

# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit



## SABBATH—APRIL 29

**READ FOR THIS WEEK'S STUDY:** Acts 2:37, 38; Acts 9:5; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13; 2 Corinthians 7:9-11; Galatians 3:1-11; Galatians 5:5, 6.

**MEMORY VERSE:** “Don’t [do not] fill yourself up with wine. Getting drunk will lead to wild living. Instead, be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18, NIV).

**THERE HAS BEEN A LOT OF GUESSING AND ARGUMENT IN THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH** about what the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” means. The Bible makes it clear that the baptism of the Holy Spirit deals with the Holy Spirit in the life of a person who has been born again. Without the Holy Spirit’s leading, no one can experience the new birth.<sup>1</sup> Those who have experienced the new birth have been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 1:5, Jesus promised His followers they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The wonderful events<sup>2</sup> of Pentecost ten days later fulfilled Jesus’ promise (Acts 2). After the baptism of the Holy Spirit happened, many people accepted Jesus and became His born-again followers.

Anyone who has surrendered in faith and obedience to Jesus has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. A loving and lovable Christian is the greatest example of baptism of the Holy Spirit. This week, we will look at the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Study this week’s lesson to prepare for Sabbath, May 6.

<sup>1</sup> new birth—receiving God’s forgiveness and having the Holy Spirit live in your life to guide you; when God takes your life of sin, forgives your sins, then helps you not to sin.

<sup>2</sup> events—things that happen.

**SUNDAY—APRIL 30****ONE SPIRIT, ONE BODY  
(1 Corinthians 12:1-13).****What point is Paul making in  
1 Corinthians 12:1-13?**

Paul is dealing with a church that was fighting over spiritual gifts. Paul says “Do not quarrel over this issue.” Or, as he clearly explained: “We were all baptized by one Holy Spirit into one body [the church]. It didn’t [did not] matter whether we were Jews or Greeks, slaves or free people. We were all given the same [Holy] Spirit to drink” (1 Corinthians 12:13, NIV).

The word translated “by” in 1 Corinthians 12:13 may also be translated “in.” True believers are baptized in one Spirit in the body of Christ. This body is the church. There are other points Paul wanted to make, but one point is especially clear: All believers share the real experience of being baptized by the Holy Spirit. This baptism makes us part of the body of Christ, the church.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit, or conversion, should come before water baptism. Baptism in water is an outward show of the change that already has taken place in the heart. The true believer is born by the Holy Spirit (John 3:5, 6). The Holy Spirit is the sealing agent<sup>3</sup> (Ephesians 1:13, 14). And the Holy Spirit has been given as an earnest (guarantee) and reminder that one belongs to God (2 Corinthians 5:5).



**Baptism by water is a symbol of having  
been baptized by the Holy Spirit.**

**How important is it that the Holy  
Spirit dwells (lives) in us? Romans  
8:9.**

In accepting Jesus as our personal Savior, we receive the Holy Spirit as a heavenly guarantee of salvation. The Holy Spirit living in us is a guarantee and a reminder that someday Jesus will live with us and the unfallen angels in a place where temptation and sin will no longer touch us. Jesus gives us His Holy Spirit to always remind us that one day we will be free from sin.

Every true believer since Pentecost has received the guarantee of the Holy Spirit. This is the same experience as the baptism of the Holy

<sup>3</sup>sealing agent—the One who keeps us safe. Also see the footnote for the word *seal* in Sabbath’s study for Lesson 2.

Spirit. The important question for us is: How willing are we to receive the Holy Spirit?

**If someone were to ask, “Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit?” how would you answer?**

### MONDAY—MAY 1

#### GUILT AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:37).

Notice the action in Acts 2:14-37. Quoting the Old Testament, Peter was preaching about Christ’s death, resurrection,<sup>4</sup> and going to heaven. Peter was preaching the plan of salvation.

Notice the people’s quick answer. Was it joy? Gladness? Happiness? No. They were “pricked in their heart.” The Greek word means “to pierce.” The people were pained. They suffered. Their conscience bothered them. This is no surprise. Read Acts 2:36. In a way we are all just as guilty as these people. The sins of all of us brought Jesus to the Cross.

It was guilt, sorrow, and pain that helped bring the people to Christ.

