

Many questions surround the doctrine of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I hope to address the most common and important ones. In this first part, we focus on the following:

1. Where in the Bible is the word 'baptism' used with reference to the Holy Spirit?
2. How many recorded incidences of the baptism in the Holy Spirit are there in the Bible?
3. Who baptises one in the Holy Spirit?
4. What exactly is baptism in the Holy Spirit?
5. What are the conditions for baptism in the Holy Spirit?
6. Is baptism in the Holy Spirit a separate experience from salvation?

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**1. Where in the Bible is the word 'baptism' used with reference to the Holy Spirit?**

The New Testament contains six references where 'baptism' is used in connection with the Holy Spirit. Whilst there are six, the references are really two, since there is repetition in counting the same reference in the Gospels, and Peter's reference to it in Acts 11:16, is his commentary on it, in quoting Acts 1:5.

**Matthew 3:11** As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; **HE will BAPTIZE YOU WITH HOLY SPIRIT** and fire.

**Mark 1:8** I baptised you with water; but **HE will BAPTIZE YOU WITH HOLY SPIRIT.**"

**Luke 3:16** John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; **HE will BAPTIZE YOU WITH HOLY SPIRIT** and fire.

**John 1:33** I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, **this is the One who BAPTIZES WITH HOLY SPIRIT.**'

**Acts 1:5** ... for John baptised with water, but you will be **BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** not many days from now."

**Acts 11:16** And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptised with water, but **you will be BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**'

Note that all six references have the phrase: 'baptise **WITH** the Holy Spirit'. In the Greek, the preposition 'with' is the word '**EN**' which could also be translated in English as '**IN**'. Thus all six references above could read **BAPTISE IN THE HOLY SPIRIT** (Just as baptism **WITH** water implies a baptism **IN** water).

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## 2. How many recorded incidences of the baptism in the Holy Spirit are there in the Bible?

There are five:

- (i) The 120 disciples on the day of Pentecost - **Acts 2.**
  - (ii) The Samaritan converts - **Acts 8:16.**
  - (iii) Saul of Tarsus - **Acts 9:17.**
  - (iv) Cornelius and his household - **Acts 10:44-46; 11:15,16.**
  - (v) Twelve disciples of John - **Acts 19:6.**
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## 3. Who baptises one in the Holy Spirit?

In the first four verses quoted above, John the Baptist states very clearly that it is **Jesus Christ** who baptises believers in the Holy Spirit. Christ Jesus Himself administers the baptism in the Holy Ghost. Whilst the Holy Spirit is a 'Promise of the Father', the responsibility of pouring the Spirit out is the Son's, Christ Jesus.

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#### 4. What exactly is baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Recall the meaning of ‘to baptize’, viz. **to dip into or to immerse**. There are **seven references in the book of Acts** indicating the **baptism in the Holy Ghost**. Note that this baptism is described as the Holy Spirit being **poured out over or falling upon the believer from above**:

**Acts 2:17** ‘AND IT SHALL BE IN THE LAST DAYS,’ God says, ‘**THAT I WILL POUR FORTH OF MY SPIRIT ON ALL MANKIND; AND YOUR SONS AND YOUR DAUGHTERS SHALL PROPHECY, AND YOUR YOUNG MEN SHALL SEE VISIONS, AND YOUR OLD MEN SHALL DREAM DREAMS**

**Acts 2:33** Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, **He has POURED FORTH this** which you both see and hear.

**Acts 8:16** For He had not yet **FALLEN UPON any of them**; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Acts 10:45** All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of **the Holy Spirit had been POURED OUT on** the Gentiles also.

**Acts 10:44** While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit FELL UPON all those** who were listening to the message.

**Acts 11:15** And as I began to speak, **the Holy Spirit FELL UPON THEM them** just as He did upon us at the beginning.

**Acts 19:6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, **the Holy Spirit CAME ON them**, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.

An examination of Acts 2, the first record of the Holy Spirit Baptism, reveals the following :

1. The room in which they were in was completely filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. Hence the Spirit came **upon and over them**.

