

The Book of Acts

Acts 1:4-8

The Baptism of the Spirit

New Covenant Era Blessings

The Promise of the Baptism of the Spirit

Luke 24:36-49, John 1:29

- John the Baptist spoke of a time in the future when the Messiah would baptize folks with the Holy Spirit.
- The resurrected Jesus spoke of a time in the future when the believers would be baptized with the Holy Spirit. *Acts 1:4-5*

The Era of the Spirit

- The era of the Spirit is the New Covenant era that begins at Pentecost.
- The era of the Spirit is the age of belief.
Titus 2:11-12, Galatians 3:21-25, 1 Corinthians 2:14
- The New Covenant era is contrasted with the Old Covenant era, which is the age of unbelief.
Hebrews 8:7-13, John 1:17

Old Covenant Promises of the Era of the Spirit

- Jesus speaks of the promise of the era of the Spirit when he tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and the Spirit to enter the kingdom of God. *John 3:1-8*
- Nicodemus, the great teacher of Israel, should have known that the often-repeated promise of the restoration of Israel was the promise of the coming of the era of belief that Jesus was introducing. *Ezekiel 36:24-38, Ezekiel 11:16-25*
- The promise of the coming of the New Covenant era was spoken of in terms of the restoration of Israel back into the land.

What does the Baptism of the Spirit do?

- In the context of the words of John the Baptist the baptism of the Spirit is the work of Jesus Christ to bring salvation to the real people of God. *Luke 24:36-49, John 1:29*
- To those who were already believers the baptism of the Spirit brought to them the unique working of the Spirit in the New Covenant era.
- Historically, the baptism of the Spirit brought about the age of belief. Practically, it brought about the unique working of the Spirit in the New Covenant era that began at Pentecost.
- In the New Covenant era the baptism of the Spirit is equated with belief. *1 Corinthians 12:3*
- The coming of the Spirit in the New Covenant era refers to the unique benefits that believers have who live this side of Pentecost. *John 14:15-21*

The Work of the Spirit in the life of the Believer: What stays the same?

1. The forgiveness of sins. *Hebrews 10:14, Romans 4:1-12*
2. The new heart. *Hebrews 10:14, James 2:23, Acts 13:21-22*

The Work of the Spirit in the life of the Believer: What is New in the New Covenant era?

With the coming of the New Covenant era comes these unique and new workings of the Holy Spirit that will cause the believer to live a higher quality of life than was available to the believer before Pentecost.