



Scriptures and Doctrine :: Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit ?

Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit ? - posted by narrowpath, on: 2021/5/3 14:15

Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit after John's baptism?

We had a discussion in our fellowship about this question. Scholars are divided about this topic.

Most agree that that Jesus was born of the Spirit and into human flesh. He was undefiled by sin did not need to undergo a baptism of repentance for sins, but he underwent the same water baptism as repentant sinners did to fulfil all righteousness - Matthew 3:15 so that he would be made one with us who were born into sin.

But what happened afterwards when he came out of the water? Was Jesus baptized with the Spirit just as the disciples were at Pentecost? Was that a foretaste of Pentecost? We read:

Matthew 3:16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:

Here is where theologians are divided:

Some say, how can Jesus be again filled with the Holy Spirit when he was already born of the Spirit and lived a sinless life? Wasn't it just an anointing for service like the anointing of kings and priests? Was it not a mere witness to bystanders rather than a heavenly transaction?

That would incline that Jesus was not really in the similitude of man, but had something like a head start, an immunity against sin because of his godly nature. That would mean that he was sinless because his divine nature granted him perfection.

I do believe that Jesus, though very God, was made like us in every way. He overcame not because his divine nature exempted him from the need of overcoming but it was rather that he had to learn obedience and experience suffering and temptation as the son of man to bring us to glory.

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

10 For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

The answer of this question "Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit" is crucial because it determines how we should view our need of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

I believe, Jesus, though son of God, born of the Spirit could not enter ministry before he was baptised with the Spirit from above ALTHOUGH he was already in him. He received the baptism of the Holy Spirit as the son of man. The Spirit came upon him as a dove, peaceful and gently, and the voice from heaven assured him and the bystanders, that he was the beloved Son of God.

Satan would not have wasted his energy to tempt Jesus, if his divine nature already assured him the victory. He tempted him because he was vulnerable through his human nature that was in the similitude of Adam, who caused to fall.

The disciples at Pentecost received the Holy Spirit with tongues of fire, because the Refiners fire had to burn in them for sanctification.

So I conclude that Jesus did not only undergo water baptism as if he was a repentant sinner who was in need of it but also Spirit baptism as any other believer with human flesh. If that is the case then I would argue that if Jesus needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then how much more we poor sinners!! My frustration is that quoting scripture is of no avail to those who do not see it, unless the Spirit Himself shed light on this truth. I do not want to win an argument but long to see powerless dear believers filled with the Spirit of God from above!

I searched through the writings of the divines and found a very illuminating chapter from Andrew Murray's book

Any advice?

Re: Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit ? - posted by TMK (), on: 2021/5/3 15:42

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil.
Matthew 4:1

Re: - posted by dolfan (), on: 2021/5/3 23:31

I think "baptism" and "filled with" are to be distinguished in this context. This is not to say more about Spirit baptism of believers after the apostles were dead. But, "baptism" as in Pentecost carries a specific prophetic significance that is distinct from Jesus'™ divine nature/hypostasis/fullness of the Spirit.

Paul wrote in Colossians 2 that in Jesus "dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily". If He wasn't™t "fully God" at birth, we have a problem. Thankfully, the Scripture teaches that He was. John 1:14; Philippians 2.

Jesus was full of the Spirit. He was always so. His essence was and is unchanged. Heb. 13:8. He was not "baptized" in the Holy Spirit. In fact, He is the one who baptizes with the Spirit. Matthew 3:11, Luke 3:16.

Re: Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit ? - posted by Sree (), on: 2021/5/4 0:18

I agree with your understanding of Jesus. I think many reject the Baptism of Holy Spirit experience that Jesus had because their theology also rejects baptism of Holy Spirit for believers as well. TO them there is only one blessing nothing more to look for.

Jesus was born filled with the Holy Spirit. But his calling at that time was to live a sinless life without any ministry. This can be compared to a cup filled with water but it is still full even though it is just a cup. But at 30 years when he was baptized by John, Jesus received an extended ministry which increased his need for Holy Spirit. Now the capacity was increased from a cup to a well (or even a Dam). Hence God had to baptize him to fill this new capacity for him to fulfill this ministry.

So Jesus both before and after the baptism of Holy Spirit was full of the Holy Spirit but only capacity of the vessel that was full was different.

Re: - posted by CofG (), on: 2021/5/5 7:54

John 17:22

The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one,

Re: - posted by nathan7 (), on: 2021/5/6 0:57

Actually it's not that there's only "baptism of the Holy Spirit" or "nothing more to look for".

Many who don't hold to a baptism of the Holy Spirit believe that there is still a need for believers to cry out for a greater manifestation of the Spirit's power in their lives and are to be filled with His Spirit i.e. Paul Washer, Matthew Henry, Charles Spurgeon and so on.

Re: Was Jesus baptized with the Holy Spirit ? - posted by Lysa (), on: 2021/5/6 18:42

Mark 5:41 - And taking the child by the hand, he saith unto her, Talitha cumi; which is, being interpreted, Damsel, I say unto thee, Arise.

I always heard that you interpret 'tongues' but translate languages. Some versions to say translate but just as many say "interpret."

Being the son of the Living God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, why would He make available something He never partook of? That is not logical.

God bless,
Lisa

Re: - posted by narrowpath, on: 2021/5/7 1:09

(Being the son of the Living God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, why would He make available something He never partook of? That is not logical.)

You nailed it!