

Holy Spirit Baptism – Who Can Administer It?

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Certain religious groups nowadays claim that their pastors can baptize anyone with the Holy Spirit. There are many of them, and these groups are not small groups. But can we find any Biblical statement, which affirms that a **human being** can baptize a person with the **Holy Spirit**? In the **Great Commission**, we can read that Christ commanded His disciples to go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 28:19-20). So it is very clear that **administering** baptism is **part** of the work of a disciple. But what type of baptism did Christ command His disciples to administer? From the Biblical examples, **Peter** and the **rest of the apostles** administered **water baptism only**. They never administered Holy Spirit baptism. For instance, **Peter** administered **water baptism** to Cornelius and his household (Acts 10:47-48). **Phillip** administered **water baptism** to the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-39).

Holy Spirit baptism happened **ONLY TWICE** in the New Testament, and **NO MAN** ever administered it. This may shock you, but it is the truth. The **first** Holy Spirit baptism happened on the **day of Pentecost** (Acts 2:1-4). **NO BODY** administered it but **CHRIST** Himself. It was limited to the 12 apostles only. The pronoun “**they**” in Acts 2:1 to whom the Holy Spirit baptism was administered refers to **Matthias** and the **eleven apostles** in the previous verse (Acts 1:26). When the Holy Spirit baptism happened for the **second** time, it was administered to **Cornelius** and **his household** (Acts 10:44). Again **NO MAN** administered it but **CHRIST** Himself. As already mentioned above, Peter administered water baptism to Cornelius and his household despite the Holy Spirit baptism that Christ administered to them (Acts 10:47-48). Aside from these two occurrences, the New Testament does not record any other incidents of Holy Spirit baptism happening. But why should we believe that **ONLY CHRIST** can baptize a person with the Holy Spirit?

Read carefully your Bible for the testimony of John the Baptist, who was sent before Christ. He was given an indicator as to **WHO** can baptize with the Holy Spirit. John 1:33-34 is very clear that **only the Son of God** can baptize with the Holy Spirit. John pointed at **JESUS CHRIST**, because John was told that the **ONE** upon whom the Spirit **descended** and **remained** on **Him**, this is the **ONE** who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. Mark 1:7-8 also tells us that only Christ can baptize with the Holy Spirit. In fact, before Christ left for heaven, He instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father (Acts 1:4). Jesus **now reiterated** what John said that he would baptize with water only, and that someone would baptize with the Holy Spirit. So Jesus asked them to **wait** because they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from that time that Jesus spoke those words (Acts 1:5). Jesus fulfilled that on the **day of Pentecost** as already mentioned above. That is the first occurrence of Holy Spirit baptism, when Christ **opened** the **CHURCH** to the **Israelites** (Acts 2).

Is it obvious now? If not, please investigate further and you will find out that after the first occurrence, Peter and the rest of the apostles **did not see** any occurrence of Holy Spirit baptism **nor were teaching** Holy Spirit baptism to the people. They taught **water baptism** only (Acts 2:38; 8:36-39). After several years, Peter and his companions witnessed the second occurrence of Holy Spirit baptism to the household of Cornelius, when Christ **opened** the **CHURCH** to the **Gentiles**. Peter was even surprised to see it, and when he saw

it, he remembered what Jesus told them in Acts 1:4-5 before Jesus left for heaven (Acts 11:16). According to him, it happened just like what happened to the apostles **at the beginning** (i.e., on Pentecost). If Peter taught Holy Spirit baptism every day, then it would **not surprise** him to see the Holy Spirit baptism administered to Cornelius and his household. Furthermore, Peter **would not say** that he remembered something that he **always saw everyday**. He **could only say** that he **remembered** something if that something **happened long time ago**, not everyday.

So dear reader, it is very clear that Holy Spirit baptism happened **ONLY TWICE** in the New Testament, when Christ **opened the church to the Israelites** (Acts 2) and when He **opened the church to the Gentiles** (Acts 10). In both cases, **there was no human intervention**. It was **ONLY CHRIST** who administered to them. If the Bible records only two instances during the time of the apostles, why do many people claim to have been baptized by the Holy Spirit in our days? Are these people better than the early Christians? If not, it only shows that their claims are false, and they follow the lie that Satan propagates through the preaching of the denominational groups.

This is my advice to you: Please examine carefully what you believe (1 Thessalonians 5:21). If you believe and teach doctrines of men, you have **no God** in this world (2 John 9-11), and your **worship is useless** (Matthew 15:7-9). If that is your status in the eyes of God right now, you can still rectify that by following only the words of Christ. It is only when you **remain** in the words or teachings of Christ that you can truly claim to be a **true disciple** (John 8:31), therefore, a **true Christian** (Acts 11:26) and has the passport to heaven expecting to inherit eternal life.

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