

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine #18: God the Holy Spirit (His Baptism)

Note: Most information based on pages 108-113 of the book “Major Bible Themes” by Lewis Sperry Chaffer.

Opening Comments about God the Holy Spirit, His Baptism:

1. Probably no other doctrine of the Spirit has created more confusion than the baptism of the Spirit.
2. Much of this stems from the fact the baptism of the Spirit began at the same time that other great works of the Spirit occurred, such as regeneration, indwelling, and sealing.
3. Also, in some instances baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit occurred at the same time. This has led some expositors to make the two occurrences synonymous. The conflict in interpretation, however, is resolved if one carefully examines the Scripture relating to the baptism of the Spirit.
4. In all, there are eleven specific references to Spirit baptism in the New Testament:

Matthew 3:11 *“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and with fire.”*

Mark 1:8 *“I baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”*

Luke 3:16 *“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”*

John 1:33 *“I would not have known Him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 1:5 *“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 11:16 *“Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

Romans 6:1-4 *“What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS were baptized into his death? We were therefore BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”*

1Corinthians 12:13 *“For we were all BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*

Galatians 3:26-27 *“You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, for all of you WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST have clothed yourselves with Christ.”*

Ephesians 4:5 *“...one Lord, one faith, ONE BAPTISM”*

Colossians 2:12 *“...having been BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.”*

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Before Pentecost

1. In examining the references in the four gospels and in Acts 1:5, *“For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit,”* it becomes clear that the baptism of the Spirit is regarded in each instance as a future event which had never occurred previously.
 - a. There is no mention of the baptism of the Spirit in the Old Testament, and the four gospels unite with Acts 1:5 in anticipating the baptism of the Spirit as a future event.
 - b. In the gospels, the baptism of the Spirit is presented as:
 - 1) A work which “Christ” will do by the Holy Spirit as “His agent”:

Matthew 3:11 *“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. HE WILL BAPTIZE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT and with fire.”*

- 2) Where John the Baptist predicts that Christ *“shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire.”*

Matthew 3:11 *“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit AND WITH FIRE.”*

- 3) The reference to the baptism “by fire” seems to refer to the second coming of Christ and the judgments which will occur at that time.

Luke 3:16 *“John answered them all, ‘I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I WILL COME, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.’”*

2. Sometimes the agency of the Holy Spirit is expressed by the instrumental use of the Greek preposition *en* as in Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33. Whether or not the preposition is used, the thought is clear that “Christ” will baptize by the Holy Spirit.
3. Some have taken this as being different than the baptism of the Spirit as treated in Acts and the Epistles, but the preferable view is that the baptism of the Spirit is the same in the entire New Testament. The baptism is “by the Holy Spirit” in any case.
4. The norm of the doctrine is expressed by Christ Himself in that He contrasted His baptism by John with the future baptism of believers by the Holy Spirit, which was to occur after His ascension. Christ said:

Acts 1:5 *“For John baptized with water, but IN A FEW DAYS you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

Christians Baptized by the Spirit in the Present Age

1. Because of the confusion as to the nature and time of the baptism of the Spirit, it has “not” always been recognized that “every” Christian is baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ at the moment of his salvation.
2. This fact is brought out in the central passage on the baptism of the Spirit in the New Testament:

1Corinthians 12:13 *“For WE WERE ALL baptized BY one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*

- a. In this passage, the Greek preposition *en* is correctly translated “by” in what is called the instrumental use of this preposition.

