

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

INTRODUCTION

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is receiving the power of the Holy Spirit to enable live effective Christian lives. It is renewal of the experiences at the Pentecost in the life of the believer, who then begins to experience the Holy Spirit empowering him with the same gifts and power as the first apostles had, as well as a great love of scripture, prayer and praise of God. It has brought personal conversion and moral reform to many who received it.

The Holy Spirit came down upon Jesus in the form of a dove at his baptism, and thereafter his public ministry was inaugurated. John the Baptist declared Jesus as the one who baptized with the Holy Spirit – Mark 1:8. Other references to the Holy Spirit in the New Testament include Mt. 3:11, Lk. 3:16, Jn. 1:33, Act. 1:5; 11:16.

THE SCOPE OF THE TASK GOD HAS GIVEN TO THE NEW TESTAMENT

You are an ambassador for Christ- 2 Cor. 5:20

You have been given a ministry of reconciliation- 2 Cor. 5:8

Rivers of living water are expected to flow from within you- Jn 7:38 (you are expected to lead others to a saving knowledge of Christ)

God has made you able minister of the new covenant, not of the letter that kills, but of the Spirit that gives life.

We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit to function in these capacities.

OLD TESTAMENT REFERENCE TO THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The prophets spoke about when God will pour out His Spirit like water on the thirsty ground- Is 32:15. Fear not, O Jacob my servant, for I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground. I will pour my Spirit upon your descendants, and my blessing on your offspring's. Is.44: 2-3. I will not hide my face anymore from them, when I pour out my Spirit upon the house of Israel, says the Lord God – Ezk. 39:29.

THE IMPERATIVE OF BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

It is an after-conversion experience.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit releases the power of the Holy Spirit to enable us to live for Christ. Read Acts 1; 5-8. Jn 7 ;38-39. Lk 24;29.

The gift may be received at the time of salvation or water baptism, but quite often, it is a separate experience. Acts 2:38

There were instances believers did not receive the holy spirit until hands were laid upon them- act 19;2-6 , act 8; 14-17

In Jn. 20; 22, Jesus breathed on his disciples and asked them to receive the Holy Spirit. They received it then because it gave them power to remit or retain sins (Jn 20:23)

Jesus asked them to wait in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from high – Lk 24: 29.

In Eph. 5 :18, we were told to be filled with the holy spirit, meaning that some believers can have more of the holy spirit than the others. The way the level of faith in believers vary so does the extent of the filling with the Holy Spirit differs in the believers.

ARGUMENT AGAINST THOSE WHO BELIEVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT CEASED IN THE EARLY CHURCH

The argument is based on 1 cor. 13; 8-10. These gift will cease when Jesus comes. Verse 12 point to what will happen at the second coming of the Christ when we shall be perfected.

The baptism in the holy spirit is for everyone acts 2 :38 39. Everyone who comes to Jesus has been called by God (Jn 6;65), and the promise of the holy spirit is for everyone who believes.

NECESSARY PREPARATIONS TOWARD THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Participation in life in the life spirit seminar.

Teaching participants about God's unconditional love for them. Teach how to receive God's love-Rm. 5;5

Ask participants to invite Jesus consciously to be the lord and master of their lives.

Explain to them the spiritual revolution that the Holy Spirit brings about who are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Explain what true repentance and forgiveness of sins mean.

Teach them about the different gift of the Holy Spirit.

Teach them about the fruit of the Holy Spirit- Gal 5; 22-23.

Explain to them that continued spiritual growth after baptism in the Holy Spirit is the ideal.

A sense of mission to serve God in his church should naturally follow baptism in the Holy Spirit.

HOW IS THE HOLY SPIRIT RECEIVED

Through repentance and believing in Jesus for the remission of your sins – Acts 2;38-39.

By asking the lord for it -Lk 11:13.

By believing – Gal 3:14, Acts 19:2, Gal 3:2

Through laying on of hands-1 Tm 4 ;14, Acts 8:17

Through hearing of the gospel and believing it-Act 10:44

By the act of God -Act 11:15

NOT EVERYONE RECEIVE THE GIFT IN THE SAME WAY

STEPS TO BEING BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Prepare your heart- confess all known sins and make your ready to be filled.

Ask Jesus to baptize you in the spirit.

Receive the in-filling of the holy spirit by faith

Release your tongue to pray in tongues.

Step out in faith and boldness that you have received what you asked for.

THE EFFECTS OF BAPTISM IN THE HOLY AND ITS FRUITS

A new awareness of the presence and reality of God. We know the reality of Jesus been lord. – 1 cor. 12:3 we recognize God as our father and call him as such- Rm 8 ;15.

