

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT & YOU

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION



SERVANTS OF JESUS
AN ECUMENICAL COVENANT COMMUNITY

WHAT IS BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- An encounter with Jesus' love for you personally
- A release of the power of the Holy Spirit into your life
- An experience of deeper communion with God
- A release of the gifts of the Holy Spirit

WHY WOULD I WANT BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- It's an opportunity to receive God's power to overcome personal difficulties.
- It's an opportunity to be equipped with gifts and abilities beyond natural ability by receiving the same grace and power Jesus' disciples received.
- It's an opportunity to deepen my walk with God.
- It's a personal Pentecost. (Acts 1:8)



WHERE IS BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BIBLE?

Every gospel records the words of John the Baptist pointing to Jesus saying that, while he was baptising with water, the one who came after him, Jesus, would baptise in the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33)

The word 'baptise' simply means to 'drench' like tropical rain or 'immerse.'

After his resurrection Jesus had commissioned his disciples to go out to all the world but before they went he instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father, 'for John baptised with water but you will be

baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' (Acts 1:5)

At Pentecost it happened. The promise of the Father was fulfilled. 'Tongues as of fire rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit' (Acts 2:3). It happened again while Peter was speaking to Cornelius and his household and his companions were amazed (Acts 10:44-48; 15-17). It is still happening and still amazes people today.

YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER

Something unique and unexpected happened while John was baptising Jesus with water. He noticed the Holy Spirit come down on Jesus. It was then that Jesus was anointed with power. He cast out demons, healed the sick and raised the dead. Without the power Jesus' words would likely be forgotten. Without power, there is no good news. Through the same anointing of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1: 8), believers are meant to exercise that same power. (Mark 16:7)

While the word power might be appealing to some and daunting to others, it is sometimes helpful to understand that the power of God is His love.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for the thirsty. Are you thirsty? Do you desire to see the gifts of the Holy Spirit like tongues, healing and prophecy operating today?

A group of young people who began to experience Baptism in the Holy Spirit for themselves wrote this, **'Our faith has come alive, our believing has become a kind of knowing. Suddenly, the world of the supernatural has become more real than the natural. In brief, Jesus Christ is a real person to us, a real person who is our Lord and who is active in our lives.'**

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IS THIS SOMETHING NEW?

No...and Yes.

At Pentecost, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in this way was something new and it caused exponential growth in the early Church, even under persecution. Nevertheless, for many centuries it has not been a part of the daily preaching and faith of the Church and it was largely lost, though still experienced.

Like finding a priceless family heirloom of jewels that were lost - the jewels are new to you, but their jewels are not new to your family line.

A RENEWAL

In the last 100 years, there has been an explosion, a RENEWAL of the grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit. The word for gift in the language of the Bible is 'charism.' So it is called a charismatic renewal. This Renewal has not just been for any one Christian denomination, but for ALL, Catholic, Baptist, Pentecostal, Anglican, Presbyterian, Salvation Army and many more. There are thousands of denominations and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is being embraced by all as the Holy Spirit, without discrimination has embraced all of them.



DRUNK OR JUBILANT?

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'CAN I BE BAPTISED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?'

Yes.

HOW CAN I FIND OUT MORE?

For further information contact us:

Phone: (02) 9624 3322

Email: office@servantsofjesus.org /



SOME WATERSHED MOMENTS IN CHARISMATIC RENEWAL



1901 January 1

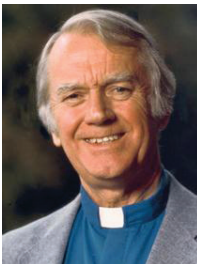
A Baptism of the Holy Spirit overwhelms students and staff at the Bethel Bible College Topeka, Kansas. This is generally accepted as the beginning of 'Pentecostalism.'

The same day, Pope Leo XIII responds to confidential letters from a Catholic nun, Sister Elena Guerra, who urged him to renew preaching about the Holy Spirit. He invokes the Holy Spirit by singing 'Veni Creator Spiritus' in the name of the entire Church and publishes documents about the Holy Spirit.



1906

On April 18, 1906 an article is published by the Los Angeles Times regarding a meeting which had been underway for nine days on Azusa Street Los Angeles. With reports of modern-day manifestations of charismatic gifts, the meeting continues daily until 1909 and is credited by historians as the catalyst for the spread of Pentecostalism throughout the 20th Century.



1959

An Episcopalian priest, Fr. Dennis Bennet, is baptised in the Holy Spirit precipitating an avalanche of the more respectable sacramental mainline Protestant denominations into the charismatic dimension.



1962

Pope John XXIII in preparation for the Second Vatican Council (1962-65) asks Catholics worldwide to pray for a 'new outpouring of the Holy Spirit.' That prayer is answered in 1967.



1967

At a Catholic retreat weekend, students from Duquesne University Pittsburgh experience Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Within months, this spreads through Catholic Churches across North America and the world.



1975

Pope Paul VI meets with 10,000 Catholics who have experienced Baptism in the Holy Spirit saying the charismatic renewal is, 'a chance for the Church.'



1977

The Kansas City Ecumenical Charismatic Conference was sponsored by Catholic, Protestant, classical and nondenominational Pentecostal renewal groups. A sign of the uniting power of the grace of the Holy Spirit.



1982

The Vineyard Movement, under the leadership of John Wimber becomes a catalyst for charismatic renewal among mainstream evangelicals and spearheads a new openness to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit among them.



2000

By the end of the 20th Century there is scarcely a Christian denomination that has not been profoundly impacted by Charismatic Renewal and is the fastest growing part of Christianity.



2015

Pope Francis meets with the Catholic Charismatic Renewal at the Olympic Stadium in Rome and encourages them to take Baptism in the Holy Spirit to the entire Church.

A TESTIMONY FROM OUR OUR FOUNDING LEADER

Joseph Chircop was brought up in a traditional Catholic family. In the 1970's he attended a small Pentecostal house church with two of his friends. It was here that he genuinely encountered the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

He eventually found the Catholic Charismatic Prayer Groups and then became one of the founders of the Servants of Jesus Ecumenical Covenant Community. He also became a foundation member of the Catholic Fraternity and fellowships.

With his wife Julie, he is currently involved in Servants Friends International, Bread of Life Catholic Fellowship and Community Care Inc. while at the same time continuing to actively lead the Servants of Jesus Community.

Joseph has a great openness to a wide range of different Christian traditions. He is a firm proponent of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and exercising the gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor:12).





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