

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. □

FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Is that box of donuts we talked about last week all gone? You may want another to personally understand the depth of today's topic. Recall how the donut glaze illustrates the "baptism" of the Holy Spirit. At the moment of salvation He immerses believers with God's grace, bringing spiritual life to dead sinners.

The Holy Spirit doesn't just wash over you, He indwells you - like the filling inside a donut. The Spirit engulfs believers both inside and out. Different aspects of the one Spirit. "Baptism" is an unrepeatable one-time experience when a believer is born again. But "filling" is repeatable and ongoing, as a believer experiences the presence and power of the Holy Spirit. Lets look at some "ABCs" of this filling.

A- is for ALL = filling of the Spirit is for all believers. John 7:37 says "*if anyone thirsts let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'* Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive." 1 Corinthians 12:13 echoes "*for in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body; all were made to drink of one Spirit.*"

Old Testament giving of the Spirit was unusual, specific, and connected with prophecy. But God promised His Spirit would indwell all of His people, to know and do His Word. On the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, Jesus' disciples "*were all filled with the Holy Spirit*" and people from every nation heard them speaking in their own language. Verse 39 says the gift of the Spirit "*is for all whom the Lord our God calls to Himself.*"

And in Scripture, the filling of the Spirit involves bearing witness to the truth about Jesus. That's what He promised in John 14-16, Acts 1:5,8. Throughout the book of Acts, the equipping of the Holy Spirit fills believers with boldness, courage, wisdom, faith, and joy, as they proclaim God's Word with power. In contrast, nuances of resisting, quenching, grieving help us better understand the filling of the Spirit.

B- is for BEWARE = beware disobedience regarding the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 4:30 says "*do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.*" This quotes Isaiah 63:10 about rebelling and resisting God. In context, Ephesians 4 says the Holy Spirit empowers your new self in Christ, so put off the old self - and lying, anger, bitterness, wrath, clamor, slander, malice, impurity, corrupting talk and sensuality. Instead, speak good things that build up others in every occasion.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 says "*do not quench the Spirit.*" It's a picture of extinguishing a flame. The Holy Spirit illumines God's Word, and He spoke through the prophets and apostles as the Bible was being written. Today, His ministry enables you to compare God's Word to what is said, in print, on radio, TV, internet, etc - like the Berean believers in Acts 17:11, using Scripture as the yardstick for truth.

In Acts 5, Ananias and Sapphira lied to the Holy Spirit. In Acts 6-7, Stephen was full of the Spirit, grace, and power. As he preached before being stoned to death, he wove together several Old Testament quotes about how the people "*always resist the Holy Spirit,*" stopping the proclamation of God's truth. What about you? Do you resist reading the Bible, or listening to it preached in church or via media?

C- is for COMMANDED = be filled with the Holy Spirit. Ephesians 5 shows how when you're filled with the Holy Spirit, you express positive and uplifting speech, in keeping with the light of the Gospel. This includes worship, thankfulness, and right relationships - not empty and unfruitful words and deeds of darkness. Verse 18 issues an imperative command, "*do not be drunk, but be filled with the Spirit.*"

You are to be controlled by the Spirit, not the flesh. "*I might be under the alcohfluence of incohol*" said the guy pulled over by the patrolman. When you give in to default desires of the flesh, you're not living in the Spirit. Galatians 5:16-26 spells out the difference. If you're not controlled by the Holy Spirit, you're living in the flesh. This leads to grieving, quenching, resisting the Spirit - and deeds of the flesh.

You receive the Holy Spirit when you become a Christian. All believers have all of the Spirit. But in a practical sense, He doesn't always have all of you. Being filled is like air in a balloon or filling in a donut, expanding into every nook and cranny. You talk the walk and walk the talk of a believer - by His power.

There's no command to seek Spirit baptism or ecstatic experiences. But you are charged to be filled with the Spirit. Trust and obey - and you will glorify Christ, moment by moment in thought, word and deed! □