Baptism, Tongues, Q&A and a Personal Plea

STUDY GUIDE

Finding the Ancient Path

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHs6NlYhBMM

Quick Answer

Baptism is presented as a response of faith and repentance connected to cleansing and covenant life, while Scripture's varied examples caution against a rigid formula for when the Holy Spirit is received. On tongues, the Teaching examines biblical languages, interpretation, and personal testimony without reaching a definitive cessationist or continuationist conclusion.

Teaching Summary

This Teaching continues an earlier discussion of the Holy Spirit by examining baptism, repentance, and the gift of tongues. The speaker traces water cleansing in Torah, priestly washing, Ezekiel 36, and New Covenant baptism; addresses whether an earlier baptism remains valid when understanding changes; and cautions against making a rigid salvation formula that presumes to judge another person's heart. He then examines Acts and 1 Corinthians on tongues, intelligible languages, interpretation, spiritual experiences, and competing explanations. Fellowship participants share questions and personal testimonies. The speaker expressly leaves the ongoing operation of tongues unresolved. An opening personal plea discusses the practical and financial challenge of sustaining FTAP ministry alongside a small business.

Learning Objectives

- Trace Torah washing and priestly service as background for the baptism discussion.
- Compare baptism and reception of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, Acts 10, and related passages.
- Distinguish repentance, confession, faith, baptism, sanctification, and their possible sequences.
- Examine tongues in Acts and 1 Corinthians with attention to languages, interpretation, and edification.
- Listen carefully to differing testimonies without converting them into established doctrine.
- Explain the speaker's intentionally unresolved conclusion about continuing miraculous gifts.

Teaching Outline

Chapter 1: Ministry updates and support - Ministry testimony, support, and possible transition in focus.

Chapter 2: Community support and counsel - Teaching and discussion section; study alongside the complete transcript.

Chapter 3: The typology of baptism - Teaching and discussion section; study alongside the complete transcript.

Chapter 4: Baptism and repentance - Teaching and discussion section; study alongside the complete transcript.

Chapter 5: The gift of tongues - Teaching and discussion section; study alongside the complete transcript.

Chapter 6: Tongues and the Holy Spirit - Teaching and discussion section; study alongside the complete transcript.

Chapter 7: Community testimonies - Teaching and discussion section; study alongside the complete transcript.

Key Scriptures

Genesis 1:9-10 - The speaker explains the Hebrew term mikvah as a gathering of water and distinguishes it from later immersion practice.

Leviticus 15:13 - Torah washing for ritual cleansing provides part of the background for the Teaching on baptism.

Exodus 30:19-21 - Priests wash before ministry; the speaker applies this as a typological pattern of preparation.

Matthew 3:13-17 - Yeshua receives baptism; the speaker connects it with fulfilling righteousness and priestly preparation, as an interpretation.

Ezekiel 36:25-27 - The sequence of cleansing, a new heart, the Spirit, and obedience is central to the baptism discussion.

Acts 2:38 - Peter calls for repentance and baptism and speaks of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 22:16 - Ananias calls Paul to be baptized and wash away his sins, calling upon the Lord.

1 Peter 3:20-21 - Peter links the flood, baptism, conscience, and Messiah's resurrection, while distinguishing baptism from washing physical dirt.

1 Corinthians 10:1-2 - Israel passing through the sea is discussed as a baptismal pattern.

Romans 10:9-17 - The speaker discusses hearing, believing, public confession, and faith as dimensions of responding to the message.

Acts 3:19 - Repentance and turning back are addressed in the salvation discussion.

Philippians 2:12-13 - The speaker cautions against rigid formulas while taking seriously working out salvation before Yah.

Luke 23:39-43 - The thief beside Yeshua illustrates why the speaker resists reducing Yahovah's mercy to a mechanical checklist.

Acts 10:44-48 - The Spirit falls on Cornelius's household before water baptism; an important counterexample to a universal sequence.

Acts 19:1-6 - Paul's encounter with disciples familiar with John's baptism is used to explore further instruction and the Spirit.

