

# Do Men and Women Receive Holy Spirit Baptism Today?

By Tony Melton

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles on the day of Pentecost in the year 33 AD. This event is recorded in Acts 2:1-4. On the same day the apostle Peter, who was led by God's Spirit, commanded the Jews to be baptized in water (Acts 2:38, 41). Then about eight years later, the Gentiles of the household of Cornelius were baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:44, 11:15). But also we find that Peter commanded them to be baptized in water (Acts 10:47, 48).

In both of these recorded cases of Holy Spirit baptism (the only recorded cases in the Bible), two baptisms were performed, one by God--Holy Spirit baptism and one by man--water baptism. This all took place before the year 45 AD.

Now, some 17 years later when the apostle Paul wrote the letter of Ephesians, he said there is "one baptism" (Ephesians 4:5). Also, about the same year, Peter wrote about Noah and his family, saying, ". . . eight souls, were saved through water. There is also an antitype which now saves us -- baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 3:20, 21). According to the apostle Peter, the one baptism which is still remaining is water baptism. This seems very reasonable since Jesus in the great commission, which was to last until the end of the world, said, "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:18-20).

By this we can see that by the time Paul wrote Ephesians the baptism of the Holy Spirit had ceased, and so Paul spoke of the "one baptism" that was to last until Jesus comes again--water baptism.