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## GLAZED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

Did you know that a box of donuts makes a compelling object lesson about the Holy Spirit? Not just any donuts, but glazed filled donuts. They illustrate the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit. Hmm. You might just have to visit your local bakery to personally dig into this suggestion!

In an insightful illustration, theologian Kevin DeYoung says a "wonderful waterfall of glaze" pours over every glazed donut. Like the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the infusing glaze covers and completes the goodness of the doughy delight. The Holy Spirit comes in a supernatural immersion that brings spiritual life to spiritually dead sinners, so they believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, awash in all His blessings.

**1- BAPTIZED** - *"For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one Body of Christ,"* 1 Corinthians 12:13. *"He saved us by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us richly through Jesus,"* Titus 3:5. All who *"were baptized into Christ have put on Christ,"* Galatians 3:27.

In John 1:33, John the Baptizer said he baptized with water, but Christ would baptize with the Holy Spirit. In John 3:5, Jesus told Nicodemus, *"you must be born again from above by the Spirit."* Our English word baptize is a transliteration of the Greek "baptizo" which means to dip or immerse. Water symbolizes what the Holy Spirit does in the washing of regeneration. Whether immersed or sprinkled, most evangelical scholars today would say the message of water baptism transcends the mode.

In John 14:17 Jesus told His disciples the Spirit of truth is *"with you and will be in you."* In Acts 1:5, He said to wait for the promise of the Father, when *"you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit"* and by His power, be His witnesses. By the coming of the Spirit in Acts 2:16 and 11:16, Jesus fulfills His promise. And as the church grows, the Spirit births new believers in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and *"to the end of the earth."* The coming of the Spirit also brought spiritual gifts, which we'll address in a later column.

As theologian John Stott says, "Spirit baptism is a distinctive blessing (realized only in the new covenant); an initial blessing (given at conversion), and a universal blessing (poured out on every genuine believer)." And as the Holy Spirit applies all the blessings of salvation, the believer is brought into "union with Christ," a major theme of Romans 6 - and written about more than 160 times by the apostle Paul.

**2- ADOPTED** - Rebirth by the Spirit brings new spiritual life and new relationship with God. His presence in the believer is definable and transforming, marking out those who are saved. John 1:12 says *"to all who did receive Jesus, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God, who were born of God."* Galatians 3:26 says the *"sons of God, through faith"* were all *"baptized into Christ"* and *"have put on Christ."* Galatians 4:5 says, *"so that we might receive adoption as sons. And God has sent the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying 'Abba, Father'."* He's the guarantee of our inheritance.

The "Spirit of adoption" makes believers the children of God, and also gives the assurance of salvation. Romans 8:15 says *"you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry 'Abba, Father'. The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and heirs with Christ."* Baptism in water is an outward picture of regeneration and the new inward reality belonging to children of God. And with that new birth the Holy Spirit gives the believer a self-awareness of new spiritual life in Christ.

**3- INDWELLED** - In the language of this object lesson, when you become a believer, the glaze of the Holy Spirit not only pours over your outer being, but permeates your inner being too. God promised His Spirit in Isaiah 11, Joel 2, and Ezekiel 36, *"I will sprinkle clean water on you and I will cleanse you. And I will give you a new heart, and I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes."*

Jesus fulfilled these new covenant promises in His first disciples - and in every believer since. Romans 8 speaks of the reality of new spiritual life in Christ because *"the Spirit of God dwells in you."* God takes up residence within the believer through the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 3:16, Ephesians 2:22 and 2 Timothy 1:14 all speak of God *"dwelling within"* the believer through the person of the Holy Spirit.

Being immersed and indwelt by the Holy Spirit figures prominently in the rest of this object lesson - the *"filling of the Spirit"* - which we'll look at next time. For now, enjoy your donut! Better, invite a friend and together, thank the Lord over donuts - for the amazing ministry of the Holy Spirit in and for believers.