

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Sermon 1 of 4 in the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit Series”

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Sermon in a Sentence: The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a powerful spiritual experience for all believers in Christ.

Sermon Purpose: That every believer will come to desire and receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Text: Luke 3:16

Introduction

1. In our text John the Baptist spoke of an experience for Christ’s followers called the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
2. In this message we will answer the important question, “What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?”

I. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Wonderful Promise from God.

- A. Jesus Called it “the Promise of the Father” (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4).
- B. Jesus gave wonderful promises concerning the gift of the Holy Spirit (i.e., Luke 11:9-13)
- C. The disciples received the promise of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4, 33).

II. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Powerful, Present-day, Life-Changing Experience.

- A. It is a Powerful Experience.
 1. It is described in terms of power (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).
 2. It results in powerful ministry (Acts 4:33).
- B. It is a Present-day Experience
 1. It is for all generations of Christians (Acts 2:39).
 2. It occurred again and again in the book of Acts (2:4; 8:17-18; 9:18-10; 10:44-46; 19:6).
- C. It is a Life-changing Experience.

1. It changed the disciples from cowards to powerful witnesses.
2. It will change you too!

III. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit Is an Invasion from Heaven

- A. At Pentecost a sound “from heaven” was heard.
 1. The experience comes from heaven (i.e. from God).
 2. They were “clothed with power from on high,” (i.e., from God).
- C. The Spirit comes as a “holy invasion” from heaven.
 1. Examples in Acts: 1:8; 4:31; 10:44.
 2. You can expect the Holy Spirit to come on you like an invasion from heaven.

IV. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit Is Also a Permeation Within (that is, a complete filling of every part of one’s being).

- A. The term “filled with the Holy Spirit” is often used to describe the experience.
 1. It is used six times in Acts.
 2. It is used for the first time in Acts 2:4.
- B. Spirit baptism is not only to be thought of as a holy invasion from but outside, but also as a radical transformation occurring on the inside.
 - **ILLUS:** Like a sponge is filled with water.
- C. To receive the Spirit’s fullness we must open our lives completely to God.

V. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit Is a Biblical Command.

- A. The experience is so essential to the Christian life that the Bible does not present it to us as an option.
- B. Both Jesus and Paul command believers to be filled (Acts 1:4-5; Eph 5:18).
- C. How blessed we are when we obey!

VI. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit Is an Experience for All Believers.

- A. Note how often the word “all” is used in speaking of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Bible (i.e., Num. 11:29; Joel 2:28; Acts 2:4; Acts 4:31).
- B. In Luke 11, Jesus changes the terminology from “all” to “everyone” (Luke 11:10; ref. Acts 2:39).

Conclusion and Altar Call

- 1. Are you ready to let the Spirit transform your life?
- 2. Come and be filled with the Spirit today.

— Denny Miller