

# BAPTISM OF FIRE

## THREE BAPTISMS

(Luke 3:15-17 NIV) "The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. {16} John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. {17} His winnowing fork is in his hand to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his barn, but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

### Water Baptism

Repentance "Dunked"	Salvation	Spiritually Alive	Spirit Inside
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### H.S. Baptism

Yieldedness "Move"	Empower, Counsel, Guidance	Spirit Led	Spirit Upon
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### Fire Baptism

Radical Obedience

## What does "Fire" mean

### "Fire" in the New Testament – Tribulation, Refining, Testing,

(1 Pet 1:6-7 NIV) "In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. {7} These have come so that your faith--of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire--may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed."

(1 Pet 4:12-14 NASB) "Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery **(the setting on fire) among you, which comes upon you for your testing,** as though some strange thing were happening to you; {13} but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing; so that also at the revelation of His glory, you may rejoice with exultation. {14} If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, **because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you.**"

## NOW IN THIS TIME, GOD IS NOT MAKING HIS CHURCH COMFORTABLE

### We are being prepared for a time that is coming...

- For the remnant church – we are in training
- He does not want us to be soft and whiney
- He is making us mean and lean and focused
- He is weaning us from all of our dependancies
- He is teaching us to truly trust him – no matter what the outward circumstances
- He is teaching us to live on the Joy that is in His presence – not the pursuit of happiness
- He is training us not to live on feelings – but to operate in obedience no matter what is going on around us...
  - o This is the baptism of fire...

## **Baptism in the New Testament**

**Baptism refer to “an immersion in..” or “to be saturated by..” = AN EVENT**

WATER BAPTISM = Jesus followers were first baptized in water for the remission of sin.

- Prerequisite - Repentance from sins, turning away from self-life
- Water Event = Saturated with Water (Public)
- Result - Spiritually Alive = Salvation, Freedom from Carnality
- WHAT HAPPENS = Rom 6:3-4 (NIV) Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? [4] We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.
- WHAT IS THE RESULT = Luke 7:29-30 (NIV) (All the people, even the tax collectors, when they heard Jesus' words, acknowledged that God's way was right, because they had been baptized by John. [30] But the Pharisees and the experts in the law rejected God's purpose for themselves, because they had not been baptized by John.)

SPIRIT BAPTISM = Jesus followers were baptized in the Holy Spirit as they wait upon the Lord)

- Prerequisite - Yielded to God, Waiting upon the Lord
- Wind Event = Saturated with the Spirit of God (Spirit in Greek means “Breath”)
- Result = Spiritually led = Empowered, Guidance, Comfort
- WHAT HAPPENS
  - o Act 1:8 (NKJV) But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me ...
  - o Jhn 16:13 (NKJV) However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.
- WHAT IS THE RESULT = Gal 5:16-23 (NIV) So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh... [18] But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law... [22] But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

In both of these instances we see that baptism means...

1. AN EVENT - a literal event (can happen more than once)
2. A SATURATION - “immersed in.. or saturated with” (water, Spirit)
3. A CHANGE IN SPIRITUAL CONDITION

Baptisms can happen more than once to the same person.

- Paul re-baptizes believers in water at Ephesus in Acts 19: 1-5
- The disciples were re-baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts 4:31.

### **Conclusions:**

The Bible reveals that

1. Jesus will baptize his disciples with the Holy Spirit and with Fire
2. Fire often means trial or persecution in the context of the New Testament
3. Baptism refers to an event or events that describe “an immersion in..” or “to be saturated by..”
4. Baptisms can happen more than once to the same person.

## **THE BAPTISM OF FIRE – What does the Bible say about the Baptism of Fire**

Paul taught the Philippians – Believe and Suffer for Jesus

(Phil 1:29 NASB) "For to you it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake,"

Jesus talks about HIS BAPTISM (He already had been baptized in Water and Spirit) t

(Mark 10:37-39 NIV) "They replied, "Let one of us sit at your right and the other at your left in your glory." {38} "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said. "**Can you drink the cup I drink or be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with?**" {39} "We can," they answered. Jesus said to them, "**You will drink the cup I drink and be baptized with the baptism I am baptized with,**"

Jesus in the Garden – HIS “CUP”

(Mat 26:39,42 NIV) "Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, may **this cup** be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will." .....{42} He went away a second time and prayed, "My Father, if it is not possible for **this cup** to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.""

- The CUP that He had to drink = Death on a cross
- The BAPTISM that he had to endure = Death on a cross

Jesus made perfect by Suffering

- Heb 5:7-10 (NIV) During the days of Jesus' life on earth, he offered up prayers and petitions with fervent cries and tears to the one who could save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. [8] **Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered** [9] and, **once made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him** [10] and was designated by God to be high priest in the order of Melchizedek.
  - Jesus REVEALED what it looks like to BE COMPLETELY OBEDIENT
  - Jesus was MADE PERFECT by His baptism of Fire
  - Jesus BECAME the SOURCE OF ETERNAL SALVATION

Jesus teaching on Suffering

- Jhn 15:18-20 (NKJV) "If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you. [19] If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I **chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.** [20] Remember the word that I said to you, '**A servant is not greater than his master.**' **If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you. If they kept My word, they will keep yours also.**

Peter's comment on Suffering...

