

Seven Key Doctrines of the Christian Church **(Doctrine of One Baptism)**

A mini-series the Universality of the Christian Church

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We are currently studying Paul's list of seven doctrines that separate the Christian church from the religions of the world. In this study we will discuss the third of seven doctrines listed in Eph.4:4-6,

(Eph.4:4-6) "There is one body and one Spirit - just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call - one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all".

This is the third lesson on our sixth doctrine listed in Eph.4:4-6, **One Baptism**.

<p>We will study three aspects of Jesus baptizing with The Holy Spirit to incorporate Old Covenant believers into the New Covenant Church.</p>

- 1. The first action taken by Jesus Christ, upon being Seated in Session (Eph.1:20-21), was to baptize with the Holy Spirit Old Covenant believers attending the Jewish Pentecost of Acts Chapter Two.**

(Eph.1:22-23) "And He put all things in subjection under His feet and gave Him as head over all things to the Church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who is all in all."

- 2. The prophetic sign of various languages being spoken to Israel (tongues) was associated with Jesus baptizing with the Spirit (Isa.28:11; 1 Cor.14:18-22; 1:22).**

Some 16 foreign languages were identified with Jews and proselytes attending this Pentecost who heard their foreign languages spoken by Galilean disciples of Jesus (Acts 2: 6-13).

- **Who** were the "they" of Acts 2:1?
 - Answer: 120 "men of Galilee" (Acts 1:15)
- **Where** and **when** were "they"?
 - (Acts 2:1) "They were all together in one place." In an upper room of the house (Acts 2:2).
 - (Acts 1:13-15) "When the day of Pentecost had come"
- **What** happened?
 - (Acts 2:2-3) Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.
 - (John 1:30-34) **like a dove**
 - (Acts 2:4) ⁴ All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Now back to those attending Pentecost. They were out-of-towners who heard a noise coming from the HOUSE (Acts 2:6-13) [party and drunk] but it was only 9am (Acts 2:14-21). It was the messianic fulfillment of (Joel 2:28-32). Then Peter took this occasion to preach to them the great Pentecost New Covenant gospel (Acts 2:22-41).

Peter's explanation is captured in (Acts 2:33-36) (NASB)

³³ **Therefore** having been exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has poured forth this which you both see and hear. ³⁴ For it was not David who ascended into heaven, but he himself says:

‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD,

“SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND,

³⁵ UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”

³⁶ **Therefore** let all the house of Israel know for certain that God has made Him both Lord and Christ - this Jesus whom you crucified.”

(“therefore” vs. 33, 36). Notice the people's questions and Peter's answers (Acts 2:37-41).

³⁷ **Now when they heard *this*, they were pierced to the heart, and said** to Peter and the rest of the apostles, **“Brethren, what shall we do?”** ³⁸ **Peter said to them,** “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he solemnly testified and kept on exhorting them, saying, “Be saved from this perverse generation!” ⁴¹ So then, those who had received his word were baptized; **and that day there were added about three thousand souls.**

3. Jesus baptizing with the Holy Spirit was to incorporate Old Covenant believers into the body of Christ, The New Covenant Church.

The Book of Acts shows the order of the four Old Covenant groups incorporated over the course of 28 years (transition period of things like covenants, from 30 to 100AD).

- 1st Jewish believers** attending Pentecost of Acts 2 (**30AD**)
 - Inauguration day of Jesus baptizing with the Spirit.
- 2nd Samaritans believers** of Acts 8:13-25 (Acts 6:1-6)
 - Philip (Missionary Evangelism Trip)
- 3rd Gentiles believers** of Acts 10-11
 - Peter (Missionary Evangelism Trip) (Acts 10:23-48)
 - Roman Gentiles (Acts 10:22; 11:1) - “And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’” (Acts 11:16)
- 4th The 12 disciples** of John The Baptist in Ephesus.
 - (Acts 19:1-7) (Paul's third Missionary Evangelism Trip, 56-58AD)

By the end of the Book of Acts, we learn that the purpose of Jesus baptizing with The Holy Spirit was to incorporate different groups of Old Covenant believers into the New Covenant, One Baptism and One Body, Church of Jesus Christ in the world (Eph.4:4-6). “In order that in Christ Jesus the blessings of Abraham might come to the **Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**” (Gal.3:14) (John 3:16) (One Seed).