First Love Ministries, Inc.
623 Pine Ridge Street
Perry, Georgia 31069

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Studies on God the Holy Spirit and The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Starting 2023

Name_____

Friends, don't get me wrong. By no means to I count myself as an expert in all of this, but I've got my eyes on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward to Jesus. I'm off and running, and I'm not turning back.

The Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13-14 (The Message Bible

Dedication

I dedicate this study to the one who taught me more about the Holy Spirit, both by his Bible teaching and his ministry to others and his life style, than any man, my spiritual father, Don Van Hoozier, who was pastor of High Point Church in Macon for over 50 years. I have seen him operate in all 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit and in all the 5 ministry offices of Ephesians 4:11. I have seen this in no other. He was as gifted a man as I have ever known.

Yet he shunned recognition, saying, "When they are talking about me, they are not talking about Jesus!" He published most of his works without his name as the author, and while he was friends with such well-known men as Derek Prince, Leonard Ravenhill, Bob Jones and Arthur Burt and others, he never sought fame or the recognition of men.

He was a Baptist pastor and remained one all his life, even though he received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and was shunned by all the Southern Baptist pastors in the area, until late in his life when some came back to him to find out the secret of his powerful ministry that included dramatic healings, setting the captives free, and anointed teaching and preaching. He also was an anointed musician and could have been a concert pianist. A Tennessee native, he attended college at Wheaton College and at the Moody Bible Institute and was friends with some of the Ecuadorean martyrs, such as Nate Saint and Jim Elliot.

Much of what you will learn in this length study are things that Brother Don taught me, some of which are his actual words and writings, and I want to give him credit when they are his writings but cannot always remember who said what, because he taught me these things 50 years ago. He was a man who spent hours in prayer, received and counseled whosoever came, whether they were a member of his church or not, and walked in great faith. He treated me like a son, and I loved him dearly. I did not care if he knew my deepest, darkest sin, because I knew he would love me anyway. To him I dedicate this study.

WE BELIEVE:

1. That the Father God is God the Father, Jesus is God the Son, and the Holy Spirit is God the Holy Spirit,
2. That there is absolutely *no* other by whom a person can be saved and go to heaven except through accepting Jesus as Lord and Christ,
3. That the Blood of Jesus washes us clean when the Holy Spirit baptizes us into His Blood, whether we see or feel this baptism into the faith or not, at the time of our salvation,
4. That the Word of God is inerrant and in the original Greek and Hebrew without error of any kind and was written by men as the Holy Spirit gave utterance,
5. That the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for TODAY, is a different and subsequent to the born-again experience and will be available for all those who accept this experience by faith and will be needed, until Jesus comes, by those who want power to be His witnesses,
6. That Jesus is ALIVE and sits at the right hand of God the Father in Heaven making intercession for us,
7. That healing and deliverance are for today and available for every believer,
8. That the Word works and should be the foundation of every teaching and doctrine,
9. That the chief characteristic of God is Agape Love,
10. That Jesus is coming again soon.

Syllabus for 'THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT" Study

First Love Ministries, Inc.
623 Pine Ridge Street
Perry, Georgia 31069

Our First Love Is JESUS!

CONTACT: charliegwalker@juno.com

Lesson One: **Introduction and Personal Testimony**
Lesson Two: **The Doctrine of Baptisms: Six Different Baptisms in the New Testament**
Lesson Three: **Personal Testimonies of Famous Christians Concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Four: **The Personality of the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Five: **Symbols of the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Six: **Names and Titles of the Holy Spirit in Scripture and Scriptural Proof for the Deity of the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Seven: **Different Manifestations of The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament from His Manifestations in the New: The Holy Spirit Temporarily *UPON* differing from the Holy Spirit Permanently Remaining *WITHIN***
Lesson Eight: **The Difference Between the Natural, Carnal, and Spirit-Baptized Person**
Lesson Nine: **Why Study the Holy Spirit?**
Lesson Ten: **The Work of the Holy Spirit by Don Van Hoozier: Part One**
Lesson Eleven: **The Work of the Holy Spirit by Don Van Hoozier: Part Two**
Lesson Twelve: **The Effect of the Holy Spirit Baptism on the Apostles**
Lesson Thirteen: **Are the Born Again Experience and the Baptism in the Holy Spirit the Same or Two Separate Works**
Lesson Fourteen: **Did the Baptism of the Holy Spirit End at the End of The New Testament Period at the Death of All the New Testament Apostles and canonization of Scripture?**

