

Associated Gospel Churches - Articles of Faith and Doctrine

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

January 29, 2006

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

XII. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

We believe that when the Holy Spirit came upon the whole company of believers on the Day of Pentecost as promised by Christ, they were collectively baptized into one body, which was the birth of the Church, the Body of Christ. Since that time this baptism occurs individually at the moment of salvation, at which time the believer is also indwelt by the Spirit.

We believe that the New Testament distinguishes between being indwelt by the Spirit, which is true of all believers, and being filled with the Spirit, which is the believer's privilege and duty, producing power in Christian witness. There is one baptism with the Spirit, and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings.

John 14:15-18; 1 Corinthians 3:16; Romans 8:9; Matthew 3:11; 1 Corinthians 12:13; Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4, 4:8-31; Ephesians 1:13-14

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**
 - **Historic Pentecostalism**
 - **arose from Wesleyan Holiness movement of 1800s**
 - taught that entire sanctification/sinless perfection attainable in this life
 - this state of sinless perfection obtainable through a “second blessing”, which was a dramatic post-salvation experience in which the believer is transformed

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**
 - **Historic Pentecostalism**
 - **arose from Wesleyan Holiness movement of 1800s**
 - by 1890s, most in this movement Baptism in the Holy Spirit with this second blessing experience
 - fire of Holy Spirit understood to cleanse from sin and empower the believer for life & service
 - Second blessing experience thought to manifest itself outwardly, e.g. with shouting or jumping

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**

- **Historic Pentecostalism**

- **Charles Fox Parham**

- **Father of modern Pentecostalism**

- **member of Holiness movement**

- **established Bethel Bible College in Topeka, Kansas, in 1900**

- **students started by studying major tenets of Holiness movement**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**

- **Historic Pentecostalism**

- **Charles Fox Parham**

- **became interested in possibility that the gift of speaking in tongues might be restored, enabling missionaries to bypass foreign language training**
 - **believed that baptism of the Holy Spirit should be manifested by speaking in tongues**
 - **school set January 1, 1901 as day to seek restoration of Pentecostal power, evidenced by speaking in tongues**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**

- **Historic Pentecostalism**

- **January 1, 1901**

- group of students met to seek baptism in the Holy Spirit, with evidence of tongues
 - Agnes Ozman requested laying on of hands, then reportedly began speaking in tongues
 - subsequently, others reported receiving the baptism and speaking in tongues

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**

- **Historic Pentecostalism**

- **Assemblies of God**

- major Pentecostal denomination, founded in Arkansas in 1914
 - equivalent organization in Canada is The Pentecostal Association of Canada
 - churches include Queensway Cathedral, Stone Church

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**
 - **Charismatic renewal movement**
 - **movement in non-Pentecostal churches in 1960s-70s**
 - began with Dennis Bennett, rector of St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Van Nuys, California, when he & others spoke in tongues
 - movement spread broadly through other churches & denominations, including evangelicals, Catholics, Reformed, mainline liberal Protestant denominations, etc.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**
 - **Charismatic renewal movement**
 - **Varying views on baptism in the Holy Spirit**
 - **Unifying belief that all spiritual gifts are still operative and should be sought after by Christians today**
 - **including tongues, healings, miracles, prophecy, etc.**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**
 - **Vineyard (“third wave”) movement**
 - **aka Signs and Wonders movement**
 - **began in 1980s led by the late John Wimber, former senior pastor of Vineyard Christian Fellowship in Anaheim**
 - **included (until recently) the Toronto Airport Vineyard Church, centre of the “Toronto Blessing” in mid-1990s**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Brief history**
 - **Vineyard movement**
 - **view on baptism in the Holy Spirit similar to AGC view (i.e. occurs at conversion)**
 - **believe that all spiritual gifts are still operative and should be sought after by Christians today**
 - **believe that proclamation of the Gospel should *ordinarily/normally* be accompanied by “signs, wonders, and miracles”**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- Pentecostal view

- Baptism in (of, with) the Holy Spirit is an event of special empowering that is distinct from and occurs some time after conversion (maybe many years later)
- **not an automatic experience for believers, but needs to be sought after earnestly (in most cases)**
- Baptism in the Holy Spirit always evidenced by speaking in tongues (even though not all will exercise the gift of tongues in corporate worship)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- Pentecostal view

- 16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God

“7. WE BELIEVE...the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a Special Experience Following Salvation that empowers believers for witnessing and effective service, just as it did in New Testament times. [1 of 4 cardinal doctrines of the A/G]”

- from www.ag.org (accessed Jan. 28/06)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Pentecostal view**

- **16 Fundamental Truths of the Assemblies of God**

Further explanatory notes:

