

THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN THE CHURCH TODAY

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Sermon in a Sentence: The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a vital experience for every Christian.

Sermon Purpose: That believers will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Text: Acts 1:1-8

Introduction:

1. What is the most important thing in the church?
2. **Answer:** The most important thing in the church today is that every member be powerfully baptized in the Holy Spirit.

I. Five Reasons Why the Baptism in the Holy Spirit Is the Most Important Thing in the Church Today:

- A. It was Jesus' last message to the Church.
 1. The importance of a person's last words.
 2. Jesus could have talked about many things . . .
 - a. Church growth, relationships, tithing . . .
 - b. He chose to talk about the necessity of being empowered by the Spirit (Acts 1:8).
- B. It was Paul's first message to the twelve Ephesian disciples (ref. Acts 19:1-7)
 1. Paul arrived in Ephesus with a plan to reach Ephesus and all of Asia minor with the gospel. (ref. Acts 19:10.)
 2. Paul's first message to the Ephesian disciples was "Did you received the Holy Spirit when you believed?"
 3. If they were to participate in reaching Ephesus and Asia Minor they needed to be empowered by the Spirit.

- C. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 1. Mary was among those who waited to receive the Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 1:13-14).
 2. Remember
 - a. She was chosen of all women to bear the Christ!
 - b. She was "highly favored" (Luke 1:28).
 - c. She had been overshadowed by the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).
 - d. She had lived with Jesus for all of His first 30 years.
 3. Yet, she still needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit
 4. If she needed to be filled, how much more do we.
- D. It is the one promise in the Bible referred to as *the* Promise of the Father.
 1. Read: Acts 1:4 (NKJV). Note the word "the"
 2. The word "the" indicates that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a special and important experience from God.
- E. Jesus Himself chose to minister only through the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit.
 1. Jesus never worked a miracle, preached a sermon, or cast out one devil until He was first baptized in the Holy Spirit.
 2. This happened at His water baptism (Luke 3:21-22). (Note how, in the next verse "He began His ministry").
 3. He began His ministry in the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:12).
 4. Peter described His ministry (Acts 10:38).
 5. He did it this way in order that He might be an example for our ministries (John 14:26).

F. Each of these facts demonstrate the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

II. A Question: Why Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit So Important to Every Christians Life? (Two Reasons:)

- A. It is the Christian's source of power for life and service.
 - 1. Read Acts 1:8
 - 2. Jesus last command: "Stay in the city until you are clothes with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).
- B. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit will affect every area of your Christian life.
 - 1. Your witness for Christ.
 - 2. Your understanding of the Word.
 - 3. Your love for God and others.
 - 4. The way you worship God.
 - 5. Your prayer life.
 - 6. Your struggle with temptation and sin.

III. Here is How You Can Be Filled Today

- A. Ask God to fill you.
- B. Receive the gift by faith
- C. Sense His presence coming upon you and filling you.
- D. Speak out in faith, allowing the Spirit to give you the words.

Conclusion and Altar Call

- 1. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the most important experience a Christian can receive.
- 2. Come now to be filled with the Spirit.

— Denny Miller