

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM...

By Keith Greer

Unfortunately, many in today's religious world have confused the meaning of Holy Spirit Baptism and the necessity of water baptism. Let us briefly contrast the two. We present the following articles on the subject. Let's begin with **HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM:**

Element—Holy Spirit. *“For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.” {Acts 1:5} “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” {Acts 1:8}* The Holy Spirit is the only element used in Holy Spirit baptism. We read that the Ephesians had not received the Holy Spirit after they were baptized with John's baptism. Paul came to Ephesus, preached Christ to them, and they received the Holy Spirit. *“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” {Acts 19:5,6}* Notice, the apostle Paul laid hands on the believers, and they received spiritual gifts—speaking in tongues and prophesying. Also note that this occurred during the first century, before the Bible was completely revealed and written.

A Promise. *“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” {John 14:26}* Jesus was returning to heaven and His Father. He would not forsake the apostles; He would send the Holy Spirit to guide them. Jesus made this promise during a private conversation with His apostles. He again gave them final instructions just before His ascension. We obey commands—not promises!

Not for salvation. *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” {John 16:7,8}* Also read *Acts 11:14-17*. The Holy Spirit was a revealer—He would guide the apostles into all truth. The Holy Spirit's role was revelation—to reveal God's mind to mankind. *{1 Corinthians 2:9-13}*

Limited. *“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” {Acts 11:15,16}* This baptism was administered during a limited time and on a limited audience. No passage teaches that it would be given to **ALL BELIEVERS**.

Administered by Christ. *“I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’” {John 1:33}* According to John the Baptist, there would be a sign from heaven to identify the Son as the one who could administer the baptism of the Holy Spirit!

Miraculous effects. *“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” {Acts 2:4}* In these NT examples, when the Holy Spirit baptism was administered, it was accompanied by a REAL MIRACLE—speaking in tongues (unfamiliar languages) *{Acts 10:46}*. Such things do not happen today. We have a confirmed revelation, and we do not need the confirmation process—the signs. Despite popular teaching God does not work in “mysterious ways.” God gave us a mind, the revealed word, ability to understand, and the capacity to

examine and make a decision. Holy Spirit baptism does not give people the Holy Spirit today nor the ability to understand and obey God's word.

Consider after *Acts 10* we see no more mention of Holy Spirit Baptism. Why? Simple reason — had fulfilled the purposes that God gave for it to do and accomplish why it was given. Sadly, men today want to “reinvent” the way God is going to save sinful men to fit their theories and theology and make it “all of God and none of us.” Please examine this list. It doesn't describe what God promised or commanded for Christians today. Man is without excuse to understand why one baptism is done away with and another is still in force today. Read the next article ***