Lesson Fifteen: **Some of the Biblical Persons Filled with the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Sixteen: **"How to Have a Personal Pentecost" by Ernest B. Gentile**
Lesson Seventeen: **How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Eighteen: **How to Recognize a Holy Spirit-Empowered Church**
Lesson Nineteen: **What May Happen After You Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Twenty: **A Counterfeit Holy Spirit**
Lesson Twenty-One: **Modern Day Testimony of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit by Jay Atkinson of *The Latter Rain Ministry*.**
Lesson Twenty-Two: **The Gifts of the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Twenty-Three: **Classification of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Twenty-Four: **Signs and Wonders and the Pattern Son by Harold Horton in *The Gifts of the Spirit***
Lesson Twenty-Five: **Supernatural Manifestations: True or False-A summary of the writings of Dr. Paul King of Oral Roberts University in a work entitled *"Supernatural Manifestations in the Evangelical and Holiness Revival Movements"***
Lesson Twenty-Six: **Gifts of Revelation (Think like God): Word of Wisdom, Word of Knowledge, and Discerning of Spirits**
Lesson Twenty-Seven: **More on Discerning of Spirits: Spirits of God, Demonic Spirits, and Specifically Familiar Spirits**
Lesson Twenty-Eight: **Gifts of Power (Act like God): Gift of Faith, Working of Miracles, and Gifts of Healing**
Lesson Twenty-Nine: **Gifts of Inspiration (Talk like God): Prophecy, Divers Kinds of Tongues, Interpretation of Tongues**
Lesson Thirty: **More on Tongues**
Lesson Thirty-One: **A Closer Look at Prophecy and Why We Do Not Stone False Prophets Today**
Lesson Thirty-Two: **The Fruit of the Spirit**

Lesson Thirty-Three: **Staying Filled with the Spirit and Walking in the Fullness**
Lesson Thirty-Four: **The Importance of the Baptism in the Spirit for Spiritual Warfare in the Last Days**
Lesson Thirty-Five: **Grieving and Quenching the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Thirty-Six: **Blasphemy Against the Holy Spirit, the Only Unpardonable Sin, and Other Sins Against the Spirit**
Lesson Thirty-Seven: **The Power of the Spirit-Baptized Believer's Prayer Life**
Lesson Thirty-Eight: **The Close Relationship Between Jesus and the Holy Spirit**
Lesson Thirty-Nine: **"The Messiah and the Spirit" by Dwight A. Pryor From *The Center for Judaic-Christian Studies***
Lesson Forty: **The Holy Spirit, Consecration, Justification, Sanctification, and the Narrow Way**
Lesson Forty-One: **Being Slain in the Spirit**
Lesson Forty-Two: **Why is the American Church Content to Live without the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?**
Lesson Forty-Three: **Let's Go Up to Zion!**
Lesson Forty-Four: **God's Church in this Hour**
Lesson Forty-Five: **The Lord Warns Us Not to be Ignorant of Four Things**
Lesson Forty-Six: "**Nine Charismatic Habits We Need to Break" by Lee Grady**
Lesson Forty-Seven: **Spirits that, I believe, Especially Hate Spirit-Baptized People: Python, Leviathan, Jezebel and Other Demonic Spirits**
Lesson Forty-Eight: **"Thirty-Three Things the Holy Spirit Does" from May 2013 Charisma Magazine**
Lesson Forty-Nine: **"A Remnant is Rising in the Land" by Robert Stearns**
Lesson Fifty: **Conclusion of *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit* Study**

LESSON ONE

Introduction to the Baptism in the Holy Spirit Course

And be not drunk with wine, in which is excess, but be filled with the Spirit....

Ephesians 5:18-21

"It changed everything. I went from being a weak, milk-fed Christian to a radical, on-fire believer who couldn't stop reading his Bible and inserting Christ into conversations with my friends. The best part is I wasn't trying to be a 'good Christian!' I was simply being myself and allowing the Spirit into my heart, my mind and my life. I surrendered all that I'd heard about the Spirit so that I could experience the adventure of God's presence in my life."