Acts 2:4-11 - At Pentecost, hearers recognize distinct languages, central to the discussion of tongues.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - Different gifts come from the same Spirit and are distributed for the benefit of the body.

1 Corinthians 13:1 - The mention of tongues of angels raises the debated question of an angelic prayer language.

1 Corinthians 14:2-19 - Paul's language about prayer, understanding, and edification is considered from multiple angles.

1 Corinthians 14:22-28 - Tongues as a sign and the need for interpretation and orderly assembly are examined.

Isaiah 28:11-13 - The speaker interprets unfamiliar speech as a warning/judgment backdrop to Paul's citation.

1 John 4:1 - Testing spiritual claims rather than accepting every experience uncritically fits the speaker's stated approach.

Key Takeaways

- Begin with Torah's laws of cleansing, but distinguish their original setting from subsequent baptism practice.
- Ezekiel 36 connects cleansing, heart renewal, the Spirit, and obedience in the speaker's reading.
- Repentance and faith matter; growth in understanding does not automatically render a sincere earlier baptism invalid.
- The speaker warns against assuming that any one denomination's salvation checklist binds Yahovah.
- The Spirit's timing is not always portrayed in one order across Acts, especially in the Cornelius account.
- Acts 2 emphasizes recognizable languages heard by people from many places.
- Paul discusses tongues with attention to interpretation, understanding, and edification of the assembly.
- Personal testimonies must be heard respectfully and assessed against Scripture; they do not themselves settle doctrine.
- The teaching acknowledges debate on so-called angelic tongues and private prayer languages.
- The speaker ends without claiming a definitive answer about tongues today and invites further study.
- The ministry plea concerns the difficulty of balancing the Teaching ministry with work and welcomes voluntary support.

Important Interpretation Notes

- The speaker specifically says his purpose is neither to prove that tongues have ceased nor that they continue; his conclusion remains open.
- The teaching that priestly washing explains Yeshua's baptism is the speaker's typological interpretation, not an explicit claim made by Matthew 3.
- Acts 10 describes the Spirit being received before water baptism, so a universal rule that baptism must always precede the Spirit should not be stated as certain.
- The participant discussion includes sincere but differing positions about private prayer languages, miraculous gifts, and judging personal experience.
- The opening ministry plea addresses anticipated financial decisions and voluntary support; do not present it as a fund-raising commitment or fixed outcome.

Discussion and Study Questions

1. What does baptism symbolize in this Teaching?

2. What is a mikvah in the biblical context?

3. Why was Yeshua baptized if He was without sin?

4. What does Ezekiel 36 teach about cleansing and the Spirit?

5. Must water baptism always come before receiving the Holy Spirit?

6. Does later understanding invalidate an earlier baptism?

7. What is the difference between ongoing struggle and willful unrepentance?

8. What elements of responding to the gospel does the Teaching discuss?

9. What does the thief on the cross contribute to the discussion?

10. How did tongues function at Pentecost?

11. Why does interpretation matter when tongues are spoken in an assembly?

12. Are tongues described as a sign for unbelievers?

13. Does the phrase tongues of angels prove a private angelic language?

14. How should personal spiritual experiences be evaluated?

15. Are all believers given the same spiritual gifts?

16. Does the Teaching claim that tongues have ceased?

17. What does the speaker mean by a personal plea?

18. Why is community discussion part of the Teaching?

19. What is the relationship between repentance and obedience?

20. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in New Covenant transformation?

Personal Study and Application

- Read Acts 2:38 beside Acts 10:44-48. Record how each account unfolds before forming a general rule.
- Read all of 1 Corinthians 12-14, noting where Paul speaks about individual practice and the gathered assembly.
- Record which arguments are explicit claims of Scripture and which are the speaker's interpretations.
- Consider how humility, order, interpretation, and edification should govern conversations where participants disagree.

Closing Reflection

What can we affirm clearly from the cited Scripture, and where should we refrain from claiming more certainty than the text and the Teaching allow?