

We aim to reconcile people unto God through Christ

SERMON TITLE:	HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT
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Acts 8:14-16

¹⁴When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. ¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 19:1-7

¹While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." ³So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

⁴Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all.

We read the term "baptize with the Holy Spirit" in each of the four gospels where John the Baptist refers to prophecies of the coming Messiah who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Jesus is quoted using the phrase "baptized with the Holy Spirit" where He commands His followers to wait in Jerusalem for this experience, which he also referred to as the "Promise of the Father."

Acts 1: 4-5

⁴On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. ⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit

Act 9:16

¹⁵When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, ¹⁶because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Acts 10:44-47

⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷"Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

Here in this record it refers to the household of Cornelius as being "*baptized with the Holy Spirit*", or receiving the Holy Spirit. Peter declares that the experience was "the same gift that God gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ" at Pentecost.

It seems that the terms Baptism and filling with the Holy Spirit may have been used interchangeably in the New Testament but that there was a distinct experience of the Baptism of the Spirit in the lives of the early church is undeniable.

It is absolutely true that no person can come to Christ unless there is a work of the Spirit of God in their lives. We are drawn to the Father by the Spirit but from these verses I have read it is clear that there were people who believed but were not yet baptized in the Spirit and when they were baptized in the Spirit something happened that made a phenomenal impact on the believers and unbelievers of the day.

It seems that it was the mission of Christ to "baptize in the Holy Spirit" as described in the four gospels by John the Baptist, is paraphrased in the climax of Peter's Pentecost sermon, "Repent and be baptized...and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

Acts 2 :38-39

³⁸Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."

The promise Peter referred to in his sermon at Pentecost was from a passage we must not ignore even today.

Acts 2:39

"For the promise [covenant] is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away...."

Peter's source is

Isaiah 59:21:

"And as for me, this is my covenant with them, says the LORD: my Spirit that is upon you, and my words that I have put in your mouth, shall not depart out of your mouth, or out of the mouths of your children, or out of the mouths of your children's children, says the LORD, from now on and forever."

One of the main purposes of the book of Acts is to show us the fulfilment of the purpose concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. In the Gospels the writers tell us that Jesus will baptize with the Spirit and fire, in Acts we see the fulfilment of this promise. Jesus said to the Church in

Acts 1:5-8

⁵For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

⁶So when they met together, they asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"

⁷He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you and you will be my witnesses

In verse 5 the apostles indicate their materialistic ideas. "when will you come to restore the kingdom of Israel" Jesus turns to them and says forget the times and dates "wait" in a few days from now you will received the promise of the Father and you will receive the empowerment of the Holy spirit and you will be my witnesses. You will witness in word and deed. Your lives will b transformed and you will demonstrate my resurrection power in your life and through your life.

This is the purpose of the outpouring of the Spirit. To demonstrate the power of God through and in our lives.

In the rest of the book of Acts it illustrates when and how the Spirit was poured out on the church.

Act 2

Acts 8

Acts 9

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

John 3:16 NKJV

Acts 10
Acts 19

Results of the Baptism of the Spirit

1. Acts 1:6

No materialism, concerns for the world and its prestige and power and riches faded

2. Acts 1:8; Acts 4:31

Power to witness

3. Acts 2:2

The presence of God became tangible

4. Acts 1:17-

Everyone empowered with gifts (Corinthians)

5. Acts 1:21

People got saved

6. Acts 3

People got healed

7. Acts 8

Signs and wonders

8. Acts 8

Demons fled

9. Acts 9:

Church grew

10. Acts

People were living in the fear of the Lord.