- 1Pe 2:19 (NIV) For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God.

The Disciples disposition on Suffering

- Paul's Declaration...(1 Cor 15:31 NIV) "I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- 2Th 1:3-5 (NIV) We ought always to thank God for you, brothers and sisters, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love all of you have for one another is increasing. [4] Therefore, among God's churches **we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring.** [5] **All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.**
  - o Suffering for the Kingdom of God is considered a mark of Honor
- 2Ti 2:11-13 (NKJV) This is a faithful saying: **For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. [12] If we suffer with Him, We shall also reign with Him.** If we deny Him, He also will deny us. [13] If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.
- Act 5:40-42 (NKJV) And they agreed with him, and when they had called for the apostles and beaten them, they commanded that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go. [41] **So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.** [42] And daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ.
  - o In Nations where Christians are persecuted
    - Prayer; "Give us the privilege of suffering for the name of Jesus!"

#### OUR CROSS...

(Luke 9:23-24 NIV) "Then he said to them all: **"If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.** {24} For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will save it."

#### What Causes the Baptism of Fire...

- 2Ti 3:12 (NKJV) Yes, and **all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.**

#### Description of NORMAL CHRISTIAN LIVING = includes Testing/ Purging/ Refining

##### Cutting/ Pruning

- John 15:2 (NIV) He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful.
  - o If NO fruit is produced, the branch is REMOVED
    - God gets rid of parts of our lives that DO NOT BEAR FRUIT
  - o If SOME fruit is produced, he PRUNES it
    - God prunes parts of our lives that BEAR SOME FRUIT

#### THE FIRE OF REFINING TESTS EVERY WORK...

- 1 Cor 3:12-15 NIV "For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. [12] **"If any man builds on this foundation** using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, {13} **his work will be shown for what it is,** because the Day will bring it to light. **It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each man's work.** {14} If what he has built survives, he will receive his reward. {15} **If it is burned up, he will suffer loss; he himself will be saved, but only as one escaping through the flames.**"
  - o The Fire of God will test every persons work that is built on the Foundation of Jesus
    - Destroy what is Carnal = Wood, hay, straw...
    - Refine what is Spiritual =Gold, Silver
  - o The baptism of fire is brought upon FOLLOWERS OF JESUS to test, refine and purify "what they have built."

- The fruit of our lives, Lifestyle

The BAPTISM OF FIRE is AN EVENT (or series of events)

- TESTING - Tests the Lordship of Jesus vs. The Lordship of Self
- REFINING - A process of purging and refining by God to make us vessels fit for His use.
  - That is, to make us an effective representative of Himself in the world.
- Jesus is the Baptizer – He is the one who baptizes His followers with Fire
- Baptism refers to an event or events that describe “an immersion in..” or “to be saturated by..”
  - Baptisms can happen more than once to the same person.

FIRE BAPTISM = Jesus followers were baptized in Fire of suffering as they lived in radical obedience

- Prerequisite – Radical Obedience, Living like Jesus
- Fire Event/s = Persecution, Hardship
- Result = Spiritually perfected – transformed into the image & calling of Jesus
- WHAT HAPPENS
  - Jas 1:2-4 (NIV) Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, **whenever you face trials of many kinds**, [3] because you know that the **testing of your faith produces perseverance**. [4] **Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.**
- WHAT IS THE RESULT
  - 2Ti 2:11-13 (NKJV) This is a faithful saying: **For if we died with Him, We shall also live with Him. [12] If we suffer with Him, We shall also reign with Him.** If we deny Him, He also will deny us. [13] If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.

Eric Metaxas has written a provocative book “Letter to the American Church”

- IN THIS BOOK
  - Metaxas assumes a prophetic role—he asserts that the American Church is committing the same mistakes in the 2020s as the German church did in the 1930s.
- Very few believers in Germany Stood up for righteousness against the sins of the Third Reich
  - Believers were silence and went along with the evil in the culture
  - People who did not agree with the brutalism were harshly persecuted
    - Most did not choose the baptism of Fire
    - They did not live godly lives....
  - A sterling example was Corrie Ten Boom
- By not BEING THE CHURCH they facilitated the shedding of innocent blood

We are currently in a similar situation

- We are ashamed to be salt and light in the world
- Our Culture is forcing us to be silent, to refrain from loving,
  - We all run away from those who are being persecuted
  - We do not support and stand with those

What is the Lord saying to you about His Baptism with Fire?

- Have you been turning away from his plan to refine you
  - “I can’t be a follower of Jesus at work... I will be fired”