



**Topic:**  
**Making My Call and Election Sure**  
*(Understanding the Steps of Salvation)*  
Part 4: Baptism in the Holy Ghost

*He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*  
~ Acts 19:2 (KJV) ~

Dr. K. L. Thompson, Remnant of God Deliverance Ministry, Inc.  
[www.ROGDM.org](http://www.ROGDM.org)

## INTRODUCTION

As we come to the final lesson and close of our series study, we move our topic of discussion and sharing to that of the **“Baptism in the Holy Ghost”** in the life of believer. Baptism in the Holy Ghost (also referred to as Holy Spirit) is a God given gift every born again believer in Jesus Christ is promised after accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Bible says that Jesus Himself is the One who baptizes with the Holy Ghost:

### **Matthew 3:11 (NKJV)**

*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.*

From Matthew’s account of the word and work of John the Baptist, it is clear that while it is Jesus who baptizes in the Holy Ghost, it is only realized in the life of the one who does the first work of repentance.

Once we have accepted the Lord as our Savior, the Spirit of God takes up residence within our soul. This is what is called the new birth in God’s Spirit. At the moment we receive this new spiritual birth, we receive a measure of God’s Spirit. It is this initial indwelling of the Spirit of God that gives us the power to continue in our new life to sanctify or separate ourselves from all sins of the flesh and begin, with the Spirit’s operation in us, to work out our soul salvation. This is the beginning of the process of progressive sanctification we discussed in Part 3 of this series study.

As we seek to become vessels of honor and meet or prepared for every good (*cf. 2 Timothy 2:21*), the promise of the baptism in the Holy Ghost will come upon us. The only thing required on our part to receive the Father’s promise of the Holy Ghost is to simply abide in Christ and let Christ abide in us. In other words, we must continue in our strive toward living in obedience unto God. The baptism in the Holy Ghost is received by faith through our obedience. We simply need to remain in our initial relationship with the Lord.

### **Acts 1:4 (KJV)**

*And being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

In this portion of scripture, Jesus instructs his followers not to depart from Jerusalem. We know from the word of God that Jerusalem was a place of gathering for worship among those of the Bible days. The revelation in this is that we must stay in a place of worship of the Lord while we wait for the Father's promised gift of the Holy Ghost. Our worship in faith and obedience will usher us into the fullness of God's appointed time for us to receive this wonderful gift.

## OUR STUDY

### What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

The baptism in the Holy Ghost is an empowering for service that takes place in the life of the Christian. We are immersed in the Spirit's life and power. For a better understanding of what is meant to be immersed in the Spirit: if we drank water from a glass, then the water would be inside us. However, if we went to river and stepped into the water, then we would be in the water. When we are saved, we receive, let say, a drink of the Holy Spirit, but when we are baptized in the Spirit, it is as if that initial drink of water becomes a river of water that completely surrounds us.

Just as the indwelling Spirit we receive at the moment we are saved produces the life of Jesus in us, the baptism of the Holy Ghost produces the power in us necessary to carry forth the work and ministry of being effective witnesses unto the ministry and work of salvation wrought by Jesus.

#### Acts 1:8 (KJV)

*But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

It is the indwelling of the Holy Ghost in the life of the Christian that gives power to the Christian becoming and living as a witness unto God. The Christian is of no use without receiving the fullness of God's Spirit which is ushered in by the baptism of the Holy Ghost. While the Christian may have a profession of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as his Savoir, his living in the newness of life in the Spirit will be not be as effective as it can and ought to be. The translation of Acts 1:8 in The Living Bible puts this work of the Holy Ghost in the life of the Christian perhaps in a language better understood.

#### Acts 1:8 (TLB)

*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect, to the people in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth, about my death and resurrection.*

From this translation, we see the Holy Ghost's mission and purpose within us is to empower us so that we can testify effectively about the death and resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The greatest testimony and witness of the life of the resurrected Jesus is the life lived by the Christian who lives it through the power of the Holy Ghost. While we may be able to quote the Bible from Genesis to Revelation, if we are unable to live all the Bible commands us to live than our witness is ineffective and will have no effect on the world coming to a knowledge of the soul saving power of God.

The baptism in the Holy Ghost is something that the early church was so accustomed to, that it was fit to tell everybody to pray in the Holy Ghost (Jude 1:20). When the early church found believers who hadn't yet received the gift of the Holy Ghost, they made it a priority to get them baptized in the Holy Ghost.

