

The Work of the Holy Spirit- After Pentecost

^{NKJ} **Jeremiah 31:31** “Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah.” (Matt 26:28)

^{NKJ} **Ezekiel 36:27** “I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them.”

^{NKJ} **2 Corinthians 3:18** “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

A. The Baptism by Jesus of Believers in the Spirit- There are various viewpoints as to what the Baptism of the Spirit really is. There are only 7 passages that speak specifically of this (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16 referring back to Acts 2; 1 Corinthians 12:13; cf. 1 Cor 10:2). The question remains as to whether this is at conversion or after because 1 Cor 12:13 clearly refers to conversion. How do we understand the difference between Baptism in the Spirit and being filled (controlled) with the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 13:9; Ephesians 5:18)? How are we to be filled with the Spirit?

Our Response and being filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18)

1) Yield our lives fully (Rom 12:1; Gal 2:20); 2) depend fully on God for power to live the Christian life (Rom 8:13; Gal 3:2-3); 3) Obey the Lord’s commands (1 John 2:6).

Understanding Baptism and Filling with the Holy Spirit

BAPTISM	FILLING
Occurs only once in each believers life	Is a repeated experience
Never happened before Pentecost	Occurred in the Old Testament
True of all believers	Not necessarily experienced by all
Cannot be undone	Can be lost
Results in a <i>position</i>	Results in <i>power</i>
Occurs when we first believe in Jesus	Occurs throughout the Christian life
No prerequisite (except faith in Messiah)	Depends on yieldedness

Is there an order of salvation? This has been a long discussed topic throughout Christian Theological history, but it is possible to ascertain a logical sequence of the salvation process.

- 1) Election/Predestination (God’s choice of people to receive mercy and be saved; Eph 1:4; Acts 13:48)
- 2) The gospel call (the hearing of the message; Romans 8:30; James 1:18; 1 Peter 1:23; John 15:3)
- 3) Regeneration (being born again; John 3:3-5; Titus 3:5; Ezek 36:26-27; Eph 2:1-5)
- 4) Conversion (faith and repentance; Eph 2:8-9; 2 Timothy 2:25; Acts 11:18)
- 5) Justification (right *legal* standing, being declared righteous; Romans 8:30; 4:25; 5:1; 9; Gal 3:24)
- 6) Adoption (membership in God’s family; Eph 1:5; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:5)
- 7) Sanctification (right conduct of life; Acts 20:32; 1 Cor 1:2, 6:11)
- 8) Perseverance (remaning a Christian; John 10:28-29; 1 Peter 1:5; John 17:12)
- 9) Death (going to be with the Lord; Philippians 1:21-23; 2 Cor 5:8)
- 10) Glorification (receiving a resurrection body; Rom 8:30; 1 Thess 4:13-18; Phil 3:21; 1 Cor 15:49)

B. The Work of the Spirit in Believers

1. Birth – As believers we are all born again through the Spirit (John 3:3-5; Acts 2:2-3) and there should be definite evidence of the Spirit in our lives (the wind). The Spirit is involved in new spiritual life: "washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit," (Titus 3:5; also 1 Corinthians 6:11).

2. Indwelling- The Holy Spirit was prophesied to be IN us (John 14:17). We have the permanent presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives (Rom 5:5; 8:9; 1 Cor 2:12; 3:16; 6:19; 2 Cor 5:5).

3. Nurturing- "The Spirit continues to work to consecrate, sanctify, and perfect the church, setting it apart from the world for its special mission and ministry within the world, abiding in this community as source of grace, operating in its sacramental ministrations, and guaranteeing their efficacy and sanctifying benefit to all who worthily use them." (Thomas Oden, *Life in the Spirit*, p. 52; Eph.2:22).

4. Empowering- We are told that the arrival of the Spirit would bring power to be witnesses (Luke 24:47-49; Acts 1:8). This also included the power for miracles (Acts 6:5, 8; Romans 15:19; 1 Corinthians 2:4). Spiritual gifts to edify and build up the church (1 Cor 12). Spiritual warfare is accomplished through the Spirit (Acts 13:9-11; Eph 6:17).

5. Bearing of Fruit- We realize that apart from Jesus' work in our lives through the Spirit, we can produce no fruit (John 15:5). We see that reliance on the Spirit is necessary to produce His fruit (Galatians 5:22-23; 2 Thess 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2; Rom 7:6; 8:4, 13, Philippians 1:19).

6. Personal Guidance- It is clear that we are called to walk in the Spirit (Gal 5:16-18; Acts 8:29; 39-40; 10:19-20; 11:12; 15:28; 16:6-7; Rom 8:4; 14; 1 Cor 14:29-33; Gal 5:16-18). We also see the giving of Revelation (Scripture) in building and guiding the church (2 Peter 1:20-21). Also through helping us pray (Romans 8:26).

7. Assurance- The Holy Spirit bears witness "with our spirits that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16), and gives evidence of the work of God within us: "And by this we know that He abides in us, by the Spirit which He has given us" (1 John 3:24). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit until the day of redemption (2 Cor 1:22; Eph 1:13; 4:30).

8. Our Response- People *resist* the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51), grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph 4:30), quench or extinguish the power of the Spirit (1 Thess 5:19), lie or test the Holy Spirit (Acts 5:3, 9), insult the Spirit (Hebrews 10:29), and blaspheme the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:31-32). The Holy Spirit orchestrates all that is needed to build up believers. It is another issue as to whether or not believers are yielded to the Holy Spirit moment by moment, day by day.

C. The Community-Creating Spirit

"The Holy Spirit after the Incarnation was not creating a conglomerate of isolated regenerated persons but rather a community, a family of regenerated, an ordered household, an organic body" (Oden, *Life in the Spirit*, p.56). When Jesus granted His disciples power through the Holy Spirit, he was addressing a community (Acts 1:8). They were enjoying fellowship with the Lord and with each other.

1. The Spirit in the Church - A Multifaceted Work of Great Importance

"The Spirit works in the church to form the ekklesia (1 Cor.12:13), to dwell in the body of believers (1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19- the word *you* is plural in Greek; 2 Cor.6:16), to build up the community of faith (Acts 2:47; Eph.2:21, 22; 1 Pet.2:5,6) to elicit true worship (Phil. 3:3, John 4:24). The Spirit empowers the church's witness amid a hazardous and fallen world (Acts 1:8). The Spirit calls living persons to specific vocational tasks and responsibilities and missional challenges (Acts 13:2), unifying diverse gifts in the one body of Christ (Phil.2:2-4)" (Oden, *Life in the Spirit*, p.56). The Spirit empowers all of these elements. Each point is very important. The Spirit builds community, facilitates true worship and calls individuals to specific roles. He is the one who brings together the coordination of all gifted and called people in the Body.