

# **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

“For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” Acts 1:5

# Baptism in the Holy Spirit

This study is designed to explain:

1. The promised Holy Spirit
2. The purpose of the gift
3. Fruits and gifts
4. Speaking in tongues and prophecy
5. How to receive the Holy Spirit

*As a new believer in Jesus, all of the promises of the Bible are now yours. One of the most exciting of those promises is found in Acts 1:5, "For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."*

*Many years before this scripture was written, the prophet Joel had said that the Spirit would be poured out on all flesh, and that people would see visions, dream dreams and prophecy. As a result of the Christian's purification through the blood of Jesus, the Holy Spirit can now live inside of that man or woman.*

*The outpouring of the Holy Spirit into lives brings supernatural power that witnesses to Jesus. The scientific mind developed in the twentieth century has made it hard for many to accept such a supernatural occurrence. Nonetheless, God has faithfully poured His Spirit into the lives of believers throughout this past century.*

*This promise was not just to first century Christians, but to as many as believe until His return.*

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# 1. The promised Holy Spirit

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The promise of the Holy Spirit was given through the Bible and was directed to all people. It is God's desire that all of His children be filled (baptized) with the Spirit. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Acts 2:39

## **Promised by several authorities**

- God the Father has promised the Holy Spirit. Lk. 11:13
- Jesus also promised the Holy Spirit. Jn. 14:16-17
- He, the Holy Spirit, was promised in the Old Testament. Joel 2:28
- He was also promised in the New Testament. Each writer of a Gospel made it a point to record this promise. Matt. 3:1-12; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:3; also, see Acts 1:8

## **The promise was to all believers**

- It is for all people. Joel 2:28
- Paul desired for everyone to minister by the Spirit. First, he wanted them to speak in tongues and then that they would prophesy by the Spirit. 1 Cor. 14:5

## Questions

**1. From Whom does the promise of the Holy Spirit come?**

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**2. Does the Bible limit the promise in any way to certain people or times?**

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## 2. The purpose of the gift

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The purpose of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is multifaceted. However, the foundation for every part of the purpose is to glorify Jesus. "He (the Spirit of truth) shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you," Jn. 16:14

### **For the purpose of witness**

"You shall receive power...to be witnesses..." Acts 1:8

- The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin. Jn. 16:8
- On the day Christians first received the Holy Spirit, 3,000 new people were added to the church. Acts 2:41
- A great revival broke out in Ephesus after twelve were baptized in the Spirit. Acts 19:6-10
- The Spirit gives us direction on where to go and what to say. Acts 8:29, 10:19-20

### **For the purpose of purging**

- God's holiness is pictured as a consuming fire. Heb. 12:29
- He will baptize with purging fire. Matt. 3:11-12
- Tongues of fire appeared on the day of Pentecost. Acts 2:1-4
- It is by walking in the Spirit that we daily overcome sin. Rom. 8:1-4

### **For the purpose of communicating**

- Supernatural help will flow in prayer. Rom. 8:26; Jude 20
- You will experience deeper worship. Eph. 5:18-19; 1 Cor. 14:15-16
- The Spirit will illuminate scripture. Jn. 14:26; 1 Thess. 1:5

## Questions

**1. How does the Holy Spirit help witness to Christ?**

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**2. Describe the “fire” of the Holy Spirit.**

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**3. In what ways does the Holy Spirit improve communication?**

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## 3. Fruits and gifts

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The Holy Spirit works out His character and abilities in the believer's life. As you grow in Christ, you will see His character, "fruit" and gifts of ministry worked out.

Some of the fruits and gifts appear in lists in the Bible. This is just a sample of what you can look for.

### Fruit

Nine fruit of the Spirit are listed in Gal. 5:22-23.

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Longsuffering
- Temperance (Self-control)
- Gentleness
- Goodness
- Faith
- Meekness

### Gifts

Nine "gifts" are mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:8-11.

