

## **Foundations of Life, Part 10**

### **Baptisms Continued: The Baptism of Suffering and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Baptism of Sufferings**

Dr. E. Stanley Jones said: "Christianity is the only religion that dares ask its followers to accept suffering as a gift from God, because it is the only religion that dares say God too has suffered. " Surely it must mean something to us, as Christians, to know that though living in this world is costing us pain, it is costing God more. But how much has God suffered? Some Christians think that the full extent of God's sufferings were the hours in which He watched His Son die upon the cross, but it means much more than that. The Bible tells us that Christ was "the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Rev. 13:8, KJV). That means that there was a cross set up in the heart of God long before there was a cross set up on the hill of Calvary. God's sufferings began at the moment He planned the universe, and tugged at His heartstrings from the moment that He laid the foundations of the world. The pain of the cross must have pierced right through Him as He waited for that awful moment when His Son would die on Calvary. How long did He wait? Centuries? Millennia! Then finally it came - the awful screaming agony of crucifixion. Was this the end? No. Now His sufferings continue in the world's rejection of His Son, and in the indifference of His children. So doesn't it mean something, even everything, to know that, though living in this world is costing us pain, it is costing God more?

### **Luke 12:50**

*50I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed!*

### **Matthew 20:22,23**

*22But Jesus answered, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?'\* They said to him, 'We are able.'*

*23He said to them, 'You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit at my right hand and at my left, this is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by my Father.'*

### **Mark 10:38-40**

*38But Jesus said to them, 'You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?'*

*39They replied, 'We are able.' Then Jesus said to them, 'The cup that I drink you will drink; And with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized;*

*40but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.'*

### **Mark 9:12**

*12He said to them, 'Elijah is indeed coming first to restore all things. How then is it written about the Son of Man, that he is to go through many sufferings and be treated with contempt?*

### **Wesley's Notes**

12:50 But I have a baptism to be baptized with - I must suffer first, before I can set up my kingdom. And how I long to fight my way through all!

This is a baptism of purging, cleansing and perfecting of one's faith in Him. Recognizing that sufferings will last a short time, but they will produce a work of God's Grace and Character within you. Which will allow you to take up the the Cross and follow close to Him. It will empower you to participate more fully in God's awesome plan for your life, as you are measured by the sufferings you undertake in the midst of walking for Christ. Just like He, you are putting aside the comfort zones of

your humanity and embracing the Holy Spirit's impartation of divine anointing and perfecting in one's Spirit Man, the nature of Christ in us the Hope of Glory.

### **Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

A number of objections are often raised against a conclusion that speaking with other tongues is the accepted New Testament evidence that a person has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. One standard objection is that every Christian automatically receives the Holy Ghost at conversion and does not need any further experience, or assurance of the gift. The truth is that there are two different scriptural references to the baptism, which do explain this difference of opinion. However, points to a validity of both the infilling of the Holy Spirit, and the power baptism we so often hear of in the book of Acts.

First, there is the Resurrection Sunday Baptism in the Spirit. He Breathed on them, and said to them, " Receive the Holy Spirit ". ( John 20:22 KJV) Jesus' breathing on the apostles was suited to the words which accompanied it: " Receive the Holy Spirit ". In the Greek NT the same word pneuma means both " spirit " and " breath ". The words of Jesus could therefore be translated, " Receive holy breath ". Furthermore, the tense of the imperative form " receive " indicates that the receiving was a single, complete experience which took place as Jesus uttered the word. It is therefore an incontestable, scriptural fact that at that moment the apostles did actually " receive the Holy Spirit ".

In this first encounter with the resurrected Christ ( keep in mind this is after the resurrection, a new dispensation as Jesus has risen from the dead ), we have passed from old testament salvation to new testament salvation. Before Calvary and the resurrection believers of the old testament could only look forward to the promise of the Holy Spirit baptism.

