



Thirsty?

By Kurt von Schleicher

Are you a dried-out fisher that needs your thirst quenched with living water? Feel like quaffing down something really satisfying? What have you heard about receiving the *Baptism of the Holy Spirit*?

Gospel writer, Doctor Luke recorded the event when this first happened: ***“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”*** (Acts 2:1-4).

That was an incredible situation with many curious irreligious people standing around observing and hearing the truth preached. But did you know this kind of baptism can happen to you—in you? It can! This experience in Acts chapter 2 was literally the fulfillment of the old promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I like how it says they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. Did you notice that?

You Shall Receive Power!— John Piper

How’s your Pneumatology? Does it go beyond what God has written? It should never! Is your interest in it heightened; is it merely theoretical—is what you’ve learned in this regard properly applied, or is it all submerged due to fear or partially biblical teaching? You say.. newmama what, Kurt? Pneumatology in Christian theology is the study of the wonderful Holy Spirit.

But here’s a better question for you.. How’s your relationship and daily cooperation with this intelligently compassionate Person? Lots of people today get so turned off by just the mention of this topic, because they retain a false caricature of what God intends for this to be all about. They’ve seen too much weirdness. I can empathize with them.

We all need to get back to the Bible regardless of what we’ve seen and just turn the channel next time that Christian Network or our so called “Church reps” on there go sideways. Why junk all the good Bible passages about the Holy Spirit just because some wacko “tongue-talkers” (and not all are..) or full-blown false prophets claim to be controlled by Him ..as they use prophesy in Jesus’ Name to go after widow’s checkbooks or after girls? I met one not long ago who regularly

did this kind of thing in churches and over the airwaves. He drove a white Rolls Royce, but had a Benz and a Jag at home. With nicely quaffed bouffant, he also wore a gold Rolex on one arm and a Cartier watch on the other and when asked, he quickly said this was because he wanted to biblically *redeem the time*. WHAT? No wonder Dallas is going to hell in a handbasket!

But considering the Holy Spirit's good nature.. the people empowered by Him (or who say they are) ought to be the first ones noted for their godly character; their moderation, their consistent victory over all the woes, fleshly temptations, and enemy-minions of this world. Of course their holy lifestyles, their joyous upbeat attitudes, their selfless service in the community etc.. should make them stand out like a bright lighthouse tower at midnight in the bay. Duh! Why repel those we want to win or even young Christians with doubts? Sure some irreligious people will be offended by the Gospel they hear from us if we are straightforward, but why add anything to that offense?

Being red hot on-fire for Jesus should *not mean* that you act like an idiot in public ..or at home. It should mean you're a winsome witness who listens well, who serves even better, who obeys authority short of sin, who lives balanced, and rejects all crudeness and rudeness. It should mean Christ alone is your first-love passion; that you embrace and express true charisma when the time and manner is right, and that you shun lukewarm living, religious compromise and all fleshly charismania!

Listen when those who claim to be baptized with the Spirit identify themselves as the "spirit-filled ones," man, they might not realize that this can easily come off like there's pride in their hearts—like all other Christians are somehow not filled. HELLO! Do you consider fruit-bearing people like Billy Graham or Chuck Swindoll to be Spirit-filled? I sure do—they graciously walk in the Spirit daily and God has used them to impact our nation.

I understand that some of these gifted are just trying to be factual, but still we must be sensitive for unity's sake. None of us have any grounds for personal overbearing hubris of any kind. Why should we be all puffed up over anything at all, especially over a free gift we receive? ny day of the week, I'd rather hang out with my Evangelical brothers who are accurate with the Scriptures, have God's love in their hearts—yup, the joy and fruit of the Spirit inside and who have a clean walk ..than with foolish charismaniacs (and again, many tongue-talkers are not that whacked)! Wouldn't you? And I want to help them, but we become like our close friends.

Here's my point, many of us who believe in "the gifts for today" need to quickly climb down off our high horses and repent, and apologize to the Church for playing fast and loose with the truth. We need to apologize to the lost as well. But for those of Christ's Church who don't, why throw out the valuable baby with the dirty bathwater. Why not look again, think objectively and chuck the dirty water?

In Luke 3:16, we read concerning John the Baptist that, "*John answered saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.*"

In John 1:33, again John the Baptist is speaking his testimony concerning Jesus. He said, "*And I knew Him not: 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.*"

John was literally prophesying of the Person who would come after he did, who was greater. He said that this Person would baptize the people with the Holy Spirit and fire.

In the book of Acts we see how Jesus was together with His disciples and how He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father, of which, He said, ***“Ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence”*** (Acts 1:4-5, kjv).