**Acts 2:2** And suddenly there came from heaven **a noise** like a violent rushing

wind, and **IT FILLED THE HOUSE** where they were sitting

2. As individuals, apart from experiencing being clothed or surrounded by the Spirit, they were all FILLED with the Spirit **within them**.

**Acts 2:4**      **And they were ALL FILLED WITH the HOLY SPIRIT and began to speak with other tongues** as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

In the account of the Apostle Paul's infilling with the Holy Spirit, three days after his conversion, the Bible records it as follows:

**Acts 9:17**      So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after **LAYING HIS HANDS ON him** said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may **regain your sight and be FILLED WITH the Holy Spirit.**"

From this, we may conclude the following: ...

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit takes place when the believer's entire being is completely immersed in the PERSON and POWER of the Holy Spirit, who is POURED OUT from ABOVE coming OVER him or her, entirely enveloping the person with His power and presence from outside and also FILLING the person to overflowing within.

Whilst the baptism in the Holy Spirit is largely an immersion in His power, it must be remembered that **the Holy Spirit is not a 'POWER' per se, but a PERSON**. He is "**not an entity, but Deity**" (Bevere. J, The Holy Spirit - An Introduction, 26). He already lives within you if you have accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Now, as you are baptised IN HIM, be conscious that He is not some abstract force or power, without personality, that is coming upon you. He is the very PERSON of God, the precious Holy Spirit that desires to envelop you with His nature and power. His nature will produce in you His fruit; His power will produce in you boldness to be a witness and function in His gifts.

As an expression of regard, respect and honour, we should never refer to the Holy Spirit as “it”, but as ‘He’. Most people engage the Spirit when they need some “power” in the face of some task they need to execute, or some need to be met. The Holy Spirit seeks not to be “used” in this fashion, without there being any vital and ongoing relationship with His PERSON. When we are at one with Him, and regard His Personhood, obey His leading (“Those who are Led by the Holy Spirit are the sons of God” - **Rom. 8:14**). His power becomes easily, normally and routinely available to us in our bid to represent God our Father and execute His will.

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## 5. What are the conditions for baptism in the Holy Spirit?

The essential condition for receiving the Holy Spirit baptism is the **NEW BIRTH** - You must be **BORN AGAIN**. You must be a son of God, by accepting Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour. Only those who have seriously surrendered and committed their lives to God by accepting Jesus Christ, His Son, as their personal Lord and Saviour, qualify to be baptised in the Holy Spirit’s power. The person must have **repented and expressed faith in Jesus Christ**.

**John 1:12** But as many as **received him**, to them **gave the power** to become **the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name

Note in each of the following that belief in Jesus was prerequisite to receiving the Holy Spirit Baptism:

- **Paul** was baptised in the Holy Ghost **three days after** he surrendered his life to the Lord on the Damascus road. (**Acts 9; 22:8-10**). He called Jesus “Lord” at his conversion, and three days later Ananias addressed him as “**BROTHER**” Saul. Obviously, Paul surrendered his life to Christ on the Damascus road and three days later received the infilling of the Spirit.

**Acts 9:17** So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, “**BROTHER SAUL**, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and **BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**.”

- At the **revival in Samaria**, many received the word ministered by Phillip, the evangelist

(Acts 8:12). Later they were baptised in the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands by Peter and John (Acts 8:16,17). The Samaritan believers were being saved and brought into the Kingdom of God as SONS and part of God's spiritual family, the Church, through the EVANGELISTIC efforts of Phillip. The APOSTLES, who were at Jerusalem, heard about this, and sent Peter and John down there SPECIFICALLY to pray for them to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Here we see that 'evangelistic' grace bringing people to Christ, and the 'apostolic grace' seeking to form Christ in them (Col. 1:28,29). The Baptism in Holy Spirit is one of many baptisms alluded to in Hebrews 6:1-2, and with other doctrines listed there, form a solid foundation in the life of the believer, from which we are meant to mature and "go on to perfection (maturity)". Being baptised in the Spirit is a very necessary and non-negotiable element in your quest to mature as God's son in Christ.

