

If They Have Received Holy Spirit Baptism

Introduction. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 12:13 that we by one Spirit are baptized into the body. So many today have misunderstood this verse and asserted that every believer undergoes the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This has caused great confusion in the religious world today but we know that God is not the author of confusion (1 Corinthians 14:33). So in order to determine what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit, we are going to examine a series of questions based off of the fact of those who claim to have received Holy Spirit baptism.

I. ***Where Is It Promised For Christians Today?***

- A. The promise cannot be found in John 14-16.
 - 1. The promise was given to the apostles (John 13:1; Matthew 26:20).
 - 2. The Holy Spirit would remind the apostles of the teaching of Jesus (John 14:26).
 - 3. They were with Him from the beginning (John 15:27).
- B. The promise cannot be found in Acts 1:2-8.
 - 1. If you carefully follow the pronouns throughout the paragraph, you will see that the promise was not given to all, but simply to the apostles.
 - 2. Luke goes back to Luke 24:46-49 to show that the ones being spoken to were the apostles. To think otherwise and believe that this was referring to Christians now would be throwing away the rules of grammar.
- C. The promise cannot be found in Acts 2:38-39.
 - 1. The gift of the Holy Spirit is not the Spirit Himself. He cannot be the gift and the giver at the same time.
 - 2. Peter told them what to do to be saved in vs. 38. He then said they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. They would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit because it was promised to them (vs. 39).
 - 3. The promise has to do with the promise of salvation involved in the text. The promise is stated in Acts 2:21. "Calling on the name of the Lord" does not mean prayer. It means invoking God's blessing by doing what He says. Thus, the Holy Spirit will give one salvation who complies with God's commands.

II. ***What Will They Do With "One Baptism"?***

- A. Paul said in Ephesians 4:5 that there is "one baptism." There is no doubt about the fact that there were two baptisms on the day

- of Pentecost: Holy Spirit baptism and water baptism for the remission of sins. The same is true of Caesarea Philippi in Acts 10.
- B. Holy Spirit baptism must have been the one that ceased. Holy Spirit baptism was a promise (Acts 1:5), whereas water baptism was commanded (Acts 10:48). Holy Spirit baptism was administered by Christ (Matthew 3:11), whereas water baptism is administered by men (Matthew 28:18-20). Holy Spirit baptism ended before A.D. 62 (Ephesians 4:5), whereas water baptism will remain until the end (Matthew 28:20). One cannot obey a promise. Holy Spirit baptism is not promised to anyone today.

III. ***Why Can They Not All Speak In Real Languages?***

- A. In Acts 2:4-11, there were sixteen different nations mentioned. The people were amazed because they heard their own language. This was a miraculous manifestation of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 10:44-46, when the gospel was preached to the Gentiles, the Holy Spirit came upon the household of Cornelius and they spoke in true tongues too.
- B. Pentecostals claim to speak in tongues but they readily admit that it is not similar to any known human tongue. They say that it is a heavenly tongue; i.e., a language spoken by angels or by God, and not similar to any human language.
1. There is also a term, xenolalia, which is the ability to spontaneously speak a foreign language without first having learned it, or even been exposed to it. Stories of xenoglossia are well known, particularly within the Pentecostal movement and psychic research. E.D. O'Connor describes some cases. Another source claims that "no scientifically attested case of xenolalia has come to light." Still another writer states that essentially all claims of xenolalia are hoaxes.
 2. One analytical study of speaking in tongues was performed by an unknown person or persons. An individual's "ecstatic" speech was recorded and played back separately to many individuals who believed that they had received the gift of interpreting. As you might imagine, they could not interpret the tape consistently. One said that "the utterances referred to a prayer for the health of someone's children." Another interpreted the speech as "praising God for a recent and successful church, fund-raising effort." The claim was made that perhaps distortion, lack of frequency range or noise in the tape recorder inhibited the interpreters' ability to understand the "tongues." They furthermore said that the lack of facial expressions or body "English" would inhibit the interpretation.

