

The True Baptism

by G.W. North

The true baptism is a single operation that includes both water and Spirit baptism, with no time gap between the two.

Scripture: Acts 2:38

Topics: "Baptism", "Holy Spirit"

Description

G.W. North emphasizes the significance of the true baptism in the Holy Spirit, asserting that the fulfillment of God's promises is essential to His integrity. He highlights the day of Pentecost as a pivotal moment where 3,000 individuals were baptized in both water and the Spirit, demonstrating the inseparable relationship between the two. North argues that the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit should not be seen as a delayed event but as a synchronous act that occurs with water baptism. He insists that any minister referencing this event must convey the truth of being baptized with the Holy Ghost without misleading their audience. Ultimately, the sermon underscores the unity of baptism in the Church as a singular, divine operation.

Transcript

There is no reason to doubt that they received what they expected. Anything short of that would have seemed to them an imposture -- a miserable deception -- and indeed they would have been justified in thinking this, for from their history they knew that God had always proved His integrity by fulfilling His promises. Faithfulness is God's righteousness. He loves to fulfil His word bountifully in a manner which is in keeping with His own fullness, so when conditions are right He just does it.

Unless Peter's personal experience, prophetic ministry and public exhortation on the day of Pentecost were wilfully misleading, and/or woefully inadequate, he himself knew that he was instructing men unto the one and only true Baptism in the Spirit. No present day minister of the New Testament speaking from Acts 2, and making reference to receiving the promise of the Holy Ghost, would so grossly betray the trust of the men and women to whom he may be speaking as to suggest or mean anything other than that people should be baptised with the Holy Ghost.

Ye Shall Receive

Although we know that on the day of Pentecost about 3120 people were baptised in the Spirit, only in the experience of the 3000 who were added to the original 120 is the correct relationship between water and

Spirit properly set forth. John records in his Gospel that Jesus says we must be born from on high of water and the Spirit. This is admirably demonstrated to us by the happenings on that day, for the 3000 were baptised in water and the Holy Ghost. If a period of time elapsed between immersion in water and the reception of the Spirit, it was so minimal that the point can only be raised as an objectionable quibble. In any case water is but the symbol of the Spirit; thereby they were added to the Church -- all became one, for the baptism is one, only one.

That in order of thought and analysis of truth a logical procession may be discoverable in the foregoing does not mean that a series of disjointed steps or widely separated events is implied by God. It should never be preached as though by spiritual law He intended it to be so in personal experience. In fact it cannot be so; all is synchronous. It ought also to be noticed that no such word as 'afterwards' occurs in the text, neither is there a hint of any kindred idea as though Peter intended them to understand that some length of time would or should properly intervene between water and Spirit baptism -- 'be baptised and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost'. The wording implies one operation.

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/gw-north/the-true-baptism/>

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