

GETTING TO KNOW THE HOLY SPIRIT

A Study by Marylynn G. Stults, Abraham Publishing, Spring 2014

Once you've given your life to Jesus, then God (our Father, Jesus His only unique Son, and the Holy Spirit of Truth) come to live with and in you (see Colossians 2:9-10, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, and many others). To have all that love and knowledge closer than Google ought to knock your socks off and thrill you beyond measure! Of the Big Three, the Holy Spirit is the Communicator with us for He was sent to teach us all things (John 14:26). Prayerfully you, the reader of this study, will want to examine the Scriptures provided, in context, and ask God to teach their relevance to you. You have some choices to make: How close will your relationship with Him be?

(Please note: Scriptures printed below are from the Amplified Version unless otherwise noted.)



PREFACE



You might not be old enough to remember, but there is a wonderful old song from *The King and I* that goes
“**Getting to know you, getting to know all about you...**”

Here is a glorious study about “getting to know all about the Holy Spirit” for He wants to be your Comforter, ever-present Helper, Intercessor, and closest Confidant. Depending upon the status of your present relationship with Him, you may choose to receive the **Baptism of the Holy Spirit** about which the Bible speaks, or stir yours up so it will be greater than ever before!

Our study came about because of (and is dedicated to) my dear friend Raymond H, Ph.D, esteemed agricultural scholar from Ireland who asked some probing questions. Dr. H's denominational instruction on the Third Person of the Trinity did not distinguish between the experience of salvation itself and the phenomenon of this baptism as is so often the case (though each is plainly described and discussed in the New Testament). My Methodist upbringing did not differentiate between these elements of our Christian journey, either, but God Himself encouraged me to seek Him, the salvation He had provided, and His joyous infilling, anointing, and the power ignited by the baptism.

Recognizing my love for God and Truth, Dr. H questioned me extensively. His thoughtful questions provoked me to think, “Who among us fully knows the Holy Spirit as our dearest Friend?” My subsequent introspection aimed its finger most pointedly at me. I, more than anything, wanted to know God well; personally! The response – this study – does not speak only to the uninitiated but to the mature baptized Christian, as well, and each of us in between. Without God, I am no one; a flower that withers and blows away. Ah – but I have had this baptism since 1998 and, because of it, I have experienced many life-altering and lifesaving miracles which include thrice raising my husband, Michael, from death in the name of Jesus. Yet, still, I did not know the Holy Spirit as the Companion He has now become.

A question that is a good starting place for a study about God the Holy Spirit could be:



How can we know God better?

Matthew 7:7

7 Keep on asking and it will be given you; keep on seeking and you will find; keep on knocking [reverently] and [the door] will be opened to you.

This study is the result of hundreds of hours of that very thing: Asking, seeking, and knocking. In fact, my perpetual asking, seeking, and knocking continue to this day and, undoubtedly, will tomorrow; you – like me – can be seeking to know Him better daily; hourly; minutely. This is the

most exciting experience anyone can ever have! The wisdom of God is never-ending and He is willing to teach it to you if you will but ask!

I pray in the name of Jesus that you receive that which is right and holy unto God and beneficial to you.

Perhaps even preceding our initial question, we might ponder:

WHY should we want to know God better?

Jesus made this amazing declaration to us,

John 14:16-17

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—

17 The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.

So, one of the multitudes of reasons to want to know Him better is you can enjoy God's constant presence –with *and* in you– so you need never be alone. He is your perpetual PARTNER in everything. The prospective and wonderful implications are breathtaking!

Are you excited yet? Here's another. When He comes to abide (make His home with you as in verse 16), **you have the answer to everything you'll ever need right there, inside**, available to you. This certainly does not mean you'll always *receive* your answer for the cares and affairs of the world challenge your communication with Him, but expectation, prayer, and stillness increase your spiritual hearing.

Here is one personal – and, frankly, mundane, in the overall scheme of things – example of what my relationship with Him has meant to me. For several years, I have written college courses for my publisher, all subjects in which I was unschooled and scholastically unprepared. I even wrote five online courses to instruct elements of teaching to instructors and professors without the benefit of a textbook or guideline of any kind; had to develop the foundational materials myself. How? I pray, before and throughout. He helps me. Please do not misconstrue, He does not write *for* me; rather, He is my Guide, with concepts that enter my spirit with urges to do this, do that.



