

What the Bible Teaches Regarding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

An Inductive Study Guide

Lesson 1

"Terminology identifying the baptism of the Holy Spirit"

Passages for study: Acts 1, 2

1. When you think of the term, "baptism of the Holy Spirit", what biblical event or events come to mind? Which biblical passages describe that event or events?

2. Look at the following passages and determine whether or not you believe they are all referring to the same spiritual experience/event. Why or why not?

Acts 1:4

Acts 1:5

Acts 2:1-4

Acts 2:17, 18

Acts 10:37, 38

Acts 11:15-17

3. With respect to the concept of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, identify the word, words or phrases in each of the following passages the seem to correlate with each other:

Acts 1:4

Acts 1:5

Acts 2:1-4

Acts 2:17, 18

Acts 10:37, 38

Acts 11:15-17

4. From your study so far, do there seem to be some synonyms for the term, "baptism of the Holy Spirit"? If so, what are they?

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Lesson 2

"The timing of the baptism of the Holy Spirit relative to water baptism"

Passages for study: Matthew 3
Acts 8:9-25
Acts 10
Acts 19:1-22

In the following passages, designate the relative timing of water baptism to Holy Spirit baptism:

	<u>Simultaneous</u>	<u>Water baptism before Holy Spirit baptism</u>	<u>Holy Spirit baptism before water baptism</u>
Matthew 3:16, 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 2:1-4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 8:14-17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 9:17, 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 10:44-48	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 19:1-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Acts 2:38, 39	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

What implications do the above observations have for :

1) our own experience with water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism

2) our expectations regarding Holy Spirit baptism

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Lesson 3

"Can you be baptized in the Holy Spirit without knowing it?"

For each of the following passages, answer three questions: 1) Who was baptized with the Holy Spirit?, 2) Did they know they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? 3) Why/Why not?

Matthew 3:11-17 & John 1:29-34

Who?

Did they know?

Why/Why not?

Acts 9:17-19

Who?

Did they know?

Why/Why not?

Acts 2:1-21, 32, 33

Who?

Did they know?

Why/Why not?

Acts 10:44-11:18

Who?

Did they know?

Why/Why not?

Acts 8:4-19

Who?

Did they know?

Why/Why not?

Acts 19:1-7

Who?

Did they know?

Why/Why not?

Based on Acts 8:14-19 and Acts 19:1, 2, can we assume we've been baptized with the Holy Spirit just because we've been converted and baptized in water?

Based on the examples above, should be able to know if we've been baptized with the Holy Spirit?

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Lesson 4

"Before and after the baptism of the Holy Spirit"

The texts below represent excerpts from the experience of the apostles before and after the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. For each row in the chart below, identify and contrast the character traits of the apostles before and after that event. Each set of texts illustrate a contrast in the same area of character.

Characteristics BEFORE	Characteristics AFTER
Mt. 17:14-16; 19-20	Acts 3:1-8
Lk. 10:17	Acts 3:11, 12, 16
Mt. 26:55, 56 Jn. 18:15-17	Acts 4:5-8; 13 Acts 4:19, 20, 29, 31
Mt. 20:20-24 Lk. 22:20-24	Acts 4:32-35

From this study, what can we deduce about the impact we can expect in our lives following the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

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Lesson 5

"Comparing water baptism and Holy Spirit baptism"

	...water.	...the Holy Spirit.
Who administers baptism with...	Mk. 1:4 Jn. 4:1, 2 Mt. 28:19	Lk. 3:16 Acts 2:32, 33
In <i>what</i> is a person immersed when baptized with...	Mt. 3:16 Acts 8:36-39	Acts 2:4 Acts 9:17
What aspect of our spiritual journey is associated with baptism of...	Mk. 16:16 Acts 22:16 1 Pt. 3:21	Lk. 24:49 Acts 1:5, 8 Acts 4:31, 33

Based on the last comparison in the table above, consider the meaning of the following two passages:

John 3:1-7

Jesus' expressions "born again" and "born of the Spirit" would best correlate with the experience of:

- Conversion and water baptism
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Galatians 5:19-25

The "fruit of the Spirit" concept would best correlate with the experience of:

- Conversion and water baptism
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit

What implications do the above comparisons/contrasts hold for our own spiritual journey?

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Lesson 6

"Manifestations accompanying the baptism of the Holy Spirit"

Read each portion of Scripture asking the following question for each instance: **When the Holy Spirit was poured out, were there any visible or audible manifestations accompanying the experience?**

	<i>Visible Manifestations</i>	<i>Audible Manifestations</i>	<i>Other</i>
Matthew 3:11-17			
Acts 2:1-21			
Acts 9:17-19			
Acts 10:44-11:18			
Acts 19:1-7			
Acts 8:4-19			

With reference to the complete chart above, do any of the manifestations show up in multiple instances? If so, which ones?

Which manifestations seem to be occur in only one instance?

Do these examples suggest anything about who determines the manifestations accompanying the individual instances of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (e.g. God? the recipient? the facilitator?)

