

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire”

Read Matthew 3:11-12

Who was John the Baptist addressing in Matthew 3?

What is the meaning of verse 12?

If Jesus didn't baptize people during his three years of ministry on earth, what was John the Baptist referring to?

The day of Pentecost in Acts 2 was the beginning of the fulfillment of John the Baptist's prophetic declaration about Jesus baptizing his followers with/in the Holy Spirit. Remember, the Holy Spirit is as much God as the Father and the Son are God.

Read Acts 1:4-5 Jesus, through the supernatural work of the Holy Spirit, was about to “initiate” his followers to replicate himself through supernatural words and works – signs and wonders – in order to build his church and cause his Kingdom to expand everywhere he sent his followers. The mandate Jesus gave to his disciples in Matthew 28:18-20 can only be accomplished with the supernatural empowering given to his called, willing and obedient followers. If you are a follower of Jesus, you are meant to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, empowering you to fulfill your calling and mission in God's Kingdom.

From the day of Pentecost until today the baptism of the Holy Spirit has included, but is not limited to: speaking in tongues, prophesying, coming under the weight of God's glory causing the inability to stand, extreme heat sensation, open visions of heaven/future, extreme joy/laughter, weeping. These baptisms may vary from person to person but one common element is that people experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit are changed and empowered to serve God with renewed passion.

In his book, BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT: GOD'S PRESENCE RESTING UPON YOU WITH POWER, Randy Clark offers 3 requisite conditions for experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1. Awareness of personal inadequacy in your Christian Life - John 3:3
2. Desire for your personal condition to change – Matthew 5:6
3. Desire for your life to honor God and be used in his service for his glory – 2 Peter 1:3-4

Share any testimonies of experiencing the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Pray for one another in your Life Group for God to be baptized by the Holy Spirit and to continue to teach you the things of the Holy Spirit.

