

# **San Juan church of Christ**

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## **What Does God's Word Say About...**

### **Baptism and the Holy Spirit**

There are those who teach for one to be "saved" they must be baptized with a "spiritual baptism of the Holy Spirit." Then, at a more convenient time, they should be baptized with water, which "symbolizes" to others that they have decided to be a disciple of Jesus. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was a promise to the apostles, not a command for the world (Acts 1:4-5). The baptism in water is a command for all who are obedient and seek to be saved (Mark 16:15-16).

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was administered by Jesus Christ and not by men (Matthew 3:11). The purpose of this Holy Spirit baptism, administered by Christ, was not to save souls from sin, but to empower the apostles both to preach the word of God and to confirm it by miracles (Hebrews 2:3-4). When the apostles were baptized with the Holy Spirit they received the power to make known God's will (Acts 2: 1-4). The preaching that the apostles gave on the day of Pentecost was to convince the hearers of their sin in sending Christ to the cross, and their repentant hearts said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter, through the Holy Spirit, guided these people by replying, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Notice that baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit are two different things. When Peter preached to the household of Cornelius (Acts 10:34-48), the "Spirit fell on them." In the same way the apostles had received the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 11:15).

Peter commanded Cornelius' household to be baptized in water (Acts 10:47-48). And it was in water that the eunuch from Ethiopia was baptized (Acts 8:36). The "one baptism" in Ephesians 4:5 is the same as the baptism of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20). It is not the baptism in the Red Sea (1 Cor. 10:1-2) which was for Israel. It is not the baptism of John, which is no longer valid (Acts 19:1-7). It is also not the baptism of the Holy Spirit as mentioned earlier. The "one baptism" of Ephesians 4:5 is a burial in water (Acts 8:36, Rms 6:3-4) commanded for all in order to be saved from sin (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16), and puts the obedient one into the one body, which is the church of Christ (Acts 2:41, 47; 1 Cor. 12:13).

To claim that the "one baptism" is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, while practicing water baptism, is to ignore that these are two different baptisms, not one. Remember, when the apostles were guided by the Holy Spirit in what they said (Acts 1:8, 2:4), people were told by the Holy Spirit [word of God through Peter] to be baptized unto the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and when they were obedient (Acts 2:41), the Lord added them to His church (Acts 2:47). The "water baptism" is the "one" baptism of Ephesians 4:5.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:  
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