Chris Hodges in *Rethinking What You Know about the Holy Spirit*
November 2012 Charisma Magazine

I am not a theologian nor a Biblical scholar. I have never been to seminary. I cannot speak or interpret Greek or Hebrew, although I do know how to use a *Strong's Concordance.* Back around 1070 I took off my denominational glasses and began to look at what scripture-not pastors or theologians or lay people-has to say on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. My study and over 50 years of ministry and participation in ministry groups has led me to my present conclusions. I realize that none of us has all the truth, that *now we see through a glass dimly*, according to 1st Corinthians 13:12, and I am not sure that all of my opinions are valid, although I have tried to stick with Biblical truth as the foundation of *all* that I believe. One of the foundations of my own ministry is this: The prophetic Word of God is inerrant and the infallible Word of God written by men as the Holy Spirit spoke to them what to write (2nd Peter 1:21: "...*for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God*

spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.") I believe wholeheartedly, if the Bible, in the original Hebrew and Greek, *says it*, it is true.

I came out of a good church, one whose historical beginnings emphasized holiness and a Gospel very open to the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit. Yet the modern church version of the church I grew up in had begun to lose some of its Biblical moorings, and is in crisis today because of that. I never remember hearing any teaching on the Holy Spirit, and certainly, more specifically, on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. This denomination was grappling with the social issues of the day, and the emphasis was on making good choice from a situational ethics, as opposed to a Biblical point of view.

Now I want you to be clear that I have no offense towards my former church. This church laid some good foundational truth in my life. It taught me about Jesus and about living a Christian life style. It also taught me that no one had all the truth, and that there would be more people in heaven than just those of my denominational label. In fact, this latter doctrine was one of the greatest strengths of this church, and one of its greatest weaknesses, as while it was accepting of other denominations, it increasingly also began to allow things that were not scriptural to creep in.

Nonetheless, this church did not teach against the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It just did not seem to know it was available, and I just did not know it even existed. That was until I meet my friend Marion. She was a born-again Baptist who was sovereignly and somewhat secretively baptized in the Holy Spirit, sitting in her church in Mobile, Alabama. She even had a double first cousin who was a Baptist missionary. This cousin told her that all the Baptist missionaries she knew spoke in tongues but just did not publicize it because it was against denominational teaching at that time. The plan of the Lord for Marion's life brought her and her family to Perry, Georgia. Her son became my best friend in late high school and college so I spent many hours in her home.

Marion was bold and sometimes loud and very forward and not intimidated by anyone. Some people say that those baptized in the Spirit

need to be locked up for at least six months because they are so excited about what the Lord has done for them. Marion never lost this excitement and wanted everyone to know about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. I, on the other hand, was quiet, soft spoken, and shy. I guess opposites attract because we soon became very close friends and spent many hours praying together and with others, such as our friend Martha Pearson. Marion continued to stay in the Baptist Church, and I stayed in my church.

One night my friend George called in desperation from college. Every time he had a major test, he broke out in hives. His case was one of the worst I have seen, and even his eyes would close up from the swelling. This would prevent him from studying and from going to class to take the test. He had stayed out for a quarter already, trying to find relief and even went to Emory and other places, searching for relief. But there was not the knowledge in the late sixties and early seventies about his condition nor medicines to relieve the symptoms that exists today. This particular night was kind of George's last straw. He could not continue in college with this condition.

It just so happened that Marion and her husband George were having a cottage prayer meeting and had invited a young Pentecostal evangelist, Terry Batten and his wife Joyce, from Alabama, to come and minister. I called Marion to ask for prayer for George. She asked me to come and sit in proxy for George who was over 100 miles away. I was scared of "those kind" of people, and said, "No! I think the Lord can move without me coming there and sitting in proxy, and I have things to do anyway." After I hung up, the Lord began to gently convict me, and the Holy Spirit, who comes into our hearts when we truly invite Jesus to be our Lord and Savior, began to speak to me, asking me if my love for George was really real. Feeling much conviction and loving my friend, I finally rode across town to Marion's house and sheepishly knocked on the door. I was almost immediately thrust into the middle of a circle where the group prayed over me, not only for George to be healed but also for me to receive the baptism. They did not push me to stay and allowed me to

leave after the prayer, without insisting on any sign gift, and at the time I did not speak in tongues.

