

This really worried him. Let me also mention that the church he attended believed in handling snakes. I asked him if anyone had been bitten. He told me that an uncle of his was bitten and died. I asked what happened and Lee informed me that his uncle evidently lost the faith while the snake was in his hand. Needless to say that when Lee invited me to his church and with my hatred for snakes, I always declined his invitation. I was afraid the snake would know I was Baptist and bite me. I also remember that the Scripture states that we should not tempt the Lord.

There are those who teach that since there was a delay before people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in some parts of the Book of Acts that this is the way the Holy Spirit works today. Therefore we want to share the fourth flaw in this teaching that a person has to speak in tongues to be baptized in the Spirit. Please turn first to Acts Chapter two. **In Acts 2** we find that the disciples (120) are in one accord during the Day of Pentecost and the Holy Spirit came down in a form of bright light similar to fire. The one light divided into many smaller one and sat upon each of the believers. At this time each one was filled with the Holy Spirit. Each one was able to speak in a language given by the Holy Spirit so that all the Jews in the area could hear them in their own language. This episode was the birth of the Church. It was the initial Baptism of the Spirit where everyone was immersed into the body of Christ. The charismatic will say that the 120 who were already believers did had not previously received the baptism, but there was a delay until Pentecost and when they finally received the baptism they spoke in tongues. What they over look is the fact that the reason there was a delay was simply that the church had not yet had its birth. They could not receive their baptism until the birth of the church. Remember that John the Baptist predicted this baptism (Matt. 3:11) as a future event. The baptism was never experienced during the Lord's ministry. However, prior to His ascension He said it would happen "not many days hence." (Acts 1:5). The disciple were told to wait in Jerusalem, which they did and the event happened on Pentecost. This is why the 120 had a delay in receiving the baptism. The delay was necessary because the Holy Spirit could not come until Jesus departed (JN. 14: 16-18, 26; 16:7). Notice that the 3000 new converts that believed on Pentecost did not have to wait for their baptism, nor is there any word that they spoke in tongues.

In Acts 8 we find another delay of people receiving the baptism after becoming believers. Here we find that Philip is preaching in Samaria and a large number of Samaritans expressed interest and were coming to the faith. When the apostles in Jerusalem heard about what was happening, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived they discovered that the new believers had not received the Holy Spirit. So they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit. To understand what happen that day. Remember, up to this time the Jews thought salvation was just for Jews, not for Samaritans and Gentiles. We need to remember that the Jews despised the Samaritans. The Jews considered the Samaritans half-breed. Jews would travel out of their way to avoid going through Samaria. Now ask yourself a question. If the Samaritan believers had automatically received the Holy Spirit the day that Phillip spoke to them, what do you think would happen? There would have been a church of Jerusalem and a church of Samaria. I am not talking about two churches of one denomination, but two separate denominations. The Jews would have never accepted the Samaritans. The delay forced the Jews to acknowledge the authenticity of the faith of the Samaritan believers. By sending Peter, whom Christ said held the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. 16:19; keys used to open doors, here we see the door of the Samaritan and later Peter will be present when the door to the gentiles would open; Acts 10). Peter was able to be the witness for the Jewish believers. Therefore the Holy Spirit used the delay to unify the church. By the way the delay is no longer experienced since all biblical people groups (Jews, Samaritans, and Gentile) have already been accepted into the church. Another thing to note concerning this episode is that the Scripture never shared that anyone spoke in tongues when the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit (baptism).

There are those who believe that it is necessary for a believer to speak in tongues to receive the baptism of the Spirit for they say that it is a sign for those in the church for an individual's salvation. Therefore we will share the last flaw in teaching that a person has to speak in tongues to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Bible does in fact share that

tongues was a sign gift. In 1 Cor. 14: 22 we quote, "**Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers....**" The question is , who are the unbelievers? This reference is not to people outside or church, it is a reference to the Jews. Actually in the Scripture before the above Paul made it clear that he was referring to the Jews. In chapter one, verse twenty two Paul actually makes the point that it is the Jews who seek after a sign. It was the sign of speaking in tongues at Pentecost that caused the believing Jews to accept this new thing that we call the church. If the gift of tongues had not happened with Cornelius the Jews would not have accepted the gentile into the church. Tongues had its purpose in the birth and infancy of the church, but it was not looked upon as something a person had to do to be baptized in the Spirit.

What is the Baptism of the Spirit?

In the fifteenth chapter of John's gospel Jesus makes mention several times of Him abiding in us and us abiding in Him. Today, He abides in the believer through the work of the Holy Spirit and we abide in Him through the baptism of the Spirit. In 1 Corinthians chapter twelve, verse 12 -14, the apostle Paul explains the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free – and have all been made to drink into one Spirit. For in fact the body is not one member but many.

We find that the work of the Holy Spirit is to baptize (immerse) us into one body (the body of Christ which is the Church). The Bible teaches us that each believer had to go through a process. The first part of that process was that one day the Holy Spirit convicted you of your sin and through that conviction drew us unto Him (Jn. 6:44). The Holy Spirit made you aware of your lost condition and gave you an invitation to repent of your sins and to receive Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. He gave you a freedom to receive or reject Him. The moment you prayed and through faith received Christ as your Savior and Lord the Holy Spirit immediately sealed your soul until the day of redemption, He also indwelt you so that He could be your comforter, your guide, your strength. Another great thing happened the moment you were saved and that he baptized you into the body of Christ. This is a one time thing that happens the very moment you believe. This baptism is the one baptism referred to in Ephesians four, verse five. Remember water baptism is only symbolic of the real baptism.

Some people confuse the baptism of the Spirit with the Filling of the Spirit. We are spiritually baptized only once. However, we might be filled with the Spirit over and over. The filling of the Spirit does not mean that we can receive more of the Spirit (we have all of Him that we will ever need when we are saved). The filling means that we allow Him to fill more of our life, we give way to self and allow the Holy Spirit to use and control us. To be used as an instrument to bring glory to the Lord.

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