The Bible clearly teaches about an experience that’s properly called the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It teaches us that Jesus is the One who baptizes in this way. We can also see that this baptism with the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct experience from regeneration (which is of course, more important for a person to experience). Yes, the Bible shows us that we all need to be born of the Spirit, and yet there is another experience that all believers need to have—they need to ardently expect this promise of the Father (*The Baptism of the Holy Spirit*).

In fact, this was part of the normal induction of every believer in the early Christian Church. We’ve heard a lot about “power evangelism,” “power encounters” but the question remains, have you been truly endued with power for victorious life and effective service. Have you received spiritual gifts to use ..not as toys to play with (or go crazy with) but as tools to build with? With a sound mind and heart you can today! Read...

Luke 24:49

Acts 1:4

Acts 1:8

1 Corinthians 12:1-31

This experience is indeed distinct and subsequent to the experience of the new birth. See:

Acts 8:12-17

Acts 10:44-46

Acts 11:14-16

Acts 15:7-9

With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- *an overflowing joy and fullness of the Spirit, John 7:37-39, Acts 4:8*
- *a deepened reverence for the Lord, Acts 2:43 , Hebrews 12:28*
- *an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work, Acts 2:42*
- *and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost, Mark 16:20*

Martin Lloyd-Jones in his book *Joy Unspeakable* describes the difference between common Christian living and what happens when a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit with such unusual power from on high.

He says it is like a child walking along holding his father's hand. All is well. The child is happy. He feels secure. His father loves him. He believes that his father loves him but there is no unusual urge to talk about this or sing about it. It is true and it is pleasant.

Then suddenly the father startles the child by reaching down and sweeping him up into his arms and hugging him tightly and kissing him on the neck and whispering, "I love you so much!" And then holding the stunned child back so that he can look into his face and saying with all his heart, "I am so glad you are mine." Then hugging him once more with unspeakable warmth and affection. Then he puts the child down and they continue their walk.

This is sort of what it's like, says Lloyd-Jones, when a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit. A pleasant and happy walk with God is swept up into an unspeakable new level of joy and love and assurance and reality that leaves the Christian so utterly certain of the immediate reality of Jesus that he is overflowing in praise and more free and bold in witness than he ever imagined he could be.

The child is simply stunned. He doesn't know whether to cry or shout or fall down or run, he is so happy. The fuses of love are so overloaded they almost blow out. The subconscious doubts—that he wasn't thinking about at the time, but that pop up every now and then—are gone! And in their place is utter and indestructible assurance, so that you know that you know that you know that God is real and that Jesus lives and that you are loved, and that to be saved is the greatest thing in the world. And as you walk on down the street you can scarcely contain yourself, and you want to cry out, "My father loves me! My father loves me! O, what a great father I have! What a father! What a father!"

. . . I think this is basically what happened at Pentecost. And has happened again and again in the life of the church."

The New Testament uses the phrase baptize "in," "by," or "with the Holy Spirit" seven times (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5, 11:16; and 1 Corinthians 12:13). In the spring of 1977 while I was attending Dana Hills High School on the coast in the O.C. I met two Persons that would change my life. I've just got to tell you about these two things that happened to me from Jesus Christ: 1) I was forgiven of all my sins and born again spiritually and then 2.) The same Jesus who saved me also baptized me in the Holy Spirit. I thought, "How cool that I had to add no good works in to gain this new vertical relationship! It was all free, but all of a sudden I wanted to do good works that were practical to show Him my love. No penance, no beads, no religious jerking or liver-quiver like you see on TV! How fundamentally EXCELLENT, HOW BEAUTIFUL to be able to fellowship with God and sense His peace and His enabling!"

It was so incredible to be able to see colors again. This ole black and white world suddenly turned to HD colors and this wasn't that long afterward my salvation experience. Then one day a couple weeks later, when I was home alone in my bedroom on Sea Bright Drive in Dana Point, California, I got down on my knees to begin to pray in English as was becoming my custom by then, and low and behold I was praying in another language that I had never studied or learned. It was wonderful and glorious. I prayed in English and then I would pray in tongues and God was edifying me as I gave Him the praise and adoration that He deserves. It made me want to go tell people the Gospel all the more too. It wasn't long after that that I followed Jesus into the waters at the Dana Point harbor to get ocean-water-baptized as a witness to my lost surf buddies.