### **Acts 8:14-17 (NKJV)**

*Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

### **Acts 19:1-6 (NKJV)**

*And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.*

The early church was full of healings, deliverances, people being raised from the dead, even people being transported from one location to another all through the work of the Holy Ghost (cf. Acts 8:39-40). They understood that they needed a power beyond human power if they were to carry out their commission and command received from Jesus.

### **Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)**

*Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

With the power of the Holy Ghost, the early church was ready to impact the nation for the cause of Christ. The church was now equipped to make disciples baptizing them into the name of Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost. The baptizing referred to in this portion of scripture (Matt 28:19-20) is not that of the baptism in the Holy Ghost. This initial baptism commanded upon the early church was that they were, through the power they had received, to lead others into a covenant relationship and belief in the Lordship of Jesus. This baptism served as a sign and witness both of entrance into Messiah's covenant community and of pledged submission to his lordship. Jesus ended this command to them letting them know that they can be sure that he would be with them always, even to the end of the age. This is one of the ultimate blessings in being baptized in the Holy Ghost. The Bible declare in 1 John 5:7 that the Father, the Word (Jesus), and the Holy Ghost are one. So what Jesus is saying here is where His Holy Spirit is so is he and so is the Father.

### **Why Is It Important for Christians to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Ghost?**

The importance of Christians receiving the baptism in the Holy Ghost cannot be overstated. The baptism in the Holy Ghost is one of the most vital things for any Christian serious about being all they can be in God and doing all they are supposed to be able to do in God. This baptism is essential for fully knowing God and making Him known. As new creations in Christ through our reconciliation with Christ, the experience

of the baptism in the Holy Ghost in the Christian's life is key to effectively representing Christ and doing our part in continuing the supernatural ministry of reconciliation we have been given by Jesus.

## **2 Corinthians 5:17-19 (TLB)**

*When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others.*

So, we see from this portion of scripture that we have an obligation to share the same God and His Son Jesus that was shared with us. Each of us had someone in our life that lived out this God-given assignment; they represented Jesus' saving power well. Through their living, they became a part of that great cloud of witnesses we have been compassed about by and as a result of their being an effective witness, you and I came to embrace the gospel of deliverance from sin made possible through the sacrifice made by Jesus Christ of himself on Calvary's cross. What a wonderful plan of salvation God has given unto us and made us a part of sharing unto others.

## **How Do I Receive the Baptism in the Holy Ghost?**

As was previously shared, the baptism in the Holy Ghost is received by faith. It is your faith in the lordship of the Lord Jesus and his plan of salvation that will lead you to embracing a right relationship with Jesus. The relationship we have embraced is one that involves our yielding ourselves over to the Lord. The Apostle calls this an act of "presenting our bodies" unto the Lord.

## **Romans 12:1-2 (NKJV)**

*I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And be not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.*

As we continue to yield or submit ourselves unto the Lord, His Spirit received at salvation works in us to separate us from our old unregenerate man and his behavior and customs, which are of the world. The result of this process (sanctification) leads us into living as a holy sacrifice unto the Lord. The end effect is that we will reach the fullness of God's time wherein He will pour His Spirit upon us baptizing us in the Holy Ghost.

## **CONCLUSION**

Jesus had a great work for us as Christians to do all down through the ages. He knew we could never do it in our own strength. So He told His followers to wait until they received the power of the Holy Ghost and then they would be His witnesses. Jesus' command and promise given back then is for all His followers not just for them back then. Acts chapter one bears witness of this. As Christians, we are entitled to be partakers of the gift of the promised Holy Ghost. Jesus knew the blessing this gift would bring into our life and walk in serving and obeying the Father. And so, He told his followers it was expedient for Him to return unto the Father so that the way for them to receive this gift of the Father would be made possible.

Jesus knew it was more necessary for His people to have this fullness of the Holy Ghost abiding within them than it was that He should remain with them. The kingdom work that you and I are called unto is a great work that takes a power greater than any we have apart from God. The early church understood this necessary fact and so they taught and instructed the people as to how to position themselves to receive the great gift and blessing of the baptism in the Holy Ghost. If only we believe, we shall receive. We must continue in faith to believe the power of God to work in our lives conforming us into the image of His dear Son Jesus. We must be diligent to work out our soul salvation with fear and trembling. I encourage you my brother and my sister to be steadfast and unmovable always abounding or going forward in the work of the Lord. Your labor will not be in vain and your reward will be great.

*God's peace and blessing be upon you....*

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