

THE BIBLICAL TERMINOLOGY RELATED TO BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE BOOKS OF LUKE THROUGH ACTS

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Abstract. The Holy Spirit is not just a power or an influence of God, but a Being, just like God the Father. He is not made of “flesh and bone” (Luke 24, 39) and hence cannot be intercepted through the five senses of sight, hearing, smell, touch and taste. The Holy Spirit has at times manifested itself visibly through multiple symbols such as water, the dove, fire, oil and wind. The fact that the Holy Spirit manifested through certain symbols does not imply that He has remained at the level of these symbols; instead, the way in which He is presented in the Bible as a whole as having the traits of a person shows that the Holy Spirit is a divine Person.

The aim of this article is to highlight the manner in which the terminology used in regards to the baptism of the Holy Spirit wholly describes His characteristics. Because the space of this article is limited, we will not refer to all terms which relate to the baptism with the Holy Spirit, but we will limit ourselves to those found in the Lukan writings.

Keywords: baptism, Holy Spirit, the promise, the gift, receiving the Holy Ghost.

Introduction

The Holy Spirit is more than just a power or an influence of God. He is a Being, just like God the Father, respectively God the Son. As such, He is a spirit and therefore cannot be perceived by the humans' five senses.

Although the Holy Spirit was revealed to the people through various symbols (fire, the dove, wind, water, oil), none of those could describe the Holy Spirit in all His grandeur, nor do they diminish His attributes of a divine Person.

According to the descriptions in Holy Scripts, the Holy Spirit has reason, feelings and His own will. Moreover, the Holy Spirit is God, an aspect demonstrated by the fact that He possesses unique features of God (He is omnipotent, omniscient, omnipresent and eternal), as well as the fact that both the Old and the New Testament exchange the phrase “The Spirit said...” with the phrase “The Lord said...” Referring to the basics conducted by the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, it is important to mention that these basics are repentance, the new birth, sanctification and the baptism with the Holy Spirit.