

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THE HOLY SPIRIT

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PART 3: THE BAPTISM OF JOHN

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

Mankind likes to be in control but that isn't always possible. You become the property of God when you are saved (born again) since Jesus purchased you at the cross. **Revelation 3:14-22; 1 Corinthians 6:20; Galatians 3:13-15**

Jesus put the Holy Spirit in charge of the church. **John 16:7-8**

The Holy Spirit controls us; not the other way around. **John 15:1-11**

BAPTISM OF JOHN

The majority of Christians today have stopped with the "Baptism of John," meaning they are only baptized in water and have never received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

During the first century A.D., Christians had "special expressions" that meant more than what they literally said. One such example is "The Way" as found in **Acts 9:2**. Instead of stating that he was looking for followers of Jesus, Paul referred to them as "any of this way."

The term "The Way" meant everything about Jesus Christ – His life, His death, His resurrection, and salvation in Him.

There were people from other nations in Palestine who were sympathetic to the Jewish faith but had not converted to Judaism. Among them were Roman officers and soldiers that were part of the occupation force. The Jews referred to them as "Those who feared God." **Acts 10:1-2**

"Those who feared God" was an expression and name for the Gentiles who attended the Jewish synagogues, read the Old Testament, kept the law, but had never been circumcised and admitted to the full privileges and blessings of the Jews.

What did John the Baptist preach? He preached repentance and that people should turn from their sins and believe in Jesus Christ. **John 1:19-34**

A lot of people did repent on the riverbank when they heard the message of repentance. As a result, they asked to be immersed in the Jordan River. They were publicly baptized to show they had repented and received a pardon from God. This is the same as our Christian water baptism. We are baptized in water by immersion because we have already received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Have you been baptized in the Holy Spirit? This is a personal question that makes many Christians uncomfortable because they haven't experienced it. Jesus would not allow the disciples to leave Jerusalem until they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. **Acts 1:1-8**



Some people believe they have the Holy Spirit at the moment of salvation because this is what their denomination teaches. If this is true, why was it different for the apostles and the rest of the 120 followers when they got saved? **Acts 1:11-14; 2:1-4; Matthew 28:18-20**

With the exception of Judas Iscariot who never believed, the Bible says that all of them were saved when they accepted Christ as Lord and Savior. **John 17:12; Acts 1:15-20**

It was only after the disciples were saved that they received the Holy Spirit. **John 20:22**

There is a big difference between receiving the Holy Spirit and being baptized in the Holy Spirit. The disciples received the Holy Spirit before the ascension of Jesus, but this was not the same as the promised baptism of the Holy Spirit. **Matthew 3:11**

If salvation is equated with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, why did Peter and John lay hands on the believers in Samaria and pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Most Christians today never stop to think this through and simply follow the doctrine of their denomination. The Bible shows that salvation and the baptism of the Holy Spirit are two distinct events. Do not listen to anyone who says otherwise. Examine the Bible for yourself and do what God tells you to do. **Acts 8:12-22**

Remember, it's not so important how you begin your life after salvation, but how you finish it!

Do you have an ear to hear with?