“All believers are entitled to and should ardently expect and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the baptism in the Holy Ghost and fire, according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the normal experience of all in the early Christian Church. With it comes the enduement of power for life and service, the bestowment of the gifts and their uses in the work of the ministry... This experience is distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth... With the baptism in the Holy Ghost come such experiences as: an overflowing fullness of the Spirit... a deepened reverence for God... an intensified consecration to God and dedication to His work... and a more active love for Christ, for His Word and for the lost.” (from www.ag.org)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- Pentecostal view

- line of reasoning:

- **Jesus' disciples were believers and were converted long before the Day of Pentecost, but were commanded to wait in Jerusalem to receive the Holy Spirit**

- “On one occasion, while He was eating with them, He gave this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 1:4-5)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- Pentecostal view

- line of reasoning:

- Disciples subsequently received baptism in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, that empowered for ministry and enabled them to speak in tongues

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” (Acts 2:1-4)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Pentecostal view**

- **line of reasoning:**

- **thus, baptism in the Holy Spirit is an event that**
 - **occurs subsequent to conversion**
 - **empowers the believer in his walk and service**
 - **is evidenced by speaking in tongues in all people who truly receive the baptism**

- “All believers, when they are baptized in the Spirit, will speak in tongues.” (from Assemblies of God website www.ag.org)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- Pentecostal view
 - line of reasoning:
 - other Scripture passages used to support position:
 - Acts 8 – Samaritans believed (v.12) but did not receive the Holy Spirit until later (v.17)
 - Acts 10:44-46 – Cornelius was a believer but did not receive Holy Spirit until later
 - Acts 19:1-7 – disciples of John the Baptist in Ephesus receive the Holy Spirit

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **AGC position – Article XIII**
 - **not present in original AGC articles (1920s)**
 - **added later (1980s (?)) in response to rise of the charismatic movement**
 - **more or less unchanged in current from previous edition, but previous edition has additional phrase, “Pentecost is an historical event and is not repeated.”**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **AGC position – Article XIII**
 - **Baptism in (with) the Holy Spirit occurs at conversion, when the believer is indwelt by the Holy Spirit**
 - **not an event subsequent to conversion, but occurs concurrently with regeneration**
 - not evidenced today by speaking in tongues (Article XIV)
 - **common experience of all believers, not just some**
 - **subsequent experiences of empowering are “fillings” of the Holy Spirit, not “baptism”**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?**
 - **7 NT passages refer directly to baptism with the Holy Spirit**
 - **Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33**
 - John the Baptist referring to Jesus as the one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit, without saying what exactly that baptism is
 - **Acts 1:5, Acts 11:16**
 - referring to events of day of Pentecost
 - **1 Corinthians 12:13**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?**
 - **NT references to baptism with the Holy Spirit**
 - **Matthew 3:11 (similar to Mk 1:8, Lk 3:16, Jn 1:33)**

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”
 - **Acts 1:5 (quoted by Peter in 11:16)**

“For John baptized with water, but in a few days, you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:5)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?
 - NT references to baptism with the Holy Spirit
 - **1 Corinthians 12:13**
 - “For we were all baptized *by* one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given one Spirit to drink.” (NIV)
 - “For *in* one Spirit we were all baptized into one body – Jews or Greeks, slaves or free – and all were made to drink of one Spirit.” (ESV)
 - **Greek preposition *en* – same prepositional phrase as other 6 references despite differences in English translations (in, with, by) – refers to same event as other 6 passages**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?**
 - **Definition**
 - **Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the activity of the Holy Spirit at “the moment of salvation”, when He**
 - **gives us new spiritual life (regeneration)**
 - **cleanses us and sets us apart for God (initial work of sanctification)**
 - **indwells us**
 - **unites us to the Body of Christ**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?
 - common to all believers
 - Since Pentecost, occurs at conversion (with one exception –later)
 - *All believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit*
“For *we were all baptized by one Spirit* into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and *we were all given one Spirit to drink.*”
 - Not a subsequent “second blessing” experienced only by some

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?**
 - **Results in indwelling by the Holy Spirit in all believers**

“...I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you.” (John 14:16-17)

“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” (1 Cor 3:16)

“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.” (Rom 8:9)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What is baptism with the Holy Spirit?**
 - **Results in indwelling by the Holy Spirit in all believers**

