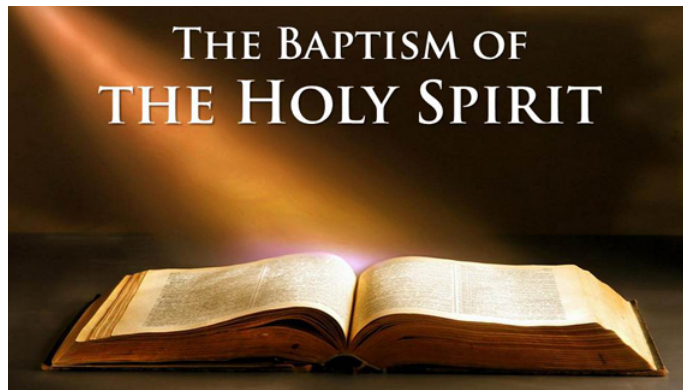


# Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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What is the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit?” This phrase is often thrown around in denominational circles with a variance of definitions, all resulting in salvation.

- The main position on Spirit baptism among the Reformed churches, dispensationalists, and many Baptists is that the baptism with the Holy Spirit occurs concurrently with regeneration, when those who have faith in Jesus Christ receive the Holy Spirit and are incorporated into the body of Christ. [1]
- Pentecostals believe that Spirit baptism will be accompanied by the physical evidence of speaking in tongues and that the phenomenon is still occurring today. [2]
- Mormons teach through the laying on of hands following water baptism is how the Holy Spirit is bestowed. [3]

One might ask, “Why would it even be important to cover such a topic?” I am persuaded that it is because of an unscriptural misunderstanding of this phrase that false teachers of Christ and His plan of salvation are leading others down the path of salvation existentialism.

## Where does the phrase “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” come from?

It is important to note that the actual phrase “Baptism of the Holy Spirit” does not occur in the Bible. The phrase for which they reference first came through John the baptist in the four gospels. It is not the Holy Spirit baptizing, but Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit. This phrase is referenced 6 times in the New Testament. Therefore let us cover each in detail to clarify if the denominational usage of the term is accurate.

## John the baptist introduced the term.

John the baptist prophesied of this event prior to Jesus inauguration of ministry. All four Gospels mention this account. Please note that Jesus had not yet come to be baptized.

- Matthew 3:11, "As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."
- Mark 1:8, "I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."



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- Luke 3:16, John answered and said to them all, "As for me, I baptize you with water; but One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.
- John 1:33, "And I did not recognize Him, but He who sent me to baptize in water said to me, 'He upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him, this is the one who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.'

## Three Important Considerations

1. John the Baptist was describing a dual event yet to come, two baptisms: one with the Holy Spirit and the other with fire. The word used for baptize means *to cover or immerse*.
2. These baptisms were to occur sometime in the future. Further research in the Bible will actually reveal the specific timing of these baptisms.
3. Jesus, the one Who has the Spirit descend and remain upon, is the One who will be carrying out a baptism with the Spirit.

Shortly after John the baptist spoke those words, Jesus came to be baptized. Something amazing occurred during the event. Not only was Jesus baptized, i.e. covered in water, but was also baptized, i.e. covered, by the Holy Spirit of God.

- Matthew 3:16-17, And after being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him, and behold, a voice out of the heavens, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased."
- Mark 1:9-11, And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."
- Luke 3:21-22, Now it came about when all the people were baptized, that Jesus also was baptized, and while He was praying, heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, "Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased."

