



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

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**Sunday – November 12, 2023**

## **Heart to Heart...**

I want to just take a moment to give some food for thought about baptism of the Holy Spirit and how so many have little insight as to what this means compared to baptism (immersion) into Christ.

There is great confusion in religion today regarding Holy Spirit baptism. There are many sincere people out there who believe that when the word of God speaks of the Holy Spirit, they think or teach Holy Spirit baptism. When baptism is spoken, they conclude it must refer to Holy Spirit baptism. Let me just point out a few things to help us.

- (1) Jesus Christ was the administrator and the only administrator of Holy Spirit baptism. No other individual can baptize another in the Holy Spirit. It's impossible! (Matthew 3:11; Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:1-5)
- (2) Holy Spirit baptism was promised, not commanded. (Matthew 3:11) Water baptism was commanded (Acts 10:48) for each person who believes the gospel message (Matthew 28:19) and not a promise. However, there is a promise connected with water baptism and that promise is where your sins are cleansed (washed away). (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
- (3) Holy Spirit baptism never washed anyone's sins away.
- (4) Holy Spirit baptism is a figuration baptism because the Holy Spirit is Spirit, not a material substance in which a person can be literally immersed. Water baptism is a literal baptism. (Acts 8:35-38)
- (5) Holy Spirit baptism was given to the apostles for the express purpose of revealing and confirming God's truth preached through signs/miracles. (John 16:13; I Corinthians 2:10; Hebrews 2:3-4)

(6) Baptism of the Holy Spirit was never commanded for all people but promised to the apostles (Acts 1:1-8). Holy Spirit baptism was sent upon Cornelius (a Gentile) to show Peter (an apostle) and the Jews with him that the door to salvation was open for the Gentiles. (Acts 10:45-48; Acts 11:15-16)

(7) Holy Spirit baptism never made anyone leap about, fall down or act in some wild, uncontrollable way or speak in a babbling tongue. (Acts 2:2-12; I Corinthians 14:32-33)

Be good students of God's word. Look for the truth and pay close attention to what is being spoken. Jesus declared to those apostles to baptize (immerse) people into the name of Jesus Christ (Mark 16:15-16) and it would be these who came by faith to be washed and raised up by God to a new person (Colossians 2:12). Think about it!!!

*Brent*