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Lesson 7

“Spiritual Gifts, the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Tongues”

Background

Many of our friends in the pentecostal and charismatic churches believe that the singular sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the manifestation of the gift of tongues. This is often believed with such conviction that there is a refusal to acknowledge the possibility of one having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit if he/she has not spoken in tongues. What does the Bible teach on this matter? Parts of our study in this lesson will refer back to the previous study (Session #6) exploring the biblical examples of supernatural manifestations accompanying the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

For the following questions, refer to the completed chart in lesson 6.

Which manifestation occurred most frequently?

Could this help explain the perspective typical of pentecostals on the issue at hand?

Is there any one manifestation that occurred with every single instance of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the biblical record?

Among the six recorded examples of people being baptized with the Holy Spirit, in how many instances was the gift of tongues clearly manifested?

What would this suggest about the issue of whether or not the gift of tongues can be expected to always accompany the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:1-11, 27-31

Make an exhaustive list of the spiritual gifts mentioned in the passage above:

Below, along with the answer, indicate the specific verse(s) answering the question.

How many followers of Christ have been given spiritual gifts?

Who determines which individuals receive which gifts?

Do all believers receive the same set of gift(s)?

Is there any one single gift which is given to ALL believers?

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Lesson 8

"The experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit"

Many know personally what it is like to *experience* water baptism. We are immersed in water and experience the sensation of getting wet all over. Of course, the emotional feelings when baptized with water vary with the person and the situation. But before being baptized in water we can know fairly well what to expect *physically* since we've all been wet before—in the bathtub, shower or while swimming.

But what is the *experience* of being baptized with the Holy Spirit like? Is there something about it that we should know ahead of time? Since being immersed in the Holy Spirit is not something of a visible nature how can we know what to expect? The biblical examples of Holy Spirit baptism all included supernatural phenomena of some kind—either audible, visible or both. But what if our experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit doesn't follow the exact pattern of the biblical examples? It is clear that every individual in the biblical examples knew they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How would we know if we were experiencing that blessing should the divine manifestations be different from theirs or not be present in the same way?

Although the Bible doesn't describe this for us in detail—just as it doesn't describe what we can expect to happen to us emotionally when baptized in water—there are some pieces of evidence that clearly point us in a direction of understanding. Look at the evidence in the following scripture, song and testimony. What do they share in common in their descriptions of the experience?

Romans 5:5

"And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us."

Testimonies for the Church, vol. 8, p. 19, 20

"What was the result of the outpouring of the Spirit upon the Day of Pentecost? The glad tidings of a risen Saviour were carried to the utmost bounds of the inhabited world. The hearts of the disciples were surcharged with a benevolence so full, so deep, so far-reaching, that it impelled them to go to the ends of the earth, testifying: "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." Galatians 6:14...Every Christian saw in his brother the divine similitude of love and benevolence. One interest prevailed. One subject of emulation swallowed up all others. The only ambition of the believers was to reveal the likeness of Christ's character and to labor for the enlargement of His kingdom."

Baptize Us Anew (Hymn #258 in the Seventh-day Adventist Hymnal), 1st stanza:

Baptize us anew with power from on high, We humbly beseech Thee, Lord Jesus, we pray,
With love O refresh us! Dear Savior draw nigh. With love and the Spirit baptize us today.

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Lesson 9

“Reflections on our readiness for the Spirit’s activity”

Are we ready for the experience of being baptized with the Holy Spirit? Would we be prepared to accept whatever manifestations the Spirit revealed even if they made us uncomfortable? Would we identify accurately whether or not the manifestations we saw were coming from God?

Consider the following scenarios and indicate whether or not you think the *Holy Spirit* would cause such a situation.

1. YES NO In a church service, about several dozen men suddenly all start talking at once, apparently “prophesying”. This continues for some time.
2. YES NO In the presence of a group of worshippers, a man is overcome by a spirit and begins to “prophesy”. He disrobes, is “slain in the spirit” (i.e. prostrated on the ground) and lays unclothed all day and all night.
3. YES NO In the presence of a crowd of people, several dozen suddenly all start talking at the same with sounds you don’t recognize. The noise is so cacophonous that many people are saying they must be drunk.
4. YES NO While in a group of believers, one man says to another “I can see that your heart is not right before God. You are a bitter person who is full of sin.”
5. YES NO After a man offers a prayer, he lays his hands on a group of about a dozen people and suddenly they all start talking at once in languages you don’t recognize.

Now compare each example above with the following scriptures:
1. Numbers 11:24-30 2. 1 Samuel 19:18-24 3. Acts 2:11-15 4. Acts 8:18-24 5. Acts 19:1-7

What are the potential dangers of misappropriating the work of God to be the work of Satan?

Read Mark 3:20-30 and answer the following questions:

What genuine miracle from God was being performed by Jesus?

Whose power did the teachers of the law say was behind Jesus’ miracle?

According to Jesus, who were they blaspheming by their statements?

What did Jesus indicate would be the result of this type of sin?

