



The Promise of the Father: A call for Pentecostal Reformation

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The belief that Spirit baptism equals Spirit filling is the very cornerstone of the Pentecostal faith, but to the contrary, Bezalel in Exodus 31:2-3 and a host of Old Testament saints were “filled with the Holy Spirit” including John the Baptist. He taught that Spirit baptism was yet to come, but he never spoke in tongues. A separation of 1800 years between the first occurrences of filling and baptism proves that baptism is not filling.

Spirit filled John the Baptist said, “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me...will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...Jesus came up immediately from the water...He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.” (Matthew 3:11,16) “...Upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.” (John 1:33)

Out of the context of water baptism is the first mention in the Bible of Spirit baptism! Jesus promised to every believer, one event incorporating two different parts, an action and a position, each without any required outward evidence: (1) The action: The baptism with the Holy Spirit, which is the promise of the Father, Matthew 3:11, Acts 1:4-5, 2:38-39, and (2) The position: The indwelling of the Holy Spirit, John 14:16-31.

Jesus promised, “He will be in you” (John 14:16-31), which is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, to every single believer, without tongues evidence. He also promised the baptism with the Holy Spirit to every single believer without tongues evidence. Acts 11:15-17, “as upon us at the beginning...baptized with the Holy Spirit...when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ”. Romans 8:9, “...if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.” The 120 believers, in Acts 2:4, received the promise of the Father, Spirit baptism and indwelling, and were ALSO subsequently Spirit filled and spoke in tongues, as a sign to the unbelievers. It could be said that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is the “descending” action of the Holy Spirit that brings the residency, “remaining”, or the indwelling of the Holy Spirit; the baptism action and the indwelling position cannot be separated.

Water baptism by immersion symbolizes the believer’s identification with Christ’s death, burial, and resurrection, to walk in newness of life. 1Peter 3:18, “...baptism...through the resurrection of Jesus Christ...” If Spirit baptism and water baptism are parallel, why would we reverse the order and go from new birth, newness of life, back into death, burial, and sin? Pentecostal doctrine does precisely that—disconnects Spirit baptism from Spirit indwelling, puts the action subsequent to the position, and then attaches “the evidence” of tongues as a condition of baptism. 1Corinthians 12:13, “For by one Spirit we were ALL baptized into one body...” when we believed.

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