- b. This instrumental use is illustrated by the same preposition in **Luke 4:1** where Christ was said to be “*led by the Spirit into the wilderness,*” and by the expression “*by you*” in **1 Corinthians 6:2**, by the expression “*by him*” in **Colossians 1:16**, and by the phrase “*by God the Father*” in **Jude 1**.
 - c. The allegation that the preposition is not used of persons in Scripture is wrong.
 - d. Accordingly, while it is true, as **1 Corinthians 12:13** indicates, that by the baptism of the Spirit we enter into a new relationship to the Spirit, the thought is not so much that we are brought *into* the Spirit as that we are “BY” the Spirit... brought “INTO THE BODY OF CHRIST”.
3. The expression “we all” clearly refers to “all” Christians, not to all men, and it should NOT BE LIMITED to some particular group of Christians.
 4. The truth is rather that “every” Christian FROM THE MOMENT HE IS SAVED is “baptized by the Spirit” *into* the body of Christ. That “baptism”, which puts all believers into the universal church (i.e. “body of Christ”), is what Paul is referring to when he says:

Ephesians 4:5 “*one Lord, one faith, ONE BAPTISM.*”

5. While rites of water baptism vary, there is only one baptism of the Spirit. The universality of this ministry is also brought out by the fact that NEVER in Scripture is any Christian exhorted to be “baptized” by the Spirit, whereas every Christian is exhorted to be “filled” by the Spirit:

Ephesians 5:18 “*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.*”

The Baptism of the Spirit Into the Body of Christ

1. Two main results are accomplished by the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. The first is, the believer is baptized or placed into the *body* of Christ.
 - b. Related to this is the second feature of baptism into Christ, Himself.
2. These two simultaneous results of the baptism of the Spirit are tremendously significant.
 - a. By Spirit baptism the believer is placed into the body of Christ in the living union of all true believers in the present age. Here baptism has its primary meaning of being placed in, initiated into, and given a new and abiding relationship.

- b. The baptism of the Spirit, accordingly, relates believers to all the great body of truth that is revealed in Scripture concerning the body of Christ.
3. The “body of believers”, thus formed “by the baptism of the Spirit” (and increased as additional members are added), is mentioned frequently in Scripture”

Acts 2:47 *“praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord ADDED TO THEIR NUMBER DAILY those who were being saved.”*

1Corinthians 6:15 *“Do you not know that YOUR BODIES ARE MEMBERS OF CHRIST HIMSELF? Shall I then take THE MEMBERS OF CHRIST and unite them with a prostitute? Never!”*

1Corinthians 12:12-14 *“The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they FORM ONE BODY. So it is with Christ. For we were ALL BAPTIZED BY ONE SPIRIT INTO ONE BODY—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were ALL given the one Spirit to drink.”*

Ephesians 2:16 *“...and IN THIS ONE BODY to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which He put to death their hostility.”*

Ephesians 4:4-5, 16 *“There is ONE BODY and one Spirit—just as you were called to one hope when you were called— one Lord, one faith, one baptism...From Him (i.e. “Christ”) THE WHOLE BODY, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

Ephesians 5:30-32 *“...for WE ARE MEMBERS OF HIS BODY. ‘For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and THE TWO WILL BECOME ONE FLESH.’ This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about CHRIST AND THE CHURCH.”*

Colossians 1:24 *“Now I rejoice in what was suffered for you, and I fill up in my flesh what is still lacking in regard to Christ’s afflictions, for the sake of HIS BODY, WHICH IS THE CHURCH.”*

Colossians 2:19 *“He has lost connection with the Head, FROM WHOM THE WHOLE BODY, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows as God causes it to grow.”*

4. Christ is the “Head” of this body and the One who directs its activities:

1Corinthians 11:3 *“Now I want you to realize that THE HEAD OF EVERY MAN IS CHRIST, and the head of the woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”*

Ephesians 1:22-23 *“And God placed all things under His feet and APPOINTED HIM TO BE HEAD OVER EVERYTHING FOR THE CHURCH, WHICH IS HIS BODY, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way.”*

Ephesians 5:23-24 "For the husband is the head of the wife AS CHRIST IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH, HIS BODY, of which He is the Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything."

Colossians 1:18 "And he is THE HEAD OF THE BODY, THE CHURCH; He is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything He might have the supremacy."

5. The body thus formed and directed by Christ is also nurtured and cared for by Christ:

Ephesians 5:29 "After all, no one ever hated his own body, but HE FEEDS AND CARES FOR IT, just as Christ does the church..."