I explained to Dr. H how interesting is God's communication to us. **It is often received, quite literally, through the ears of our spirit, bypassing our brains.** Revelation knowledge. Inspiration. Awareness, in the gut. It does not gain entrance through the brain; no, rather, it enters through the heart, the place the Bible sometimes refers to as the "belly." Frankly, I am not certain Dr. H ever really "got it" for he is a highly intelligent man that prizes his brain and it is difficult for intellectuals to comprehend the things of the Spirit:

1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (KJV)

27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are:

29 That no flesh should glory in His presence.

You see, I am an okay choice! Some nicknames that clients gave me when I owned my ad agency in the 1990s were "Bubbles" and "Holly Go-lightly." I thought it was because they were always happy to see me; on the other hand, before my baptism and through my poor business

acumen and gullibility, I was defrauded by a conman and lost the agency, my house, and pride. I guess I could have been construed as a “foolish thing of the world” without much of a stretch. Since then, I can attest to the fact that coming to know Him better and developing a partnership with the Holy Spirit has, indeed, sharpened my skills.

Because we are individuals, we will always have individual ways of “hearing” God; He knows us best (truly better than we do ourselves). Now, God is God so He can speak to us anyway He pleases (even through a donkey, Numbers 22!), yet for me, I usually hear Him through the ears of my heart where He has taken up residence, not my physical ears. As long as you are not serving Satan, only God can speak into your heart, whereas Satan’s servants can whisper all kinds of things through your ears and, subsequently, your brain. You are safe, good to go with what you receive in your belly.



Finally for this preface, here is another imperative: What you do receive – even if it’s through an old mule (animal or human ;D) – **MUST line up with the Word of God.** God will never contradict Himself.



1. STATISTICS

Worldwide, about 25% of Christians identify with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, yet it is for every responsible person from babes in Christ to the learned and everyone in between who might desire a closer walk with God. One problem is **there are, amazingly, as many as 41,000 Christian denominations! Aagh!** Just think how many spins on the Word of God these represent! Well, we're going to see what it is that we have in and from Him ONLY from what the Bible says. That's why you'll see so many Scriptural references in this – and all of our – studies.

2002 and 2009 surveys by The Barna Group, Christian pollster, revealed that more than four out of five Americans claim to be Christian, and half can be classified as born again Christians. Most own a Bible and say they read it (right?!), yet about

- 2/3 say Satan does not even exist but is only a symbol of evil!!
- Perhaps even worse, about 2/3 view the Holy Spirit as merely a symbol!...
- And, yet, about 2/3 surveyed believe in demons! Go figure!

I call it selective believing – you might infer most haven't even read what Jesus said – ya think? It's not surprising that, since its inception at Pentecost recorded in Acts Chapter 2, most people have been unaware of, they have ignored, or they have perverted the teaching of the BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit and of its potential for us. Look here:

Acts 19:2

2 And he (Paul) asked them (disciples at Ephesus), Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed [on Jesus as the Christ]? And they said, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.

They'd never even heard of Him! (At least they had a doggone good excuse since the Bible, per se, had yet to be assembled and printed!)

2. The Spirit of God's NAME & CHARACTER

The Holy Spirit is most frequently called the Holy "Ghost" in the King James Version of the Holy Bible, the preferred designation in the early seventeenth-century because "ghost," then, referred to an immaterial being. Holy "Spirit" is His designation in other English versions. (We shall use Spirit in this study.)

What's in a name? To God, a lot, for the name is a means to describe the individual. For example:

Genesis 17:5

5 Nor shall your name any longer be Abram [high, exalted father]; but your name shall be Abraham [father of a multitude], for I have made you the father of many nations.

Genesis 32:28

28 And He said, Your name shall be called no more Jacob [supplanter], but Israel [contender with God]; for you have contended and have power with God and with men and have prevailed.

(Israel means "he will rule as God.")

Luke 1:31

(The angel Gabriel said to Mary)

31 And listen! You will become pregnant and will give birth to a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus.

Matthew 1:21

(The angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph to quell his fears about taking Mary as wife for she was with Child; he continued, giving the command)

21 She will bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus [the Greek form of the Hebrew Joshua, which means Savior], for He will save His people from their sins [that is, prevent them from failing and missing the true end and scope of life, which is God].

While far more is discoverable through an etymological study of the origins of His name, these latter two Gospel scriptures provide an introduction to understanding: JESUS was ordained to be so named by a heavenly command and the name indicated His calling to be the Savior.

We know that, in the Bible, the Holy Spirit is not referred to by a typical given name like Jesus, yet He is called by many descriptive terms; perhaps the primary one Jesus used in Greek was "parakletos," translated and meaning Paraclete which, for example, is "Comforter" in the King James Version, "Advocate" in the NIV and NLT, and "Companion" in the Common English; but the one I like most is "Helper" in the NKJV and Good News Bible. Above all, He is here, in and with us, to help us.

The Amplified version gives a bit more information saying, "Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby)."

Other aspects of the Holy Spirit's character and personality are described as Convicter of sin in John 16; God's seal on His people in 2 Corinthians 1 and 5 and Ephesians 1; Guide in John 16; Intercessor in Romans 8; Spirit of Truth in John 14 and 16; Spirit of Life in Romans 8; Teacher in John 14 and 1 Corinthians 2; and Author of all Holy Scripture in 2 Peter 1 and 2 Timothy 3. What an awesome role He has here on earth. And, how about this? He is also our Resurrector!

