



The Nuts and Bolts of Ministering Spirit Baptism Part Four

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Misconception #4: Who

This final reoccurring misconception has to do with the minister's self-concept. Many fall into the trap of believing they need a special gift to minister Spirit baptism — a gift they don't think they possess. Nothing could be further from the truth; only Jesus can baptize in the Holy Spirit.

It is true God gives unique spiritual passions to individuals and that special levels of faith can be cultivated for any area of ministry (evangelism, healing, compassion ministries, Spirit baptism, etc.). However, in ministering Spirit baptism — just as in witnessing — we merely present the truth and guide the way, but Jesus does the supernatural part. He always does the hard part. Like any spiritual process, you will become more at ease as you gain more experience.

The premise of our ministry is simply, "Jesus wants to." Jesus wants to save; Jesus wants to fill; Jesus wants to heal and restore. When you are firmly convinced that Jesus wants to fill people with His Spirit, you realize He will — as in every other area of ministry — supply what you lack to get the job done. He is the One with the special gift!

I mentioned that a special level of faith could be cultivated in this area. Let me explain. When I was first Spirit baptized at age twelve, I couldn't imagine why anyone else wouldn't want to receive it too. I began praying for all of my friends — and a few strangers — to receive the gift. In my zeal, God was gracious as some were filled; however, many were not. This was most likely due to my inexperience. Out of frustration I stumbled upon a prayer request that has since become a heartfelt fixture in my devotional life, "Father, give me the faith to believe that everyone I pray for will receive this gift." I'm not sure how it works exactly, but I've discovered that when you ask anything according to God's will, He hears you. Why not ask Him? Since you know that Jesus wants to baptize believers, why not partner with Him and give Him the opportunity to empower you with a greater level of faith? Why don't you pause and ask Him right now?

If you're still convinced there is a special gift necessary to minister Spirit baptism, why don't you ask God to give it to you?

Now that we've looked at some of the most common misconceptions, let's move on to the actual process of ministering Spirit baptism.

This article was excerpted from *Helping Others Receive the Gift*, compiled and edited by Tim Enloe.

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