

# 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

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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

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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

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**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

## Study Questions

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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

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κάγω	οὐκ	ἴδης	αὐτόν	ἀλλ'	ὁ	πέμψας	με
And I	not	knew	him	but	G3588	he that sent	me
G2504	G3756	G1492	G846	G235		G3992	G3165
βαπτίζων	ἐν	ὕδατι	ἐκεῖνός	μοι	εἶπεν	ἐπ'	ὃν
he which baptizeth	with	water	the same	unto me	said	Upon	whom
G907	G1722	G5204	G1565	G3427	G2036	G1909	G3739
ἂν	ἴδης	τὸ	πνεύματι	καταβαῖνον	καὶ	μένον	ἐπ'
G302	knew	G3588	Ghost	descending	and	remaining	Upon
G1492			G4151	G2597	G2532	G3306	G1909
αὐτόν	οὗτός	ἐστιν	ὁ	βαπτίζων	ἐν	πνεύματι	
him	the same	is	G3588	he which baptizeth	with	Ghost	
G846	G3778	G2076		G907	G1722	G4151	
ἁγίῳ							
the Holy							
G40							

## Additional Cross-References

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**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.