Romans 8:11 (KJV)

11 But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.

This is a Scripture that states we are to be as physically sound as Jesus! The word “quicken” means to **make alive**, and in the Hebrew, it means to recover, repair, revive, restore, and make utterly whole and alive! “But,” one might retort, “that is after the resurrection; after I die.” No, this particular Scripture refers specifically to your *MORTAL* body. You won’t have any need for it after you’re officially dead, so this is a Scripture you can stand on for health and vitality right now providing the Spirit of God dwells in you. This is a Scripture that well-represents our individual resurrection experience after we die to self and are born again, new creatures in Christ.

Check this section of the Bible from the Message version:

Romans 8:9-11 Message

9-11 But if God Himself has taken up residence in your life, you can hardly be thinking more of yourself than of Him. Anyone, of course, who has not welcomed this invisible but clearly present God, the Spirit of Christ, won’t know what we’re talking about. But for you who welcome Him, in whom He dwells—even though you still experience all the limitations of sin—you yourself experience life on God’s terms. It stands to reason, doesn’t it, that if the alive-and-present God Who raised Jesus from the dead moves into your life, He’ll do the same thing in you that He did in Jesus, bringing you alive to Himself? When God lives and breathes in you (and He does, as surely as He did in Jesus), you are delivered from that dead life. With His Spirit living in you, your body will be as alive as Christ’s!

You know that silly man’s song that refers to God watching us from a distance? Nothing could be further from the truth!

The Holy Spirit – here called the Spirit of God – was referenced in the Bible first in Genesis 1.

Genesis 1:1-3

1 In the beginning God (prepared, formed, fashioned, and) created the heavens and the earth.

2 The earth was without form and an empty waste, and darkness was upon the face of the very great deep. The Spirit of God was moving (hovering, brooding) over the face of the waters.

3 And God said, Let there be light; and there was light.

I believe this means He was Constructor of Planet Earth. The work He performed is recorded throughout the Bible! The Hebrew word to describe Him, Spirit, is #7307 Ruach that happens to mean “wind” and by resemblance, “breath.” Ah! Another source says, “Air for breathing.” So that He is “very much like the air we breathe,” you see, is an excellent analogy!

Let’s go to John 14.

John 14:15-17

15 If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—

17 The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.

As in the Hebrew, this word Spirit is #4151 Pneuma in New Testament Greek and it again means “to breathe!” This gives us a glimpse of what the baptism of the Holy Spirit will result in – His Presence with *and* in us! I urge you to think about this. Think of the closeness; not God “watching us from a distance” in the song, but God close and personal. Because, unlike Jesus, He has no personal name, this might be why we pray “in the Spirit”; we pray in tongues, our heavenly language (and one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as taught in the New Testament); this is the level, the place, of our communication with Him.

(I have a surprise for you, though. Since you are serious about your relationship with Him and have read this far, I will share with you something wonderful He told me recently. One day, I said that I wished there were a name I could call Him that would be personal to Him, and He said to my heart, “You may call me ‘Ted.’” Well, needless to say, I did a little double-take and chuckled, then promptly forgot it. Next morning upon awakening, He said to me, knowing the answer of course, “Did you look up the meaning of the name ‘Ted?’” Immediately, I grabbed my phone and Googled the question. The answer? “Gift of God.” Is that cool or what? And that is both Who *and* What the Holy Spirit is. He is our Ted.)

Here’s are excerpts of some profound observations of Smith Wigglesworth, a renowned early twentieth-century evangelist who operated in the gifts of the Holy Spirit healing the sick and raising the dead in the name of Jesus. He wrote, “When I received the new birth at eight years of age, it was so precious and lovely. Since that time, I have never lost the knowledge of my acceptance with God. Then, brother and sisters, God did a wonderful work in me when I waited for the baptism. I was in a strange position. For 16 years, I had testified to having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but I had really only received the anointing of the Spirit. In fact, I could not preach unless I had the anointing. My wife would come to me and say, ‘They are waiting for you to come out and speak to the people.’ I would say, ‘I cannot and will not come without the anointing of the Spirit.’ I can see now that I was calling the anointing the baptism. But when the Holy Spirit came into my body until I could not give satisfaction to the glory that was in me, God took this tongue, and I spoke as the Spirit gave utterance, which brought perfect satisfaction to me. When He comes in, He abides.”

Let’s pray.

