

Baptism WITH vs. baptism BY the Holy Spirit

Over-zealous Bible dividers hang their case for starting the body of Christ with Paul on the difference between these two words – WITH and BY.

Are Hebrew kingdom saints WITH saints?

Their so-called “Hebrew kingdom saints” are those who were baptised WITH the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost and those who subsequently were baptised WITH the Holy Spirit after they repented and were water baptised by the apostles of the circumcision.

These believers were baptised WITH the Holy Spirit BY Jesus and the Father and supposedly never became members of Christ’s body. They became members of what the over-zealous Bible dividers call “believing Israel”. In their view – CHRIST IS DIVIDED (or WAS divided) into ‘believing Israel’ and the church, the body of Christ.

“Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?” (I Corinthians 1:13 AV)

Even the words of the glorified Lord are not enough to convince over-zealous Bible dividers that he had a BODY on earth prior to Paul’s salvation.

*“And when we were all fallen to the earth, I heard a voice speaking unto me, and saying in the Hebrew tongue, Saul, Saul, **why persecutest thou me?** it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. And I said, Who art thou, Lord? And he said, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest.**” (Acts 26:14-15 AV)*

As far as Paul (Saul) was concerned, he was persecuting a bunch of fellow Hebrews with blasphemous doctrines. But this bunch of Hebrews had all received the Holy Spirit. As far as the Lord in heaven was concerned, Paul was persecuting **HIM**.

Are Gentile grace saints BY saints?

They go on to say that those saved by believing Paul’s gospel were and are baptised BY the Holy Spirit into the Church, the body of Christ. In their scheme of things the Father and the Lord Jesus are seemingly not involved in the process in this present dispensation.

The Holy Spirit acts alone, puts them into the body of Christ but NEVER MAKES HIS PRESENCE FELT WITHIN THEM. How on earth can they “walk after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1) if they are not baptised WITH the Holy Spirit?

How do they distinguish Church members from the rest of the world if not by the PRESENCE of the Spirit in each member? Seemingly by the presence of a particular view of the scriptures – the view that starts the body of Christ with Paul and excludes the Jewish saints who first received that same Holy Spirit prior to Paul’s salvation.

But the presence of a particular brand of doctrine within a body of people does not define the Church. THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST HIMSELF DEFINES HIS BODY.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now **if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**” (Romans 8:9 AV)

“I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but **Christ liveth in me:** and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20 AV)

No. All saints are both WITH and BY saints.

Are we not sealed WITH the Holy Spirit of promise?

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed **with** that holy Spirit of promise,” (Ephesians 1:13 AV)

And are we not members of his body BY that Spirit?

“For **by** one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (1 Corinthians 12:13 AV)

Over-zealous Bible dividers are really getting desperate by claiming a difference between being baptised WITH the Holy Spirit and being baptised BY the Holy Spirit.

- My father and mother clothed me WITH my first school uniform when I started high school.

BY that school uniform I was identifiable as a pupil of my high school.

- After prayer to the Father (by established Christians) in the name of Jesus, through the longsuffering of our Lord and his mediation with the Father, I was ‘clothed’ (sealed) WITH the Holy Spirit of promise the moment I first truly believed. (The seal remains WITH a jar of preserved jam until it is opened. The seal doesn’t ‘seal and run’.)

BY the Holy Spirit I am identified with (baptised into) the Lord’s death, burial and resurrection and BY the Holy Spirit I am a member of the Church, the body of Christ.

“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.” (Romans 8:9 AV)

The presence of his Spirit defines his body

I submit that it is the PRESENCE (or not) of the Holy Spirit of promise which makes one a member of the body of Christ (or not). The Holy Spirit does not put us into something else. HIS PRESENCE alone makes us part of something – the Church the body of Christ. Therefore his presence IN ANYONE AT ANY TIME joins that person’s spirit to his Spirit thereby making their flesh and bones his flesh and bones – they are members of the church, the body of Christ BY HIS SPIRIT.