IV. ***Why Do They Promise Others Can Receive It?***

- A. People within the "holiness" movement claim that when people "accept Christ," the Holy Spirit begins a great work in their lives. The Spirit convicts them of sin, convinces them of righteousness, and dwells within them. They say that no one becomes a Christian without this gracious work of the Holy Spirit.
- B. But they also state that there is an additional and distinct ministry of the Holy Spirit which is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They declare that this baptism is an empowering gift from God that is promised to every believer. To them, the baptism of the Holy Spirit helps the believer to live a holy life and attaches them more securely to Christ. They furthermore proclaim that the primary purpose of the baptism is to give greater power for witnessing.
- C. Holy Spirit baptism occurs twice in the book of Acts. The first occurrence was in Acts 2:1-4. In Acts 10:44-46, Luke records that Peter was astonished when the Gentiles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. In Acts 11:14-15, Peter remarked that the Holy Spirit coming upon the Gentiles reminded him of how it fell on them "at the beginning."
- D. If the Holy Spirit had been given to every Christian since the day of Pentecost, why would Peter make that remark? If you study carefully, not one person in the New Testament who received Holy Spirit baptism ever told others they could receive it too.

V. ***Why Are They Members Of Churches Unknown To The New Testament?***

- A. There are a number of churches associated with the "holiness" movement which claim that believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit. Some of the largest groups are the United Pentecostals and the Assemblies of God.
- B. Men baptized in the Holy Spirit in the New Testament were not members of Pentecostal denominations (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 12:13, 20; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:16; 3:6; Colossians 1:18; 3:15). The modern day "Pentecostal" movement began in 1901 with Charles Fox Parham, not with Peter on the day of Pentecost.
- C. The "one body" equals the same body. These were not different denominations. These were not vines off of the one branch (John 15:5). Were the apostles members of one church while Cornelius was a member of another church?

VI. ***Why Do They Teach Contradictory Doctrines?***

- A. There are numerous differences between "holiness" churches and the New Testament church. In fact, there are differences of

doctrines between the groups themselves.

1. "Pastor" and "district overseers" vs. elders in every church (Acts 14:23; 20:28; 1 Peter 5:2).
 2. United Pentecostals teach "one person, Jesus only" while Assemblies of God hold to the "Trinity" concept.
 3. United Pentecostals say that baptism is "essential" while Assemblies of God say it is "not essential."
 4. There is even confusion on Holy Spirit baptism with some saying it occurs before water baptism and others saying it occurs afterwards.
- B. There was not any confusion in the New Testament. Jesus only taught one doctrine. Paul taught the same doctrine in all churches (1 Corinthians 4:17; 7:17). We are all admonished to follow the same example (1 Corinthians 4:16; 11:1; Ephesians 5:1).

VII. **Why Do They Violate 1 Corinthians 14?**

A. vs. 22.

1. Their practice reflects their belief that tongues are a sign to them that believe (to show one has received Holy Spirit baptism) but if unbelievers are present, they will refrain from speaking in tongues.
2. In Acts 2, tongues were a sign for unbelievers. Their purpose was to demonstrate that God was with them.

B. vss. 27-28.

1. Paul was emphatic about the need for interpreters during the use of tongues. If there were no interpreters, the one speaking in tongues should be quiet.
2. But those in the modern day who believe they can speak in tongues pay no attention to this passage. They say, "This is spontaneous. We can't control it." But they can. They do not have to speak in tongues. The one who truly has that gift has control of that gift (1 Corinthians 14:32). The gift does not control them.

C. vss. 34-35.

1. Paul commands the women here to keep silence. Of course, we understand this passage to no longer have application because the women were the wives of the inspired prophets and tongue speakers. Now they do not have to ask anyone for we have the completed will of God and all may read, study, and find out God's will. Then God's will was in the man; now it is in the book.
2. However, Pentecostals do believe in miraculous tongues today but they then turn around and ignore this passage. Look at

any religious channel featuring tongue speaking and you are extremely likely to see women speaking in tongues before men. Even in our current time, although 1 Corinthians 14:34-35 no longer applies, 1 Timothy 2:11-12 still does and is still disregarded by today's "holiness" movement.

Conclusion. Paul spoke of a time in 1 Corinthians 13:8-13 when miraculous gifts would cease. There would be no further need for them because their purpose had expired (Mark 16:20; Hebrews 2:4). However, Pentecostals believe that Paul was speaking of a time yet future both to his original readers and to us. They say that when the kingdom of the Lord is ushered in (because man rejected it in the time of Christ), perfection will come and there will be no further need of Spirit-given knowledge, prophecy, and tongues. They say they will disappear because they will be no longer needed, but these operations of the Spirit are needed today.

But we have seen that those who believe in Holy Spirit baptism have several questions that must be answered if they desire to follow the Bible. May God help us to teach others to the best of our ability and dispel the darkness from their minds of this great subject.