There are two requirements for receiving the Holy Spirit baptism, and it applied for both the resurrection day experience and the day of Pentecost experience. If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved ( Romans 10:9 KJV ). The two requirements are to confess the Lord Jesus as Lord and to believe that God raised Him from the dead and is the risen Lord. Prior to resurrection Sunday the apostles had already confessed Jesus as Lord. But now, for the first time, they also believed that God raised Him from the dead. Thus they can enter into the fullness of salvation. This was the point at which they experienced the new birth and its initiation in their lives. The Holy Spirit, breathed into them by Jesus, imparted to them a totally new kind of life. Which triumphed them over sin and Satan, as well death and the grave, Amen.

### **Next, there was the promise of Pentecost:**

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high ( Acts 1:5 KJV ) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me ( Acts 1:8 KJV ) The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit baptism in power is mentioned as speaking with other tongues. Consider the resurrection Sunday experience the baptism within and the Pentecost experience upon ( as tongues of fire seemed to sit upon the Acts 2:3 ). Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear ( Acts 2:33 KJV ).

### **We can sum up the differences between the two experiences of the Holy Spirit this way.**

#### **On resurrection Sunday it was:**

1. the resurrected Christ
2. the inbreathed Spirit
3. the result: life.

**On Pentecost Sunday it was:**

1. the ascended Christ
2. the outpoured Spirit
3. the result: power ( or manifestation )

There are many examples in the book of Acts of the baptism of the Holy Ghost likened unto the Day of Pentecost experience.

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them; They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus ( water baptism ). Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit ( Acts 8:14-17 KJV ) And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied ( Acts 19:6 KJV ).

Now in both these previous verses the men of God laid hands on them and they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost. In other passages God just outpoured upon them the gift without such action. The laying on of hands to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a common practice in the Catholic, Orthodox and Anglican Churches. Taking scriptures like Acts 19:6 as its proof text, and recognizing that by faith they have received the Word of the Lord and will manifest the Gift of the Spirit as God sees fit. It is commonly called the sacrament of Confirmation in most churches. Thus the resurrection Sunday experience will manifest itself in the power Gifts later. Now the aspect of speaking in tongues many debate. However, I will say in this modern day Church the Charismatic movement is so apparent that a large percentage of the pastors and ministers accept that Tongues could very well be the evidence they come to fruition.

I truly believe it is the Gifts of the Spirit and its operation in many denominational churches, which has the least acceptance within the Body of Christ. I believe some of it is simple ignorance of the knowledge of the Word. Yet, I deem a great deal of it as environmental opportunity which has limited ability to bear its fruit within the congregation. The baptism of the Holy Ghost and its experience seems to be seen in a different light as a more personal or intimate inner working. Thus, granted a more flexible and individualistic interpretation to the believer in their walk with Christ.

**On the basis of careful examination we can conclude that New Testament Holy Spirit baptism has these conclusions:**

1. It is normal for a Christian to receive the Holy Spirit.
2. Even if a person receives the Holy Spirit at conversion, receiving the Holy Spirit still remains, logically, a distinct experience in relation to the initial reception of faith and repentance.
3. Whether a person receives the Holy Spirit at conversion or after conversion, the evidence that that person has received the Holy Spirit remains the same. Plus, speaking with tongues invariably will follow the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

" To experience the fullness of the Holy Spirit, all someone needs to do is to just pray and to ask the Father God to give this to him or her, then believe that he has received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. He or she should then desire to speak words of a language soon thereafter other than their own language. He or she can then lift their voice unto God and He will inevitably begin to move through their inner most being producing the evidence of speaking with an unknown tongue as God touches the heart of the believer. " ( Buddy Harrison, FCF founder )

Now this can also take place after hands are laid upon the individual believer in a service as well. Or, they have received their Confirmation and the Holy Spirit baptism is imparted by faith and the laying of hands by the Bishop. Either way God can anoint and impart this gift through faith in His name in accordance to the scripture record.