

# Matthew 3:11

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

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:

## Analysis

---

John's baptism 'with water unto repentance' was preparatory and symbolic, pointing forward to the Messiah who 'shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.' The Holy Spirit baptism represents regeneration and empowerment (Acts 2), while fire suggests both purification and judgment. John's confession 'whose shoes I am not worthy to bear' demonstrates humble recognition of Christ's infinite superiority.

## Historical Context

---

Jewish ceremonial washings were common, but John's baptism was unique—a one-time act symbolizing repentance and commitment. The phrase about shoes refers to a slave's lowliest task. John declares himself unworthy of even menial service to Christ.

## Related Passages

---

**Romans 1:17** — The righteous shall live by faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

---

1. Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit John prophesied?
2. How does John's humility before Christ challenge your own pride?

## Interlinear Text

---

Ἐγὼ μὲν βαπτίσει ὑμᾶς ἐν ὕδατι εἰς μετάνοιαν ὁ  
I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance G3588  
G1473 G3303 G907 G5209 G1722 G5204 G1519 G3341

δὲ ὥπισω μου ἐρχόμενος ισχυρότερός μου ἐστίν, οὐ  
but after I he that cometh mightier than I is whose  
G1161 G3694 G3450 G2064 G2478 G3450 G2076 G3739

οὐκ εἰμὶ ἵκανὸς τὰ ὑποδήματα βαστάσαι· αὐτὸς ὑμᾶς  
not I am worthy G3588 shoes to bear G846 you  
G3756 G1510 G2425 G5266 G941 G5209

βαπτίσει ἐν πνεύματι ἀγίῳ καὶ πυρί·  
baptize with Ghost the Holy and with fire  
G907 G1722 G4151 G40 G2532 G4442

## Additional Cross-References

---

**Isaiah 4:4** (Spirit): When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.

**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:

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

**Zechariah 13:9** (Parallel theme): And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: they

shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.

**Titus 3:5** (Holy): Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

**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.

**Matthew 3:6** (Baptism): And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

**Acts 19:4** (Repentance): Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

**Luke 1:17** (Spirit): And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.

**Mark 1:4** (Repentance): John did baptize in the wilderness, and preach the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.