Daily, just soaking it all in, I started to grow in the Lord. I started attending a grace kind of church that taught through the entire Bible verse by verse called, Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa. I went there for the rest of the decade of the '70s and made some other friends who were also

saved, on-fire and baptized with the Holy Spirit. The peace (see Rom. 5:1), love and joy continued on—still do. And I seemed to have a totally new purpose for living that was so important (see Jer. 29:11). I had a deep assurance inside regarding where I would spend eternity and I really wanted to take others with me to heaven, if they would only allow Christ to do for them what He had done for me. Halleluiah I was headed for a place called, Heaven, and I was enjoying the Kingdom of God on earth each day as I walked with Christ! Yes, I was into sowing to the Spirit as I read the Bible, prayed, fellowshiped with growing Christians and I witnessed often. I was so much fun to make friends for God. I indeed wanted all my friends, family, and enemies to have this same exact experience as I had ..even if they felt nothing or felt something. I had been a jerk to others before, but I knew the Lord could help me turn my enemies into my friends—at least most of them. Now that the gracious Holy Spirit had taken up residence inside of me, anything He wanted me to do was indeed possible. I felt it would be ludicrous, lame and pure craziness for any of them to miss it! Jesus was so real to me everywhere I went.. every single day. I still love serving a seven day a week Jesus! It was from day-one in God's Kingdom, that God gave me a real passion and excitement for knowing Him and for reaching the lost. I made some mistakes in how I approached people. Looking back I think I was a bit too pushy with my own younger brother Kyle and sister, Kathy. They forgave me, but it was in 1977 during that first week in Christ that I immediately started telling, and winning some of my surfer-volleyball buddies to righteousness. But listen, Jesus gets all the credit for anything good that happened because I could save anyone. You can have this gift! Jesus wants to give you both, salvation and this empowering for service. What better way to live is there? The Holy Spirit is still working on, in and through me. He's still bringing about changes in my:

1. *attitude*
2. *actions*
3. *agenda*
4. *appetites*
5. *affections*
6. *altitude ..spiritually*

By the grace of God I am what I am—I'm no great preacher or expert at anything really, but as I cooperate with Him the work He intends for me to do, gets done. In his book *The Baptism with The Holy Spirit*, R.A. Torrey, (who was a great teacher, co-pastor, friend to Moody, and the president of Moody Bible Institute in Chicago) wrote: ***"Religious biographies abound in instances of men who have worked along as best they could until one day they were led to see there was such an experience as the baptism with the Holy Spirit and to seek and obtain it; from that hour there came into their service a new power that utterly transformed its character. Finney, Brainerd, and Moody were cases in point. But cases of this character are not confined to a few exceptional men. The author has personally met and corresponded with those who could testify to the new power that God granted them through the baptism with the Holy Spirit. These hundreds of men and women were from all branches of Christian service. Many of them were ministers, Sunday school teachers, personal workers, fathers and mothers. What we have in promise in the words of Christ many have, and all may have, in glad experience. 'Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you.'"***¹

In the Gospel of John, chapter 20 verse 22, we see that Jesus breathed on His disciples and He commanded them to, ***"Receive ye the Holy Spirit."*** That is the place (before the day of Pentecost) where the disciples experienced regeneration. That's where they received the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Of course there are many dear brothers and sisters today who would object to this and assert that this action of Jesus in breathing on them and commanding, "Receive the Holy Spirit," was only a symbolic gesture. But why should they that this was only "symbolic,"—why interpret an experience like that?

Today many so called Charismatic Christians (not all) wrongly want to form their own doctrine by the "feelings" and "experiences" they have and others wrongly want to form their doctrine according to the lack of experiences or lack of feelings in their lives. We really need to get our doctrine from the Bible irrespective of lack or feelings. Check it out; there's zero in the Bible that would indicate that the disciples did not receive the Holy Spirit at that time when Christ breathed on them and commanded them to receive the Holy Spirit. When we see Jesus commanding people in other parts of the Bible, it would happen. Remember dead Lazarus in the tomb? Did he say tomb temperature and not emerge from that hole in the ground? No the dead man was revived at that time.

The reason why they say it was only a symbolic action is because of their presupposition position, that regeneration and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are one and the selfsame experience—that they must happen at the same moment.

The truth of the matter is this: when Jesus breathed on them, the disciples received the Holy Spirit Who from that time on, indwelt them.

Then in Acts 1:4, we see Jesus telling His disciples not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father. For He declared, "***John indeed baptized with water unto repentance, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days.***"

What was that all about? Well Jesus simply lets us know that there are two different baptisms—one in water and the other one with the Holy Spirit.

