

BAPTISM: WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY? (1)

By Keith Greer

Second, the baptism of the Holy Spirit was given to the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48). The gospel, as had been promised, was delivered first to the Jews and then to the Gentiles (Romans 1:16). When Cornelius and his household were baptized, they were the first Gentiles added to the church.

Later, when some of the brethren contended with Peter about preaching to the Gentiles, Peter told them about the Holy Spirit falling on Cornelius and his household and said "If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God? When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (Acts 11:17-18)

The BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT was given to a select few in order to fulfill God's plan of giving all men the opportunity for salvation.

(4). **BAPTISM OF SUFFERING.** When James and John came to Jesus wanting to sit on His right and left hand when He established His kingdom, Jesus asked them, "But Jesus said to them, "You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink the cup that I drink, and with the baptism I am baptized with you will be baptized." (Mark 10:39-40) Jesus had already submitted to water baptism (Matthew 3:13-17), but here, He had reference to the BAPTISM OF SUFFERING.

Jesus was literally "buried" with suffering and it culminated with His death on the cross. He was called a "glutton and a winebibber" (Matthew 11:19). He was rejected and men wanted to kill Him (Matthew 12:14-15). He was betrayed by a friend (Matthew 26:15-16). His disciples fled. (Matthew 26:56) Finally, He was scourged, spat upon, mocked, and suffered an agonizing death on the cross (Matthew 27:26-50) Jesus truly had a BAPTISM OF SUFFERING!

(5). **BAPTISM OF FIRE.** In the New Testament, fire is used frequently to signify the final destruction of the wicked, and that is exactly what this passage speaks of. (See also 2 Thessalonians 1:8-9, Hebrews 10:27, and Matthew 25:41)

Two different groups of people are spoken of in Matthew 3: 11-12. Those who are obedient to the gospel of Christ will be gathered into "the garner". Those who reject Him, however, "he will burn UP the chaff with unquenchable fire." Which group do you want to be in?

(6). **THE ONE BAPTISM.** The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus that there was, "one Lord, one faith, one baptism;" (Ephesians 4:5) Which of these baptisms does that leave men to choose? One who is seeking to please the Lord must choose to submit willingly – to the ONE baptism. This adds one to the church, Acts 2:47. One also gains remission of sins, Acts 2:38. When one is baptized

into Christ they “put on Christ,” Galatians 3:27. Following this baptism one arises to “walk in newness of life,” Romans 6:4. One becomes a “new creature,” 2 Corinthians 5:17.

All of these facts make it essential and necessary that this is the ONLY baptism that one should desire today. All the other “baptisms” have served their purpose—saved the “baptism of fire” because that will be administered following the final judgment, Revelation 21:8. The ONE baptism is the one that saves man now.

We have just begun to look at this subject and will continue in the next bulletin. ***