

Episode #709 Baptism 4-Baptism With the Holy Spirit

I. We are taking a break from our studies of the book of Matthew to consider the very important topic of baptism brought up by John's baptism in Matthew 3.

II. We have studied the meaning of the Greek word *baptizo*. We discovered it means "to dip," "to dye," "to overwhelm," and, most importantly, "to identify," with that identification establishing a relationship and resulting in a merger. Today we will apply these meanings to baptism with the Holy Spirit.

III. Baptism (Identification) with the Holy Spirit.

- A. Matthew 3:11. Few passages have been more abused than this one. Of course, this is partially because *baptizo* has not been translated. It means identification.
- B. Grand and pretentious emotional experiences are justified by the Word. One example of this is repentance. Another is the "Baptism in the Holy Spirit."
- C. It is claimed this promise of John was something new never experienced before. This is an error. They say it is new by not translating *baptizo*.
 1. II Peter 1:21. These men were permeated with the Spirit like dye permeates cloth. This identified them with the Spirit of God.
 2. Genesis 41:38. All recognized Joseph as identified with the Spirit.
 3. Exodus 31:3. Bezaleel was filled with the Spirit to make beautiful things for God's temple: the work of the Spirit. Exodus 35:31.
 4. Judges 3:10 (Othniel), 6:34 (Gideon), 14:6,19 (Samson) judges.
 5. Mark 12:36. David was identified with the Spirit in what he wrote.
- D. These show us identification with the Spirit was common in Old Testament times. Those who heard John knew he was promising the same to them!
- E. What this would mean was revealed years later. Acts 1:8. The Spirit fills men to accomplish God's will in them.
- F. God's will can be accomplished even in evil men. I Samuel 19:20,23.
- G. Those identified with the Spirit could speak and act on God's behalf. They became His representatives and mediators. Not unlimited. Obadiah versus Isaiah.
- H. In the dispensation of grace, identification with the Spirit is not available to us, since it always makes men mediators between God and others. I Tim. 2:5.
- I. Clear examples of men identified with the Spirit in Acts: Pentecost. Acts 2:4. The promised Spirit was poured out on them, they were identified. Acts 2:33.
- J. The apostles and elders wrote inspired letters. Acts 15:28. To lie about identification with the Spirit would result in death as for Ananias, Acts 5.
- K. I Corinthians 12:13. Baptized in the Holy Spirit is different from "For in one Spirit are we all baptized (merged) into one body...and are all made to drink of one Spirit." Those identified in one Spirit are merged in one body.

IV. Conclusion: The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was identification with Him. This was not a New Testament concept, but happened to many men in the Old Testament, making them representatives of God and mediators of God. Every person who wrote a book of Scripture was identified with the Spirit of God. Those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit were identified with Him in their words and actions. Since there is one mediator between God and men today, the Man Christ Jesus, there is no person who is identified with the Spirit as His agent and mediator today.