

3. Because it would mean that Paul commands the Ephesian believers to be "filled," i.e., baptized with the Holy Spirit in Eph. 5:18 when according to Eph. 1:13 and 4:30 they are already "sealed," i.e., baptized with the Holy Spirit. That doesn't make good sense!

J. An examination of John 20:22

The Pentecostals and Neo-Pentecostals frequently teach that when Jesus said in John 20:22, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit," that the disciples were regenerated at that time and the Holy Spirit came to dwell within them. Then they say that after that experience, the disciples were baptized with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. Thus they conclude that the baptism with the Holy Spirit" is an instantaneous experience...distinct from and subsequent to the experience of the new birth."

However, when Jesus said, "Receive ye the Holy Spirit" in John 20:22, that doesn't mean that the disciples were regenerated at that time and that the Holy Spirit came to indwell them, but rather these words were a promise that the disciples would receive the Holy Spirit which would be fulfilled at Pentecost. The reasons for this interpretation are as follows:

1. Because when Jesus appeared to His disciples one week after He had spoken these words to them, they were full of fear and hadn't gone anywhere or done anything that would manifest the Holy Spirit's power and presence (John 20:26).
2. Because Jesus commanded the disciples to remain in Jerusalem until they received the promise of the Father, namely, the promise of the Holy Spirit which they had heard from Him (John 14:16), and which he said would be fulfilled in "not many days."

Note: At this point the disciples were still waiting for the Holy Spirit. The promise was not yet fulfilled.

3. Because He told the disciples that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 1:8).

Note: The disciples were still waiting for the Holy Spirit and here it is clear that the receiving of power was coequal with the receiving of the Holy Spirit. If the Holy Spirit had come upon them in John 20:22, the power would be there already and there would be nothing for which to wait.

4. Because John said that the Holy Spirit would not be given until Jesus had been glorified, i.e., had risen from the dead and had ascended into heaven to receive the glory. He had with the Father before the world was created. (John 7:39-see John 17:5 for the meaning of "glorified" in this verse).