“But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit.” (I Corinthians 6:17 AV)

“For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones.” (Ephesians 5:30 AV)

Paul specifically refers to this Spirit as THAT Holy Spirit of PROMISE – the Spirit that Jesus called the “PROMISE of my Father” - the Spirit that he and the Father would send from heaven.

“And, behold, I send the **promise of my Father** upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49 AV)

“ And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, **but wait for the promise of the Father**, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**” (Acts 1:4-5 AV)

“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with **that holy Spirit of promise,**” (Ephesians 1:13 AV)

Peter and his keys opened the door to the Gentiles

It was at the house of Cornelius that the body of Christ took its first Gentiles on board and it was also at the house of Cornelius that the Holy Spirit started coming upon people by BELIEF ALONE that Christ is risen – with no repentance or water baptism required prior to the arrival of the Spirit.

It was PETER that did the preaching at the house of Cornelius – the apostle with the keys of the kingdom.

“And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee

the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." (Matthew 16:18-19 AV)

With his keys, Peter opened the door, on earth and in heaven, to the Gentiles receiving the Holy Spirit - the Spirit whose presence made them members of the Church, the body of Christ.

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that **on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.**" (Acts 10:44-45 AV)

The door was opened by Peter who was following orders from the Lord and was somewhat bewildered by what was going on. The revelation of what was going on, the revelation of the mystery, was later given to Paul.

The longsuffering of our Lord is salvation today

The one MEDIATOR between God and man, the Lord Jesus Christ, with GREAT LONGSUFFERING on his part, sealed me WITH that Holy Spirit of promise (from he and the Father) - the moment I first believed that he continues to minister from heaven.

It is the LONGSUFFERING of the Lord that is salvation today. This is testified to by BOTH PAUL AND PETER - the apostle of the Gentiles and the chief apostle of the Jews.

"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that **in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering**, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting." (1 Timothy 1:16 AV)

"And account that **the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation**; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you;" (2 Peter 3:15 AV)

Neither of them knew or understood what was going on at the time of the events of Acts 9 and 10. BOTH of them knew and understood what was going on by the time of Acts 28 or thereabouts.

The Acts of the Holy Spirit of promise

Acts 2

The new spiritual creature (later to become and be known as the Church the body of Christ), BEGAN when the Holy Spirit of promise was first sent to the earthly Lord's Jewish disciples on the day of Pentecost.

At this time the disciples were not aware of the mystery (later revealed to Paul) and thought that the great tribulation and Israel's restored earthly kingdom were at hand.

Acts 9

The mystery (previously hidden) dispensation of his grace and longsuffering toward ignorant and unbelieving sinners, began with the salvation of Paul - the "me first" pattern of his longsuffering and grace.

"Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in **me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern** to them which should **hereafter** believe on him to life everlasting." (I Timothy 1:16 AV)

The revelation of the mystery, the revelation of what God (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) were doing, was given to Paul, over time, from Acts 9 onward.

Acts 10

The new spiritual creature started taking Gentiles on board, with totally equal membership, from Acts 10 onwards. This was revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit himself.

"For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Jesus Christ for you Gentiles, If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to you-ward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is **now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit**; That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel:" (Ephesians 3:1-6 AV)

Acts 11

The new spiritual creature, with a growing Gentile membership, gets its name in the large and bustling Gentile city of Antioch in Syria.

"Then departed Barnabas to Tarsus, for to seek Saul: And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. And **the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch.**" (Acts 11:25-26 AV)

The membership at the time of Acts 11 included many that present day, over-zealous Bible dividers would call "Hebrew kingdom saints" (baptised WITH the Holy Spirit according to them) and many "Gentile grace saints" that were baptised BY the Holy Spirit (according to them).

Strange that the holy apostles and prophets never mentioned this pivotal division of Christ. This is because it never existed and is a present day theory applied to people who are not around TO ANSWER BACK.

“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” (I Corinthians 12:13 AV)