**In your own words, write what Paul is saying in 2 Corinthians 7:9-11. How does 2 Corinthians 7:9-11 relate to the experience of the Jews at Pentecost?**

It is now easier to understand Christ’s words, “Blessed are the poor

in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:3). The gospel is a message of joy, peace, and hope. But salvation, repentance,<sup>5</sup> and growth in Christ do involve some suffering (Acts 14:22). One of the acts of the Holy Spirit is to make us aware of sin (John 16:8). We become aware of sin when our hearts are “pierced” over how sinful we have been.

**How has the Holy Spirit “pierced” your heart? What feelings of guilt did you have? How has the Holy Spirit been able to direct the feelings of guilt toward your own spiritual growth?**

### TUESDAY—MAY 2

#### REPENTANCE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:38).

Read Acts 2:38. Peter promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to those who repent<sup>6</sup> and are baptized. But it is only through the Holy Spirit that we can be brought to repentance. So, we can see here the real work of the Holy Spirit in every part of a person’s relationship to his or her Creator. Bible students sometimes speak of this work as “common grace.”

Repentance is a change of mind and life. The words for *repentance* in both Hebrew and Greek involve the idea of change, including a change of mind and direction. This change happens when one admits that he or she

<sup>4</sup> resurrection—coming back to life after dying.

<sup>5</sup> repentance—to be sorry for your sins and, with the Holy Spirit’s help, to want to stop sinning.

<sup>6</sup> repent—to say you are sorry for your sins and then to turn away from your sins with the Holy Spirit’s help.

has been wrong. This admission leads to sorrow and change. *Repentance* means turning to Jesus for help. True repentance (2 Corinthians 7:10) is powerful proof that a person has been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

**How do Romans 2:4; John 15:26; and John 16:13, 14 help us understand the Holy Spirit's work in bringing us to repentance?**

The Holy Spirit is Christ's Representative on earth. The Holy Spirit's work is to show us the truth about Christ. Only through the Holy Spirit's work can we feel guilty about sin and brought to true repentance. Only through the Holy Spirit's work can we be moved to surrender our sinful ways and live for Christ. By showing us God's love, the Holy Spirit touches



<sup>7</sup> compare—show how things are the same.

<sup>8</sup> witnesses—people who see something happen.

us and gives us the only true reason for wanting to serve God. The true reason is a thankful heart that loves a God who first loved us (John 4:10).

We cannot force ourselves to love God. The Holy Spirit comes and touches us. We have the freedom to surrender to His touch or to push Him away. The choice is ours. And ours alone.

**Write a paragraph explaining your own experience with repentance. Where were you when you first had a feeling of guilt? How did you respond? What changes took place? Be prepared to share your experience with the class.**

### WEDNESDAY—MAY 3

#### OBEDIENCE AND THE HOLY SPIRIT (Acts 2:37; Acts 9:5, 6).

Review how the Jews acted toward Peter's sermon. Acts 2:37. Compare<sup>7</sup> what the Jews did with what Saul did. Acts 9:5, 6. With both the Jews and Saul, what proof shows that their conversion (change) was true?

"We are witnesses<sup>8</sup> of these things. And so is the Holy Spirit. God has given the [Holy] Spirit to those who obey him" (Acts 5:32, NIV). Acts 5:32 suggests that obedience is one of the requirements for receiving the Holy

Spirit. We are saved by faith, but it is only Christ’s righteousness (holiness) credited (recorded) to us that saves us from the final result of sin. The final result of sin is eternal<sup>9</sup> death. So, we cannot live in disobedience to God. The Holy Spirit’s job is to make us feel guilty for our sins. Then the feeling of guilt is to lead us to obedience.

**What do the following verses show us about the connection between the Holy Spirit and obedience?**

Acts 16:6, 7 \_\_\_\_\_

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Galatians 5:5, 6 \_\_\_\_\_

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Galatians 5:22-26 \_\_\_\_\_

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1 Peter 1:1, 2 \_\_\_\_\_

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Jesus warned His followers to obey God, to walk in the commandments, and to love and forgive one another as God loves and forgives us. So, why would the Holy Spirit advise us to do anything different? Many people say they have experienced the “baptism of the Holy Spirit” and use “speaking

in tongues [languages]” as proof of that baptism. But they still disobey God’s commandments. They are the ones who are fooling themselves. The greatest proof of living by the Holy Spirit is living a faithful and obedient Christian life.