The Holy Spirit came down from heaven, in a softly and slowly like a landing dove, in bodily form, covering Jesus. This is considered the inauguration of Jesus ministry. Isaiah prophesied this event centuries earlier. *Isaiah 11:1-2, "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, And a branch from his roots will bear fruit. <sup>2</sup> The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, The spirit of wisdom and understanding, The spirit of counsel and strength, The spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD."*

## Jesus was Miraculously Empowered by the Spirit of God

From this moment on, He was empowered by the Holy Spirit to do miracles, which was the key power beyond the words which He spoke during His ministry. Prior to this moment He did not miracles. However, shortly thereafter Jesus was turning water into wine at a wedding celebration. John 2:11, *"This beginning of {His} signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples*



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*believed in Him.*” He did not grow up doing miracle, but grew in “*wisdom and stature, with both God and man*” (Luke 2:52). He grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, socially, but most certainly not miraculously. It was at His water baptism and through His own “baptism with the Spirit” that He was empowered to do the miracles which confirmed His teachings.

This should be no surprise to students of the Scriptures, for the Bible confirms when the “*Spirit of the Lord*” came upon people of the past, they also were miraculously empowered. The Spirit caused the judges to judge, prophets to prophesy, wisdom to advance, armies to win in battle against all odds and produced super-human strength in mere men. (Numbers 24:2; Judges 3:10, 6:34, 11:29, 14:6, 14:19, 15:14; 1 Samuel 10:6, 10:10, 11:6, 16:13, 19:20, 19:23; 1 Chronicles 12:18; Isaiah 42:1). When the Spirit of the Lord came upon anyone, incredible events always occurred.

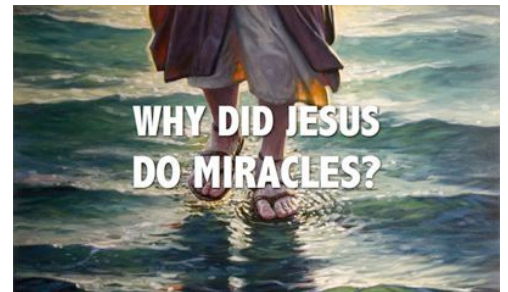
The big difference between those mentioned from the Old Testament who had the Spirit of the Lord upon them and Jesus is that the aforementioned had a temporary exposure, but Jesus had a residential presence of the Spirit which was permanent from that time forward. This is what was meant concerning Jesus in John 3:34, “*For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.*” Remember that John the Baptist confirmed in John 1:33, “*...upon whom you see the Spirit descending and remaining upon Him...is the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit.*” What Jesus had was unique. He was not limited to a temporary presence of empowerment of the Spirit, but a permanent residence of the Spirit. Please remember these terms Temporary and Residential, for they will be used later in the study.

## Jesus was confirmed the Son of God through the works of the Spirit.

This was one of the key themes surrounding the miracles of Jesus. He was not doing these things to lower health care costs or to gain fame, but to back up the words which He taught.

### 1. Jesus consistently said the miracles of the Spirit confirmed His teaching.

- Matthew 11:5, “Go and report to John what you hear and see: {the} blind receive sight and {the} lame walk, {the} lepers are cleansed and {the} deaf hear, and {the} dead are raised up, and {the} poor have the gospel preached to them.”
- John 10:25, Jesus answered them, “I told you, and you do not believe; the works that I do in My Father's name, these bear witness of Me.”
- John 10:37-38, “If I do not do the works of My Father, do not believe Me; but if I do them, though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.”
- John 14:10-12, “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me? The words that I say to you I do not speak on My own initiative, but the Father abiding in Me does His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me; otherwise believe on account of the works themselves. Truly, truly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater {works} than these shall he do; because I go to the Father.”



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### 2. The Apostles also appealed to the miracles as a basis of Jesus' teaching.

- John 20:30-31, Many other signs therefore Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these have been written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.
- Acts 2:22, "Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with miracles and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know—
- Romans 1:4, Jesus "was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness..."
- Romans 8:11, "...the Spirit of Him (the Father) who raised Jesus from the dead..."

