

## Two baptisms... to seal and to empower

Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-48

### **Peter and John in Samaria**

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw. 14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the LORD Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:12-17 – NLT).

As people believed they were baptized in water

- baptism was based on belief (v. 12)

Peter and John ministered the baptism of the Holy Spirit (v. 15-17)

- John was one of the "sons of thunder" who asked Jesus...  
...to call down fire from heaven to destroy Samaria (Luke 9:51-56)
- Instead of praying for fire from heaven to destroy...  
...they pray for fire from heaven to empower - the Holy Spirit (v. 15-17)

The believers in Samaria had received water baptism but something was missing...

...the Baptism of the Holy Spirit had to be added (v. 16)

### **Peter and Cornelius**

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days (Acts 10:44-48 – NLT).

Their prejudice did not allow them to see certain spiritual truths (v. 45)...

...that limited the spread of the Kingdom of God

Those who heard the message received the baptism of the Holy Spirit...

...a sign that they could receive water baptism

Two stories from the book of Acts involving Peter

- Two distinct experiences with different purposes

## Water baptism AND the baptism in the Holy Spirit

- Seals the believer
- Empowers the believer

### Baptism of Jesus

13 Then Jesus went from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. 14 But John didn't want to baptize him. "I am the one who needs to be baptized by you," he said, "so why are you coming to me?" 15 But Jesus said, "It must be done, because we must do everything that is right." So then John baptized him. 16 After his baptism, as Jesus came up out of the water, the heavens were opened and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and settling on him. 17 And a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, and I am fully pleased with him (Matthew 3:13-17 – NLT)."

1. Publicly identify with God
2. God's seal of approval - being sealed BY God
3. Blameless before God (Acts 22:16 - NLT)
4. Obedient to God (v. 15)
5. Initiation for ministry
6. Baptism is part of the salvation process
7. It's not a matter of what you know... it's who you know!

### Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Choose to be open to the Holy Spirit  
Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you (Ephesians 5:18 – NLT).
2. Allow the Holy Spirit to work freely in your life  
Those who are dominated by the sinful nature think about sinful things, but those who are controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please the Spirit (Romans 8:5 – NLT).
3. Receive the Holy Spirit as a gift from Jesus  
John the Baptists prophesied: "I baptize with water those who turn from their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am -- so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11 – NLT)."
4. Receive the Holy Spirit as a gift from the Father  
Jesus taught on insistence in our prayer life If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him (Luke 11:13 – NLT)."
5. Be led by the Holy Spirit  
For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God (Romans 8:14 – NLT).