

Two Confused Bible Baptisms

A. Baptism w/the Holy Ghost

When John the Baptist, the forerunner of the Lord Jesus, arrived on the scene he made the following announcement... “And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose. **8** I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.” **Mark 1:7-8**

...he shall baptize you WITH the Holy Ghost

After the resurrection, Jesus’ disciples were instructed... “And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” **Luke 24:49**

...until YE be endued with POWER FROM ON HIGH

Pentecost was witness to this prophesied phenomenon as bystanders stood listening to the Apostles speaking in tongues while hearing in one’s own language... “For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. **16** But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; **17** And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.” **Acts 2:15-17**

...I will POUR OUT OF my Spirit

Part of Israel’s New Covenant package was God’s spirit (**Eze 36:26-27**). The gift of the Holy Ghost, power from above, was based on Israel’s repentance and baptism for the remission of sins... “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” **Acts 2:38**

Just as the Lord Jesus was approved of God among Israel via miracles, wonders & signs, now the resurrected Christ was doing the same through His Apostles.

Acts 2:22 Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know:

...a man APPROVED of God among you

...MIRACLES and WONDERS and SIGNS

Mark 16:15-20 And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. **17** And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; **18** They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. **19** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, he was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. **20** And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with *them*, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen.

...the Lord WORKING WITH *THEM*, and CONFIRMING THE WORD WITH SIGNS FOLLOWING

Without EXCEPTION TO THE RULE, baptism w/the Holy Ghost was ALWAYS evidenced by a miracle, wonder or sign. During the Acts period this gift was often transferred via an Apostle by the laying on of hands (**Acts 6:1-8, 8:12-18, 19:6**).

A passage of scripture that is more often than not taken out of context, addressed to Jewish Christians who experienced the Acts period, describes exactly what this baptism was... "For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, **5** And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, **6** If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put *him* to an open shame." **Hebrews 6:4-6**

...For *it is* impossible for those who were once enlightened
...and have tasted of the heavenly gift
...And have tasted the good word of God
...and the POWERS OF THE WORLD TO COME

I'll never forget a heated public discussion I had with a Baptist pastor MANY years ago over the subject of the one baptism in Ephesians 4:5. He accused me of not being saved when I claimed to have never been baptized w/the Holy Ghost. I proceeded to explain I had never raised the dead, healed the sick, spoke in tongues or handled rattlesnakes; as I choose other options with the latter 😊

Those who claim to experience the baptism w/the Holy Ghost today are claiming to experience powers of the world to come that hasn't yet come! Israel & the early church got a TASTE of what Israel will experience when under FULL CONTROL of the Spirit... "For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people: **11** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest." **Hebrews 8:10-11**

...THEY SHALL NOT TEACH every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord:
...for ALL SHALL KNOW ME, from the least to the greatest

Here's a word of caution for those who have a tendency to believe all they hear & see relating to professed miracles, wonders and signs today... "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? **23** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity." **Matthew 7:22-23** "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect." **Matthew 24:24**

With Israel temporary aside today and the word of God complete, this baptism will be evident upon the nation of Israel during the kingdom where a true new birth will have taken place.

B. Baptism by the Spirit

Question... Is there a baptism that is ESSENTIAL for salvation today? ABSOLUTELY! But it isn't a baptism w/water nor a baptism w/the Holy Ghost.

Here, roles are reversed. As it was the resurrected Christ Who baptized w/the Holy Ghost, it is the Spirit of God Who baptizes a believer into Jesus Christ... "Therefore if any man *be* in Christ, *he is* a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." **2 Corinthians 5:17**

...Therefore if any man *be* IN CHRIST, *he is* A NEW CREATURE

1 Corinthians 12:12-13 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ. **13** For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

...For BY ONE SPIRIT are WE ALL BAPTIZED INTO ONE BODY, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles

Galatians 3:26-29 For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. **27** For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. **28** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. **29** And if ye *be* Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

...For as many of YOU AS HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST have put on Christ

Romans 6:3-6 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? **4** Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. **5** For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also *in the likeness* of his resurrection: **6** Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

...that so many of us as were BAPTIZED INTO JESUS CHRIST were baptized into his death

...we are buried with him BY BAPTISM into death

Colossians 2:9-13 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. **10** And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: **11** In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: **12** Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. **13** And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

...Buried with him IN BAPTISM

The Gentile today has same access to God's Spirit (one Spirit) that's promised in the establishment of the New Covenant w/Israel; the Gentile via the faith of Abraham (**Gen 15:1-6; Gal 3:5-14**), NOT via the skirt of a Jew (**Zech 8:23**)!

In conclusion, one must not confuse the two distinct baptisms of w/the Holy Ghost and that of by the Spirit into Christ. Also, being full of the Holy Ghost is not equivalent w/walking in the Spirit bearing the fruit of the Spirit (**Gal 5:16-29; Eph 5:18**).

Upon believing today through faith, by grace & without works, one is united in Christ by one Spirit, that same Spirit that was promised Israel... But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. **1 Corinthians 6:17**

Romans 8:9-11 **9** But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. **10** And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of righteousness. **11** But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his