

# Baptism with the Holy Spirit and Fire

Matthew 3:1-12



# Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Matthew 3:11

- John's promise that the coming Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit was fulfilled in Acts 1:4-5 & 2:1-4.
- Note the contrasts between Holy Spirit baptism and baptism in water for the remission of sins.
  - **Jesus administers Holy Spirit baptism, but water baptism is administered by men** (John 1:33; Mark 1:8; Matthew 28:19)
  - **Holy Spirit baptism was promised but water baptism was commanded** (Acts 10:48; 22:16)

# Baptism with the Holy Spirit

**Holy Spirit baptism is very unique.**

- It occurs only twice in Scripture
  - Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost
  - Acts 10 & 11 on the household of Cornelius (11:15-17)
- In both cases it was accompanied by speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:45-46)

# Baptism with Fire

Matthew 3:10-12

- **Christ would baptize “with” or “in” fire.**
  - Since baptize means to immerse, baptism with fire refers to immersion in fire!
- **In the context, FIRE refers to eternal punishment.**
  - The main theme of the context is that sinners needed to repent to avoid punishment.
  - In verse 10, the idea of being “cast into the fire” is a descriptive phrase often used elsewhere in Scripture to refer to the punishment of hell (Matthew 13:31-42; Revelation 20:15; 21:8)
  - In verse 12, the Lord will burn the “chaff” or unfruitful waste with “unquenchable fire.”

# The Importance of These Two Baptisms to Christians Today

- Jesus baptized His apostles in the Holy Spirit so that we might have access to “all truth” (John 16:13)
- If we repent and obey the truth, we can avoid the anguish of baptism in the fire of hell (Romans 2:6-8; Acts 26:19-20)