We ask You, Father, in Jesus’ name, to help us to be willing to receive revelation about the Holy Spirit and this baptism and how much more it is than just indwelling us, as wonderful as that alone is. Help us comprehend what it means that Your Spirit can be in and with us, closer than a brother, a mother, a spouse – for they come and go, but You abide. Stay with us. Like the air we breathe, You are both in us and with us. We need NEVER be alone. You – God, Holy Spirit – are always right there – here – to help us with everything, everywhere. Everything. Everything. Teach this to us. **To be still... and breathe... be still and know... Amen.**

3. FOUNDATIONAL SCRIPTURES

Jesus desires we be baptized with the Holy Ghost, said John the Baptist:

Matthew 3:11

11 I indeed baptize you in (with) water because of repentance [that is, because of your changing your minds for the better, heartily amending your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins]. But He Who is coming after me is mightier than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy or fit to take off or carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Luke 3:16 is virtually identical. Then this Scripture (as well as Mark 1:8, if you'd like to look it up) gives a slight variation:

John 1:33

33 And I did not know Him nor recognize Him, but He Who sent me to baptize in (with) water said to me, Upon Him Whom you shall see the Spirit descend and remain, that One is He Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.

That alone should tell us how essential and wonderful the baptism of the Holy Spirit is: **Jesus does it!**

Dr. H asked what is probably the best and most commonly posed question:

 **“I have previously assumed that baptism in the Holy Spirit occurred the day that I became a believer and accepted Christ as my savior. Am I to assume that it is really different from this?”**

The applause meter is ringing: Good question Dr. H!

The Bible teaches the belief and acceptance of Jesus as our Savior is a prelude to and separate action from the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

To baptize – the Greek word *Baptizo* #907 – means to immerse, submerge; to make whelmed (fully wet). We accept Jesus as our Savior by confessing Him with our mouths and believing in our hearts that God (the Holy Spirit, Romans 8:11) raised Him from the dead (Romans 10:9). The physical act of water baptism is symbolic of and represents our repentance from sins; we are submerged and raised up in new life with Jesus! But to be baptized – immersed and submerged – in the Holy Spirit is, not to be redundant, to be immersed and submerged **IN THE HOLY SPIRIT!!!** This is an additional and separate baptism. The Word is rightly focused on Jesus as a Person; one like us. We even have artist renderings of what He looks like yet all we have to envision the Holy Spirit is the symbol of a gentle dove. So...Who...is He?... Who is this Holy Spirit? Ever think on Him? He is God, the Third Person of the Triune Godhead, yet He is here – here with me, there with you. **Here, there, everywhere – again very much like the air we breathe.**

Please again look at Acts 19:2 on page three to see that the receipt of Jesus as LORD *must* be a separate action from this baptism; however, we can readily see that Dr. H's and others' misunderstandings may center round the fact that no person can receive Jesus except *by the Holy Spirit.*

1 John 4:15

15 Anyone who confesses (acknowledges, owns) that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides (lives, makes His home) in him and he [abides, lives, makes his home] in God.

1 Corinthians 6:19

19 Do you not know that your body is the temple (the very sanctuary) of the Holy Spirit Who lives within you, Whom you have received [as a Gift] from God? You are not your own...

(I LOVE this Scripture!) What then ignites or constitutes the baptism of Him of which John Baptist spoke? Let's start here: To prepare His disciples to continue after His ascension,

John 20:22

22 And having said this, He breathed on them and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit!

Is that not amazing confirmation? Do we not yet better understand this Scripture now with the understanding that the Holy Spirit is as the air we breathe?

Yet, they still had to wait in Jerusalem until they were endued with God's power!

Luke 24:49

49 And behold, I will send forth upon you what My Father has promised; but remain in the city [Jerusalem] until you are clothed with power from on high.

This is reiterated in

Acts 1:8

Jesus: 8 But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth.

And the Holy Ghost came and imbued the disciples who waited with power!

Acts 2:1-4

1 And when the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all assembled together in one place,

2 When suddenly there came a sound from heaven like the rushing of a violent tempest blast, and it filled the whole house in which they were sitting.

3 And there appeared to them tongues resembling fire, which were separated and distributed and which settled on each one of them.

4 And they were all filled (diffused throughout their souls) with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other (different, foreign) languages (tongues), as the Spirit kept giving them clear and loud expression [in each tongue in appropriate words].

So, under what conditions do we receive this glorious baptism today? Scripture reveals numerous things, ways. Paul asked those disciples in Ephesus who had not heard of the Holy Spirit what baptism they were baptized in and they told him, "John's."

Acts 19:4-6

4 And Paul said, John baptized with the baptism of repentance, continually telling the people that they should believe in the One Who was to come after him, that is, in Jesus [having a conviction full of joyful trust that He is Christ, the Messiah, and being obedient to Him].

5 On hearing this they were baptized [again, this time] in the name of the Lord Jesus.

6 And as Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke in [foreign, unknown] tongues (languages) and prophesied.

Acts 10:44-48

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all who were listening to the message.

45 And the believers from among the circumcised [the Jews] who came with Peter were surprised and amazed, because the free gift of the Holy Spirit had been bestowed and poured out largely even on the Gentiles.