### Jesus, Who had the Spirit "residentially" in Him, could temporarily transfer the miraculous workings of the Spirit to His disciples

- Luke 9:1-2, And He called the twelve together, and gave them power and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases. And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing.
- Matthew 10:1, And having summoned His twelve disciples, He gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal every kind of disease and every kind of sickness.
- Mark 3:14-15, And He appointed twelve, that they might be with Him, and that He might send them out to preach, and to have authority to cast out the demons.



This was a temporary power for the disciples to be able to go out and preach the word, backing it up with miracles. It was limited in time and scope for the initial missions for which they were being sent out. This would change when they were commissioned apostles.

### Jesus predicted the Spirit would be sent to the Apostles.

Near the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, the night of the last Passover Supper, that the Apostles would receive something unique concerning the Holy Spirit. In His dialogue with them, John chapters 14-16, Jesus explained about this unique manifestation of the Spirit, of which He referred to as the "*Helper*". From these verses we can learn much about this event. Remembering this is a future event yet to come, let us examine the passages.

1. This manifestation of the Spirit would remain with them. *John 14:16-17, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; {that is} the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, {but} you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you."*
2. This manifestation of the Spirit would teach and bring back to memory the words of Jesus. *John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My*



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*name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you."*

3. This manifestation of the Spirit would bear witness of their message of Jesus. *John 15:26-27, "When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, {that is} the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, He will bear witness of Me, and you will bear witness also, because you have been with Me from the beginning."*
4. This manifestation of the Spirit would inspire their message. *John 16:13, "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come."*

In summary of the above texts, this unique manifestation of the Spirit would 1) Remain with them, 2) teach and call into remembrance the words of Jesus for them, 3) bear witness to their message and 4) inspire their message. It was not something which had occurred up to this point. In fact Jesus said this manifestation of the Spirit would not occur until sometime after His ascension into heaven. *John 16:7 "But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper shall not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."*

Jesus once again reminded them shortly after the resurrection that it was still yet to come. *John 20:22, And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."* The action Jesus carried out in this verse was not "Baptism of the Holy Spirit", but the commissioning of the apostles. Over the next forty days (Acts 1:4) Jesus would provide instructions of that commission (Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 24:46-49), but this was all still before His ascension into heaven. He could not do this until after His going away (John 16:7). As Clinton Arnold referenced in his commentary concerning John 20:22, *"The present reference represents a symbolic promise of the soon-to-be-given gift of the Spirit, not the actual giving of it (which happened fifty days later at Pentecost, see Acts 2)."* [4]

The next time we hear a reference of John in relation to the "Baptism with the Spirit" is at the ascension of Jesus, about ten days before the Day of Pentecost. In the following passage, we find more specifics of this event.

Acts 1:4–8 Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, "Which," He said, "you heard of from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." <sup>6</sup> So when they had come together, they were asking Him, saying, "Lord, is it at this time You are restoring the kingdom to Israel?" <sup>7</sup> He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; <sup>8</sup> but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Let us examine in greater detail this passage and attempt to assess further details of this event. There are four facts revealed concerning the "*Baptism with the Spirit*".

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1. The *“Baptism of the Spirit”* would occur in Jerusalem. *“Not to leave Jerusalem”*
2. The *“Baptism with the Spirit”* would occur in the near future. *“Wait”* and *“Not many days from now”*
3. The *“Baptism with the Spirit”* would empower them. *“You will receive power”*
4. The *“Baptism with the Spirit”* would initiate their testimony of Jesus. *“You shall be my witnesses”*

### The Apostles Receive Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The Apostles waited in Jerusalem to have fulfillment of “Baptism with the Spirit”. The Day of Pentecost arrive and Jesus, just as foretold, baptized His apostles with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4, “And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”



There are some who propose that all 120 gathered individuals of Acts 1:15 received this “Baptism of the Holy Spirit”, but the scriptures do not bear this out. We know it was only the 12 that the Spirit was poured out upon. Just prior to the outpouring of the Spirit in Acts 2:1-4, the reference was to only the twelve in Acts 1:26, *“And they drew lots for them, and the lot fell to Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.”* From that moment on the Apostles were unrestrained to do the works of the Spirit for He was resident in them.