We receive power for deeper conversion and holiness of that conforms with our being children of God. There is healing of relationships especially in marriage and family.

We are empowered to develop the fruits of the spirit.

We are empowered to manifest the gift of the holy spirit- 1 cor. 12:8-10.

We are empowered to love sacrificially – Rm 5:5

Growth in holiness becomes less of personal striving but more of yielding to the Holy Spirit.

There is a revitalization of praise and worship in the prayer life of recipient.

There is rediscovery of the power in prayer, scripture and worthy of reception of the Eucharist.

A new love unfolds for the church and her teaching.

Healing and deliverance become commonplace because of the consciousness of the power we have receive.

Power to evangelize is unleashed. Pope Paul VI, his in encyclical, *evangelii nuntiandi* said, “it must be said that the holy spirit is the principal agent of evangelization. It is he who impels each individual to proclaim the gospel, it is who in the depth of consciences, cause the word of salvation to be accepted and understood.

Mobilization of the laity to participate in the mission of the church.

Commitment to social justice-LK 4:18, ACT 4:34-35

Participation in ecumenism.

Formation of new Christian's communities.

CHARISMS OR SPIRITUAL GIFT

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the doorway to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. The bible gives us different lists of the spiritual gift. The gift are not primarily for the profiting of the individual, but for the building up of the church and evangelization. The list of spiritual gifts is in 1cor. 12-14, Rm 12:6-8 and Eph 4:11-12. These gifts are related to the church's traditional gifts listed in Is.11:1-2-wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety, and fear of the lord. (CCC1831). The 9 charismatic gifts of 1 Cor 12: 8-10 are also related to the spiritual and corporal works of mercy. They are as follows.

1. Word of wisdom-1 cor. 12:8 LK 6;9
2. Word of knowledge -1 cor. 12:8 LK 18 22
3. Faith 1 cor. 12:9, ACT 6;8
4. Healing- 1 cor. 12: 10, Acts 6:8.
5. prophecy- 1 cor. 12:10, 1 Thes. 5:20-21
6. Discerning of spirit- 1 Cor. 12: 10; Lk. 8:29, Act 16:16-18.
7. Different kinds of tongues- 1Cor.12:10 Acts 19;6.
8. Interpretation of tongues- 1 Cor. 12:10:14:13-33.
9. Helping- 1 Cor. 12:28
10. Administration- 1Cor. 12:28; Acts 6:2-3.
11. Ministry/service- Rm. 12:7; 2 Tim. 1: 16-18.
12. Teaching- Eph. 4;11-14, Rm. 12:7.
13. Encouragement- Rm.12:8; Heb. 10:24-25.
14. Giving-Rm.12:8, 1Cor. 13:3, Act 4:32-35.
15. Leadership-Rm. 12:8, Acts 13:12.
16. Mercy- Rm. 12:8, Lk. 5:12-13.
17. Apostleship- Eph. 4:11.
18. Evangelization -Eph. 4:11; 2 Tim 4:5.

- 19. Pastoral Guidance-Eph.4:11.
- 20. Grace- Rm. 12:6, Eph. 3:7,4:7, 1 Pt. 4:10-11.
- 21. Willingness to face martyrdom- 1 Cor. 13:3.
- 22. Intercession-Rm. 8:26-27.
- 23. Hospitality1 Pt. 4:9.
- 24. Celibacy- Cor. 7:8.

TONGUES

Speaking in tongues as a prayer languages is available to all and is given to edify your person- 1 Cor.14:4. In Rm.8:26, we are told the spirit help us in our weaknesses, shortcomings and when we do not understand the situation at hand, the spirit help us by giving us the words which we cannot speak on our own. In 1 Cor. 14:2, the Holy Spirit enables us to speak mysteries- things we don't understand or know.

The gift of tongues that is used for the edification of a group- 1 Cor 14:26 is followed by interpretation 1Cor. 14:2, the gift is not for everybody (1 Cor.12:10,30). This gift is used as a sign for unbelievers, whereas prophecy is a sign for believes-1 Cor. 14:22. This gift for public edification promotes unity in the church because it makes us depend on one another.

The Holy Spirit does not force you to speak in tongues but only give you the ability (Acts 2:4), therefore it is subject to your control. Jude 20 instructs us to build ourselves up, while Eph 6:18 tell us to pray in spirit. In fact praying in the spirit is considered a spiritual amour.

Praying in tongues is for everybody Mk.16:17and Eph 6:18. Praying tongues and praying in the Holy Spirit are the same the relationship is made obvious in 1 cor. 14:14-15. The personal prayer language of tongues is needed for the edification of every of every believer.

