

WE BELIEVE – Jesus Baptizes 1.22.17 #cccsermons

We are looking at five **foundational teachings** of Christianity, the Assemblies of God and Chester Christian Center: This week's defining truth is that **we believe that God can fill you with the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

- We believe that speaking in tongues (or the baptism in the Holy Spirit) is one of the nine gifts of the Spirit mentioned in **1 Corinthians 12:4-11**. According to **1 Corinthians 12:7**, ALL THE GIFTS are for the **common GOOD**. And according to **1 Corinthians 12:11**, the Lord **distributes** ALL these gifts to us as He sees fit.
- All the gifts are just as important as the other gifts, but the fact that we believe that you can speak in other tongues as the Bible stated in the early church is **what differentiates us from other denominations.**

Many believe that tongues passed away after the Bible was completed and after the apostles' deaths. Actually, there are more people speaking in tongues **TODAY** than at any time in history. Why? Because the Gospel has spread all over the world and the Pentecostal experience was **PREDICTED** by the prophet Joel. (see **Acts 2:16-18**)

- God is still moving today and He can move in your lives also today!

The Apostle's Creed is divided into three major parts: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit, what we call the TRINITY. God the Father is recognized as "**almighty**" and the **CREATOR** of heaven and earth. God the Son is recognized as born of the virgin, who was crucified, died, was buried and then rose again the third day before ascended into heaven to seated at the right hand of the God the Father, and will come again to judge the living and the dead. But who is the Holy Spirit?

- **The Holy Spirit is a PERSON**, not a thing, force or an it.
- **Because He is a person, our relationship with Him must be PERSONAL.**
- The Bible does teach that we receive the Holy Spirit at the moment we surrender our hearts to Christ (see **1 John 3:9, Romans 8:9-10, 1 Corinthians 6:19**) and to guide us into truth and point us to Christ (see **John 16:13**).
- God puts His Spirit within us, but this is not the end, but only the **BEGINNING**.
- God promises **MORE** if you open yourself up to the Holy Spirit.

KEY THOUGHT: The baptism of the Holy Spirit into our world is not something the church **invented**, but it is something that the church was **PROMISED** by our Heavenly Father. (see **Acts 1:4-5, Acts 1:8, Acts 2:1-4, and Acts 2:38-45**)

What can we learn about the Holy Spirit from Acts 1 and 2?

#1 The Holy Spirit is a GIFT. (Acts 1:4)

- God expects us to share the Gospel, that's why He left the Holy Spirit to give us the power to witness. (see **John 16:7-8**)

#2 You can be baptized with water AND with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:5)

- Here we see that water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are two completely different events.
- Water baptism is the physical experience of **being immersed in water** following salvation that symbolizes your cleansing from sin. (see **1 Peter 3:21, Mark 16:16**)
- *But in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit** on the day of Pentecost ten days later (see **Acts 2:1-4**).*

#3 The Holy Spirit will EMPOWER you to WITNESS. (Acts 1:8)

- Each time we see the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible, the immediate response is always directed toward **BRINGING** people to Christ.
- The lack of power in the church today isn't because God's power has diminished, but because we no longer **SEEK** God with **ALL OUR HEART**.
- **Jeremiah 29:13** says, "And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart."

#4 The Holy Spirit will also EMPOWER your SPEECH. (Acts 2:4)

- What they got on the day of Pentecost was the baptism – the **OVERFLOWING** of the Spirit **ALREADY INSIDE** them. We believe that the **initial physical sign** of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. (see **Acts 2:4; 10:4; 19:6**)
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit deepens our worship to the Lord by giving us a language of praise which we have not learned.
- Simply stated, the Spirit enables the believer to speak in an unknown language that can be spoken in one's private prayer life (see **Romans 8:26**), or in a public worship service with interpretation (see **1 Corinthians 14:5,27-28**).
- James says that no man can tame the tongue, but I want you to know that the **HOLY SPIRIT** can. (see **James 3**)

#5 The Baptism in the Holy Spirit TRANSFORMS the believer. (Acts 2:40)

- Prior to being baptized in the Holy Spirit, the believers had hidden for fear of their lives, but with the outpouring of the Spirit in their lives, they become bold and fearless with a clear sense of mission to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- As a result of Pentecost, the disciples went from spectators to participators.
- What happened not only changed their LIVES, but it began to change the **WORLD!**

#6 We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit because we as a church need to be TRANSFORMED. (Read Acts 2:42-47)

- With the Holy Spirit, we can make a **DIFFERENCE**. (see **1 Corinthians 2:4-5**)
- Without the power of the Holy Spirit, the message of the Gospel rest in man's wisdom.
- Understand that the baptism of the Holy Spirit does not make me better than other Christians who have not received this gift, but the baptism in the Holy Spirit makes me a better **ME**. The purpose is not so you can speak in tongues, but to be better witnesses in every facet of your life. (see **1 Corinthians 13:1-2**)
- Don't just seek out spiritual gifts to appear to be spiritual, but let the power of the Spirit be **at work within your life** to **TRANSFORM** you into the kind of person who genuinely reflects the character of God.

We must seek the SPIRIT, not the tongues!

- The baptism in the Holy Spirit marks the beginning of your living in the fullness of the Spirit every day. (see **Galatians 5:25**)

How can we be baptized?

- **We must WAIT**. We cannot manufacture it, but we will be baptized on God's timetable.
- We must **SEEK** the Holy Spirit. The same step of faith that brought you to confess Jesus as your Savior and Lord is the same step of faith to begin to speak in tongues.

For more on this topic, go to **ag.org** and chose **beliefs**, then **core doctrines**.