1. They were speaking fluently in unlearned languages. *Acts 2:7-8, And they were amazed and marveled, saying, “Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear {them} in our own language to which we were born?”*
2. They were boldly speaking the Word. *Acts 2:14 But Peter, taking his stand with the eleven, raised his voice and declared to them: “Men of Judea, and all you who live in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give heed to my words.”*
3. They were doing many wonders and signs. *Acts 2:43, “And everyone kept feeling a sense of awe; and many wonders and signs were taking place through the apostles.”*
4. They were healing cripples. *Acts 3:6-8, But Peter said, “I do not possess silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you: in the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene-- walk!” And seizing him by the right hand, he raised him up; and immediately his feet and his ankles were strengthened. And with a leap, he stood upright and {began} to walk; and he entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. (see also Peter in Acts 9:33-34)*

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5. They could raise people from the dead. *Acts 9:40-41 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up. And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive. (See also Paul in Acts 20:9-11)*
6. They could cast out demonic spirits. *Acts 19:11-12, And God was performing extraordinary miracles by the hands of Paul, so that handkerchiefs or aprons were even carried from his body to the sick, and the diseases left them and the evil spirits went out. (See also Paul in Acts 16:18)*

These were all the things that Jesus could following the Spirit taking residence in Him and now the Apostles could do the same. The Jewish visitors in Jerusalem for Pentecost “*were amazed and astonished, saying, ‘Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?’*” (Acts 2:7-8).

It was Peter taking the lead for the rest of the Apostles in preaching the gospel of Jesus, leading the Jews into the Kingdom of Christ when they were baptized (Acts 2:38). Jesus charged Peter to take the lead on in Matthew 16:19, “*I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; and whatever you bind on earth shall have been bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall have been loosed in heaven.*” Peter would lead the charge for the Jewish people to enter Christianity. It is very important to remember this, for we will visit it again later in the study.

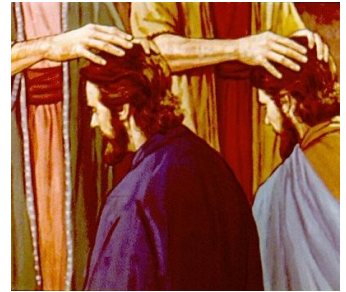
As discussed, Christ used the works of the Spirit to testify for the words which He spoke on behalf of God. Now the Apostles were doing the same.

- Mark 16:20, “And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and confirmed the word by the signs that followed.”
- 2 Corinthians 12:12, “The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and miracles.”
- Hebrews 2:4, “God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.”
- 1 Thessalonians 1:5, “...for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction...”
- Romans 15:19, “...in the power of signs and wonders, in the power of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and round about as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.”

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Just like Jesus had the ability to temporarily bestow the gifts on others, so also the Apostles could do the same. The Holy Spirit had taken residence in them. They passed these gifts to others through the laying on of their hands.



1. The Apostles temporarily passed the gifts to the first seven deacons. *Acts 6:6, "And these they brought before the apostles; and after praying, they laid their hands on them."*
2. The Apostles temporarily passed the gifts to the Samaritans. Philip had to call for the apostles (Acts 8:14-15) because he could not give the Samaritans the gifts. Simon recognized the gifts were given through the "laying on of the apostle's hands". Acts 8:17-18, *"Then they began laying their hands on them, and they were receiving the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands..."*
3. Paul passed the gifts onto the twelve in the region of Ephesus. *Acts 19:6-7, "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. And there were in all about twelve men."*
4. Paul desired to give the Roman the gifts. Romans 1:11-12, *"For I long to see you in order that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established; that is, that I may be encouraged together with you while among you, each of us by the other's faith, both yours and mine."*
5. Paul gave Timothy a gift through the laying on of his hands. *2 Timothy 1:6, "And for this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands."*

### Back to the Keys of the Kingdom.

Now back to the "keys of the kingdom of heaven" from Matthew 16:18. Jesus charged Peter to lead the way in the preaching the gospel on Pentecost and leading the first 3,000 Jews being baptized into Christ (Acts 2:41). There was still the need to bring that gospel to the Gentiles, but the Jews would naturally not accept them without some help. This is covered in Acts chapter 10 concerning the household of Cornelius.