If we were to see an action inspired by the Holy Spirit and assign it to the counterfeiting work of Satan, would we be in the same situation as the teachers of the law?

Is it possible the Holy Spirit could manifest himself in a way that would offend us or make us feel uncomfortable? How can we tell the true from the counterfeit if they appear all but identical?

Isaiah 8:20, Matthew 7:15-27, Galatians 5:22-25, Deuteronomy 18:21, 22

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Lesson 10

“Comments on conditions for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit”

“There is too much formality in our religious services. The Lord would have His ministers preach the word energized by the Holy Spirit; and the people should not sit in drowsy indifference, or stare about vacantly, making no responses to what is said. The impression thus given to the unbeliever is anything but favorable for the religion of Christ. . . Where the church is walking in the light, there will ever be cheerful, hearty responses and words of joyful praise.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 5, p. 318 [underlining supplied]

“We are to pray for the impartation of the Spirit as the remedy for sin-sick souls. The church needs to be converted, and why should we not prostrate ourselves at the throne of grace, as representatives of the church, and from a broken heart and contrite spirit make earnest supplication that the Holy Spirit shall be poured out upon us from on high? Let us pray that when it shall be graciously bestowed our cold hearts may be revived, and we may have discernment to understand that it is from God, and receive it with joy. Some have treated the Spirit as an unwelcome guest, refusing to receive the rich gift, refusing to acknowledge it, turning from it, and condemning it as fanaticism.”

Testimonies for Ministers, p. 64 [underlining supplied]

“Under the showers of the latter rain the inventions of man, the human machinery, will at times be swept away, the boundary of man's authority will be as broken reeds, and the Holy Spirit will speak through the living, human agent, with convincing power. No one then will watch to see if the sentences are well rounded off, if the grammar is faultless. The living water will flow in God's own channels.”

Selected Messages, Vol. 2, p. 58 [underlining supplied]

“This is the danger to which the church is now exposed—that the inventions of finite men shall mark out the precise way for the Holy Spirit to come. Though they would not care to acknowledge it, some have already done this. And because the Spirit is to come, not to praise men or to build up their erroneous theories, but to reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment, many turn away from it . . . The Holy Spirit flatters no man, neither does it work according to the devising of any man. Finite, sinful men are not to work the Holy Spirit. When it shall come as a reprover, through any human agent whom God shall choose, it is man's place to hear and obey its voice.”

Testimonies for Ministers, p. 64 [underlining supplied]

“When the Holy Spirit works the human agent, it does not ask us in what way it shall operate. Often it moves in unexpected ways. Christ did not come as the Jews expected. He did not come in a manner to glorify them as a nation. His forerunner came to prepare the way for Him by calling upon the people to repent of their sins, and be converted, and be baptized. Christ's message was, “The kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.” The Jews refused to receive Christ, because He did not come in accordance with their expectations. The ideas of finite men were held as infallible, because hoary with age.”

Testimonies for Ministers, p. 64 [underlining supplied]

“The reason why there is so little of the Spirit of God manifested is that ministers learn to do without it. They lack the grace of God, lack forbearance and patience, lack a spirit of consecration and sacrifice; and this is the only reason why some are doubting the evidences of God's word. The trouble is not at all in the word of God, but in themselves. . . I saw that however strongly men may have advocated the truth, however pious they may appear to be, when they begin to talk unbelief in regard to some scriptures, claiming that they cause them to doubt the inspiration of the Bible, we should be afraid of them, for God is at a great distance from them.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. I, p. 383 [underlining supplied]

“The success of the meeting depends on the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. For the outpouring of the Spirit every lover of the cause of truth should pray. And as far as lies in our power, we are to remove every hindrance to His working. The Spirit can never be poured out while variance and bitterness toward one another are cherished by the members of the church. Envy, jealousy, evil surmising, and evilspeaking are of Satan, and they effectually bar the way against the Holy Spirit's working. Nothing else in this world is so dear to God as His church. Nothing is guarded by Him with such jealous care. Nothing so offends God as an act that injures the influence of those who are doing His service. He will call to account all who aid Satan in his work of criticizing and discouraging. Those who are destitute of sympathy, tenderness, and love cannot do Christ's work.”

Testimonies for the Church, Vol. 6, p. 42 [underlining supplied]

“Christ has promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to His church, and the promise belongs to us as much as to the first disciples. But like every other promise, it is given on conditions. There are many who believe and profess to claim the Lord's promise; they talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit, yet receive no benefit. They do not surrender the soul to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We cannot use the Holy Spirit. The Spirit is to use us. Through the Spirit God works in His people “to will and to do of His good pleasure.” Phil. 2:13. But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift. Only to those who wait humbly upon God, who watch for His guidance and grace, is the Spirit given. The power of God awaits their demand and reception. This promised blessing, claimed by faith, brings all other blessings in its train. It is given according to the riches of the grace of Christ, and He is ready to supply every soul according to the capacity to receive”

Desire of Ages, p. 672 [underlining supplied]