrichment Journal

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### A few questions others ask

#### What Should I Do Before Asking? :

The Bible says that a wise man counts the cost before he begins to build a tower (Luke 14:28). This beautiful experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a free gift, **but you must be willing to submit fully** to God to receive it.

Jesus will respond **to a totally yielded vessel**. He never asks anything of you that you are incapable of giving, nor does He ever fail to give you something greater in return when you do give your all. The joy He gives through **total obedience** to Him far outweighs anything you could possibly give up.

There is one more important consideration: In Acts 8, a man named Simon, deeply involved in the occult, wanted to buy the gift of the Holy Spirit. Peter sharply rebuked Simon, commanding him to repent. Therefore, if you ever at any time had anything to do with the occult (Ouija boards, fortune tellers, séances, horoscopes, ESP, transcendental mediation, hypnotism, or other such practices), **you must renounce and turn away from all such sinful participation**, and **you must ask for God's forgiveness and cleansing**.

#### Is There Anything To Fear?

Some people fear that if they ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, what they experience won't be the authentic working of the Spirit. But once they do ask for it, they are always glad they did. God doesn't cause us to do anything we don't want to, and all His gifts are good and perfect (James 1:17). Jesus said, "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?" (Luke 11:11-13).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an even better gift than any material gift you could receive, and God wants you to have it because He loves you and wants the very best for you.

Take some time to wait on Him and ask him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Surrender your whole being as you wait in prayer and before Him in your quiet time. Begin to praise Him and lift Him up. Seek nothing else except God himself. Seek the Giver and not the gift. By faith believe that He will baptize you with His Holy Spirit. I will be praying for you.

Love you guys – Pastor John

**Review Questions - Lesson 3**

1. List the outcome of what happens when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and for what purpose according to Acts 1:8. p.23

Outcome:

Purpose:

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2. Explain the difference between John's Baptism and the baptism Jesus speaks about? p.24

3. What did John Piper express regarding what being baptized with the Spirit is not? p.26

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4. In Luke 24:49 what was Jesus' focus regarding the outcome of the promise of the father? p.27

5. Describe in Acts 1:6-8 what the empowerment of the spirit is for. p.27

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6. What Old testament passage and prophecy is referred to as the last days outpouring of the Holy Spirit and what are the details of that prophecy? p.28