

John 1:33

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.

Analysis

God gave John a specific sign: the one on whom the Spirit descends and remains is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. This contrasts John's water baptism (preparatory, external) with Christ's Spirit baptism (regenerating, internal). The Reformed understanding sees Spirit baptism as the application of redemption, incorporating believers into Christ's body and sealing them for salvation.

Historical Context

The promise of Spirit baptism fulfills Old Testament prophecies (Joel 2:28-29, Ezekiel 36:26-27) and John the Baptist's own predictions. This would be realized at Pentecost (Acts 2) and in every subsequent conversion.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Study Questions

1. How does Spirit baptism differ from and transcend water baptism in its efficacy?
2. What does it mean that Christ is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, and how have you experienced this?

Interlinear Text

κάγω οὐκ ἴδης αὐτόν ἀλλ' ὁ πέμψας με

And I not knew him but he that sent me

βαπτίζων ἐν ὕδατι ἐκεῖνός μοι εἶπεν ἐπ' ὃν

he which baptizeth with water the same unto me said Upon whom

αν ἴδης τὸ πνεύματι καταβαῖνον καὶ μένον ἐπ'

G302 knew G3588 Ghost descending and remaining Upon

αὐτόν οὗτός ἐστιν ὁ βαπτίζων ἐν πνεύματι

him the same is he which baptizeth with Ghost

ἀγίω

the Holy

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Additional Cross-References

Acts 1:5 (Holy): For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Matthew 3:11 (Holy): I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

Luke 3:16 (Holy): John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:

John 3:34 (Spirit): For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.

1 Corinthians 12:13 (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.

John 3:5 (Spirit): Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

Acts 2:4 (Holy): And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

John 1:31 (Parallel theme): And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.