

A. The question is often asked: Why say "THE BAPTISM?"

1. It is considered the best theological term. The very idea originated from **HEAVEN**.

a. Jesus asked in Luke 20:1-4 ~ *And it came to pass, that on one of those days, as he taught the people in the temple, and preached the gospel, the chief priests and the scribes came upon him with the elders, (2) And spake unto him, saying, Tell us, by what authority doest thou these things? or who is he that gave thee this authority? (3) And he answered and said unto them, I will also ask you one thing; and answer me: The baptism of John, was it from **HEAVEN**, or of **MEN**?*

b. John the Baptist said in John 1:33 ~ *but he that sent me to baptize with **WATER**, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the **SPIRIT** descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which **BAPTIZETH** with the Holy Ghost.*

2. Look at what John the Baptist also said in John 1:29 ~ *Behold the **LAMB** of God, which taketh **AWAY** the **SIN** of the world.*

a. It seems clear that John emphasized that Jesus would have **TWO** special ministries.

b. As the **LAMB** of God on **CALVARY** He would become the **SAVIOUR**,

And as the one upon whom the **SPIRIT** remains, He would become the **BAPTIZER** on the day of Pentecost.

Hebrews 13:8 ~ *Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

c. He still **SAVES** from sin and He still **BAPTIZES** in the Holy Spirit.

3. God gave the word "Baptism" to John, and also the **IMAGE** of the **ACT**.

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**.*

a. Jesus confirmed this when He said in Acts 1:5 ~ *For **JOHN** truly baptized with **WATER**; but ye shall be baptized with the **HOLY GHOST** not many days hence.*

b. This was the first time that any followers of Christ were baptized in the **SPIRIT** by **HIM**.

c. About ten years later Peter still declared that Christ was the baptizer in the **SPIRIT** In his defense, before the other apostles in Jerusalem, for accepting and baptizing the Gentiles in the House of Cornelius into the church. He said in Acts 11:16 ~

*Then remembered I the **WORD** of the **LORD**, how that he said, **JOHN** indeed baptized with **WATER**; but ye shall be **BAPTIZED** with the Holy Ghost.*

B. The Baptism of the Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39 ~ Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

1. The BIG QUESTION is How we may **RECEIVE** Him into our own **HEARTS** so that He becomes truly **REAL** in our personal **EXPERIENCE**. Peter spoke the essence of the **INVITATION** on the **DAY** of **PENTECOST**. He points out three steps.

a. The first step is **REPENTENCE**. It means **GIVING UP** all known **SIN**,

changing our **ATTITUDE** toward it, ceasing any conscious rebellion against

God, and returning home to our Heavenly **FATHER**.

2nd Corinthians 7:9,10 ~ Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.

James 1:20 - 21 ~ For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.

b. The second step is **BAPTISM** for the **REMISSION** of **SINS**. The water of Baptism cannot purify the soul, but in Baptism we **WITNESS** to our personal **FAITH** in something that does **CLEANSE** from all **SIN** ~ the **PRECIOUS BLOOD** of **CHRIST**.

1st Peter 1:18-19 ~ Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.

c. The third step is the **PROMISE**. This third step is receiving the **GIFT** that has already been promised and is, therefore, ours for the **TAKING** from the hand of Him who loves to give **GOOD** gifts to His children. Peter says it is **RECEIVING** a **GIFT**.

Galatians 3:14 ~ That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

C. Speak with tongues and magnify God.

1. Look at *1st Corinthians 14:2 ~ For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.*

That makes sense. It's saying, "you speak to God and He understands."

a. This is absolute **COMMITMENT**, and He takes the **HELM** to set your ship on a new course.

James 3:2,4, & 5 ~ For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. (4) Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. (5) Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

b. Then you discover the **TRUTH** of Paul's **TESTIMONY**.

1st Cor. 14:4 ~ He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

As soon as you are edified you will want to **EDIFY** others. Then there follows the other manifestations of the **SPIRIT** according to *1st Corinthians 12:7 ~ But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.*

D. Who speaks. The **SPIRIT** or **YOU**? **BOTH**. You speak as He **GIVES** utterance.

1. You talk to God with words that He gives upon your lips. You will find the **PRINCIPLE** is the same as when Jesus said in *Mark 13:11 ~ But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.*

a. Furthermore, this is an **ACT** of **FAITH** on your part. Look at *Mark 16:17 ~ And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.*

b. The moment you believe His **WORD**, His **PROMISES**, you dare to **SPEAK**, and the **SPIRIT** gives utterance.

c. The moment you **DOUBT**, it stops, and for those who only doubt and never **BELIEVE**, this manifestation of the **SPIRIT** never begins.

2. Christians who have never heard the kind of doctrine that says: " This is not for **TODAY**, this may be **EVIL**, this is sheer **EMOTION** ," do not find it difficult to cooperate with the Spirit and to speak as He **GIVES** utterance.