

The Baptism in the Spirit: What Does It Mean?

1. An Overview of Spirit Baptism in the Bible:

- a. In the Old Testament: _____
- b. In the Gospels (4x): _____
- c. Acts 1:5: _____
- d. Acts 11:15-17: _____
- e. 1 Cor 12:13: _____
- f. In the Millennium: _____
- g. Total of _____ specific passages relating to spirit baptism

2. A Look at Spirit Baptism in the Gospels (future: not happened yet):

a. Matt 3:7-12 (11)

¹¹ "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.**

- John: Is baptizing with (or in) water (*en hudati*)
- Jesus: Will baptize (future) with (or in) the Holy Spirit and fire (*en pneumatihagio kai puri*)

b. Mark 1:5-8 (8)

⁸ "I indeed baptized you with water, but **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**"

- John: Has baptized with water (*hudati*)
- Jesus: Will baptize with the Holy Spirit (*en pneumatihagio*)

c. Luke 3:15-17 (16)

¹⁶ John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**

- John: Is baptizing with (in) water (*hudati*)
- Jesus: Will baptize with (in) the Holy Spirit and fire (*en pneumatihagio kai puri*)

d. John 1:29-34 (33)

³³ "I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize **with water** said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, **this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.**'

- John: Is to be baptizing with (or in) water (*en hudati*)
- Jesus: He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit (*en pneumatihagio*)

3. A Look at Spirit Baptism in Acts 1:5 (yet future):

⁴ And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; ⁵ "for John truly baptized **with water**, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

- John: Has baptized with water (*hudati*)
- Apostles: Will be baptized with Holy Spirit (*en pneumatihagio*)
 - 1) Promise of the Father = baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - 2) Baptism would happen in the very near future (a few days)

4. A Look at Spirit Baptism in Acts 11:15-17 (history: already happened):

¹⁵ "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ "Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, '**John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.**' ¹⁷ "If therefore God gave them the same gift as *He gave* us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

- Holy Spirit fell upon them as upon us at the beginning = Pentecost
- Peter equates Pentecost with baptism of the Holy Spirit
- Any Spirit activity proved these believers rec'd Spirit baptism also
- The "fire" part had not happened at Pentecost – just Spirit baptism
- You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit (*en pneumatihagio*)

5. A Look at Spirit Baptism in 1 Cor 12:13 (doctrinal: explanation)

¹³ **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 **by** one Spirit (*en heni pneumatihagio*) – Could be "in one Spirit"
- We were all baptized – every believer (not limited to spiritual, etc.)
- Into one body

6. What Does Spirit Baptism Mean?

a. Either we are baptized _____ the Spirit or _____ the Spirit

- 1) *Jesus uses the Spirit to baptize us into His body OR*
- 2) *Jesus baptizes us in the Spirit OR*
- 3) *Both (in the Spirit AND by the Spirit into the body)*

b. Which is correct? I lean towards #2...

- 1) *The same phrase (*en pneumatihagio*) is used in all seven instances*
- 2) *John baptized **en** water – most natural to be **en** Spirit as well*
- 3) *Whatever is done with Spirit is done with fire (Matt & Luke)*
- 4) *A single baptism is mentioned in the Gospel passages*
- 5) *A single baptism is indicated in 1 Corinthians 12:13*
- 6) *A single baptism is cited in Ephesians 4:5*
- 7) *Baptized into His death (Rom 6) does not require another baptism*
- 8) *This can be solved by a single baptism (illustration)*