

## “THE HOLY SPIRIT’S MINISTRY TO SAINTS”

### Part #2

I Cor. 12:13; Eph. 1:13; Eph. 4:30

***“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”*** (I Cor. 12:13)  
***“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”*** (II Cor. 1:21,22)

The Lord Jesus promised that the Holy Spirit would come. Here are His words: “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 1:4,5)

This is the initial promise by the Lord Jesus that the Holy Spirit would come. Since the Holy Spirit has come and lives in every believer, what does He do? What is His ministry? In the previous study we talked about the Holy Spirit indwelling God’s children and filling them. Let us now focus on two other of the Holy Spirit’s ministries: His work of “Baptism” and His work of “Sealing”. First,

### “BAPTISM” IS THE HOLY SPIRIT INSERTING US INTO GOD’S FAMILY

“For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free--and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” (I Cor. 12:13)

Peter preached at Joppa to Gentiles and he is explained to the leaders of the church in Jerusalem what happened ....

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" 18 When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life." (Acts 11:15-18)

Now, some questions:

#### **A. Who Experiences The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?**

**Answer:** The Holy Spirit baptizes those who repent and believe.

Acts 11:17 - “If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed On the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?" **And** verse 18: “Then God has granted to the Gentiles repentance to life”. (Underlining mine)

## B. When Does The Holy Spirit Baptize?

**Answer:** Acts 11:17 “When we believed ....” **Also**, John 7 is another passage that answers the question. There we read: “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’ But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.” (vs.38,39) Jesus also said “You must be born again” recorded in John chapter 3. He added, “by the Spirit.” That is, when we receive the gift of God’s Son, Jesus Christ, we are given the gift of God’s Spirit. (John 3:6-8)

## C. How Many Believers Are “Baptized”?

**Answer:** All! Every born-again person has already been Spirit baptized. I Cor. 12:13 – “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

## D. What Is The Time-Frame For Spirit Baptism?

**Answer:** This was accomplished in the past – when we first placed our faith savingly in Jesus Christ as our Savior. Again, I Cor. 12:13 – “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.” The words, “*were all*” and “*have all been made*” are past tense!

## E. What Is The Act Of Holy Spirit Baptism?

**Answer:** The Greek word for “baptize” is “baptizo” and means “to plunge, dip or submerge.” The Greeks used this word to indicate either of two actions: It was used when washing: that is, plunging clothes, dishes, etc. beneath the water; It was also used when dying cloth: submerging for a long period of time.

You don’t have to have water to be baptized into the body of Christ. But, you do have to be born of the Spirit, and at that time, you are placed into and left in the body of Christ – by the Holy Spirit. Thank God, we’re not put in and then taken out. There are some friends that feel that way. They feel you can loose your salvation and the Holy Spirit can place you in, but then you can jump out. I will talk about that in the next point in this lesson when we study the term “sealing.”

## F. What Is The Meaning Of “The Holy Spirit Baptism”?

**Answer:** Every believer, at the time of salvation, is *baptized into* the Body, the family, the Church of Jesus Christ. I repeat I Corinthians 12:13 again for it is essential to the understanding of the subject: “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body...” Notice particularly the words, “*by one Spirit*.”

In the previous lesson I said, “we must understand that the Spirit is a Person; He is not a

fluid! Some think that to be filled with the Holy Spirit means that we get more of the Spirit. Not so! The Holy Spirit is a Person. You cannot get parts of a person.” The reason for citing what I said earlier is to reinforce the truth that the Holy Spirit is a Person.

I have repeated what I said earlier because when some discuss the “baptism” of the Holy Spirit, they have in mind that the Holy Spirit is some divine “fluid” that God pours upon us and consequently they pray for more of that heavenly “fluid” to be poured upon them. Please be aware that the verses that I have cited in this study pertaining to the baptism of the Holy Spirit are not referring to what the Holy Spirit does upon us but what the Holy Spirit does with us! Furthermore, We are not baptized into the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit baptizes us into Christ!