### Conversion of Cornelius

Acts 10:3-4, "About the ninth hour of the day he clearly saw in a vision an angel of God who had just come in to him, and said to him, 'Cornelius!' And fixing his gaze upon him and being much alarmed, he said, 'What is it, Lord?' And he said to him, 'Your prayers and alms have ascended as a memorial before God.'"

Cornelius was devout, feared God, prayed always and was charitable (Acts 10:1-2), but was plagued with being a Gentile. He would never be fully accepted into the Jewish faith and relegated to second-class citizenry. In this chapter we would see God answer Cornelius' prayer to convert to the kingdom of God.



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There was yet another conversion which must take place before Cornelius would be accepted. Peter, a proud Jew, the one who held the keys (plural) to the kingdom, would have to have his mind converted to the fact that God was now ready to accept the Gentiles into the church. Through a series of visions, Peter proudly boasted of his Jewishness, declaring, *"By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."* (Acts 10:14). This occurred three times to which God replied, *"What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy."* (Acts 10:15).



Peter was perplexed as to why God was calling unclean things clean. When the Gentile messengers from Cornelius arrived, Peter's suspicions were raised about the acceptance of Gentiles into the church. He was fully convinced upon bringing the gospel to Cornelius and seeing the response.

Acts 10:44-48, While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, "Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we {did,} can he?" And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to stay on for a few days.

What occurred to Cornelius and his household was a type of what occurred on the Day of Pentecost. Peter, having been given the responsibility of the keys to the entrance into the church, faced a dilemma. If he ignored the message from God of the Gentiles being acceptable to Christ, he would also have to deny the empirical evidence of Pentecost for the Jews.

EVEN as Peter was speaking, things began to happen against which even the Jewish Christians could not argue; the Spirit came upon Cornelius and his friends. They were lifted out of themselves in an ecstasy and began to speak with tongues. This, to the Jews, was the final proof of the astonishing fact that God had given his Spirit to the Gentiles too. [5]

Therefore Peter accepted the irrefutable evidence from God and even appealed to this event when he faced the Jewish Christians upon arriving back in Jerusalem. *Acts 11:15-16, "And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as {He did} upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, 'John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'"*

And there you have it, the sixth and final time this event is mentioned in the scriptures. It was making reference back to Pentecost and the words spoken by John the Baptist so many years prior. What Cornelius received was not the exact event which Peter and the Apostles received, but a similar sign of acceptance of Gentiles. We must remember the prior promise of Jesus was

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to the Apostles, not to the whole church. The Apostles had the Spirit permanently reside in them, but the others it was only temporary. There is no evidence that Cornelius or his household could pass the gifts onto others.

### The Gifts were temporary to confirm the New Testament.

Paul explained to the Corinthian Christians the miraculous gifts were partial and fading. Any Christian could have the miraculous gifts through the laying on of the apostle's hands. Now listen closely to what Paul said concerning the 1 Corinthians 13:8-10, *"...but if {there are gifts of} prophecy, they will be done away; if {there are} tongues, they will cease; if {there is} knowledge, it will be done away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part; but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away."*

Paul said the gifts would cease when *"that which is perfect shall come"*. If we can figure out what *"that which is perfect"* is and when it came or will come, then we can see when it ended. Some may say that it is the coming of Jesus, however it cannot be because the gender of the noun in the Greek is not masculine. Others may say it is the Church, but it is not feminine. It is HO TELEION, neuter. This is the same gender as the "word" of God. By the time John, the last apostle died, the Bible was already being put together. This would validate the passing away of the gifts from the apostles.