“And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession – to the praise of His glory.” (Eph 1L13-14)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- What about Acts 2, 8, 10-11 and 19?
 - Acts 2
 - Pentecost was unique - marked the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and the birth of the Church
 - the disciples received the Spirit some time after they believed *because the Holy Spirit had not yet been given*, not because baptism of the Holy Spirit always occurs some time after conversion
 - “By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.” (John 7:39)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What about Acts 2, 8, 10-11 and 19?**
 - **Acts 8**
 - **giving of the Holy Spirit to the Samaritan believers was delayed until Peter and John could lay hands on them**
 - **reason for delay controversial, but probably to heal historical rift between Jews and Samaritans**
 - **demonstrated unequivocally to Jewish believers that Samaritan believers were full members of the body of Christ**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What about Acts 2, 8, 10-11 and 19?**
 - **Acts 10-11 & 19**
 - **accounts of Cornelius and disciples of John the Baptist receiving the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues**
 - **do not support Pentecostal view of subsequence, since these were not Christians to start with**
 - **received the Holy Spirit when they heard the Gospel and believed (i.e. at moment of salvation)**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **What about Acts 2, 8, 10-11 and 19?**
 - **Acts 10-11 & 19**
 - **speaking in tongues – indicated that these believers were not to be counted inferior to Jewish Christians, since received same gift**
 - **does not necessarily support notion that baptism in the Holy Spirit is always evidenced by tongues**
 - **tongues not mentioned elsewhere when Holy Spirit came upon new believers (e.g. Acts 8:17 – Samaritan believers; Saul, in Acts 9:17-19)**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Filling with the Holy Spirit**
 - **better term for what many refer to as ‘baptism with the Holy Spirit’**
 - **a fresh experience of the Spirit’s presence and power**
 - **results in (sometimes significantly) increased fruitfulness and power in personal walk, witness, and ministry (e.g. see Acts 4:8-31)**
 - **a privilege and duty of every believer**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Filling with the Holy Spirit**

- **a privilege and duty of every believer**

- “**Do not get drunk with wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.**” (Eph 5:18) – a command!

- **unlike baptism with the Holy Spirit, filling is continual process**

- e.g. Acts 4:31 – believers filled afresh with the Holy Spirit after praying

- “**...There is one baptism with the Spirit, and it is into the Body of Christ, but there are many fillings.**”

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Filling with the Holy Spirit**
 - **How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
 - **yield lives fully to God (Rom 12:1; Gal 2:20)**
 - **depend fully on God's power to live the Christian life (Rom 8:13, Gal. 2:20, Gal. 3:23)**
 - **obey the Lord's commands in our lives (1 Jn 2:6)**
 - **pray for the Holy Spirit to fill your life (in accordance with Eph 5:18)**
 - **similar to 'preparation' to receive 'baptism in the Holy Spirit' that many charismatics teach**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Why does it matter?**
 - **Pentecostal view does not correctly handle the Scripture**
 - **doctrine of subsequence distorts Scripture**
 - **for Pentecostals, a believer cannot even be truly filled with the Spirit without having spoken in tongues**
 - “There are those who give testimony to a dynamic and life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit who have never spoken in tongues. Nevertheless it cannot be said that they are filled with the Spirit in the New Testament sense of the term. There is an essential link between that experience and speaking in other tongues...” (from www.ag.org)

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Why does it matter?**
 - **Destructive effects on Christians and churches**
 - **sets up 2 classes of Christians – ordinary Christians and “Spirit-baptized” Christians**
 - tends to create significant (and inappropriate) pressure on believers to be “baptized in the Holy Spirit” and speak in tongues as the key to Christian living
 - results in discouragement and sometimes temptation to ‘fake it’, for those who are not ‘Spirit-baptized’

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Why does it matter?**
 - **Destructive effects on Christians and churches**
 - **sets up 2 classes of Christians – ordinary Christians and “Spirit-baptized” Christians**
 - tends to result in pride on the part of ‘Spirit-baptized’ believers and jealousy or resentment on the part of ‘ordinary’ believers
 - results in divisions, and often in church split when charismatic movement and teaching sweeps through

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- **Why does it matter?**
 - **Destructive effects on Christians and churches**
 - **AGC Policy Statement on Contemporary Issues of Biblical Interpretation (04/93)**

“Church movements which manifest extra-Biblical revelation and/or the dominance of experiences such as physical healings, slaying in the Spirit, speaking in tongues, signs and wonders, and teachings such as material prosperity or reconstructionism and dominion theology are not in harmony with our understanding of the Bible.

We do not accept for ministerial position in our churches those who endorse such movements. We also recommend to our churches that they apply a similar policy for all leadership (e.g. teachers, church officers, etc.).”

Next class

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

February 5, 2006

References

- Cairns, E.E. *Christianity through the Centuries*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1981), p. 457-458.
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- MacArthur, J.F. *Charismatic Chaos*. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1992), p.1-46, 171-193.