

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

J. D. G. Dunn



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In Baptism in the Holy Spirit James Dunn argues that water baptism is only one element in the New Testament pattern of conversion and initiation. The gift of the Spirit, he believes, is the central element. For the writers of the New Testament only those who had received the Holy Spirit could be called Christians. For them the reception of the Spirit was a very definite and often very dramatic experience - the decisive and climactic experience in conversion - initiation - to which Christians were usually recalled when reminded of their Christian faith and experience. In this book James Dunn uncovers the place of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the total complex event of becoming a Christian. His conclusions will help readers to deepen their understanding of the sacrament of baptism. Since its original publication in 1970 Baptism in the Holy Spirit has become a classic of New Testament scholarship. This new edition, published on the fortieth anniversary of its original publication, includes a new extended Preface in which James Dunn engages with the debates about Baptism in the Holy Spirit since it was first published. James D. G. Dunn was Lightfoot Professor of Divinity in the University of Durham. He is the author of numerous best-selling books and acknowledged as one of the world's leading experts on New Testament study.

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