### One More Possible Exception?

There is one other verse in the New Testament which might allude to the experience "Baptism with the Spirit" for which John the baptist spoke. Paul wrote in *1 Corinthians 12:13*, *"For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit."* This is a reference back to something Paul wrote at the beginning of the letter. He opened his correspondence to the Corinthians by addressing their division (1 Corinthians 1:10-17). They forgot "Who" saved them at baptism (Jesus) and focused on "who" baptized them (Paul, Apollos, Cephas). They were taking the Christ out of salvation and replacing it with division. He initially rebuked and then re-emphasized it again in chapter 10.

1 Corinthians 10:1-4, "For I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea; <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food; <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ."

His point, in the same way the Christian enters the New Covenant with Jesus, the Jews entered the Old Covenant with God. Both must pass through water. How did God baptize an entire nation at one time? He sent them through the Red Sea, surrounded by water on each side and from above by a vaporous cloud.

Paul continued in the example by discussing the events in the wilderness in Exodus chapters 16 and 17. God introduced manna and gave them drink from the rock at Horeb. These were unifying



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moments for Israel which pointed forward to the unity of Christ. They “*were drinking from a spiritual rock which followed them; and the rock was Christ.*” When Paul wrote, *1 Corinthians 12:13*, he was emphasizing the common drink of the Spirit for which Christians share through their baptism into Christ, just as the Jews had a common drink at Horeb. To make assertion that this verse is referring to the same topic at hand would be a misnomer and does no justice to the Scriptures.

### Do not confuse the gifts of the Holy Spirit with the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

The gift of the Holy Spirit is for every Christian of everywhere and every time. *Acts 2:37-39*, “*Now when they heard this they were pierced to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself.’*”

1. The gift of the Holy Spirit is what identifies us to the Father. *Ephesians 1:13-14*, *In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation-- having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of {God's own} possession, to the praise of His glory.*
2. The gift of the Holy Spirit is what sets us free from sin. *Romans 8:2*, *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of sin and of death.*
3. The gift of the Holy Spirit takes our minds off of the flesh and replaces it with life and peace. *Romans 8:5-6*, “*For those who are according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace*”
4. The Holy Spirit identifies us to God. *Romans 8:16*, “*The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God*”
5. The Holy Spirit intercedes our prayers to the Father. *Romans 8:26*, “*And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words*”

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## In Summary

### Concerning Jesus:

1. “Baptism with the Spirit” was when the Spirit took residence in Jesus at His baptism.
2. “Baptism with the Spirit” empowered Jesus to back up His words with miracles from the Spirit.
3. “Baptism with the Spirit” allowed Jesus to temporarily pass the miraculous gifts to the Apostles.

### Concerning the Apostles:

1. “Baptism with the Spirit” was when the Spirit took residence in the Apostles when Jesus poured out His Spirit upon them on the Day of Pentecost.
2. “Baptism of the Spirit” empowered the Apostles to back up their words with miracles from the Spirit.
3. “Baptism with the Spirit” allowed the Apostles to temporarily pass the miraculous gifts to others in the early church to assist in establishment.

### Concerning Cornelius:

1. “Baptism with the Spirit” was temporarily carried out on Cornelius’ household as evidence to Peter and the rest of the Jewish Christians that God had accepted the Gentiles into the kingdom.
2. Cornelius did not had the ability as a non-apostle to pass any of the miraculous faculties to others.

### Concerning Christians today:

1. We do not have “Baptism with the Spirit” because the New Testament word was already confirmed.
2. We do have the results of the “Baptism with the Spirit” in the form of the complete Word of God, the Bible.
3. We do share “Baptism for the remission of sins” in our path to salvation and we shall receive the “gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38) just like our predecessors of the faith.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit  
Doug Hamilton

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