- The word of wisdom
- The word of knowledge
- Faith
- Gifts of healing
- The working of miracles
- Prophecy
- Discerning of Spirits
- Different kinds of tongues
- Interpretation of tongues

## Questions

**1. What character traits of God do you think the Holy Spirit wants to deepen in your life? Why?**

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**2. Do you believe there are any specific gifts that God may be wanting to manifest in your life? Why?**

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## 4. Speaking in tongues and prophecy

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Speaking in an unknown language and prophesying seem strange and foreign to modern Christians. However, it was common among the first believers. Often, the initial evidence of a person's baptism in the Holy Spirit was a gift of tongues and/or prophecy. "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance," Acts 2:4

Speaking in tongues is the most common question about baptism in the Holy Spirit. This section will major on scriptures which shed Biblical light on speaking in tongues.

### **Initial sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit**

Tongues are seen as an initial result of Holy Spirit baptism.

- The original outpouring of the Spirit evidenced tongues. Acts 2:4
- There was some outward sign in the Samaritans that made Simon realize the supernatural nature. Acts 8:18
- The account of Paul's baptism in Acts does not record him speaking in tongues, but he says he does in later scripture. Acts 9:17-18; 1 Cor. 14:18
- Cornelius' household was baptized in the Holy Spirit before being baptized in water. They also spoke in tongues. Acts 10:46-47, 11:15
- The saints at Ephesus spoke in tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:6

### **Speaking to God**

Tongues are used for praying and praising.

- Most speaking in tongues are used for praying at home. 1 Cor. 14:2, 18-19
- The Spirit helps us pray. Rom. 8:26
- You can praise, sing and worship in tongues. 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:18-19
- Speaking in tongues builds you up. 1 Cor. 14:4; Jude 20

### **Speaking to the church**

- At times, tongues are to be used for the church.
- This type of speaking in tongues is mentioned in 1 Cor. 12:10.
  - When this happens, there should be an interpretation.

## Questions

**1. Describe manifestations of the Holy Spirit in the Acts accounts of Baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

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**2. What purposes do tongues serve?**

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1 Cor. 14:27-28, 12:10

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## 5. How to receive the Holy Spirit

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In New Testament times, the manifestation of the Holy Spirit in a person's life was very much a part of the salvation experience. For some reason, people don't experience this as regularly in our modern times.

However, experience is not the judge and so we expect God to move this way for all Christians.

Like everything else in the Kingdom, Baptism in the Holy Spirit is part of your relationship with God. He does not do it the same for every person. He meets people where they are.

### **Biblical means for imparting the Holy Spirit**

- Through laying on of hands. Acts 8:18, 19:6
- During the united devotion of the church. Acts 4:31
- After individual prayer. Acts 9:9-18
- Corporately. Acts 2:1-4
- By a spontaneous outpouring. Acts 10:44-46
- The baptism can be experienced during a time of devotion without the believer fully understanding what has happened.

### **Keys in Receiving**

- Ask for it. Lk. 11:9-13
- Believe that God will give it. Jm. 1:6-7
- Open your mouth and He will fill it. Ps. 81:10
- Submit to the spirit. Jm. 4:7

### **An example**

Acts 19:1-20

- Paul's first question was, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost?" v. 2
- Next, they were baptized in the name of Jesus. v. 5
- Paul then laid his hands on them for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. v. 6
- As a result, the Holy Spirit came on them. v. 6
- They spoke in tongues and prophesied. v. 6
- Following this, a great revival broke out in the city. v. 18-20

## Questions

**1. What are some ways the Spirit came on people in the book of Acts?**

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**2. What are keys to receiving the Holy Spirit?**

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Baptism in the Holy Spirit opens the door to a whole new existence in the Spirit. In every recorded account it was something that happened in the beginning of a believer's experience. It is not some great spiritual height for which they waited. The supernatural power of God is made readily available for everyone that will ask.

"If ye, then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the gift of the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?" Lk. 11:13

God wants to fill you with His Spirit...ASK HIM TO DO IT!

**Note:**

Because of doctrinal confusion, there are often questions about details on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is not wrong to ask questions. However, the best approach is to read the scripture regarding these things, cry out to God for His Spirit and let Him do His thing.