

The Holy Spirit: Baptism

core help

Goal: The goal of this study is to help students see that the Baptism of the Spirit is a gift to be received from our Heavenly Father and is the Lord's provision for empowerment for ministry and mission.

Openers:

- Describe your favorite Christmas or Birthday gift you've received and why it was so meaningful/important to you?
- When you hear the term, "Baptism of the Spirit," What is the first thing that comes to mind?

Scripture:

Acts 1:4-5 (NIV)

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

Acts 1:8-9

"But 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." After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight..

Joel 2:28-29 (NIV)

And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

Acts 2:1-4 (Read out loud together)

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Digging Deeper:

Observations:

- In these texts, what do we learn about the baptism (filling) of the Holy Spirit? (See Acts 2 and Joel)
- What did Jesus say in Acts 1:8?
- What is the language used to describe the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Interpretations

- The word “Baptism” in Greek literally means “to plunge” or “immerse”. Why do you think Jesus used this word to explain what the disciples would experience when the Father sent the Spirit to them?
- Why do you think it was important for the disciples (and for all who would follow Jesus) to receive power in order to be Jesus’ witnesses?
- What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?

Applications

- Do you tend to think of the Holy Spirit and specifically, the Baptism of the Spirit, as a gift from the Father? Why/why not?
- What steps can you start taking to get better acquainted with the Spirit?