- ➞ The **disciples of John at Ephesus** first 'believed'; thereafter they were baptised in water and in the Holy Spirit. Note what Paul asked them in Acts 19:5, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?"
- ➞ In Acts 10, Peter preached to the **household of Cornelius** - these were Gentiles - non-Jews. Peter was plagued with a very subtle bias against admitting Gentiles into the Kingdom of God. Whilst he was still preaching, the Holy Ghost fell on them, and they began speaking in tongues, without a recorded response of their belief in Jesus and repentance from sin. Afterwards, they were baptised in water. It seems from the context of the scriptural passage, that even before actively repenting, they were baptised in the Spirit. I believe it was done in this way, because God had to convince Peter of His plan to include Gentiles into the Kingdom in a manner that would be undisputable. I also believe that in their hearts, they had repented whilst Peter was still preaching. In the next chapter, Acts 11, Peter gives an account of this experience.

#### **Acts 11:15-18**

- 15 "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit FELL UPON THEM just as He did upon us at the beginning.
- 16 "And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptised with water, but you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit.'
- 17 "Therefore if God gave to them the SAME GIFT as He gave to us also AFTER BELIEVING in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God's way?"
- 18 When they heard this, they quieted down and glorified God, saying, "Well then,

God has granted to the Gentiles also the repentance that leads to life.”

Peter recounts in Acts 11:17 that the 120 people in the upper room received the Holy Spirit baptism ‘after believing in the Lord Jesus’. It is thus safe to conclude that Cornelius and his household did in fact believe and repent, even if it was inwardly. But God did this in this fashion, on this particular occasion, to clearly convince Peter of His plan for Gentiles. In his own words, after this incident, Peter said “**who was I that I should stand in God’s way?**”.

- ☞ If you have received Jesus as Saviour, believing in Him and are committed to live **righteously and obediently**, then you can expect to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 5:32** And we are witnesses of these things; and **so is the Holy Spirit**, whom God hath **given to them that OBEY him**.

The Baptism in the Spirit is not a once off, but perpetual baptism experience. It should be a constant reality.

**Ephesians 5:18-20** And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but **be filled with the Spirit**.

Concerning the disciples at Iconium:

**Acts 13:52** And **the disciples** were **continually filled** with joy and with **the Holy Spirit**.

Concerning Peter and John and their Companions:

**Acts 4:31** And when **they had prayed**, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were **all filled with the Holy Spirit**, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Perpetual infilling requires active obedience to God’s Word. The Holy Spirit is given to those who obey God. Obedience invites Him; disobedience distances Him. Obedience attracts Him; disobedience repels Him. The Holy Spirit is at ONE with all persons in the godhead, the Father and the Son. God’s Word and Jesus the Son are ONE. Whenever the Holy Spirit sees the

Word of God in you being read, studied, and obeyed, it is the ideal conditions for Him to settle there. In the book of Genesis, He is the first person of the godhead mentioned in the Bible, and it is Him brooding over the waters. Water are a consistent symbolic sign of the Word (Eph. 5:26; John 17:3).

**Gen 1:2** And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And **the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.**

In reference to the godhead, among other descriptors, the Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Father, the Spirit of the Son and the Spirit of Jesus. Bear in mind that “Christ” refers to the eternal and pre-existent godhead - Father, Son and Spirit (Col. 2:9).

**Romans 8:9** However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed **the Spirit of God** dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the **Spirit of Christ**, he does not belong to Him (See also 1 Pet.1:11)

**Matthew 10:20** For it is not you who speak, but it is the **Spirit of your Father** who speaks in you.

**Galatians 4:6** Because you are sons, God has sent forth **the Spirit of His Son** into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

**Philippians 1:19** for I know that this will turn out for my deliverance through your prayers and the provision of **the Spirit of Jesus Christ**,

The Holy Spirit does not just represent the Father and the Son, but also has the capacity to reveal them and express them to, in and through us. But, to do this, He requires your prioritisation on God’s Word. It is through your obedience to God’s Word, that He shows Himself, thus revealing Father and Son to you.

Note here what Jesus said :

**John 14:19-26**

19 "After a little while the world will no longer see Me, but you *will* see Me; because I live, you will live also.