Philippians 4:13 "I can do everything through Him WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH."

Colossians 2:19 "He has lost connection with the Head, from whom THE WHOLE BODY, supported and held together by its ligaments and sinews, GROWS AS GOD CAUSES IT TO GROW."

6. One of the works of Christ is that of "sanctifying" the body of Christ in preparation for its presentation in glory:

Ephesians 5:25-27 "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her TO MAKE HER HOLY, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to Himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but HOLY AND BLAMELESS."

7. As a member of the body of Christ, the believer is also given special gifts or functions in the body of Christ:

Romans 12:3-8 "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with THE MEASURE OF FAITH THAT GOD HAS GIVEN YOU. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so IN CHRIST we who are many FORM ONE BODY, and each member belongs to all the others. WE HAVE DIFFERENT GIFTS, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."

1Corinthians 12:27-28 "Now YOU ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST, and each one of you is a part of it. And IN THE CHURCH GOD HAS APPOINTED first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also THOSE HAVING GIFTS of healing, those able to help others, THOSE WITH GIFTS of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues."

Ephesians 4:7-16 *"But to EACH ONE OF US grace has been given AS CHRIST APPORTIONED IT. This is why it says: 'When He ascended on high, He led captives in his train AND GAVE GIFTS TO MEN.'" (What does "He ascended" mean except that he also descended to the lower, earthly region? He who descended is the very one who ascended higher than all the heavens, in order to fill the whole universe.) IT WAS HE WHO GAVE some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God's people for works of service, SO THAT THE BODY OF CHRIST MAY BE BUILT UP until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ. Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will in all things GROW UP INTO HIM THAT IS THE HEAD, that is, Christ. From Him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, AS EACH PART DOES ITS WORK."*

8. Being placed into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit not only ensures the unity of the body without regard to race, culture, or background, but also ensures that each believer has his particular place and function and opportunity to serve God within the framework of his own personality and gifts. The body as a whole is "fitly joined together."

Ephesians 4:16 *"From Him the whole body, JOINED AND HELD TOGETHER by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work."*

Although the members differ, the body as a whole is well planned and organized.

The Baptism of the Spirit Into Christ

1. In addition to his relationship to fellow believers in the body of Christ, one who is baptized by the Spirit has a new position in that he is declared to be in Christ. This was anticipated in the prediction of Jesus Christ, where Christ said the night before His crucifixion:

John 14:20 *"ON THAT DAY you will realize that I am in my Father, and YOU ARE IN ME, and I am in you."*

The expression *"YOU ARE IN ME"* anticipated the "future" baptism of the Spirit.

2. Because the believer is "in" Christ, he is identified in what Christ did in His death, resurrection, and glorification:

Romans 6:1-4 “*What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? Or don’t you know that all of us WHO WERE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST JESUS were baptized into his death? We were therefore BURIED WITH HIM THROUGH BAPTISM into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.*”

Colossians 2:12 “...*having been BURIED WITH HIM IN BAPTISM and raised with Him through your faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.*”

- a. This has often been taken as representing the rite of water baptism, but it really represents the work of the Holy Spirit without which the rite would be meaningless.
- b. Our identification with Christ through the baptism of the Spirit is an important basis for all that God does for the believer in time and eternity.
3. Because a believer is in Christ, he also has “the life” of Christ which is shared by the head with the body.
4. The relationship of Christ to the body as its Head also is related to the sovereign direction of Christ of His body just as the mind directs the body in the human body of believers.

Baptism of the Spirit Related to Spiritual Experience

1. In view of the fact that “every” Christian is baptized by the Spirit “at the moment” of salvation, it is clear that baptism is a work of God to be understood and received by faith.
2. Although subsequent spiritual experience may confirm the baptism of the Spirit, the baptism is NOT in itself “an experience”. Baptism, because it is universal and related to our position in Christ, is an instantaneous act of God and is NOT a work to be “sought subsequent” to being born again.
3. Much confusion has been wrought by the assertion that Christians should “seek the baptism of the Spirit” especially as it was manifested in *speaking in tongues* in the early church.
 - a. While on three instances in **Acts, (Chapters 2, 10, and 19)**, believers spoke in tongues at the time of their baptism by the Spirit, it is clear that this was unusual and related to the transitional character of the book. In all other instances where salvation took place, there is *NO MENTION OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES* as attending the baptism of the Spirit.