Praying in tongues is beneficial in the following ways:

It is an effective way of fulfilling the scripture 1 Th 5:17 that exhorts us to pray without ceasing.

It is a good way of staying in the presence of the presence of God -Act 17:28, Gn 5 :24.

It give the stamina and the grace to pray for an extended period of time since, while praying your understanding is free to rake up more prayer points.

It is an external sign that you have be filled with the Holy Spirit.

It is a means of building yourself up spiritually. Paul told the Corinthians in the in 1 cor. 14:4. It is a means God gave to the church to communicate with him. When you pray I tongues, since the spirit gives the ability, you are able to communicate with God who is spirit.

In Act 10 the jews recognized that the gentiles have received the holy spirit because the heard them speak in diverse tongues. Praying and worshipping in the in tongues will make us always to be conscious of the in dwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in us.

It helps in eliminating selfishness from our prayer lives. Rm 8:26. We are able to pray for the cause of other people that the Holy Spirit directs us to pray for.

It helps us pray in the line with the perfect will of God. At times, out of ignorance, we may be praying for the permissive rather than the perfect will of God. For instance, God did not want Israel to have a king but when they ask for it and insisted on having their way he gave them.

It helps to keep us from the contamination of vulgar and profane talk by making us talk to ourselves - 1 cor. 14:28 says when there is no interpreter of what you are saying in tongues, you can speak to yourself and God. It provides a way of escape from unprofitable discussion.

It provides a way of praying for things or situation which ordinary would not have been prayed for since the Holy Spirit knows all things and situation.

Is 28: 11-12 says for with stammering lips and another tongues will he speak to his people. to whom he said, this is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest and this is the refreshing; yes they would not hear. Speaking in tongues provides fresh while he refreshes you.

Speaking in tongues is the most perfect way to pray and give thanks- 1 cor. 14:15 -17.

Jas. 3:8 saying, but the tongues can no man tame, it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison...."yielding your tongues to the holy spirit is a step that would make you yield all your member to the holy spirit.

THE FRUIT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The fruit is deposited as a seed when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. The fruit of the spirit is developed and tough situations where you need to use them enable you to develop this fruit. The fruit is listed in the Gal.5:22-23-love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND CONVERSION

It is the Holy Spirit that mediates conversion; He also is the seal that we receive at baptism. Pope Paul VI in his encyclical, *evangelii nuntiandi* said, it must be said that the holy spirit is principal agent of evangelization; it is he who impels each individual to proclaim the gospel, it is he who in the depths of consciences causes the word of salvation to be accepted and understood..

I will sprinkle clean water upon you and you shall be clean from your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will take out of your flesh the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances' (Ezk 36:25-27)

I will pour out on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, a spirit of compassion and supplication, so that when they look at him whom they have pierced, they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a first born (zech 12:10)

Is 2:2-3 says now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the lord's house , shall be established on the top of the mountains and shall be exalted above all the hills; and all nations

shall flows to it. Many people shall come and says come let us to the mountain of the lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; he will teach us his ways and we shall walk in his paths.

Hag. 2:6-9: For thus says the lord of hosts: once more (it's a little while) I will shake heaven and earth, the sea and dry land and I will shake all the nations and they shall come to the desire of all nations, and I will fill this temple with glory, says the lord of hosts. The silver is mine says the lord of hosts. The glory of this latter temple shall be greater than the former says the Lord of Hosts, and in this place, I will give peace, says the Lord of Hosts.

Joel 2:28-32: And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on my men servants and on my maid servants I will pour out my spirit in those days and they shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. The sun shall turn turned in darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the lord. And it shall come to pass that whoever call of the name of the lord shall be saved.

A CALL TOWARDS ECCLESIAL MATURITY BY THE POPE JOHN PAUL II AT THE PENTECOST IN 1998 AT THE GATHERING OF LAY MOVEMENT:

As the promoters of baptism in the Holy Spirit, we are to bear the mature fruit of the communion and commitment within the church. These are described in the papal encyclical, *christefideles laici*, 30 this includes giving primary to call to holiness, fidelity to the church's magisterium in doctrine and morals, communion with the pope and local bishop, sharing in the mission of the church and the commitment to furthering the dignity of the person the in human society.

CONCLUSION

It is no gain saying that we are closer to the end of his age than we began. Let all of our labour be driven by the Holy Spirit so that the fruit of our labor will endure. We are called to entrench the culture of the Pentecost where the holy is known, loved, and frequently invoked, where the whole way of life flow from the active presence of the Holy Spirit and his gifts.