

# FREEDOM

## Baptism of the Spirit Summary

- If you have accepted Christ as your Savior, the Bible makes it clear that you have the Holy Spirit living inside of you. Romans 8 tells us we received the spirit when we were adopted as sons and daughters at salvation, and it's through Holy Spirit that we can cry out, "Abba Father, we belong to you."
- But throughout the scriptures we see a "there is more" reality, so we talk about two realities: Spirit Within and Spirit Upon.
- Reality of the **Spirit Within** – It is involved in our process of sanctification, intimate connection with the Father, and more of a personal reality.
- Reality of the **Spirit Upon** – It is connected to empowerment and activation of the gifts of the Spirit, ongoing revelation of Christ's will and ways amongst us – about Kingdom advancement and ministry to others.
- We see two different realities demonstrated by Jesus: Jesus breathed on the disciples before He went to heaven and they received the Spirit (John 20:22, before Pentecost), but then He tells them to wait until they are clothed with power from on high--don't try and go out and fulfill this great commission that has been given to you without that Holy Spirit who will empower you to see this commission come to pass. We of course then see this happen in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost, and the fruit of that empowerment is thousands of people repenting and turning to be saved through Jesus.
- Now Pastor Chris Hodges asks: Why are there two experiences? Why do we receive a deposit of the Spirit at salvation, but then an empowerment reality that comes with the baptism? He says that God wanted absolutely nothing else to be attached to his FREE GIFT OF SALVATION! It is all about Jesus and what He won for us on the cross--completely separate from our work or effort.
- Salvation is very much tied to our ongoing eternal reality, but in God's mercy, He pours out His Holy Spirit baptism so that we can live with His power now on the earth, in the here and now.
- Can we be saved and not have a baptism of the Spirit encounter? **Absolutely!** But God is always inviting us into experiencing more of the "fullness" of life that is ours in Jesus.
- You are not a second class Christian if you have not had a baptism experience, but you have also limited your ability to connect with the full resources and power that you now have access to through the blood of Jesus.
- **We want to be people who are valuing both the Spirit within and Spirit upon realities!** At Third we talk about walking as people who are cultivating the Spirit life within--the slow growth of character, fruit, the work of sanctification, but also people who live with the Spirit upon reality--available in obedience to Holy Spirit for His gifts and power to manifest in our lives for the greatness and glory of God's Kingdom.

- There is no “one and done” reality to Holy Spirit empowerment. There is always more in every way with God, and we can always both surrender and ask for the more that God has for us. So if you have prayed for the baptism of the Spirit before, you can ask for the more at any time.

### Speaking in Tongues

- Speaking in tongues is one of the biggest things that has caused divisiveness around the baptism of the Spirit. In some Pentecostal theology, tongues is said to be evidence of your salvation so if you don't speak in tongues you are not saved.
- **We absolutely do not believe that.** Again, we believe salvation is 100% about the blood of Jesus and His death that He purchased for us on the cross, and we will not add anything else to that which we believe was totally sufficient.
- We do believe that tongues as a prayer language is available to us as people who have received the baptism of the Spirit.
- We believe one of main purposes of praying in tongues is to pray *spirit to spirit*. Think back to the Body/Soul/Spirit diagram where our soul/mind don't get in the way and distort the messages, but instead the perfect will of the Father is able to be released in and through us. Praying in the Spirit edifies and strengthens our spirits.
- Praying in tongues and the gift of tongues are two different things, just like having faith and the gift of faith are two different things. The gift of tongues is often used in corporate settings with an interpretation and often functions as a form of prophetic utterance.
- We encourage people to ask for the ability to pray in tongues because it allows us to feed and strengthen our spirit man, it allows us to pray the perfect will of the Father over situations, and it brings us into places of deeper revelation of God.
- You can be baptized in the Spirit and not speak in tongues. We are not trying to elevate this gift over others, rather just trying to raise awareness of what is available and clear up misconceptions around this gift.
- When praying to receive the baptism of the Spirit:
  - Don't get too caught up in what you do or don't feel.
  - Receive the Spirit by faith, ask and welcome it, and trust.
  - Know that some people receive tongues immediately, some will receive it when they are alone in the car or in their quiet time. If you want it, keep asking for it.