

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NEW TESTAMENT (CONT.)

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TYPES OF BAPTISM MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

- The baptism into Moses (I Cor 10:1-4)
- The baptism of sufferings (Mark 10:35-40)
- The baptism for the dead (I Cor 15:29)
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit (see below)
- The baptism of fire (Matt 3:11 ; Luke 3:16 ; ...see below)
- The baptism of John the Baptist (Acts 19:2-4)
- The baptism of the Great Commission (Matt 28:16-20)
- *One Baptism (Eph 4:4-6) - Which one is the ONE?*

JOHN'S PREDICTION

Matthew 3:11 (ESV)

¹¹ "I baptize you with water for 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.

Mark 1:8 (ESV)

⁸ I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:16 (ESV)

¹⁶ John answered them all, saying, "I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

- John does not state that ALL would be immersed in the Holy Spirit
- Prediction should be understood in the light of its fulfillment (two instances)

PROMISE FULFILLED

IMMERSION OF THE SPIRIT PROMISED ONLY TO THE APOSTLES

Acts 1:5 (ESV)

⁵ for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

HOLY SPIRIT Poured out on Apostles (see Lesson 5). This pouring out led to the Gospel being introduced to the Jews.

Acts 2:1–4 (ESV)

¹ When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

CORNELIUS' HOUSEHOLD IMMersed in the Spirit. The pouring out led to the Gospel being introduced to the Gentiles. This occurred approximately 10 years after Pentecost.

Acts 10:44–48 (ESV)

⁴⁴ While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God. Then Peter declared, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold water for baptizing these people, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” ⁴⁸ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked him to remain for some days.

Peter defends his actions by pointing out that the Spirit had come upon the Gentiles in the same way as he had the apostles in the beginning (Pentecost).

Acts 11:15–18 (ESV)

¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” ¹⁸ When they heard these things they fell silent. And they glorified God, saying, “Then to the Gentiles also God has granted repentance that leads to life.”

- In both instances, the Holy Spirit came from Heaven without any intervention of human agency.
- The baptism in the Spirit of these two groups brought the message of the Gospel to all mankind.
- “Baptism” = word is used to represent the abundant and overwhelming outpouring of the Spirit

“...AND WITH FIRE” (MATT 3:11 ; LUKE 3:16)

Matthew 3:12 (ESV)

¹² His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and gather his wheat into the barn, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

not included in Mark 1:8 and Acts 1:5

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

TYPES OF BAPTISM MENTIONED IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

THE BAPTISM INTO MOSES (I COR 10:1-4)

1 Corinthians 10:1–4 (ESV)

¹ For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ.

THE BAPTISM OF SUFFERINGS (MARK 10:35-40)

Mark 10:35–40 (ESV)

³⁵ And James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came up to him and said to him, “Teacher, we want you to do for us whatever we ask of you.” ³⁶ And he said to them, “**What do you want me to do for you?**” ³⁷ And they said to him, “Grant us to sit, one at your right hand and one at your left, in your glory.” ³⁸ Jesus said to them, “**You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, or to be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?**” ³⁹ And they said to him, “We are able.” And Jesus said to them, “**The cup that I drink you will drink, and with the baptism with which I am baptized, you will be baptized,** ⁴⁰ **but to sit at my right hand or at my left is not mine to grant, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared.**”

THE BAPTISM FOR THE DEAD (I COR 15:29)

1 Corinthians 15:29 (ESV)

²⁹ Otherwise, what do people mean by being baptized on behalf of the dead? If the dead are not raised at all, why are people baptized on their behalf?

THE BAPTISM OF JOHN THE BAPTIST (ACTS 19:2-4)

Acts 19:2–4 (ESV)

² And he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” And they said, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ And he said, “Into what then were you baptized?” They said, “Into John’s baptism.” ⁴ And Paul said, “John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus.”

THE BAPTISM OF THE GREAT COMMISSION (MATT 28:16-20)

Matthew 28:16–20 (ESV)

¹⁶ Now the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ¹⁷ And when they saw him they worshiped him, but some doubted. ¹⁸ And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

ONE BAPTISM (EPH 4:4-6) - WHICH ONE IS THE ONE?

Ephesians 4:4–6 (ESV)

⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

COFFMAN'S COMMENTARIES ON THE BIBLE – MATTHEW 3

Verse 11

I indeed baptize you in water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you in the Holy Spirit and in fire.

Seven baptisms are mentioned in the New Testament, three of which are mentioned in this verse. They are:

1. The baptism unto Moses (1 Corinthians 10:2).
2. The baptism of sufferings (Mark 10:38,39).
3. The baptism for the dead (1 Corinthians 15:29).
4. The baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, see above).
5. The baptism of fire (Matthew 3:11, see above).
6. The baptism of John the Baptist (Acts 19:3).
7. The baptism of the Great Commission (Mark 16:15,16; Matthew 28:18-20).

In spite of the fact that all these baptisms find mention in the New Testament, there is, nevertheless, but **ONE** baptism in force. See Ephesians 4:4. To determine which baptism is in force, or which one is IT, one only needs to observe these facts: No. 1, above, applied only to Jews. No. 2 is altogether figurative, being in no sense a ceremony. No. 3 was a practice of non-Christians as witnessed by the third person pronouns and was never connected in any way with the Christian religion. Nos. 4,5 are both promises of what God will do and cannot be obeyed in any sense. No. 6, John's baptism, was clearly and categorically set aside by the baptism of him that is greater than John, even Christ. See Acts 19:3. Thus, the **ONE** baptism of Ephesians can be none other than the baptism of the Great Commission.

In the Holy Spirit and in fire ... is seen as a reference to two baptisms, rather than merely one, because John emphatically divided his hearers into two classes, reinforcing the point with a double metaphor, first of the unfruitful tree, and again of the threshing floor. Both at Pentecost and at the household of Cornelius was the baptism of the Spirit received (Acts 1:5; 2:4; 11:15,16). It is significant that both Jews and Gentiles are represented in these two groups and that there are no other examples of this baptism in the New Testament. It is also possible to construe "baptism in the Spirit" as a reference to the overwhelming guidance and direction of God's people through the office of the Holy Comforter. In this sense, it applies to all believers.

In fire ... likely refers to the overwhelming of the wicked at last in hell. This is based on the fact that the term "fire" is the same as that used for the unfruitful tree and for the chaff in John's great metaphors. McGarvey said, "It is clearly the wicked who are to be baptized in fire, and the fulfillment of the prediction will be realized when they are cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 21:8).^[5]

ENDNOTE:

^[5] J. W. McGarvey, op. cit., p. 39.¹

¹ Coffman, James Burton. "Commentary on [Matthew 3:11](http://www.study-light.org/commentaries/bcc/matthew-3.html)". "Coffman Commentaries on the Old and New Testament". "www.study-light.org/commentaries/bcc/matthew-3.html". Abilene Christian University Press, Abilene, Texas, USA. 1983-1999.