46 For they heard them talking in [unknown] tongues (languages) and extolling and magnifying God. Then Peter asked,

47 Can anyone forbid or refuse water for baptizing these people, seeing that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?

48 And he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (the Messiah). Then they begged him to stay on there for some days.

Peter and other apostles had been imprisoned for their witness to Jesus, but the angel of the Lord sprang them. Peter told the high priest that they intended to obey God rather than men, then he witnessed to him.

Acts 5:32

32 And we are witnesses of these things, and the Holy Spirit is also, Whom God has bestowed on those who obey Him.

In what is called “Peter’s Pentecostal Sermon” in Acts 2:14-21, Peter explains the baptism of the Holy Spirit that had been received. He said it was that which was spoken by Joel the prophet, for in the last days, God had said He would pour out His Spirit on all flesh; that our sons and daughters would prophesy; that He would show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth below; and that whoever would call on the name of the Lord would be saved. The believers then asked Peter what should they do.

Acts 2:38-39

38 And Peter answered them, Repent (change your views and purpose to accept the will of God in your inner selves instead of rejecting it) and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

39 For the promise [of the Holy Spirit] is to and for you and your children, and to and for all that are far away, [even] to and for as many as the Lord our God invites and bids to come to Himself.

You can readily see how this Scripture makes known that the Holy Spirit baptism was FOR THEM *THEN AND US NOW!*

4. LET'S RECAP

SCRIPTURAL ELEMENTS OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE:

1. **REPENTANCE**, the required beginning
2. **HEARING THE WORD OF GOD** = The Fuel
3. **BELIEF** in Jesus
4. The Spirit **ABIDES** (remains/makes His home in you)
5. **FIRE**, an element
6. **SPEAKING IN TONGUES**, an evidence of it and a command of Jesus (Mark 16:17)
7. **POWER** from on high
8. It is a **GIFT** from (as well as a command of) God

All-in-all, there seems to be a **PROCESS** which begins after repentance and conversion (trials, waiting, obedience, God's will being worked)



The Apostle Paul (originally named Saul) received the baptism of the Holy Spirit **as a process**. The LORD first got his attention when He (literally) knocked him off his high horse as he was on the way to Damascus to bring Christians to Jerusalem in chains! A heavenly spotlight shone down on him and he fell to the ground as Jesus asked him why he was persecuting Him. Saul asked **Who was speaking** and the Voice said that He was Jesus, the One he was persecuting! Whoops! Jesus told him to go on into the city to await further instructions. When Saul got up, he was blind and his company of men had to lead him on to Damascus. After three days, the LORD sent a believer, Ananias, to baptize him, though he was reluctant knowing Saul as enemy.

After the LORD told Ananias of Saul's assignment, it is written,

Acts 9:17-18

17 So Ananias left and went into the house. And he laid his hands on Saul and said, Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, Who appeared to you along the way by which you came here, has sent me that you may recover your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.

18 And instantly something like scales fell from [Saul's] eyes, and he recovered his sight. Then he arose and was baptized...

See the order? Paul had to repent for his past sins. He had to believe on and receive Jesus. Once his eyes were opened, he received sight and the baptism. (Receipt of Jesus and the baptism = separate acts.)

Actively recognizing, confessing, and turning from our sins remains the imperative beginning to salvation of the LORD and the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Here is your scriptural validation: After Jesus began His ministry, His first recorded words are

Matthew 4:17b

17 ...**Repent** (change your mind for the better, heartily amend your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins), **for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

5. MORE QUESTIONS

Obviously Jesus did not have to accept Himself as Savior, but did He receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Most assuredly – Jesus is our example and, since He, Himself, had to have the baptism of the Holy Spirit to overcome Satan’s temptations in the wilderness – Matthew chapter 3, Mark chapter 1, Luke chapter 3, John chapter 1 – do we think we could possibly overcome the tests, trials, and temptations of this world without it?

What connection was there to the baptism in the Holy Spirit that Jesus received to the baptism He received by John?

John called his a baptism of repentance (which he performed upon Jesus not for the remission of His sins since He had none, but for many other reasons which include, in part, to portray and begin His coming ministry of death, burial, and resurrection).

Furthermore, Jesus wasn’t born the Christ; He had to *become* Christ (Messiah) which means:

To anoint:

- a. consecrating Jesus to the Messianic office, and furnishing him with the necessary powers for its administration; and,
- b. enduing Christians with the gifts of the Holy Spirit (Greek: Chrio, Strong’s #5548).

We are to become like Christ, anointed with His gifts; this enlightens us as to how we can have the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16) and be joint-heirs with Him (Romans 8:17).

The Bible provides more information about the Holy Spirit baptism through dialogue about Jesus’ own experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Immediately upon being baptized in John’s baptism, Scripture says:

Matthew 3:16-17

16 And when Jesus was baptized, He went up at once out of the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he [John] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on Him.

