

The Promise of the Holy Ghost

Scripture

“The former treatise have I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, Until the day in which he was taken up, after that he through the Holy Ghost had given commandments unto the apostles whom he had chosen: To whom also he shewed himself alive after his passion by many infallible proofs, being seen of them forty days, and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God: And, being assembled together with [them], commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, [saith he], ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (Ac 1:1-5 AV)

Devotion

As John is in comparison to Jesus so is water baptism in comparison to the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The first is symbolic the latter is a life-changing power. To be born again from on high is to be resurrected from the dead. This is a wonderful and powerful experience.

The greatest change in a believer is his freedom from the power of sin. His acute awareness of sin and its consequences actually begin before salvation. Regeneration awakens the spirit of man to his lost condition and in his heart he believes and is saved.

This salvation results in a changed nature as it was written, “And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience” (Eph 2:1-2 AV).

Therefore, let the pretender beware. Going forward and being baptized in the church does not save a soul. Only the baptism of the Holy Spirit does that. Also, this is not a second work of grace, but the permanent indwelling of God’s Spirit in a believer.

Pentecost would be a dramatic display to signify a new way of life for believers. However, the power of God’s life-changing power is still seen in every sinner’s conversion.

Have you been converted from your old way of life? Are you still controlled by the power of sin, or have you been set free? “Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?” (2Co 13:5 AV)