

I. **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a very important aspect of one's Christian experience and therefore should be desired, sought and entered into by all believers.**

A. How do we know the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is so important?

1. God doesn't offer something that is unnecessary.

Matt 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

2. Jesus did not begin His public ministry until being filled with the Spirit. (Mat 3:16)
3. Jesus commanded His original disciples to receive the Spirit. (John 20:22)
4. Jesus told His original disciples to wait to for the baptism with the Holy Ghost before beginning to carry out the Great Commission.

Luke 24:49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

5. The early church began with the baptism of the Spirit. (*We saw this last week in Acts 2*)
6. Peter & John were sent many miles to pray for new believers in Samaria to receive the Spirit. (*We saw this last week in Acts 8:14-15*)
7. The great church at Ephesus began with 12 men being baptized with the Spirit. (Acts 19:1-7)
8. We are commanded to be filled with the Spirit. (Eph 5:18 ...be filled with the Spirit).

B. Why is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit so important?

- We have seen that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the believer being filled with the Spirit in order to be more greatly empowered for Christian living and service. *While the Baptism with the Spirit is not a guarantee of the following, it certainly opens the door into more of the following:*

1. The church (*and individuals*) will lack power and effectiveness without the baptism of the Spirit.
 - a. Acts 1:8 But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...
 - b. 1 Cor 2:4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:
 - c. Acts 10:38 How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power...
 - d. I believe the baptism with the spirit is normally the open door into the gifts of the spirit.
2. The church (*and individuals*) will lack victory without the baptism of the Spirit.
 - a. Matt 3:11-12... he (*Jesus*) shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire: Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge (*thoroughly cleanse*) his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. (*thorough cleansing of our lives is said here to occur as a result of the baptism with the Holy Ghost*)
 - b. Of course the power of the Holy Spirit is required for victory; a greater empowering with the Spirit means a greater experience of victory.
 - (1) Ro 8:13 ...through the Spirit mortify the deeds of the body...
 - (2) Gal 5:16 walk in the Spirit & ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.
3. The church (*and individual's homes*) may lack unity without the baptism of the Spirit.
 - a. Eph 4:3 ...the unity of the Spirit...
 - However the Baptism with the Spirit is not a guarantee of power, victory & unity. We must walk in the Spirit and be led by the Spirit.

- Receiving the Holy Spirit is the open door into the deeper things of God, not a guarantee.
- The above statements are therefore reasons why we must obey Eph 5:18 ...be filled with the Spirit

C. Believers should desire, seek and enter into the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

1. We are instructed to seek those things which are from above.
 - a. Col 3:1 ...seek those things which are above...
2. We are instructed to ask for the latter rain (the last day outpouring of the Spirit).
 - a. Zech 10:1 Ask ye of the LORD rain in the time of the latter rain...
3. We are instructed to pray (“ask, seek and knock”) to receive the Holy Spirit.
 - a. Read Luke 11:9-13 ...give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him

D. Pastors should labor, in preaching and in prayer, to cause all members of the church to:

- a. Be baptized with the Spirit.
- b. To stay filled with the Spirit.
- c. To walk in the Spirit.