20 "In that day you will know that I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you.



- 21 "He who **has My commandments and keeps them** is the one who loves Me; and he who loves Me will be loved by **My Father, and I will love him** and will **disclose Myself** to him."
- 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, "Lord, what then has happened that You are going to disclose Yourself to us and not to the world?"
- 23 Jesus answered and said to him, "If anyone **loves Me**, he will **keep My word**; and **My Father will love him**, and ***We will come to him and make Our abode with him.***

'Having' and 'keeping' the commandments of God positions you to access unique expressions of the love of the Father and Son (v.21), as well as being privy to certain disclosures of God of Himself to you.

**Disclose = emphanizo =** to manifest, exhibit to view; show one's self, come to view, appear, be manifest; to indicate, declare, make known

Consider how God revealed Himself to Abraham as 'Jehovah Jireh' because of his obedience to the command of God to sacrifice his son Isaac (see Genesis 22). Every act of obedience has the potential to unlock profound aspects of God's person and power to you. Your love for God is measured by your obedience to His Word and as you consistently obey Him, He will presence Himself authoritatively in your life (v.23) and progressively unveil and disclose more and more of Himself to you.

Fellowship with the Holy Spirit is important. Note Paul's valediction at the end of the second letter to the Corinthians:

**2 Cor. 13:14** The **grace of the Lord Jesus Christ**, and the **love of God**, and the **fellowship of the Holy Spirit**, be with you all.

From the Father and the Son, Paul imparts love and grace respectively, but nothing is imparted from the Holy Spirit. Instead, Paul simply states The FELLOWSHIP of the HOLY SPIRIT be with you. In other words, the Love of God the Father, and the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ is imparted to us, in and through our active fellowship with the Holy Spirit. The word 'fellowship' implies partnership or shareholding.

**Fellowship = koinōnía**; from the root word, **koinōnéō**, meaning '**to share in**'

Fellowship with, Communion with, participation.

The Spirit fellowships with those who love God's Word. You are 'led by the Spirit' when you walk in obedience to God's Word. People often use the Holy Spirit as an excuse for the pride in their hearts, in having their own or insisting on their own personal preference. "The Spirit told me" or "The Spirit led me to" – is one of the most abused phrases today. You are led by the Holy Spirit, when your decisions are informed and directed by principles accurately extracted from God's Word. The Spirit will not lead you in adopting a mindset, embarking on a decision or exuding a behaviour that contradicts a principle from God's Word. The Holy Spirit empowers your actions which line up with God's Word. He is not obligated to grant power and grace to your personal preference not rooted in biblical principle. Be led by the Spirit by walking in obedience to God's Word.

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## 6. Is baptism in the Holy Spirit a separate experience from salvation?

The answer to this question is 'YES'. Salvation through the new birth and the Holy Spirit Baptism are distinct and unique experiences. Point 3 above also clarified that salvation is a pre-condition for the Holy Spirit Baptism. Being born again by the Word and Spirit (Jesus 3:5) and being Baptised into the Spirit are two separate experiences. No one experience is to be disparaged against. Both are extremely equally important. The first grants access into the Kingdom and God's family, and the second is meant to be an essential part of maturation as His son, empowering you to efficiently execute His purposes. While both are critically important, the first, is necessary for the second.

All believers have the resident indwelling Spirit of God inside of them as a result of their salvation experience in accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour, but this is not the same as being baptised in the Holy Spirit.

We are born again by the Spirit. No man can be born again without the active work and presence of the Holy Spirit within him.

**John 3:5**      Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is **BORN OF** water and the **SPIRIT** he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

## **Baptism BY the Spirit into the Body of Christ:**

At the initial new birth encounter, God places His Holy Spirit in us. At this point, we are **baptised BY the Spirit** into the Church, the BODY of Christ. We are also '**baptised INTO CHRIST**'.

This baptism BY the Holy Spirit is something I will give attention to in another writing. Here below is a brief explanation.

Recall that to baptize means 'to immerse into' and has the significance of 'fully identifying with someone or an experience or entity'.