Some of my dear brothers show me, 1 Corinthians 12:13, where Paul says we were all baptized by the Spirit into one body. And what they are showing me is a baptism, by the one Spirit, into the body (we all must chose to have that superior baptism). Look closely.. it's the Holy Spirit doing the baptizing of people into the body of Christ. But what I (and the Bible) are talking about today, is when Jesus is the one who baptizes believers with the Holy Spirit for horizontal ministry. The Holy Spirit comes along side initially to convict an open willing sinner, the sinner repents, believes and is baptized into the body of Christ. It's the Spirit who introduces you to Jesus, but then Jesus turns around and introduces you to the Holy Spirit—he literally baptizes you with the Holy Spirit for a non-self-centered reason.

But some of my friends will then quote Ephesians 4:3-5 to me to help me see things correctly. And I appreciate that, because they could be lame by basing things off of their own opinions. Many people do that, but you remember when Paul was encouraging the early church to, "***keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.***"

And then they show me that second verse about one baptism—"***And you were all baptized by the one Spirit into the body of Christ***" (1 Cor. 12:13). W

But when Paul was telling the Ephesian believers to keep the unity of the Spirit and he goes on to speak about one Lord, one faith, one baptism, think about what he was referring to. He was saying that there is only one important baptism into the body of Christ. No baptism comes close to the tremendous significance that one has—no one gets into heaven without that one!

Paul was simply warning us about sectarian divisiveness. We see that junk happening even in our day, churches having nothing to do with other decent churches that adhere to Christ and Bible essentials. That's just wrong.

You've no doubt heard about the three Greek prepositions that signify the kind of relationship we each can have with the Holy Spirit. In John 14, Jesus was encouraging His disciples who were feeling tried and somewhat down due to the fact that Christ was going away. They were upset, so Jesus cheered them up and comforted them promising that He would pray to the Father who would give to them the Comforter, even the Spirit of truth, that He might abide with them forever. Jesus said, ***"Whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye knoweth him."*** And Christ went on to say, ***"...for He dwelleth with you and shall be in you"*** (Jn. 14:17).

Yup, Jesus told them that the Spirit was dwelling with them—right alongside of them. In Greek that word is "para," but He went on to inform them about how the Spirit would soon be dwelling inside of them. That is exactly what happened in John 20, as Christ breathed on them and said, ***"Receive ye the Holy Spirit."***

Perhaps you are a believer but are afraid to witness. Perhaps you lack passion, unction, strength to go for it when lost friends ask you pointed questions that would be perfect for leading into a conversation about spiritual matters. Paul once met some believers in Ephesus that were lacking in their Christian experience with the Lord. And Paul was concerned for them as he tried to diagnose their exact problem. It was like he was trying to pinpoint it. Could you see him doing that in our day? What's up with your witness guys? What is like.. wrong here? Where's the get up and go boys?

Back then, Paul's question and message went like this.. ***"He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should 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 [his] hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied."*** (Acts 19:2-6, kjv).

Where are you at? Have you had this subsequent experience since you've believed in Jesus? In John 7:37-38—Jesus, on the last day of the feast, stood up and cried out saying, ***"If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."*** Any man here would apply to any person wanting this experience with Christ. Have you been thirsty for something more in life that really satisfies?

Have you been looking all over for this.. maybe even in some wrong spots because you felt so desperate inside? Are you craving a more intimate walk with the ultimate Fisher of men? He says, ***"Come unto Me and drink."***

That would be scriptural, for God gives us His promise about this in Isaiah 44:3 saying, ***“For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring.”***

There’s no need to be afraid or to think that God is into withholding good things from you. It’s only the enemy of your soul who tries to get you thinking that God doesn’t love you. But Jesus admonished, ***“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”*** (Lk. 11:13). He said, ***“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled”*** (Matt. 5:6). Have you asked the Father to give you the Holy Spirit—have you asked Him to fill you full yet? I could give a flip what you call this infilling; I just want you to have this. And later on when needed, I want you to run back to the Lord to be refilled for effective service.

If you are ready to turn from your sins to the Lord today; if you are [not yet born again spiritually](#).. try taking a guess at what Jesus would say to you. Listen, He wants you forgiven of your sins! Do you think that Christ would lovingly say to you, ***“Receive ye the Holy Spirit”***? Well you do need to be born again right now. Please don’t put it off. I’m also confident that He would personally want to baptize you in the Holy Spirit so that you will be better equipped in fishing for other souls as He will lead you to do.

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¹ From the book "The Baptism with the Holy Spirit"; Torrey, R. A.; Bethany Fellowship, Inc.; Minneapolis; 1972, 25.