

Living in the Holy Spirit

A. Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Jesus baptized the disciples with the Holy Spirit and fire (Luke 3:6; John 1:29-34)
2. When Luke mentions about the baptism and the filling of the Holy Spirit, it has nothing to do with salvation, but about a kind of special anointing of the Holy Spirit.
3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an outpouring of power. (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5, 8; Acts 2:1-4)
4. Early Christians experienced baptism of the Holy Spirit and were filled with power to witness for the Lord. The outward manifestation of this baptism may be speaking in tongues or prophecy, or boldness to preach the gospel in face of persecution. (Acts 2:14-42, 4:31, 6:5-8, 8:14-17, 10:44-48, 19:1-6)
5. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a covering by God's power, allowing people to experience the reality of God's presence, understand God's Word, knowing the salvation of Jesus Christ, boldly witnessing for Christ and performing miracles.
6. According to Luke, baptism of the Holy Spirit is the same as the filling of the Holy Spirit, and this covering of power can happen many times.
7. Being baptized by the Holy Spirit means receiving power from above to witness for Jesus and to serve. It is not for the personal needs or spiritual gratification of believers.
8. How to receive baptism of the Holy Spirit? It is received by faith when you are going out to witness for the Lord with boldness.

B. Life controlled by the Holy Spirit

1. Apostle Paul teaches, "Do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit." (Eph 5:8)
2. Here Paul means by filling with the Spirit a life always under the control of the Holy Spirit, which is a continuous process, and is different from that referred to in Luke.
3. This is a command to be followed by all believers. We should always be controlled by the Holy Spirit, submit to His guidance, be self-restrained, and obey the word of the Lord. As Lord Jesus says, branches should abide in the vine and bear fruit abundantly (John 15:1-8). We should always be filled with the Holy Spirit, laying down our ego, following the teaching of Lord Jesus, and walk in the Holy Spirit.

C. Holy life

1. If we are always filled with the Holy Spirit and walk in the Spirit, we will spontaneously bear fruit of the Holy Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Gal 5:22-23)
2. We can then rejoice in the Lord always and have triumph always. (1 Thess 5:16-18; 2 Cor 2:14)

3. Manifesting in daily life, we can persistently be obedient to God. As Wang Mingdao says, "Be considerate to others in all things, and glorify the name of the Lord everywhere."

Conclusion

After we are reborn by the Holy Spirit, we should receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Thus we can live out a holy life.