

23rd of July 2017

Baptism – Pt 2 – Introduction & additional meaning.

In our previous study we established that – according to the scriptures baptism is immersing a person in water, does not include sprinkling of water on a baby's head, and figuratively a person is buried with Christ by baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. In this study we will look at the baptism of the Holy Ghost to establish what it means.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded.

1. To be baptized with the Holy Ghost – the Holy Ghost comes upon a person.

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 11: 15, 16).

2. The Holy Ghost descended upon Jesus so He was baptized with the Holy Ghost.

“And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him” (Matt.3: 16). See also Mk.1: 10 & Jn.1:32.

3. It was foretold that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Ghost.

“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost” (Jn.1: 32, 33). See also Mk.1: 8 and Lk.3: 16.

Lk.3: 16 indicates that Jesus would not just baptize with the Holy Ghost but also baptize with fire. See also Acts 1:5. However, there are no examples in scripture of Him doing so.

4. Believers in the early church were baptized with the Holy Ghost.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place...And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1, 3 & 4). C.f. Acts 11:15 “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning”.

Additional comments on our points.

Some believers in the early church received the baptism of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands (Acts 8: 17 & 18) , others it fell on them after they believed (Acts 10: 44), and before they were baptized in water, whereas others believed and did not receive the Holy Ghost (Acts 19: 2).

Applying the teaching to our life today.

Mormons believe that a Christian needs to be baptized in the Holy Ghost to be saved.

Question to think about.

How is the Holy Ghost falling on a person identified in scripture as a baptism?

My answer to our question from the scriptures.

Baptism in the scriptures is an action (like immersion in water) where a person is figuratively buried with Christ into His death and raised with Christ to walk in newness of life. Therefore, when a person is baptized with the Holy Spirit – the Spirit of God falls on them, and for that to happen their spirit (their old man) dies, and the subsequent action of their body being filled with “the Holy Ghost” 1Cor.6: 19), and “sealed with the holy Spirit of promise” (Eph.1: 13) is symbolic of them being raised in newness of life. Does this sound like a requirement for salvation or a sign of an inward change in their heart? These are questions we will address in subsequent studies.