**Galatians 3:26** For you all are **sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus**. For all of you who were **baptised into Christ** have **clothed yourselves with Christ**

We become sons of God through faith in Jesus Christ (John 1:11,12). The phrase '**baptised into Christ**' has **several applications**, one of which is to be baptised into Him - into His body, which is the church.

**Ephesians 1:22** And He put all things in subjection under His feet, and gave Him as head over all things **to the church, which is His body**, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.

**Ephesians 5: 23b** Christ also is the **head of the church**, He Himself *being* the Savior of **the body**.

The moment you received Christ as your Lord and Saviour, you were spiritually baptised into His church. The reference to 'church' here does not refer to a physical building called 'church'. The church refers to all true believers in Christ, and not the place or building in which they gather (See 1 Peter 2:5; 1 Corinthians 3:16,17; Ephesians 2:20-22). We become members of His church through accepting Jesus as our Lord and Saviour.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** For **BY one Spirit** were **we all baptized into one body**, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

This baptism into the Body of Christ by the Spirit, began on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out – and the early church was born as people became saved through repentance from sin, accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Note also that the verse above identifies exactly who baptises us into the church - The Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:47(b)** And the Lord **added to the Church** daily **such as were being saved (KJV)**

Note that this verse directly links the addition and growth in the 'church' to the daily occurrence of people being 'saved.' Salvation qualifies you for membership into the Body of Christ, the church.

The point I want to emphasise here in referencing the Baptism **BY the Spirit** into the Body of Christ when you get saved, is that the Holy Spirit is very actively involved with you even before Jesus would baptise you in the power of the Spirit by immersing you in Him, the Spirit. Therefore, there is a baptism BY the Spirit; but there is also a baptism IN the Spirit.

At salvation, the Spirit takes up residence within us and renews our spirits (hearts).

**Ezekiel 36:27** I will **PUT MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU** and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.

The Spirit is also called the "Spirit of adoption" who adopts us into God's Family. By His presence within us, we have the authority and ability to cry out Abba Father to God. He, the Holy Spirit, testifies or witnesses with our spirits within us, that we are God's sons indeed.

**Romans 8:15,16** For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have **received a spirit of adoption** as sons **by which WE CRY out**, "Abba! Father!" The **Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God ...**

The Holy Spirit in our hearts at one with our spirits because we have received Jesus Christ as Lord, is actually the Person and power that enables us to cry out Abba Father and relates to God as Father. We cry Abba Father, because He the Spirit is crying Abba Father in and through us.

**Galatians 4:5-7** So that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. **Because YOU ARE SONS**, God has **SENT FORTH THE SPIRIT** of His Son **INTO OUR HEARTS**, crying, **“Abba! Father!”** Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God.

The Holy Spirit's indwelling presence is what gives the believer the capacity to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ. **You cannot even say “Jesus is Lord”, except by the Holy Spirit**

**1 Corinthians 12:3** Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God says, “Jesus is accursed”; **and no one can say, “Jesus is Lord,” except by the Holy Spirit.**

So even before you said, **“Jesus is Lord”**, the Holy Spirit was already at work in your heart, bringing conviction of sin and unrighteousness (John 16:8), transforming you and then capacitating you to acknowledge the Lordship of Christ over your life.

He then began His cleansing and sanctifying work in you, which still continues today, so that you can come to a place of obedience to Jesus and His Word, and then continue to perfect this obedience progressively in all areas of your life as you mature in Christ.

**1 Peter 1:2** according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, **by the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to obey Jesus Christ** and be sprinkled with His blood: May grace and peace be yours in the **fullest measure**.

He, the Holy Spirit, is AT ONE with your spirit which He has renewed by the new birth.

**1 Corinthians 6:17** But the one who **joins himself to the Lord** is one spirit with Him.

Read the context of 1 Cor. 6 to understand that whilst joined to the Holy Spirit in your spirit, it does require you to separate from sinful activity. Maintain this joining by living righteously before the Lord.

## **'SEALED' BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, GIVEN AS A 'PLEDGE'**

The verse here below indicates two powerful things about the Holy Spirit, viz., (a) **We are SEALED by Him** (b) **He is given to us as a PLEDGE**.