- b. Further, it is quite clear that while all Christians are baptized by the Spirit, all Christians DID NOT SPEAK IN TONGUES in the early church.

1Corinthians 12:29-30 *“Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?”*

NOTE: Obviously, since not all Christians are apostles, nor are all Christians prophets and teachers, then Paul is naturally inferring that NOT ALL CHRISTIANS SPEAK IN TONGUES. Therefore, using “speaking in tongues” as the only proof of the “baptism of the spirit” is NOT supported by accurate interpretation of God’s Word.

- c. The whole concept, therefore, of seeking baptism of the Spirit as a means to an unusual work of God in the life of a Christian is *without scriptural foundation*.
- d. Even the filling of the Spirit is not manifested in “speaking in tongues”, but rather in “the fruit of the Spirit”:

Galatians 5:22-23 *“But THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”*

- e. An interesting fact to consider is...that Paul accused some of the Corinthian Christians of actually speaking in tongues WITHOUT BEING FILLED BY THE SPIRIT:

Galatians 5:22-23 *“But THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT is LOVE...”*

1Corinthians 13:1 *“If I SPEAK IN THE TONGUES of men and of angels, BUT HAVE NOT LOVE (i.e. not filled with “fruit” of the Spirit), I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.”*

- 4. A similar error is sometimes advanced which claims that there are two baptisms of the Spirit, one in Acts 2 (Pentecost) and the other in **1 Corinthians 12:13**: *“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”*
 - a. A comparison of the conversion of Cornelius in **Acts 10—11** with **Acts 2** makes clear that what occurred to Cornelius, a Gentile, was exactly the same as what had occurred to the disciples on the day of Pentecost.
 - b. Peter verified the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” on Cornelius and the Gentiles when he spoke to the Jerusalem Council:

Acts 11:15-17 “*And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them, AS ON US AT THE BEGINNING. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that He said, John indeed baptized with water; but YOU SHALL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift AS HE DID TO US, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”*

- c. Inasmuch as the baptism of the Spirit places the believer into the body of Christ, it is the “same” work from Acts 2 throughout the present dispensation.

CONCLUSION

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is, therefore, important as being the work of the Spirit which places us in a new union with Christ and our fellow believers, a new position in Christ, and a new association in the intimacy of the body of Christ.
2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit happens to “every” true believer at the moment he “believes onto salvation” and is therefore the basis for justification and for all the work of God which ultimately presents the believer perfect in glory.

Loris First Baptist Church
“52 Vital Doctrines of The Bible”

Doctrine # 18: “God the Holy Spirit: His Baptism”

1. Read Pages 1-10 from the Doctrine#18 Study Guide by next Wednesday.
2. Answer the following Questions about “God the Holy Spirit” as you read:

a. Some Important Facts About The Holy Spirit, His Baptism:

1. True or False. The “baptism” of the Holy Spirit is a doctrine that creates a lot of confusion amongst believers. (page 1, top)

2. How many specific references to “Spirit baptism” are there in the New Testament? (page 1, middle)

b. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit Before Pentecost

1. True or False. There is NO MENTION of the baptism of a believer by the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament. (page 2, middle)

2. In the four gospels of the New Testament, the baptism of the Spirit is presented as a work which “Christ” will do through what “agent”? (page 2, bottom; Matthew 3:11)

3. According to Matthew 3:11, John associated his baptism (prior to Pentecost) as a baptism involving “water” and “repentance”. John goes on to prophesy that there will be a future baptism involving “the Holy Spirit” and “what”?