That night, however, my life changed, and George, one hundred miles away in another state, was healed. As far as I know, his healing was manifested immediately, and he never had a serious attack of hives again. This experience was only my beginning. It was much later that I spoke in tongues in the privacy of my bedroom and was greatly encouraged to step into the things of the Holy Spirit by a dear friend, of all things, a Baptist music minister.

What did the Baptism do for me? First, it electrified my prayer and Bible reading and study. I could hardly wait to study the Word each day, and I sometimes had to literally shut off my prayers because there was so much on my heart to pray for. I had a new burden for lost people, and I began to see the power in me to minister to the broken, the addicted, the possessed, the sick, the rejected, and the downcast. The deep longing for more intimacy and time with Jesus made me know that this experience was very real. I had a new power I me. I now know that power was the *dunamis* power of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit began to speak to me on a regular basis. I began to long for every born again Christian to receive this same baptism! Thus began a new journey of ministry for me, a ministry that I have been in for over 50 years now.

An organization, Women's Aglow, was very instrumental in my early days of walking in the Spirit, as I was asked to be an adviser to the area board of this group, and all the speakers and ministers who came to these meetings were spirit-baptized. I also got connected to two men, Don Van Hoozier and Ken Gore, at High Point Church who spent much time teaching me and demonstrating life in the Spirit, and I met many others, who lived the *Holy Spirit Baptized Life* in front of me and helped me learn *walking in the Spirit*.

When we finish this course, you will have a booklet of hundreds of pages. I am trying to use a format that lends itself to you taking these materials into churches and prisons and ministry groups sharing these studies on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Body of Christ is much

more aware of the Baptism today that it was when I received. Many in mainline denominations, however, are still vehemently against and ignorant about many of the aspects of the Holy Spirit that we will cover in this course. Some of the topics will be controversial but backed by scripture. You can, of course, use these materials without permission and free of charge. I ask that you not charge those whom you teach using these materials, and I ask that you give those cited, not me, credit for their work. It is not necessary to cite me, and in most cases, anything that does not have an author by it, is my own words and work, but you can use it as your own, as far as I care. Ultimately, if it is scripturally based, it is all God's word anyway! My prayer is that this study will greatly bless and enrich your life and lead you to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, if you have not already received.

LESSON TWO
The Biblical Doctrine of Baptisms

*"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the **doctrine of baptisms**, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."*

Hebrews 6:1-2

*"There is one body, and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, **one baptism**; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*

Ephesians 4:4-6

"On the day of Pentecost, the world was given the greatest example of God's power to transform the lives and character of men, so as to make the weak strong and powerful. Pentecost was the pouring out of the 'former rain' (Hosea 6:3) of God's Spirit, just as in these last days there will be an outpouring of the 'latter rain' (James 5:7). By His death on the cross, Jesus made such a great atonement for sin that God could safely pour out His Spirit on all mankind without the universe thinking that He was regarding sin lightly. It was the atonement of Christ, therefore, that purchased this great Pentecostal gift for the world."

James G. Lawson in *Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians*

"Some through the waters, some through the flood, some through the fire, but all through the blood; Some through great sorrow, but God gives a song, in the night season, and all the day long."

George Young

Scripture sometimes seems to contradict itself when we lightly read over passages of the Bible without letting the Holy Spirit teach us and without regarding the context nor the idioms of the Jewish culture. An example of a seemingly contradiction, which can easily be explain, are the passages Hebrews 6:1-2 (*Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment)* and Ephesians 4:4-6 (*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling: one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.)* One scripture talks of the doctrine of baptisms, while the other says there is one baptism.

The baptism in Ephesians 4 is a special baptism that supernaturally happens when someone accepts Jesus in his heart. This is the way that the Greek scholar Rick Renner puts it: "*The Greek word baptidzo originally meant to dip and to dye. A person who comes to Jesus Christ can be likened to an old garment that needs to be dipped into a vat of dye so its color can be changed. However, the person isn't dipped into a vat of colored dye, but into the precious blood of the Lamb!"* This baptism is the baptism into the Body of Christ. There is only one baptism of salvation because *there is only one way* to being born again and that is through accepting Jesus and letting the Holy Spirit dip or baptize you in the blood of Jesus.

