

Recap of 1/31/21 message (Joe Ricchuiti – Acts 1:1-8):

1. Jesus' ministry didn't end at the crucifixion. It didn't end at the resurrection and it didn't end at the ascension. It continues today through His disciples (those who know Christ as Savior) in the power and enablement of the Holy Spirit. Jesus' work continues up to today. Acts chronicles that continuation. The editors of the Bible for Dummies put it this way: "When the book of Acts opens, there are a little over 100 followers of the Way (as Christianity is first called). By the end of Acts [a period of about 30 years], there are thousands of Christians spanning from Judea, the birthplace of this movement, to Rome, and beyond. So how is it that this small movement, begun by an itinerant preacher from the 'backwaters' of the Roman Empire, could eventually grow into a worldwide movement?"

2. In Acts 1:4, Jesus' disciples were told to wait in Jerusalem for the fulfillment of God the Father's promise to send the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit did come on the Day of Pentecost, ten days after the ascension of Jesus.

-“the Apostles were enjoined to wait on the coming of the Spirit. We would gain more power and courage and peace if we learned to wait. In the business of life we need to learn to be still. ‘They that wait for the Lord shall renew their strength.’ (Isa 40:31). Amidst life's surging activity there must be time to receive.” (Barclay)

3. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the four ministries of the Holy Spirit which occur at the moment a person believes and are not repeated. The Baptism of the Spirit is that work of the Spirit in which those who believe are placed into the Body of Christ, the Church. The other three ministries of the Spirit which occur at the moment of salvation and are not repeated are Regeneration (Titus 3:5), Indwelling (1 Corinthians 6:19,20, and Sealing (Ephesians 1:13-14, 4:30. A ministry of the Spirit which is repeated is the Filling (or control) of the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-18). Lastly the Holy Spirit gives spiritual gifts, that is, enablements to serve God to each believer. Whether this ministry is repeated or not is not clear.

4. The central passage in the Bible on the baptism of the Spirit is 1 Corinthians 12:13. In that passage Paul defines the baptism of the Spirit and gives some of the particulars concerning it. The word 'baptism' can mean "to identify with," "to unite with," or "to join with." It's used this way in 1 Corinthians 10:1,2. Thus, the Baptism of the Spirit is that ministry in which the Spirit unites the believer with Christ's Body, the Church. It happened first on the Day of Pentecost (Acts. 2).

5. "Confusion over 'baptism of the Spirit' has been generated by drawing doctrine from events in Acts rather than from the teaching of the epistles." (Richards)