### (a) **We are SEALED by The Holy Spirit**

**Ephesians 1:13,14** In Him, you also, **after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation - having also believed**, you were **SEALED IN HIM with the HOLY SPIRIT of PROMISE**, who is given as **A PLEDGE of our INHERITANCE**, with a view to the redemption of **GOD'S OWN POSSESSION**, to the praise of His glory.

We are sealed in Jesus BY THE SPIRIT Himself. This is a mark of ownership and authentication that we are God's property. Note that this happens when we **'BELIEVE'** the message of the **GOSPEL OF SALVATION**.

Once we are saved, it is the Holy Spirit who has already been an essential part of our salvation experience, that now also SEALS us, i.e. confirms the authenticity of our sonship towards God through Christ, and thus confirms that we are God's. We belong to Him and are under His ownership and protection (all this is implied by the word 'SEAL'). We are God's "own possession" (**Eph. 1:14b**).

Note also that the SEAL and PLEDGE of the Holy Spirit in our lives is described as taking place by the activity of **The HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE**. This could also be read as "the promised Holy Spirit" (NIV, NIV). This could also be read as **'Promise of the Spirit'**, as is expressed in **Galatians 3:14**, a text relating to salvation and not to the baptism in the Spirit.

**Galatians 3:14** In order that in Christ Jesus the **blessing of Abraham** might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the **PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT through faith**.

In the book of Galatians, Paul is concerned that the Galatians, who had expressed faith in Jesus Christ for salvation were being seduced away from this faith position into observing works of the law in order to attain salvation. In the light of this he says the following to them

....

### Galatians 3:1-5

- 1 You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes **Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified?**
- 2 This is the only thing I want to find out from you: **did you receive the Spirit** by the works of the Law, or by **hearing with faith?**
- 3 Are you so foolish? **Having begun by the Spirit**, are you now being perfected by the flesh?
- 4 Did you suffer so many things in vain - if indeed it was in vain?
- 5 So then, does **He who provides you with the Spirit** and works miracles among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by **hearing with faith?**

These phrases in the text above, “receive the Spirit” (verse 2) and “begun by the Spirit” (verse 3) and “provides you with the Spirit” (verse 5) - all refer to our salvation experience and not to the baptism in the Spirit. The context of the entire chapter of Galatians 3 confirms this.

**Aside Note:** At salvation, by the ‘**promise of the Spirit**’, or the ‘**Spirit of promise**’, the ‘**Spirit of the Son**’ occupies our spirits and we cry ‘Abba Father’.

At the baptism in the Spirit, by the ‘**promise of Father**’, the Son immerses us in the power of the Spirit. (more on this later)

The ‘Spirit of promise’ relates to our salvation experience. The ‘promise of the Father’ relates to our baptism in the Spirit experience (explained later). The Holy Spirit is very active in both dynamics.

Recall that at the point of entrance into the Kingdom of God, it is the Spirit of His Son that is sent to us, giving us the ability to cry ‘Abba Father’. This experience is also called the ‘promise of the Spirit’. Now at the point of your baptism into the power of the Spirit, the emphasis of the Spirit that comes to you is that of the Father. John said that Jesus will baptise us with the Holy Spirit, i.e. the Son baptises us in the power of the Spirit. He is able to do this as He has already taken up residency within our spirits. The Son, Christ Jesus, administers the baptism in the power of the Spirit, an experience described as the ‘promise of the Father’.

**(b) The Holy Spirit is given to us as a PLEDGE**

The Holy Spirit is also given to us at salvation as a **pledge or down payment**.

**Pledge = arrabon** = Earnest money, a pledge, something which stands for part of the price and paid beforehand to confirm the transaction.

As indicated by the meaning of the Greek word for pledge 'arrabon', a pledge is a down payment (like a 'deposit), part of the full price' made as a firm commitment that the price in its totality will be honoured. The Holy Spirit is a down payment of the fact that the entirety of the godhead, inclusive of both the Father and Son, will come to abide with us.

**The Holy Spirit is a pledge of our inheritance. What is our inheritance? God Himself!**

We have an inheritance in Him, Christ.

