



"From the cowardice that  
shrinks from new truth, from  
the laziness that is content  
with half-truths,  
From the arrogance that  
thinks it knows all truth,  
O, God of Truth, deliver us."

## *A Controversial Newsletter "The Printed Voice of Summit Theological Seminary"*

~ All Articles are Written by George L. Faull, Rel. D. Unless Otherwise Stated ~

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### **Baptism in Water or Baptized with the Spirit? Is There a Difference?**

--By George L. Faull, Rel. D.

#### **Proposition:**

Unlike water baptism, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is **a promise** Jesus was to do and **not a command** which men were to do.

**Matthew 3:11**, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but **He** who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He** will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." NKJV

#### **A. If the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a command, where is it commanded?**

- ~ **If it was a command, where are we shown how we are to do it?**
- ~ **If it was a promise, to whom was it a promise?**  
**Acts 1:4-5**, "4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; 5 "for John truly baptized with water, **but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**" NKJV
- ~ **If the promise was received, what did those who received the promise, receive?**  
**Acts 1:8**, "**But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." NKJV
- ~ **If it was a promise, who was the giver of the promise?**  
**Acts 1:4**, "And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, **but to wait for the Promise of the Father**, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me;" NKJV  
**Acts 2:33**, "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, **and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit**, He poured out this which you now see and hear." NKJV
- ~ **If it was promised, who would be the baptizer?**

**Matthew 3:11**, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but **He** (*Jesus*) who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." NKJV

#### **B. Now as for water Baptism:**

- ~ **If it was commanded, where is it commanded?**  
**Acts 22:16**, "And now why are you waiting? **Arise and be baptized**, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord." NKJV
- ~ **If it was commanded, where are we shown how we are to do it?**  
**Acts 8:38**, "So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And **both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.**" NKJV
- ~ **If it was commanded, where are the promises to everyone who obeyed it?**  
**Acts 2:38-39**, "38 Then Peter said to them, Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; **and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.** 39 For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." NKJV (The Holy Spirit is the gift.)
- ~ **If it was commanded, what did those who received it receive?**  
**Colossians 2:12-13**, "12 buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with *Him* through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.13 And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, **having forgiven you all trespasses,**" NKJV
- ~ **If it was commanded, who is the giver of, or the authority for the command?**  
**Matthew 28:19**, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them **in the name** (*by the authority*) **of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,**" NKJV  
**Acts 10:48**, "And he commanded them to be baptized in the name (*by the authority*) of the

Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.” NKJV

~ **If it was commanded, who would be the baptizer?**

**Matthew 28:19, “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” NKJV**

**C. If someone came to me and said "I want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (See Item A)**

- ~ Could I show him the command for me to do it? No!
- ~ Would I be able to show him in Scripture how to baptize him with the Holy Spirit? No!
- ~ Could I show him a promise to what he would receive after I said he was baptized with the Holy Spirit? No!
- ~ Could I show him where a man ever baptized a man in the Holy Spirit? No!
- ~ Could I show I had the authority to baptize him with the Holy Spirit? No!
- ~ What was the advantage of Cornelius receiving the like gift 10 – 14 years after the Apostles did on Pentecost?

It convinced Peter and the Jews he could not refuse to baptize the Gentile, Cornelius, in water so he may be saved!

**Acts 10:46-48, “46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, 47 Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.” NKJV**

**Acts 11:14-18, “14 who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved. 15 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.” NKJV**

**On the Other Hand.....**

**D. If I were asked to baptize a man in water: (See Item B Scriptures)**

- ~ Could I show him a command to be baptized in water? Yes!
- ~ Would I be able to show him in Scripture how to be baptized in water? Yes!

- ~ Could I show him promises of what he would receive if he was baptized in water? Yes!
- ~ Can I show him a man in Scripture baptizing other men in water? Yes!
- ~ Would I have the authority to baptize anyone in water? Yes!

Obviously, water baptism and baptism with the Holy Spirit are not the same baptism. Careful study shows by the time Paul wrote **Ephesians 4:5** there was only one baptism.

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Mankind has never baptized anyone with the Holy Spirit. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is done by Jesus, for the promise says “He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit”.

#### **On the Other Hand.....**

When men baptize a repentant believer in water, the immersed believer receives the Holy Spirit as an indwelling guest. Which would you rather have?

1 – The temporary Gift of the Holy Spirit?

Or

2 – The remission of sins and the Holy Spirit as a permanent guest?

Notice Jesus’ baptism of Cornelius with the Holy Spirit was not synonymous or simultaneous with the baptism in water that Peter commanded be done to Cornelius. The baptism of the Holy Spirit gave credentials for Peter to baptize a Gentile. Obedience to water baptism is done by men by the convert’s choice. Holy Spirit baptism is done by Jesus by Jesus’ choice.