**Walk in God’s commandments.**

**THURSDAY—MAY 4**

**FAITH AND THE HOLY SPIRIT  
(Galatians 3:1-11).**

As we learned yesterday, those who surrender to the Holy Spirit will be brought into “the obedience of faith” (Romans 16:26). Most people who are saved in Christ do obey. But many people start to believe falsely that their obedience is what saves them. This is what happened with the Galatians.

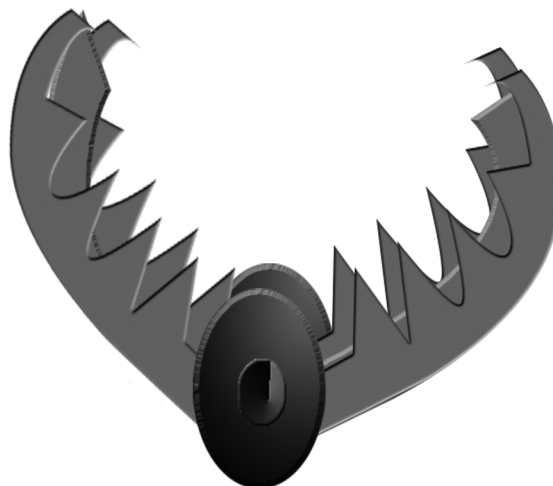
<sup>9</sup>eternal—lasting forever.

**What problem is Paul discussing in Galatians 3:1-11? Note the work he gives to the Holy Spirit in these verses.**

The Holy Spirit leads people into “all truth” (John 16:13). The center of “all truth” is Christ and Him crucified (1 Corinthians 2:2). The greatest and most important of all truths is that Christ died for all sin. Anyone can, by faith, be forgiven for his or her sin and stand perfect before God. The truth is, no one can do enough to “pay” for his or her sins and be forgiven (Romans 3:20; Galatians 2:16). Forgiveness can come only through Jesus. Forgiveness becomes effective in the life of believers and through faith (Galatians 3:5, 6). The Holy Spirit guides us toward obedience. He also helps us understand that salvation is by faith alone. It is clear the Galatians misunderstood salvation by faith.

Notice, too, the important work Paul says the Holy Spirit is doing (Galatians 3:2-5). See how Paul closely connects the Holy Spirit with leading people to their faith, not to their works.

**What are some of the traps of legalism<sup>10</sup> we can easily fall into? How can we protect ourselves from these traps?**



**Legalism is a trap Satan puts out to keep us from having faith in Christ.**

### FRIDAY—MAY 5

**ADDITIONAL STUDY:** Ellen G. White, *The Acts of the Apostles*,<sup>11</sup> pp. 41–46, 50; *Christian Service*, pp. 252–255; *Patriarchs and Prophets*, pp. 283–287, 290, 632–634; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 6, p. 444; *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 7, pp. 211, 212; Exodus 14.

“Let Christ work by His Holy Spirit. Let Christ awaken you as from the dead and carry your minds along with His mind. Let Christ help you to use your talents. He has created your every talent that you may better honor and glorify Him. Dedicate yourself to Him.

<sup>10</sup> legalism—believing you must obey God to be saved.

<sup>11</sup> apostles—God’s disciples who preached the gospel after Jesus returned to heaven. The word *apostles* means “people who are sent out.” The apostles were sent out into the world to tell others about Jesus.

Then you will see that you are inspired to do your best for God's service."—Adapted from *Testimonies to Ministers and Gospel Workers*, p. 396.

"We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit."—Adapted from *Evangelism*,<sup>12</sup> p. 66.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Share your answers to Tuesday's last question with the class. What can you learn from one another's answers?
2. As a class, read Luke 11:11-13. Then talk about how you felt when you gave someone you loved a gift

you knew that person would like. Why were you so eager to give that gift? What good would the gift do for the person you gave it to? From your experience, what can you learn about receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit?

3. As a class, see whether you can get some time before the lesson study to prepare a small lecture on "baptism of the Holy Spirit" for Sabbath School. Try to figure out what questions people in the church might ask about this topic. Be prepared to answer these questions.

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<sup>12</sup> evangelism—the spreading of the gospel to the world.