17 And behold, a voice from heaven said, This is My Son, My Beloved, in Whom I delight!

The Scripture in Luke chapter 3 is similar.

We can *become* a son of God, sharing in Sonship with Jesus:

John 1:12-13

12 But to as many as did receive and welcome Him, He gave the authority (power, privilege, right) to become the children of God, that is, to those who believe in (adhere to, trust in, and rely on) His name—

13 Who owe their birth neither to bloods nor to the will of the flesh [that of physical impulse] nor to the will of man [that of a natural father], but to God. [They are born of God!]

Romans 8:15

15 For [the Spirit which] you have now received [is] not a spirit of slavery to put you once more in bondage to fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption [the Spirit producing SONSHIP] in [the bliss of] which we cry, Abba (Father)! Father!

Why did the Spirit come upon Jesus in the form of a dove?



In part, this was God's way of providing the visible evidence of Jesus' receipt of the Holy Spirit; also, the form of a gentle, harmless dove was to illustrate to those present and to us, the later audience, that Jesus, Who had come as a man, had to receive God to be with and in Him because He was a mere man, fulfilling the very point of His coming as had been prophesied. Here, this is defined:

Hebrews 2:17

17 So it is evident that it was essential that He be made like His brethren **in every respect**, in order that He might become a merciful (sympathetic) and faithful High Priest in the things related to God, to make atonement and propitiation for the people's sins.

MADE LIKE US IN EVERY RESPECT. How cool is that?

Is the Holy Spirit – “Third Person of the Trinity” – highly esteemed?

Both His tenderness and preeminence can be inferred from this Scripture:

Matthew 12:31-32

31 Therefore I tell you, every sin and blasphemy (every evil, abusive, injurious speaking, or indignity against sacred things) can be forgiven men, but blasphemy against the [Holy] Spirit shall not and cannot be forgiven.

(I, like so many, have always focused on this word blasphemy wondering what exactly was meant, when more is immediately, explicitly explained in the very next verse:)

32 And whoever speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but whoever speaks against the Spirit, the Holy One, will not be forgiven, either in this world and age or in the world and age to come.

Yes, that should provide us profound insight of the Holy Spirit's significance.

Was there a process to Jesus receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Luke 4:1-2, 14a

4 Then Jesus, full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led in [by] the [Holy] Spirit

2 For (during) forty days in the wilderness (desert), where He was tempted (tried, tested exceedingly) by the devil. And He ate nothing during those days, and when they were completed, He was hungry.

14a Then Jesus went back full of and under the power of the [Holy] Spirit into Galilee...

Yes, even Jesus, God Who came as a man in mortal flesh, went through a process before the power of God was ignited in Him, that very process being the overcoming of temptation in which He, Himself, needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit to succeed.

That is such a powerful statement, it bears repeating:

Yes, even Jesus, God Who came as a man in the flesh, went through a process before the power of God was ignited in Him, that very process being the overcoming of temptation in which He, Himself, needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit to succeed.

🗣️ What about the word “fire”? And what does fire have to do with this baptism?

The Greek word Strong’s #4442 for fire is “pur” and it means, hmmm, “fire.”

Let’s look at one of the complete verses in context:

Matthew 3:10-12 (John Baptist is speaking)

10 And already the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 I indeed baptize you in (with) water because of repentance [that is, because of your changing your minds for the better, heartily amending your ways, with abhorrence of your past sins]. But He Who is coming after me is mightier than I, Whose sandals I am not worthy or fit to take off or carry; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

12 His winnowing fan (shovel, fork) is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear out and clean His threshing floor and gather and store His wheat in His barn, but the chaff He will burn up with fire that cannot be put out.

God will purge us of our sins, with fire.

Hebrews 12:29

29 For our God [is indeed] a consuming fire

and we are **Hebrews 1:7** ...His ministering spirits, flames of fire

The holiness He desires we achieve and live daily is clear. Fire cleanses, ignites, and empowers us to live the life and do the works Jesus commanded throughout the Gospels.

6. JESUS' OWN WORDS

Finally, here are the Words of Jesus about how the Holy Spirit will work in our lives. Along with our earlier examples from Acts, Jesus Himself gives us tips on what we need to do to receive the Holy Spirit in the fullness of the baptism and maintain it.

(The picture is a 19th century icon from Russia, School of Mstera)



KEEP HIS COMMANDS

John 14:15-17

15 If you [really] love Me, you will keep (obey) My commands.

16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengthener, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever –

17 The Spirit of Truth, Whom the world cannot receive (welcome, take to its heart), because it does not see Him or know and recognize Him. But you know and recognize Him, for He lives with you [constantly] and will be in you.

