"(v1) Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, (v2) <u>Of the doctrine of baptisms</u>, and <u>of laying on of hands</u>, and <u>of resurrection of the dead</u>, and <u>of eternal judgment</u>. (v3) And this will we do, if God permit (Hebrews 6:1-3)."¹

Many denominations teach that The Baptism of The Holy Ghost is not for our Day. They teach that this gift is not essential to living a victorious Christian walk and suppress the truth of this indispensable gift from God. This tract will endeavor to not only define this gift but will show, in Scripture, how crucial it is that the 'present-day' child of God seek to receive this pivotal gift from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew tells the event of John the Baptist preaching in the wilderness in Verse 1, the man who was the forerunner of Jesus Christ or we could say, 'the man who was in the spirit and power of Elijah'. John the Baptist's message to the world was to 'repent', because the kingdom of heaven was at hand (near in time) according to Verse 2. Matthew went on to confirm that prophecy had foretold of John the Baptist's arrival, what his appearance would entail, the opposition he would receive, and his message (Verses 3-10). In Verse 11, John's gives the focal point or heart of his message, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." (Notice, if you will, there are two distinct baptisms mentioned in this verse and in another tract, we will show the latter of these two baptisms.) John the Baptist understood that he was not worthy or able to 'fill the shoes' of this One to come. The word bear in this Scripture means to, 'be capable of, to suffer; endure; undergo, to be fit for or worthy of, to have and be entitled to, to

possess, as a quality or characteristic'.² John knew there would be more than The Baptism of

Repentance and he preached this message to the people.

As prophecy foretold, Jesus came to earth in a body of flesh, grew in the Word and wisdom of His Heavenly Father, and began His earthly ministry, fulfilling the volume of Scripture written of Him-proving He is the Son of God. The Lamb slain for the sins of men, and establishing His Church which He purchased with His own blood.³ His volume of Scripture now complete,⁴ He returns to the His Father and sits down on His Father's right hand just as He told His disciples He would do. Jesus told His disciples that He must go to the Father in order to send back the Comforter to them, (v7)Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. (v8) And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: (v9) Of sin, because they believe not on me; (v10) Of righteousness, because I go to my father, and ye see me no more; (v11) Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged. (v12) I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. (v13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (v14) He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew [it] unto you (John 16:7-14)."

Mark also gives record of what Jesus told His disciples to do in Chapter 16, Verses 15-17 after He resurrected from the dead, "(v15) And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. (v16) He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (v17) And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;" Now the waiting had begun.

Jesus promised us this gift and it is witnessed in Ephesians 4:8, *"Wherefore he saith, When he* [Jesus] ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men."

We have read the Bible account many times in Acts 2:1-4, 16, "(v1) And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. (v2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind. and it filled all the house where they were sitting. (v3) And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. (v4) And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (v16) But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;" Joel 2:28-29 states, "(v28) And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: (v29) And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit." The prophet Isaiah confirms this in Chapter 28:10-11, "(v10) For precept [must be] upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, [and] there a little: (v11) For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."

The Holy Ghost speaks for Himself to show He is present, possessing (To gain or exert influence or control over; dominate:) the believer's vessel. He is the third person of the Godhead, "(v26) But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, [even] the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: (v27) And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning (John 15:26-27)."

We are to follow Jesus as He was our example and Jesus received The Baptism of The Holy Ghost with tongues, "(v32) This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. (v33) Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear (Acts 2:32-33)."

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ All Scripture References are quoted from the King James Version.

² Referenced from: www.dictionary.com

³ Witnessing Scriptures: Hebrews 2:14, Luke 2:40, Acts 20:28

⁴ See Luke 4:18-21, and Isaiah 61:1-2a.

The gift of The Baptism of The Holy Ghost is for our generation just as He was given to those in The Bible, "(v43) To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. (v44) While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word, (v45)And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished as many as came with Peter. because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. (v46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God...(Acts 10:43-48)." Acts 11:15-18 confirms this, "(v15) And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. (v16) Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said. John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. (v17) Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as [he did] unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? (v18) When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life."

The Apostle Paul also tells us that God gave the Holy Ghost to us in Acts 19:1-7 when Paul visited Ephesus and he found certain disciples (ones who were following the teachings of Jesus) if they had received the Holy Ghost. They replied they had not even heard if there was one, and Paul preached to them concerning the gift of the Holy Ghost. When Paul laid his hands upon them the Scripture states that the Holy Ghost came upon them and they spake with tongues and prophesied.

The promise of The Baptism of The Holy Ghost is given to us in Acts 2:38-39, "(v38) Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall [future tense] receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (v39) For the promise is unto you [those in the Bible], and to your children [the generations of the families of the Bible], and to all that are afar off [that's us, the Gentiles!], [even] as many as the Lord our God shall call."

God is still calling men unto repentance and His Word makes it very clear that the gift of the Holy Ghost is for all of us in this present generation.

And the Lord God has called you!

The Seven Baptisms



REPENTANCE

The Baptism of **SUFFERING**

The Baptism of **BLOOD**

The Baptism of **THE HOLY GHOST**

The Baptism Into THE BODY

The Baptism of **FIRE**

The Baptism of **DEATH**

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost [Spirit of Truth]

We have individual tracts on each of The Seven Baptisms. If you would like more information on any of The Seven Baptisms, please feel free to contact us at tecognewsletter@hotmail.com



Published By The (Ephesus) Church of God Jonesboro, Arkansas © 1980-2012

D0C061218-14