**Ephesians 1:10b,11** In Him also we have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to His purpose who works all things after the counsel of His will,

Our inheritance is Christ. Christ is the fullness of the Godhead - Father, Son and Spirit (Col. 2:19).

**Colossians 2:9** For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form.

The Spirit is given as a down-payment of the fullness of the godhead.

**In Christ Jesus, we are heirs of GOD the FATHER, through our JOINT-HEIRSHIP with Him.**

**Galatians 4:7** Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an Heir through God.

**Rom. 8:16,17** The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him



By our Father's great grace, He had made us, His sons, His heirs in exactly the same degree as His Son, Jesus Christ. We are not just His heirs; we are 'JOINT-HEIRS' with His Son. This is not simply the understanding of me being just another one of many of His sons, all of whom have some inheritance in God. A joint-heir with Christ implies that my inheritance in God is in Christ, His Son, and I am a joint-heir together with HIM. All Christ has access to is also given to me.

**Romans 8:17a** If we are God's children, we will get the blessings God has for His people. **He will give us all that He has given Christ.** But we must suffer like Christ suffered. Then we will be able to share His glory. **(ERV)**

This truth has got to become a clearly understood fact in my heart and mind, a firm conviction, and a living reality. The sheer privilege of this is monumental, staggering, mind boggling and deeply humbling. It causes us to respond with sincere gratitude to our Father.

#### **2 Corinthians 1:21,22**

21 Now He who establishes us with you **in Christ** and anointed us is God,  
22 who also **SEALED US** and **gave us the Spirit in our hearts as A PLEDGE.**

Part of our final point of consummation in God is **immortality**, where death's power over us is forever conquered. This represents a heightened level of maturity in sonship. For this purpose too, the Spirit is given as a guarantee that not only would this be attained, but that also He, the Spirit in us, is also focussed on ensuring its attainment.

#### **2 Corinthians 5:4,5**

4 For indeed while we are **in this tent**, we groan, **being burdened**, because we do not want to be unclothed but to **be clothed**, so that what is **mortal will be swallowed up by life.**  
5 Now He who **prepared us for this very purpose is God**, who gave to us **the Spirit as A pledge.**

#### **Romans 8:22,23**

22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.  
23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having **the first fruits of the Spirit**, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons**, the **redemption of our body.**

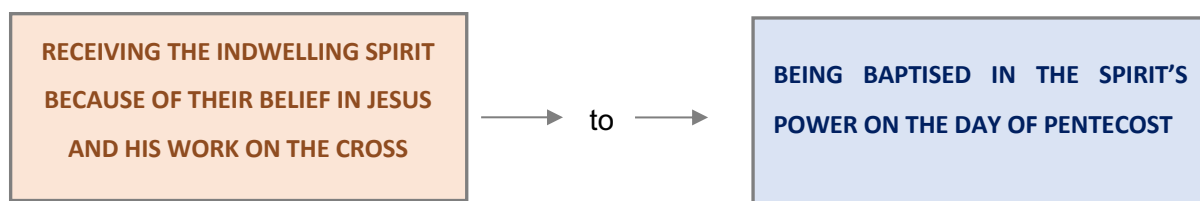
I love the way the Amplified Bible frames **Ephesians 1:14**:

**Ephesians 1:14** That [*Spirit*] is the **guarantee of our inheritance** [*the firstfruits, the pledge and foretaste, the down payment on our heritage*], in anticipation of its full redemption and our acquiring [*complete*] possession of it - to the praise of His glory. **(AMP)**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is part of our inheritance in Christ and must be desired and pursued.

One who has Jesus as the Lord of their lives is saved and has the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit with them. But this does not necessarily mean that they have been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

### LOOK AT HOW THE DISCIPLES PROCEEDED FROM ...



After His resurrection from the dead, signifying the completeness of His work, Jesus appears to His disciples and says to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit". This refers to the indwelling Spirit and not the Baptism in the Spirit, because the price for sin had been paid.