The baptism of the Holy Spirit has to do with our union with Christ. We are plunged, submerged, inserted, introduced, placed, immersed permanently into Christ – that is the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There is no teaching in the Bible that teaches that one can be removed, unborn or unbaptized (pardon the terms) out of God’s family! “For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.”

### Now to summarize:

1. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, for present children of God, a past tense experience. If you are saved, you have been baptized into the family of God.
2. It is a once for all experience – never to be repeated. It is unscriptural for a believer to ask for, pray for, or seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There is not a single scripture that supports a saved person seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Pray for His fullness, yes.
3. The confusion about the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the result of not “rightly dividing the word of truth.” (II Tim.2:15) A secondary cause of misunderstanding, is a co-mingling of the terms “filling” and “baptism.” There is one “Baptism.” There are many “fillings.”
4. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the insertion of a believer into the family of God – permanently and eternally. It is just that – no more and no less!

Now, let us move on to another wonderful ministry of the holy Spirit to the saints of God. It is called “sealing.” “Baptism” is the Holy Spirit inserting us into God’s family. What is “sealing”?

### “SEALING” IS THE HOLY SPIRIT INSURING OUR NEW RELATIONSHIP

Three times in the New Testament we read of our being “sealed” by the Holy Spirit and these three references answer three questions about this aspect of the Spirit’s ministry.

#### A. The Meaning Of The Sealing Work.

The sealing in the Word of God indicates three things:

- **A seal indicated Authority.** The King in ancient days would put a seal upon something, indicating that their *authority* was upon it. The tomb of the Lord Jesus

had the Roman seal was put upon it.

- **A seal indicated Ownership.** Kings and Queens affixing their seals meant it was owned by royalty.
- **A seal indicated Security.** The seal of the reigning monarch meant security and protection.

The one who has been sealed with the Spirit of God is under His authority; belongs to Christ and is secure in Him until we reach our final destination – heaven!

**Illust.** After my stint in the U.S. Naval Aviation branch of the military during the Korean War, I worked on the railroad for less than one year, until the Fall Semester of college Began and I could resume my education. I was a Yard Clerk. Part of my responsibility was to check the railroad cars to see if the seal on the doors had been broken. When merchandise was put into the cars the doors were sealed and were not to be opened until arrival at the final destination. We have been sealed by the Holy Spirit until we arrive at our Father's House and no one can break the seal!

## **B. The Minister Of The Sealing Work.**

Below are the three New Testament verses that speak directly to the sealing ministry of the Holy Spirit.

### **1. Who Seals?**

II Cor. 1:21,22 “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

### **2. When Are We Sealed?**

Eph. 1:13,14 “...having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

### **3. How Long Are We Sealed?**

Eph. 4:30 – “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.”

At the time of salvation we are sealed with the Holy Spirit thus assuring the eternity of our salvation.

I must confess that some people look like they've been pickled rather than preserved! There is a song that I have heard many times in churches titled, “Sweet Holy Spirit.” Well, I'm not so sure how theologically correct it is in every point, but I think the Holy Spirit is a sweetening influence and not a souring one. I believe we ought to look more like we're preserved than pickled when we have been sealed with the Holy Spirit.

I suppose that all of us have known persons who claimed they were saved but as time went by they dropped out of church and we lost track of them. I have had people ask me, "Are they saved or lost?" I'm glad I don't keep the "Book of Life" – that's in God's hands

I believe the answer is in II Timothy 2:19 - "Nevertheless the foundation of God stands sure, having this seal, The Lord knows those that are His." The Lord knows who are His and those who are not His. And once His, always His, because we are sealed up in Christ!

### **CONCLUSION**

Aren't you thankful for the ministry of the Holy Spirit? I am thankful that I have been baptized into the Body of Christ by the Holy Spirit; I am likewise thankful that I have been sealed by the Holy Spirit.

If you have not come to faith in Christ as your Lord and Savior, Perhaps the Holy Spirit is working to convict and convince you that you need the Savior. Trust Him now!

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