

**ETHAN TEMPLE MINISTRIES
TOOLS FOR LIFE
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RECEIVING SPIRIT BAPTISM AFTER PENTECOST

Jesus promised to baptize his followers with the Holy Spirit so that they would be empowered to take the gospel to the world.

“And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, said he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1: 4, 5, 8

This promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost:

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as a fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2: 1-4

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was not only for the disciples at Pentecost; this experience was, and is, **for all Christians since that time**. Not every believer was present at Pentecost. A practical question might be, **how did Christians receive the baptism of the Spirit after Pentecost?** The answer is found in the book of Acts on at least two occasions His Spirit fell on a group while Peter spoke to them:

“ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all

them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” Acts 10: 44-47

It appears that God also led the church to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit in a more orderly way by the laying on of hands. **Concerning Samaritan believers receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit reread the following:**

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. And Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wonder, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the disciples which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptize in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” Acts 8:12-17

Note that in Acts 8 the individuals of Samaria were led by the spirit to accept Christ and be baptized in the water. Yet they have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when they were baptized in the water. Peter and John came to them from Jerusalem for the specific purpose of laying hands on them and praying for the baptism of the spirit to come upon them. **This is a clear indication that water baptism and spirit baptism are two separate**

experiences. The spirit leads an individual to accept Christ and be baptized in the water. **This is a different work of the spirit then the baptism of the spirit, which must be sought separately when one becomes aware of this wonderful experience.**

We see in Acts that Saul, who later became the apostle Paul, also receive the baptism of the spirit by prayer and the laying on of hands.

“... Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. And immediately there fell from his eyes as it has been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.” Acts 9:17, 18

In Saul’s case the baptism of the Holy Spirit came soon after his conversion on the road to Damascus but before his water baptism. We find a similar example of prayer with the laying on of hands when Paul met with the disciples in Ephesus:

“ And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since you believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were you baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptize in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost

came on them, and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” Acts 19:1-6

The one performing this prayer with laying on of hands should be a believer who has received the baptism of the Holy Spirit themselves. **It should also be pointed out that the laying on of hands is not necessary to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.** It is a wonderful experience to seek the Spirit’s infilling in this manner; however, it is not necessary. Receiving the baptism of the spirit is simply a matter of claiming, by faith, God’s promise of the spirit.

“That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Galatians 3:14

Ellen White understood that Christians do not automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at conversion or when baptized in the water. Of our great need for the spirits in filling in order to witness to others affectively, she wrote, ***“What we need is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Without this, we are no more fitted to go forth to the world than were the disciples after the crucifixion of their Lord.” (Review and Herald, Feb. 1890).***

Concerning our personal spiritual growth and the spirit’s infilling, she wrote, ***“Impress upon all the necessity of the baptism of the spirit, the sanctification of the members of the church, so that they will be living, growing, fruit bearing trees of the Lord’s planting.” (Testimonies for the Church, VOL. 6, p.86)***

If Christians automatically have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Mrs. White would not admonish us to receive it. When one reads her statements, it is clear that she saw its importance and urges every believer to seek the fullness of the spirit in his or her life.

PERSONAL REFLECTIONS AND DISCUSSIONS

1. Why did Jesus tell the disciples to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
2. When did the disciples receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
3. Did every Christian, when they received Christ or were baptized in water, automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
4. How did the Samaritan believers receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
5. When and how did Saul, who later became the apostle Paul, receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?
6. Is prayer with the laying on of hands necessary to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

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