4. The reference to baptism “by fire” in verses like Matthew 3:11 and Luke 3:16 seems to refer to what? (page 3, top)

5. True or False. According to Jesus' claim in Acts 1:5, it is impossible for a believer to be "baptized with the Holy Spirit" unless that believer is first baptized by "water".

c. Christians Baptized by the Spirit in the Present Age

1. True or False. All Christian theologians and denominations have always recognized that "every" Christian is baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ at the moment of his salvation.
(page 3, middle-bottom)
2. According to 1 Corinthians 12:13, how many "believers" (i.e. true Christians) are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the "body of Christ"?
3. True or False. It is pretty clear from Scripture that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is "limited" to just a few of the most faithful believers. (page 4, middle)
4. How many times in the New Testament is a believer encouraged to do whatever is necessary to be "baptized" with the Holy Spirit? (page 4, middle)
5. Instead of being "baptized" with the Holy Spirit, what is every believer encouraged by Paul to seek?
(page 4, middle; Ephesians 5:18)

d. The Baptism of the Spirit into the Body of Christ

1. What are the two main results that are accomplished by the baptism of the Holy Spirit? (page 4, bottom)

2. When the bible says that a believer is baptized by the Spirit into the “body of Christ” what is the primary meaning of this claim? (page 4, bottom)

3. In Ephesians 5:30-32, when Paul says that all believers are “members of His body”, what does Paul call “the body of Christ”? (see also Colossians 1:24)

4. What is Christ’s role in relationship to the “body of Christ”? (page 5, bottom)

5. According to Ephesians 5:29, what does Christ do for “His body”, the church?

6. True or False. What “causes” the body of Christ to “grow” is faithful “outreach” programs developed and implemented by good leaders of a Christian church. (Colossians 2:19)

7. According to Ephesians 5:25-27, the “sanctifying” work of Christ for His body (the church) included “giving Himself up for her” to make “her” (i.e. the church) what?

8. According to Romans 12:3-8 and 1Corinthians 12:27-28, when a believer is “baptized” by the Holy Spirit into the “body of Christ”, what are they given? (page 6, bottom)

e. The Baptism of the Spirit into Christ

1. In addition to being placed into “the body of Christ”, what does the baptism of the Holy Spirit place a believer “into”? (page 7, bottom; John 14:20)

2. According to Romans 6:1-4, Paul wanted believers to realize that they were all “baptized” into who?

3. According to Romans 6:4, since a believer has been baptized INTO CHRIST, that believer also has a “new” what, which is shared by the head with the body? (page 8, middle)

f. Baptism of the Spirit Related to Scriptural Experience

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is to be “understood” and “received” how? (page 8, middle-bottom)

2. True or False. The “baptism” of the Holy Spirit is an “experience” that the New Testament writers encourage new believers to “seek after” once they are saved. (page 8, bottom)

3. True or False. Every time a person (or group) was saved by faith in Jesus Christ in the book of Acts, that person (or group) began to “speak in tongues” as proof they were baptized by the Holy Spirit. (page 8, bottom; see Acts 2:40-41, 4:4, 8:14-17)

4. In verses like 1Corinthians 12:29-30, Paul made sure that the Corinthian Christians knew for certain that NOT ALL BELIEVERS speak in “what”?

5. True or False. When a person is “filled” with the Spirit, “speaking in tongues” is not mentioned in Scripture as one of the “fruits” (i.e. “results”). (page 9, top; Galatians 5:22-23)

6. When Paul was writing to the Corinthian Christians, did he seem to indicate it was possible for believers to be “speaking in tongues” while not even being “filled” with the Spirit?
(page 9, middle; Galatians 5:22-23, 1Corinthians 13:1)

7. According to verses like Ephesians 4:5 and Acts 11:15-17, how many types of “baptism” by the Holy Spirit are revealed in the Scriptures?

g. Conclusion

1. What are the “3” new things that the baptism of the Holy Spirit provides for us? (page 10, middle)

2. When does the Holy Spirit’s “baptism” occur for “every” believer in Jesus Christ? (page 10, middle)