The Baptism into the Body of Christ

This baptism in done by the Holy Spirit. John 16:8-11 tells us: *"And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. Of sin, because they believe not on me; of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; of judgment because the prince of this world is judged."* In other words, He, the Holy Spirit, will convict men of sin, convict and convince men that Jesus is the righteousness of God, and convict and

convince men that the power of Satan has been broken. All of this is possible, only because of the Blood of Jesus.

Derek Prince explains the importance of the Blood through these six confessions:

1. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM REDEEMED OUT OF THE HAND OF THE DEVIL.**

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy (Psalm 107:2).

2. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, ALL MY SINS ARE FORGIVEN.**

In whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace…(Ephesians 1:7)

3. **THE BLOOD OF JESUS, GOD'S SON, CONTINUALLY CLEANSES ME FROM ALL SIN.**

But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin (1st John 1:7).

But if we [really] *are living and walking in the Light, as He* [Himself] *is in the Light, we have* [true, unbroken] *fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses (removes) us from all sin and guilt* [keeps us cleansed from sin in all its forms and manifestations]. (1st John 1:7 AMP)

4. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM JUSTIFIED, MADE RIGHTEOUS, JUST AS IF I HAD NEVER SINNED.**

Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we should be saved from wrath through him (Romans 5:9).

5. **THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS, I AM SANCTIFIED-MADE HOLY OR SET APART TO GOD AND SEPARATED FROM THE DEVIL.**

Wherefore, Jesus also, that He might sanctify the people with His own blood, suffered outside the gate (Hebrews 13:12).

6. **MY BODY IS A TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT-REDEEMED, CLEANSED, SANCTIFIED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS. THEREFORE,**

SATAN HAS NO PLACE IN ME, NO POWER OVER ME, THROUGH THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB, JESUS!

What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom ye have of God and ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1st Corinthians 6:19-20).

All Christians must be baptized into the blood of Jesus by the Holy Spirit who draws us to Jesus in order to even be correctly called *Christians.* That is the fundamental law of Christianity. That is the baptism that is referred to in Ephesians 4. Without the Baptism into the Body of Christ, all other baptisms are irrelevant.

OTHER BAPTISMS IN THE WORD

The Baptism of John

John was one of the most unique men in the Bible. While there is no miracle ascribed to John the Baptist, Jesus said of him in Matthew 11:11, ***"…among those born of women there has not risen one greater than John the Baptist…"*** and in Matthew 11:9, ***"But what did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I say to you, and more than a prophet."*** Jesus also referred to John the Baptist as an Elijah. Thus, he was a forerunner preparing the way for the ministry of Jesus to come. We will see in our day, I believe, forerunner ministries that have the call of God on them to prepare the way again for Jesus. This time it will be preparing for the Second Coming when Jesus comes back to rule and to reign. This forerunner ministry will prepare the Bride of Christ to be *a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish* (Ephesians 5:5:27). John made two demands before a person was baptized: repentance and public confession of sins. He refused to baptize the church leaders, the Pharisees and Sadducees because they showed no real desire for a changed life and pridefully thought they had already arrived to a position of holiness above others.

Derek Prince speaks of John's baptism, "Those who sincerely met John's conditions enjoyed a real experience of repentance and forgiveness which was expressed in lives changed for the better. [However] those whom John baptized did not receive abiding, inner peace and victory over sin, made possible only through the full gospel message of Jesus Christ; but their hearts were prepared to receive and respond to the gospel message when it should be proclaimed."

I do not want to downplay John's baptism at all, but it was no longer necessary or even effective after Jesus paid the price for sin with His blood. Then there was no remission of sin except through the blood of Jesus.

John's baptism emphasized repentance, which is not only turning from sin but also *turning to* faith in God. Interestingly, *repent* was not only the first word of John's ministry (Matthew 3:2) but also of Jesus' ministry (Matthew 4:17). Repentance remains one of the six foundational doctrines of the Christian faith. (The others, as seen in Hebrews 6:1-2, are faith toward God, the doctrine of baptisms, laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.)

