

**1 Cor. 12:13** *For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.*

Definitions: **AGENT** is one that acts or has the power or authority to act. A means by which something is done or caused; an instrument. **ELEMENT** is the immersion or substance or the means of subjugation of ones' mind. To bring under control. (DC)

Does 1 Cor. 12:13 teach Holy Spirit baptism for every believer or Christian? If not, what does it teach?

*Answer:* Read the following references and answer the question, "How did such persons get into the body of Christ—His church?"

"For as many of you as were baptized *into Christ* did put on Christ." Gal. 3:27

"Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized *into Christ Jesus* were baptized into His death?" Rom. 6:4

There is a rule of Bible reading here to be observed: whenever the word "baptism" is used in the New Testament, water is the element of that baptism unless some other element is indicated in the text or context. This is an invariable rule. We are tempted to reproduce all the references to baptism in the New Testament to demonstrate how obvious it is, but we do not have the space. Baptism into Christ was obtained by immersion in water. In the same act and at the same time we were immersed or buried into His death. At the time and place of our baptism we met His blood in His death and thus obtained the remission of our sins. There is only *one* baptism that will place us into *one body*.

The Holy Spirit is the influence or means of leading us to this baptism. We could accurately say we have been led or influenced by the one Spirit to be baptized into Christ. Consider all the Holy Spirit prompted influences which led us to be baptized into the body of our Lord:

Acts 19:1-6 tells us that the twelve men of Ephesus were baptized in water first—*after* which Paul laid his hands upon them and the Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in tongues and prophesy. These men were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus into the One body and then manifested the powers of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit *did not* baptize them—Paul baptized them by immersion in water into the one body; *after* such action the Holy Spirit empowered them. (3) The expression "by one Spirit" can be a reference to the Holy Spirit as the agent instead of the element of the action. As an example: I Cor. 12:3—"by" or "in" the Spirit (repeated twice) is to be understood as the enablement of the Holy Spirit. To paraphrase the verse we could say "wherefore I give you to understand that no one speaking *in union with God's Spirit* declares: accursed is Jesus! and no one is able to declare: Lord is Jesus! except *in union with the Holy Spirit*."\* (*Lenski*) The Holy Spirit is the agent or means in each case. The Holy Spirit is the source not the element—an instrumental case is clearly indicated. Beginning in the ninth verse of this same chapter we have three uses of the word "by" (or "in") which show plainly the point we are making. It was *by* the power and presence of the Holy Spirit that certain persons were able to exercise these various abilities. To paraphrase verse 13 we could say:

***"For by the influence of the one Spirit were we all immersed (in water) into the one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether bond or free, and we were all given the refreshment of the Holy Spirit as an unseen guest in our bodies." 1 Cor. 12:13***

Thank you brother Don DeWelt!