

## **“THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT”**

### A DISTINCT BAPTISM:

- Baptism – to immerse or dip; the process of immersion.
- There are at least four distinct baptisms referred to in the New Testament
  - Water baptism, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Baptism with fire and baptism of suffering (Mk. 10:38).
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is not the same as water baptism.
  - John the Baptist differentiated between the two (Mt. 1:8; Mk. 3:11; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33)
  - Jesus speaks specifically about it to his disciples (Ac. 1:4-5).
  - The early church distinguished it from water baptism (Ac. 2:1-4; 8:4-17; 10:44-47; 11:15-17; 19:1-6).
  - Clearly it is a unique and separate experience of the Christian Faith, predicted by John, promised by Jesus, and received by the early church.
- There is no biblical basis for the idea (theology) that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was only for the early church.

### GOD’S GIFT TO US:

- Jesus says the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift (Ac. 1:4-5).
  - It cannot be earned or merited.
  - It is not a measure of spiritual maturity (character and fruit are).
  - It can be misused (as any of God’s gifts) for personal gain (Ac. 8:18-19).
  - It can only be received as a gift.

### WHY IT IS FOR YOU:

- It adds a dimension of God’s power to the Christian life (Lk. 24:49; Ac. 1:7-8).
  - Primarily to be witnesses of the Good News of Jesus Christ (Ac. 1:8).

- Boldness to share Christ with others (Ac. 4:31).
- The gifts of the Holy Spirit to perform the miraculous (Ac. 5:12-16; 6:8-10; Ro. 15:18-19).
- Power to overcome your sinful nature (Ro. 8:12-13).

### WHAT ABOUT TONGUES?

- Tongues is identified in the book of Acts and seems to only be imparted when people are baptized in the Holy Spirit (Ac. 2:1-4; 10:44-46; 19:5-7).
- Tongues is more clearly explained in 1 Corinthians 14;
  - It can be a gift used to benefit the whole church, if interpreted (1Cor. 14:5, 13, 19, 26).
  - It can be a private gift that spiritually strengthens you personally (1Cor. 14:2-4, 14).
  - It can be used for prayer and worship in addition to praying and worshipping in our own language (1Cor. 14:15-17).
  - Is not always received initially when someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 14:5).
  - It is a gift clearly valued by the Apostle Paul (1Cor. 14:5, 18).

### RECEIVING:

- Because it is a gift, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit can only be received by faith, not because of anything special you have done.
- All you need to do is ask, and God will gladly baptize you in the Holy Spirit.