Christian Water Baptism

Do you know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? We were buried therefore with Him by baptism in to death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in a death like His, we shall certainly be united with Him in a resurrection like His (Romans 6:3-5).

We ,in First Love Ministries, believe in *credobaptism.* In other words we only water baptize people who confess publicly that they were believers in Jesus. We do not baptize babies but do dedicate babies when parents pledge to grow them up in the Christian faith. We go through water baptism for three main reasons. First, we want to publicly say that we are believers and love Jesus. Secondly, we want to remind ourselves that we have been spiritually dead in trespasses

and sins but now are spiritually alive only because of the Holy Spirit leading us to Jesus. Finally, we go through water baptism to follow the Lord's own example and to be obedient to scripture. Fellow believers are eligible to baptize other believers. Water baptism is a symbolic act of dying to self, being buried, and then rising again out of the watery grave alive in Jesus. Colossians 2:13 tell us: *And you were buried with Him in baptism in which you were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead.*

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

I have said many times that I personally believe that Christians who have not had this experience will not make it in the days ahead without falling as a Christian in this wicked world. If you have not had this experience, you are not less of a Christian nor are those who have had the experience more saved than one who has not. But the Holy Spirit gives you the *dunamis* power to overcome *and* to be a witness for Jesus through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Since I am teaching this whole length course on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I won't labor the point here except to say that Jesus baptizes us in the Holy Spirit ,and this baptism is available to everyone who really wants it. It does not make you more mature, but it will change your life and give you the power to be His witness. I would encourage you to pray every day for this baptism and for more of the Holy Spirit in your life. John recognized this baptism when he said in Mark 1:8, *I indeed baptize you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.*

This is what David Wilkerson said about this Baptism experience: *"When you emerge from seeking God, full of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to stand with boldness before fellow workers, family, anyone, and your witness will provoke one of two reactions. They will either cry out, 'What must I do to be saved?' or they will want to kill you! You will speak a word that cuts to the heart. The difference is found in the power of the Holy Spirit."*

The Baptism of Fire

There are three theological opinions about the baptism of fire. 1) Some believe Christians are automatically "baptized with fire" at the same time they are baptized with the Holy Spirit. They cite the "tongues of fire" that came down unto the disciples at Pentecost in Acts 2. The problem with this view is that there is never any mention, in scripture, of fire when other people, besides at Pentecost, received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. 2) Others believe that the context of the scripture indicates that Christians will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but non-believers will be "baptized with fire" (i.e. the "Lake of Fire" in Revelation 20:15) or sent to Hell. The problem with this view is the "Lake of Fire" is never referred to as a "baptism of fire." Most theologians, however ascribed to the 2nd view because it does make sense in the context of Matthew 3:4-12. 3) The third view is that the baptism of fire comes after the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I strongly believe this third view is correct. I see the baptism of fire as both setting spirit-baptized believers on fire to do the ministry and including a refinement, involving trials and tribulations, that will purify these believers. I believe that these believers are His Third Day Church of Hosea 6:1-3-*Come, and let us return unto the LORD; for He hath torn, and He will heal us; He hath smitten, and He will bind us up. After two days will He revive us; in the third day He will raise us up, and we shall live in His sight. Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD; His going forth is prepared as the morning; and He shall come upon us, as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

The Baptism in His Sufferings

This is not a popular baptism in our American church, which is more interested overall in worshiping in a comfortable building and being taught a Gospel that requires no sacrifice. The Baptism in His Sufferings is seldom talked about, and too often those of us who do talk of it don't really understand the cost of this baptism.

James and John, prompted by their mother, come to Jesus and ask to be put in the primary positions in His Kingdom: *Then James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came to Him, saying, "Teacher, we want You to do for us whatever we ask." And He said to them,* ***"What do you want Me to do for you?"*** *They said to Him, "Grant us that we may sit, one on Your right hand and the other on Your left, in Your glory." But Jesus said to them,* ***"You do not know what you ask. Are you able to drink the cup that I drink, and be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with?"*** *They said to Him, "We are able." So Jesus said to them,* ***"You will indeed drink the cup that I drink and with the baptism I am baptized with, you will be baptized; but to sit on My right hand and on My left is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it is prepared"*** Mark 10:35-40.

