

**Elders:**

Rufus Barfield \* Dan Jackson \* Donnie McDaniel

**Deacons:**

Paul Byas \* Chris Gorham \* Rhett Moeller \* Michael Myrick \* Sheldon Smith

**Evangelist:**

Antoine Holloway

**Worship Times:**

Sunday Bible Study/9:30AM      Sunday Morning Worship/10:30AM

Sunday Evening Worship/6:00PM      Wednesday Bible Study/7:30PM

**Meetings:**

**Men's Leadership Class**

December 22<sup>nd</sup> @ 9:00am

**Saturday Evangelism Class**

November 17<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00am

**Elders/Deacons Meeting**

TBA

**Women's Thursday Bible Study**

TBA

**2013 Spring Gospel Meeting w/ Ethan Longhenry of Venice, California**

April 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

**2013 Vacation Bible School w/ David Graham of Cincinnati, Ohio**

June 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2013

THEME: TBA

**2013 Fall Gospel Meeting w/ Larry Wright of Savannah, Georgia**

October 10<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Prayer Requests (Health Problems & Sick Presently)**

Thelma Findley \* Anne Harrison \* JoAnn Harrison \* Andrew Madison \* Bruce McDonald \* Janet Ostroff \* Isaac Parker \* Earl Sellers \* Lewis & Anne Wise

**Prayer Request (Unable To Attend Services Here)**

Anne Harrison \* Steven Chung \* Angelita Dillon \* Bruce McDonald \* Carlos Vargas

**Prayer Request (Traveling)**

Myron Hutchison \* Christen Perry \* The Smith Family

**Additional Announcements**

**Contribution & Attendance Figures**

October 28 <sup>th</sup>	\$3,699-Contribution	116-Attendance
October 21 <sup>st</sup>	\$4,068-Contribution	125-Attendance

**WHAT MUST I DO TO BE SAVED?**

Hear The Gospel (Acts 15:7) \* Believe In Jesus (Acts 8:12) \* Repent Of Our Sins (Acts 3:19) \* Confess Christ To Be The Son Of God (Acts 8:37) \* Be Baptized In Water (Acts 22:16) \* Remain Faithful (Acts 2:42)

**TODAY'S DATE: November 4, 2012**

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***"A Going Church For A Coming Lord, Which Does  
All The Lord Authorizes" - Romans 16:16***

# Understanding The Necessity Of Water Baptism – Part 4



**1 Peter 3:20-21- "Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ."**

When discussing the importance of water baptism in God's plan for saving man, I heard a new one. Recently, I was told that when the Bible talks about one baptism (**Ephesians 4:5**); it is addressing Holy Ghost Baptism & not water baptism. The doctrine taught by men suggest that it is Holy Ghost baptism which is essential & it proceeds water baptism; thus, making water baptism non-essential. We can approach this one of two ways: 1) Prove what is wrong or 2) Prove what is right. I choose the latter.

## **What Is Holy Ghost Baptism?**

Holy Ghost baptism was preached by John the Baptist as one of two baptisms, which Jesus Himself will administer (**Matthew 3:11-12**). Therefore, man cannot baptize anyone in fire, nor can he baptize anyone in the Holy Ghost. Only Christ can do this.

Holy Ghost baptism was promised by God to the apostles through the words of Jesus Christ (**Luke 24:49**). According to this text, they must wait in Jerusalem to receive this baptism & it is described as power from on high. The book of Acts picks up where the book of Luke leaves off, for both books were written by Luke the physician. In **Acts 1:4-5**, Jesus reiterates this promise, but the time of this baptism is drawing near. How do we know this? It is because Jesus said it will happen "**not many days hence**." In **Acts 1:8**, we learn once the apostles were baptized with the Holy Ghost that they will be witnesses of Christ in Jerusalem (the place of Holy Ghost baptism), Judea, Samaria, & the uttermost part of the earth.

The first account of Holy Ghost baptism took place on the day of Pentecost (**Acts 2:1-4**). When the apostles were baptized with the Holy Ghost, they began to speak with other tongues by the power of Holy Spirit. These

tongues were not religious gibberish, but they were established, known, legitimate languages spoken by others (**Acts 2:6-11**).

Holy Ghost baptism was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy in **Joel 2:28-32**. Therefore, Holy Ghost baptism was not promised to the apostles only.

The only other account in Scripture of individuals being baptized in the Holy Ghost is Cornelius & his household in **Acts 10:44-47**. We know it was Holy Ghost baptism because the apostle Peter said so in **Acts 10:47** & **Acts 11:15-17**.

As a direct result of Holy Ghost baptism, the apostles were able to fulfill the command of Christ in **Acts 1:8**; in Jerusalem (**Acts 2:5, Acts 4:6, Acts 5:17, & Acts 6:7**), in Judea (**Acts 8:1 & Acts 9:31**), in Samaria (**Acts 8:1, Acts 8:5, Acts 8:25, & Acts 9:31**), & in the uttermost parts of the earth (**Acts 10:1 & Acts 11-28**).

So, what was the purpose of Holy Ghost baptism? There was a 3 fold purpose: 1) it confirmed the word spoken by the apostles (**Mark 16:17-20**), 2) they were able to speak in the tongues – the languages of others, so the word of God can be heard & understood (**Acts 2:11**), & 3) it was the catalyst, which introduced salvation to a group of people in need of it (**Acts 2-Jews & Acts 10-Gentiles**).

Is Holy Ghost baptism still active today? No, it is not, for it has already fulfilled its purpose. 1) The word has been confirmed, for we have the complete word of God available to us called the Bible. 2) God's word is available to us in all languages. 3) The Jews have received salvation & so has the Gentiles. If we are not Jews, then we are Gentiles. Therefore, there are no additional groups needing salvation introduced, all just simply need to obey. For these reasons, Holy Ghost baptism is not the one baptism spoken of in **Ephesians 4:5**.

The baptism that is essential to salvation is water baptism. 1) The confirmed word of God commands it (**John 3:5, Acts 8:36, Acts 10:47, & 1 Peter 3:20-21**). 2) It still has a purpose & the purpose is remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). 3) This is the only baptism that can be administered by man (**Acts 8:38**). Christ administered Holy Ghost baptism at the beginning of the Christian age & He will administer fire baptism (which is hell fire) at the end of the Christian age.

- **Antoine N. Holloway**