ASK HIM

Luke 11:13

13 If you then, evil as you are, know how to give good gifts [gifts that are to their advantage] to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask and continue to ask Him!

BELIEVE ON HIM AND RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

John 7:38-39

38 He who believes in Me [who cleaves to and trusts in and relies on Me] as the Scripture has said, From his innermost being shall flow [continuously] springs and rivers of living water.

39 But He was speaking here of the Spirit, Whom those who believed (trusted, had faith) in Him were afterward to receive. For the [Holy] Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (raised to honor).

BE BORN AGAIN AND DO THE MIRACLES OF JESUS

John 3:5-8 (Message) (Jesus was talking to Nicodemus, a prominent leader)

5-7 You're not listening. Let me say it again. Unless a person submits to this original creation—the 'wind-hovering-over-the-water' creation, the invisible moving the visible, a baptism into a new life—it's not possible to enter God's kingdom. When you look at a baby, it's just that: a body you can look at and touch. But the person who takes shape within is formed by something you can't see and touch—the Spirit—and becomes a living spirit.

7-8 So don't be so surprised when I tell you that you have to be 'born from above'—out of this world, so to speak. You know well enough how the wind blows this way and that. You hear it rustling through the trees, but you have no idea where it comes from or where it's headed next. That's the way it is with everyone 'born from above' by the wind of God, the Spirit of God.

7. WRAPPING UP

Through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, our relationship with God is now in our innermost being, available always, in and for all situations. Remember, we spoke earlier that it is often in our hearts – our bellies – that the LORD communicates with us – bypassing the brain so that we KNOW it is not of our own making or doing; it is where every answer to every situation is available to us, possible for us, ALWAYS.

Let's look again at this verse from John:

John 14:16

16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may ABIDE (#3306 meno: stay, abide, continue, dwell, endure, be present, remain, stand, to stay) with you FOR EVER (#165 aion in perpetuity, eternally, without end).

Yes, the Holy Spirit can, indeed, be our eternal Partner. And, now we can see how we can do what 1 Thessalonians 5:17 says: **PRAY WITHOUT CEASING.** WOW.

**Like any “partner,” we must communicate with Him –
talking AND listening; listening AND talking – to receive His input.**

And, of course, there is so much more – so much! The whole Bible was written under His explicit direction; He has His Gifts to empower us 1 Corinthians chapter 12; and we learn of His fruits which we should embody in Galatians 5:22-23; so, rather, in this study, we have received a beginning.

Before, we have known about the Holy Spirit; perhaps you have, like me, even been wondrously empowered by His baptism; and now, perhaps, both you and I can have a deeper, more beneficial relationship with Him. Where we are and where we go with Him are up to us, but now we know a little more than we did before, and prayerfully, we are “getting to know Him, getting to know all about Him!” Amen in Jesus' name.

In Christ's Abundant Love and my pitiful but desirous likeness, Love, Marylynn.

This is the end of the study, however I have it on my heart to share with you some of the adventures I have experienced as a result of my walk with the LORD and my baptism in the Holy Spirit.

PS

I have some personal experiences to share you might appreciate or to which you might relate. I urge you to seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit as you are led and see for yourself the wonders of this new life in Christ Jesus!

DRIVING

The word LORD means, in part, Controller so when you make Jesus LORD of your life, that means He is at the helm. I have always taken that personally and literally. Every time I get in a car or other vehicle, I pray, "Lord, please drive our vehicles, lives, and all the vehicles around us." To me, God was not my co-Pilot but the Pilot; I was the "co-." To make a very long story short, one morning I forgot to pray it and, subsequently (and I believe as a direct result), my husband, Mick, and I were in a terrible accident. We were eastbound on a main drag; a woman driving westbound suddenly made a left (south) turn directly in front of us. Our car was totaled; Mick had minor head injuries; my sternum was broken.

A couple of weeks later, I did it again. Forgot to pray. This time, I'm westbound in the righthand lane on another main street and an unlicensed driver directly alongside me in the left lane decides to force me off the road. There goes that car!

Once burned, twice shy; so what's a third time? I mean, how ignorant can any person be? (Please don't answer that question!) This time I'm westbound in heavy traffic and in the process of being late for a business meeting. Suddenly, I realize I'd not prayed. Aaghhhh!!! My prayer was instantaneous. Immediately, I thought to move into the left turn lane and skirt around the traffic, so I put my signal on and over I went, when BOOM! The car coming up behind me (until I moved to turn left) came flying up and crashed into the car that had been in front of me! In other words, had I not moved, that would have been me who was rear-ended! Mind boggling. I don't believe I've failed to pray this mighty prayer since.

I am not suggesting that, because I did not pray, God sicced Satan on me who punished me with accidents; no, rather, the opposite – positive things. Prayer works. When I sought protection, I had supernatural help; no prayer, no supernatural help. In the prayers' absence, I was open and vulnerable to the regular world, without the protective covering that prayer provides. I came to my senses and prayed – or, perhaps, He caught my attention and planted the thought in me because He had had enough of my negligence and stupidity! – just in time before the third accident was about to happen. Thank God! Whew.

