

Born of, Baptized in and Filled with the Holy Spirit *by Bill Scheidler*

A. We are living in the Age of the Spirit.

1. The Father has had His work to do particularly in CREATION. The Age of the Father extends from the father of all who are alive, Adam up to the father of all who believe, Abraham.
2. The Son has had His work to do particularly in REDEMPTION. The Age of the Son extends from the sacrifice of the only begotten son of the Old Testament, Isaac to the incarnation, death, burial and ascension of the only begotten Son of the New Testament, Jesus.
3. The Spirit has His work to do particularly in SANCTIFICATION. The Age of the Spirit extends from the Early Rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to the Latter Rain outpouring of the Holy Spirit just prior to the Second Coming of Christ.
 - a. This Age is also referred to as the Church Age.
 - b. This Age is that period of time when the Holy Spirit works in the believer to bring to fulfillment all that has been provided for us by the Father and the Son and to assist the believer in becoming all that God in Christ has made it possible for him to become.

B. The believer has three significant encounters with the Holy Spirit that all help the believer to achieve destiny.

1. Born of the Spirit (John 3:5-6)
2. Baptized with the Spirit (Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5)
3. Filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18-19)

If we are to receive the full benefit of these experiences, we must understand the purpose and the distinction between each of them.

C. To Be Born of the Spirit

Being born of the Spirit is a ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE that is characterized as follows:

1. Necessary for entrance into the Kingdom of God (John 3:5).
2. Associated with the new birth (John 3:3).
3. Occurs when we repent and acknowledge the Lordship of Christ (Rom. 10:8-13).
4. The Holy Spirit is joined to our human spirit, we become a child of God and the temple of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:17; II Cor. 6:16).

5. The evidence that we have been born of the Spirit is the inner witness of the Spirit that we are the children of God (Rom. 8:16).
6. The outcome or fruit of this experience is the fruit of the Spirit.
7. Primary focus: CHARACTER OF CHRIST

D. To be Baptized with or in the Spirit

Being baptized in or with the Spirit is a ONE-TIME EXPERIENCE that is characterized by:

1. An experience subsequent to or even simultaneous to salvation (Acts 8:12-17).
2. An endowment with power from on High to fulfill the commission of God in our lives (Luke 24:49; Acts 18).
3. An experience that Christ wants every believer to experience (John 7:37-39; Acts 2:38).
4. An anointing upon the believer (Luke 24:49; Acts 10:44).
5. The evidence of this experience is speaking with other tongues (Acts 10:45-46).
6. The outcome or fruit of this experience is a greater release of and sensitivity to the gifts of the Spirit.
7. Primary focus: THE ABILITY OR POWER OF CHRIST

E. To be Filled with the Spirit

Being filled with the Spirit is AN ONGOING EXPERIENCE that is characterized by:

1. Often confused with the baptism of the Spirit.
2. Available to anyone who is in covenant relationship with God in both the Old and New Testaments (Ex. 38:3; Luke 1:15, 41).
3. The Spirit fills the heart and mind of the believer so that every thought, determination and action is under the pervading influence and direction of the Holy Spirit. (When something is filled it is completely taken up in, saturated by and permeated with.)
4. It is to be a continual and daily experience of the believer (Eph. 5:18-19).
5. The evidence of the filling of the Holy Spirit is boldness, etc. (Acts 4:31).
6. The fruit is peace and joy in the Holy Ghost (Rom. 14:17; Acts 6:15; 7:55).
7. Primary focus: DAILY ENDURANCE

Note: Being filled with the Spirit may occur simultaneously with the other two experiences (Acts 2:1-4).

F. The Experience of Jesus

1. Born of the Spirit (Matt. 1:20)
2. Baptized in the Spirit (Matt. 3:16)
3. Filled with or full of the Spirit (Lk. 4:1)

G. The Experience of the Apostles

1. Born of the Spirit (John 20:22)
2. Baptized in the Spirit (Acts 1:5; 2:4)
3. Filled with the Spirit (Acts 4:23-31)

H. Paul's Command to be Filled—Ephesians 5:18-19

1. It is a command, imperative, “Be filled!”
2. It is to be continual, “Keep on being filled!”
3. It parallels the oil in relation to the lampstand in the Tabernacle of Moses.
 - a. It experienced an initial filling of the lamps.
 - b. It experienced a daily filling or refueling so that the oil would burn and not the wick.

I. The Need for Continual Filling

Why we need to believe for this?

1. The routines of life can drain us of spiritual vitality and energy.
2. The attacks of the enemy can deplete us (Jesus, tempted of the devil).
3. The special challenges that each day holds can blind-side us.
4. The opposition from unbelievers can discourage us (Acts 4:23ff.)

J. The Path to Continual Filling

1. We must recognize that we have a need (Matt. 5:3; Acts 4:29).
2. We must take the initiative (Eph. 5:18-19).
3. We must hunger and thirst (Matt. 5:6).
4. We must ask (Lk. 4:13).
5. We must do this often/daily (Eph. 5:18-19).