

Major Bible Themes

52 Vital Doctrines of the Scriptures Simplified and Explained

Adapted from the book *Major Bible Themes*
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God the Holy Spirit: His Baptism

- The Meaning of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - The baptism of the Spirit should not be confused with regeneration, indwelling, sealing, filling, etc.
 - There are eleven specific references to the baptism of the Spirit in the N.T (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16; Rom 6:1-4; 1 Cor 12:13; Gal 3:27; Eph 4:5; Col 2:12).
- The Age of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - There is no mention of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the O.T. and the four gospels unite with Acts 1:5 in anticipating the baptism of the Spirit as a then future event (Pentecost).
 - The mention of baptism with fire in Matt 3:11 and Luke 3:16 is a reference to 2nd Advent judgments, but it is not uncommon for a single prophetic verse to reference two distinct times.
- All Believers Baptized by the H. S. in the Present Age
 - This fact is plainly stated in 1 Cor 12:13.
 - This verse states that “we all” are baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ which clearly encompasses all believers.
 - The baptism of the Spirit is a work of God at the moment of salvation which is why we are never commanded in Scripture to be baptized by the Spirit.
- The Baptism of the Spirit Into the Body of Christ
 - Two main results are accomplished by the baptism of the Holy Spirit...
 - ✦ The believer is placed into the body of Christ.
 - ✦ The believer is baptized into Christ Himself.
 - By Spirit baptism into the body of Christ, the believer is in the living union of all true believers.
 - This means that the believer has been placed in, initiated into, and given a new and abiding relationship.
 - The ever increasing body of believers formed by this baptism is mentioned frequently in Scripture (1 Cor 12:12-14; Eph 2:16; 4:4-5, 16; 5:30-32; Col 1:24; 2:19).
 - Christ is the head of this body (Eph 1:22-23; 5:23-24; Col 1:18).
 - This body is cared for by Christ (Eph 5:29; Col 2:19).

- All believers are given special gifts and functions as part of the body of Christ (Rom 12:3-8; 1 Cor 12:27-28; Eph 4:7-16), thus allowing every believer an opportunity to serve God.
- The Baptism of the Spirit Into Christ
 - In addition to his relationship with other believers in the body of Christ, the one who is baptized by the Spirit has a new position in that he has been declared to be in Christ.
 - Because the believer is in Christ, he is identified in what Christ did in His death, resurrection, and glorification.
 - This is the emphasis of Rom 6:1-4 (also seen in Col 2:12) and is the picture being painted in the ritual of water baptism.
 - Apart from the reality of Spirit baptism which occurs at the moment of salvation, water baptism is without meaning.
 - Our identification with Christ through the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the basis for all that God does for the believer in time and eternity.
- Baptism of the Spirit Related to Spiritual Experience
 - The baptism of the Spirit is a work of God accomplished at the moment a person places his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.
 - Although subsequent spiritual experience may confirm the reality of this baptism, the baptism itself is not an experience.
 - Since Spirit baptism occurs for all believers at the moment of salvation, there is no need for any believer to seek this baptism or some experience supposedly associated with it.
- Concluding Thoughts
 - Although there are two facets to the baptism of the Spirit, this is a single baptism that accomplishes both works of God.
 - The baptism of the Spirit is an important doctrine concerning our position in Christ and relationship to other believers.

- Questions

- How would you distinguish the baptism of the Spirit from the work of the spirit in regenerating, indwelling and sealing?
- How would you distinguish the baptism of the Spirit from the filling of the Spirit?
- What is the significance of the fact that the baptism of the Spirit in the four gospels and in Acts 1 is mentioned as a future work?
- What evidence do we have that all believers are baptized by the Spirit in the present age?
- Why are believers never exhorted to be baptized by the Spirit?
- What is the meaning of being baptized into the body of Christ?
- How does the figure of the body of Christ bring out our special gifts given to individual believers?
- What special truths are brought out by the baptism of the Spirit into Christ?
- How does baptism into Christ relate to our identification with His death, resurrection and glorification?
- Why is the baptism of the Spirit not in itself a spiritual experience?
- Summarize the importance of the baptism of the Spirit as a work relating to our salvation.