

*Lesson 4 – A Study of the Holy Spirit*  
*The Baptism of the Holy Spirit*  
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***I. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was also a limited special gift***

- A. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was foretold by John the Baptist. **(Mt 3:11-12)**
  - 1. Jesus will be the administrator of Holy Spirit baptism, not man. Even John the Baptist was not able to do this!
  - 2. God emphasized this point to John when He showed John the identity of the Christ. **(Jn 1:33-34)**
  - 3. He also will administer the baptism of fire.
  - 4. We need more information to know how and when this would be done.
- B. Jesus promises the fulfillment of Holy Spirit baptism to the apostles. **(Acts 1:4-8)**
  - 1. The only condition found that could relate to Spirit baptism is found here. They were to wait in Jerusalem.
  - 2. When the Holy Spirit came the apostles would then have special power and would fulfill the great commission to preach to the whole world. **(Lk 24:46-49)**
  - 3. Jesus the ascended into heaven and the great work of the Holy Spirit was about to begin. **(Acts 1:9; John 16:7-13)**
- C. The apostles received Holy Spirit Baptism on the day of Pentecost. **(Acts 2:1-12)**
  - 1. In this promised display of power something was heard, seen and done.
  - 2. How could “unlearned” Galileans know these languages? The power of God is on display in giving these men the ability to speak in tongues.
- D. God drew attention to the apostles for a reason! **(Acts 2:14-16)**
  - 1. God promised to bear witness of the apostles preaching through various signs. **(Mark 16:17-20; Heb 2:2-4)**
  - 2. After their conversion they were to continue in the “apostles doctrine.” **(Acts 2:42)**
  - 3. Today those who claim these gifts cannot match the genuine found in the Bible!
- E. Those who became Christians that day received another baptism and another gift of the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 2:38-39)**
  - 1. Every Christian received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit but not all had miraculous gifts! **(Rom 8:9; 1 Cor 6:19-20)**
  - 2. Please do not conclude that there was only one gift of the Holy Spirit. **(Acts 8:14-19)**
- F. Cornelius and his household received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.
  - 1. God first taught Peter what He wanted. **(Acts 10:9-16)**
    - a. Why the repetition? Like us, these men were slow to change!
    - b. Peter immediately is shown this truth again! **(Acts 10:17-23)**
  - 2. He then brought Peter and Cornelius together.
    - a. Peter is thinking ahead to the reaction of the church and brings six witnesses. **(Acts 10:23; 11:12)**
    - b. God has a message for these men too!
  - 3. He taught through the sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that the Gentiles should be taught the gospel.

- a. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a rare but powerful sign. There was only *one other example of it in the scriptures*. **(Acts 2:3-4; 11:16-17)**
  - b. This gift always had signs and the speaking in tongues to accompany it. **(Acts 2:1-6; 10:44-46)**
  - c. How does one receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? How do you know if you have? In Bible times there was no doubt!
  - 4. He then gave Cornelius His word so that he might be saved.
    - a. The order here is important to remember. **(Acts 10:44; 11:4,14-16)**
    - b. The sign came first and then the message of salvation!
    - c. The Jews present at Caesarea through this sign learned the lesson they needed! **(Acts 10:34-35; 45-48)**
  - 5. Through Peter and these witnesses the church then learned! **(Acts 11:1-2, 17-21)**
  - G. Are people being baptized with the Holy Spirit today?
    - 1. There are no commands or conditions for Holy Spirit baptism.
      - a. If there is no instruction from God then how are we to receive it?
      - b. Some have confused passages that speak of water baptism with Spirit baptism.
        - a. On Pentecost there were two baptisms.
        - b. There were two baptisms when Peter taught Cornelius. **(Acts 10:46-48)**
    - 2. Holy Spirit Baptism is always accompanied by powerful signs that include speaking in tongues.
      - a. Paul indicated there would come a time when tongues would cease! **(1 Cor 13:8-13)**
      - b. We now have that which is perfect! **(Jas 1:25)**
    - 3. The scriptures demand that we only have one baptism today! Which will it be; Holy Spirit baptism or water baptism? **(Eph 4:4-6)**
      - 1. Which baptism is found in the great commission? How long will it last? **(Mt 28:19-20)**
      - 2. Which baptism is promised to future generations? **(Acts 2:38-39)**
  - H. Why do people believe they have been baptized in the Holy Spirit?
    - 1. Some have been led by men to trust in their feelings.
      - a. How do people become followers of Joseph Smith? **(Prov 14:12)**
      - b. Our experiences must not cause us to put away God's word! **(Gal 1:6-8)**
    - 2. Some have failed to see the proper context of Bible verses.
      - a. What if we took this passage out of context? **(Mt 10:19-20)**
      - b. Consider the three "W's" of Bible study.
    - 3. Some have misunderstood verses that show the proper place of water baptism.
      - a. Upon seeing passages that teach the necessity of Baptism one may claim the verse is dealing with Spirit baptism. **(Rom 6:3-4)**
      - b. At least they do see the essential nature of the baptism in the passage.
      - c. What should they do when they discover this is not Holy Spirit baptism?
- Conclusion:** Will we hold fast to the head, Jesus Christ, or will we follow men who appeal to the flesh in their imaginations? **(Col 2:18-23)**