Paul calls this baptism, *the fellowship of His sufferings.* Philippians 3:8-11 reads: *Yet indeed I count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which if from God by faith, that I may know Him and the power of the resurrection and <u>the fellowship of His sufferings</u>, being conformed to His death, if, by any means I may attain to the resurrection of the dead.*

Jesus said of this baptism in Luke 12:50, ***But I have a baptism to be baptized with and how distressed I am till it is accomplished!"***

This is not a baptism of fire where we go through trials and tribulations, but it is a baptism that identifies us with the crucified Christ. The emphasis is not on *us* and *our* sufferings; it is on Jesus and what He did for us. Among the characteristics of this baptism are the following:

1. **Men will hate you because of the Christian message that you preach:** Luke 6:22-23: ***Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake. Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in heaven, for in like manner their fathers did to the prophets.***

2. **You will be persecuted:** John 15:20: ***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.*** 2nd Timothy 3:12: *Yes, and all those who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*
3. **You will experience shame:** Acts 5:41: *So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name.*
4. **You will suffer:** Philippians 1:29: *For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake.* 1st Peter 4:12-19: *Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy. If you are reproached for the name of Christ, blessed are you, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you. On their part He is blasphemed, but on your part He is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, a thief, an evildoer, or as a busybody in other people's matters. Yet if anyone suffers as a Christian, let him not be ashamed, but let him glorify God in this matter. For the time has come for judgment to begin at the house of God, and if it begins with us first, what will be the end of those who do not obey the gospel of God? Now if the righteous one is scarcely saved, where will the ungodly and the sinner appear? Therefore, let those who suffer according to the will of God commit their souls to Him in doing good, as to a faithful Creator.*
5. **You may be called upon to bear in your body the marks of Jesus Christ:** Galatians 6:17: *From now on let no one trouble you, for I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus.* Paul's physical body permanently showed the scars, the marks, the wounds, and disfigurement of the beatings that he had endured for the Lord Jesus. The word *marks* in this passage is the Greek word *stigmata,*

which means scars. Paul is saying, "If you want to know if I am a follower of Jesus, look at my scars." In 2nd Corinthians 11:24-28 he tells us where these scars came from: *From the Jews five times I received forty stripes minus one. Three times I was beaten with rods; once I was stoned; three times I was shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeys often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of the Gentiles, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and toil, in sleeplessness often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness-besides the other things, what comes upon me daily: my deep concern for all the churches.*

Barclay explains these marks: *Often a master branded his slaves with a mark that showed them to be his. Most probably, what Paul means is that the scars of the things he had suffered for Christ are the brands which show him to be Christ's slave. In the end, it is not his apostolic authority that he uses as a basis of appeal; it is the wounds he sustained for Christ's sake.* **Are you willing to bear in your body the marks of Jesus Christ?** We may well have to answer that question one day either on the mission field or even in a reprobate nation that no longer respects the things of God.

<u>Other Scriptures Dealing with the Baptism into His Sufferings</u>

Hebrews 2:9-10: *But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone. For it was fitting for Him for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.*

Romans 8:16-18: *The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs-heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. For I consider that the sufferings of*

this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

1st Peter 4:1-2: *Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.*

In Summary

1. John's Baptism. Cleansing from Sin**. By John.**
2. Baptism in His Body. Salvation. **By Holy Spirit** into His Blood.
3. Baptism in Water. Dying to Self-*Putting to Death your members and putting on the new man* of Colossians 3 and 2nd Corinthians 5:17. **By any genuine believer**.
4. Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Power. **By Jesus**.
5. Baptism with Fire. Purification. **By Jesus**.
6. Baptism into His Sufferings. Perfection or Maturity in Righteousness. **By Holy Spirit** (?).

As you experience these baptisms, you grow in your relationship with Jesus. Rick Joyner says there are 5 levels of relationship with Jesus:

1. Being Born Again
2. Being a Disciple
3. Being a Bond Slave
4. Being a Friend
5. Being a Son and Daughter

I believe that the more you seek the Lord and experience these baptisms, the more you will solidify your relationship with Him as a son or daughter. All are important, but ultimately I, myself, long to be His son.