

The Power Of The Holy Spirit (John 7:37–39).

Introduction

A commercial for the American Express card reminds, “Don’t leave home without it.” In essence, Jesus said to His followers about the Holy Spirit, “Don’t begin your work for me without Him” (Acts 1:4).

How may a believer be baptized in the Holy Spirit, which is distinct from and subsequent to salvation? Jesus gave some essentials in John 7.

Message

1. We must desire after Christ.

“If anyone thirsts” (John 7:37). Thirsting implies a desire. We need to:

- a. Desire to know Christ (see Philippians 3:10).

As we desire to know Christ, God baptizes us in the Holy Spirit, whose ministry is to reveal the fullness of the person and passion of Jesus (John 14:26).

- b. Desire to be used by Christ.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not for cleansing from sin but giving power for service. The person who desires to be baptized in the Spirit needs to offer himself to God for His use.

Illustration: Due to the corrosive effect of the salty ocean air, the Golden Gate Bridge is continually being painted. Painters start at one end and continue until they reach the other end. Then they start over.

As that bridge continually needs painting, God is continually looking for believers who desire to be used by Him. These He baptizes in the Holy Spirit.

2. We must come to Christ.

“Let him come unto me” (John 7:37).

It’s wrong to desire the gift more than the Giver (Acts 8:18–21).

- a. Who may come to Christ?

Some teach that the Baptism is only for selected believers, but Acts 2:39 states otherwise.

Illustration: An ad appeared in the Madison (Wisconsin) Capitol Times. “For Sale: one used tombstone. Splendid opportunity for family named Dingle.”

Only a handful of people could take that opportunity. However, all can be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- b. How should we come to Christ?

We must come with:

- (1) Selflessness in will (Luke 1:38).
- (2) Holiness in heart (Psalm 24:3).
- (3) Earnestness in prayer (Luke 11:9–13).
- (4) Brokenness in spirit (Psalm 51:17).

3. We must receive from Christ.

“Let him come to me and drink” (John 7:37). Drinking implies receiving. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is marked by:

- a. The initial sign of tongues.

All believers possess the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9). The baptism in the Holy Spirit is God receiving greater control of the believer. Speaking in tongues is the initial sign (Acts 2:4; 9:17; 10:46; 1 Corinthians 14:18).

- b. The ongoing life of power.

We dare not reduce the baptism in the Holy Spirit to a date on the calendar; it is an ongoing life of power (Ephesians 5:18).

Conclusion

A short distance upstream from Niagara Falls boats skim across the river that feeds the mighty falls. As the river nears the falls, there is a bridge with a sign attached which asks boaters two vital questions: “Do you have an anchor on board? Do you know how to use it?”

Let me ask you two vital questions about your Christian life: “Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? Are you using His power in your life daily?”

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