I believe He was present with me all of those times, but we can be paying attention to Him... or not. I have to uphold my end of the deal.

RAISING MICK

Some people raise corn and tomatoes; others raise Cain; I raised Mick... from the dead...in the name of Jesus on two occasions in 2004 (and a third on a date I don't remember when he fell 20' off a ladder in an entryway we were painting and landed on the stairs after hitting the railing). That's my husband. Imperative to note is that this was done in the name of Jesus and through the power of the Holy Spirit resident in me. You can see Mick's version of his testimony on his blog, www.abrahammusicministries.blogspot.com.

I will tell you this: Because of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Mick lived until March 29, 2010. Without it, he'd have departed for heaven six years previous. Had not some extenuating circumstances happened that terribly exacerbated his health condition in late 2009, he might still be here now. There is far more to this experience that, frankly, is too painful to tell at this time. Let it suffice to say that the simple and awful fact is he did not listen to God and took a contracting job painting the interior of an enormous building and its contents poisoned him.

If you listen to any of Mick's music on his blog or at the links available there, you will get a glimpse at what a wonderful and talented man of God my husband was.



DAILY WALK

When you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of a heavenly prayer language (often called "tongues"), you can instantly be in communication with God.

2 Corinthians 13:14

14 The grace (favor and spiritual blessing) of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the presence and fellowship (the communion and sharing together, and participation) in the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen (so be it).

This is how Paul concludes his last recorded letter to the Corinthians. What wonders! – grace, love, and communion.

This Scripture came into my heart to conclude this **PS** because of its part about the Holy Spirit. I looked up the word "communion" and it is Strong's word #2842, a Greek word meaning, in part, "partnership, i.e. (literally) participation, or (social) intercourse." My choice of the word "partner" to call Him is certainly apropos, and yet it is so insufficient. Better might be the word "intercourse" for life with Him for me is His constant interaction IN my life.

As I grow older, I want to hear myself speak less and less, and to hear God speak more and more. I ask daily to hear every syllable of every word He speaks to me, that I not miss a thing! Even though I am a writer and I LOVE words, I am finding the English language dreadfully insufficient so, as I grow older, I find that praying in God's heavenly language – sometimes called "praying IN the Spirit" – is a glorious escape from this world. I urge you to read 1 Corinthians Chapters 12 through 14 to learn Paul's understanding on this subject. He teaches valuable information about tongues and other spiritual gifts, explains the superiority of love, and concludes by putting tongues and prophecy into proper perspective. Also, the entire book of Ephesians will edify your spirit about what the Holy Spirit can mean to you.

May God bless you abundantly, His will being perfected in your life. Amen in Jesus' name.

Important Notes:

While we greatly use the King James Version of the Bible, for the purposes of this Study, Scripture references are from the Amplified Bible unless other noted. It often gives us a greater understanding of the words used; other versions, such as the NIV (New International Version), New King James Version (NKJV), and New Living Bible (NLB) can help us to have greater understanding by simplifying the English; and the Strong's Concordance has assigned a number that provides the definition of the original Hebrew (Old Testament) and Greek (New Testament) words.

Receiving Christ as your Savior and becoming a Christian – one born of God – doesn't lessen life's trials; it opens your eyes to realize what Jesus has done to help you overcome them even while you are a mortal being, as your faith grows through prayer, reading the Bible, and fellowship. As you mature in Christ, you begin to love as He loves and to see beyond the material realm; you commune with the Holy Spirit, God present both in and with you, Who teaches you, and even empowers you, when you are willing and desirous; hungry for God and the Love only He represents.

There are allegedly as many as 41,000 Christian denominations – mind boggling, huh? – so there are at least that many ways man has found to present God's word. Many are, by their sheer volume, alone, in great conflict with others, yet each believes theirs is the correct interpretation. My point is that you may or may not agree with my studies which most certainly is your prerogative, but they are predicated entirely upon the Written Word of God and, prayerfully, without man's doctrines interjected. I offer these studies to you free, without obligation, and in love and prayerful hope that they are beneficial to you in your Salvation walk. Should you have any problem or disagreement with them, I am even further excited for you should take it to the throne of God and ask Him to clarify what He meant. Proverbs 25:2 says, "2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing, but the glory of kings is to search out a thing." Be the king God has called you to be!

If, through this website, only one person comes to know Jesus as their LORD and Savior, my life and this effort will have been worthwhile.

I believe The Apostle's Creed which states: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, the Maker of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord and only Savior, Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell. The third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy universal church that Jesus Christ established through the Apostles and Disciples; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Love in Christ and Amen in the name of Jesus,
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