**John 20:22** And when He had said this, He **BREATHED ON THEM** and said to them, **"RECEIVE the Holy Spirit.**

**Receive = lambano = to take.** This word indicates a single, complete and instant experience which took place as Jesus spoke. This reception of the Holy Spirit was not the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but a reception of the indwelling Spirit as a result of their belief in Jesus. Later, to these very same disciples, Jesus said ...

**Luke 24:49** And behold, I am sending forth **the promise of My Father** upon you; but you are to **stay in the city** until you are **CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH.**"

And later still He said, ...

**Acts 1:8** “but you **WILL RECEIVE POWER** when the **HOLY SPIRIT** has come **UPON YOU**; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”

Being ‘clothed with power from on high’ is a reference to the baptism in the Spirit.

This Jesus describes as the ‘promise of the Father’ (discussed in the next session) and it was fulfilled only in **Acts 2:4**.

**Acts 2:4** And they **WERE ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT** and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.

**Aside Study Note:** From **Acts 2** onwards, the phrase ‘receive the Holy Spirit’ always relates to the baptism of the Spirit and not to the in-breathing or indwelling of the Spirit (e.g., in **Acts 19:5**).

**Another analogy:** From the ‘**WELL**’ to the ‘**RIVER**’

The **indwelling of the Holy Spirit** as a result of salvation, is pictured and encapsulated in the statement ‘**IN HIM A WELL**’ by Jesus to the woman of Samaria in John 4. This relates to our access of ‘eternal life’ (our salvation experience) as indicated in the passage below. Your salvation experience and the Spirit's indwelling in you is described as “**IN HIM A WELL**” in John 4.

**John 4:13-14** Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again; but whoever **drinks of THE WATER that I will give him** shall **never thirst**; but the water that I will give him will become **IN HIM A WELL OF WATER** springing up **to ETERNAL LIFE**.”

Later in John 7, Jesus referred to the **fullness of the Spirit's power and baptism** when He alluded to it, referencing it in terms of **a mighty flowing RIVER** from within our spirits.

**John 7:37-39** Now on the last day, the great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “**If anyone is thirsty**, let him come to Me and drink. He **who believes in Me**, as the Scripture said, ‘From his **innermost being** will flow **RIVERS OF LIVING WATER**.’ ”But this He **spoke of THE SPIRIT**, whom those who

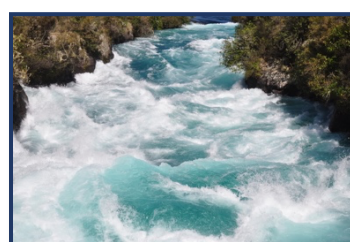
**BELEIVED in Him were TO RECEIVE;** for the **Spirit was not yet given,**  
because **Jesus was not yet glorified.**

The Spirit, as an abiding and indwelling well within you (John 4), now becomes a river flowing through and out from you (John 7). The experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit would take place after Jesus is “glorified”, which is a reference to His death, resurrection and ascension. Jesus ascended - was taken up into Heaven - approximately forty days after His resurrection from the dead. Ten days later, Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on the 120 disciples who were waiting in the upper room. The Spirit as a WELL could take up residence in people as a result of His death and resurrection, paying the price for sin, but the RIVER of the Spirit could only be poured out as a river after His ascension to glory.

There is a prophetic picture of this process in the Old Testament. The first time Moses struck the rock in the wilderness, water flowed. That Rock was Christ, according to Paul, and it was a spiritual rock which actually followed them in the wilderness. Christ the Rock, was struck on the cross, so the water of the river of the Holy Spirit could flow as a result.

**1 Corinthians 10:4** and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were **drinking from a SPIRITUAL ROCK** which followed them; and **the ROCK was CHRIST.**

May we all move on from **“A WELL” of the Spirit**  
to  
**“RIVERS” of the SPIRIT** overflowing within and out from us.



Great grace and peace be yours from He, the Precious Holy Spirit,  
Randolph Barnwell

To be Continued ...

[I advise you to consult an extensive series in 30 parts on the Person and Power of the Holy Spirit via the ‘Holy Spirit Playlist’ on the Gate Ministries Durban Central’s YouTube Channel. This will give you an holistic understanding of the Holy Spirit. <https://tinyurl.com/3mp3xsep>]