

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Baptism in the Holy Spirit means to be immersed in, surrounded by and permeated through with God's Spirit. Being baptized or filled with God's Spirit was a scriptural promise to God's people that now has been fulfilled through what Jesus has done for us in his death, resurrection, ascension and the subsequent sending of his Spirit to all who believe.

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.
John 14:16-18

The power to live the Christian life and please God is found in being filled with the Holy Spirit. Since it is vitally important for you to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit, it is important for you to understand who the Holy Spirit is, and how to walk in a continual filling of God's Spirit.

"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized _____ of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The _____ is for _____ and your children and for _____ who are far off - for _____ whom the Lord our God will call.'"
Acts 2:38

Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit.

"As soon as Jesus was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the _____ descending like a dove and lighting on him."
Matthew 3:16

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, _____ of _____ and truth."
John 1:14

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The Apostles were filled with the Spirit.

“Do not leave Jerusalem, but _____ for the _____ my Father _____, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 1:4-5

**John 14:16, 26-28, John 15:26, John 16:7-15*

The Apostles were told by Jesus to wait for what the Father promised -- the infilling of the Holy Spirit --.....and that he (the Spirit) would give them the power to do what Jesus commanded: the power to live like Christ and make him known to others.

But you will receive _____ when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my _____ in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” *Acts 1:8*

The early church was filled with the Holy Spirit.

“When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived they _____ for them that they might _____ the _____, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them.”

A c t s 8 : 1 4 - 1 6

“While Peter was speaking these words, the _____ came on all who heard the message.”

Acts 10:44

We are to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

As Paul traveled, spreading the gospel of Christ in Ephesus, so many years ago, he asked the believers there a question that is valid for us today:

“There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you _____ the Holy Spirit when you _____?When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit _____, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” *Acts 19:2,6*

Like the apostles and the early church, we are called by God to give our life to Jesus Christ, accepting his death and resurrection as our own and then to

1. Remove all barriers. Sin, unforgiveness, doctrinal hang-ups, pride, or any past involvement in false religions of the occult, may block you from receiving. Why not pray right now and confess your sin, and renounce anything from your past that would hinder you from receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

2. Ask the Lord to baptize you in His Spirit. Tell Him that you want to yield fully to Him and manifest His presence to the world. Ask Him to give you the gifts of the Spirit including speaking in tongues and prophecy.

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the _____ to those who ask him!” *Luke 11:10-13*

3. Receive and open your heart to God in faith. Trust Him to give you what you have asked for. Don't fear His presence. You may have a powerful awareness of His presence coming to you, or a deep experience of peace and his Spirit welling up from within. Yield to Him. Trust Him. Either way, you may sense some of the manifestations of the filling of the Holy Spirit when you pray: more intense praise and thanksgiving, speaking in tongues, prophecy, bold prayer, deep peace, overflowing joy or just an overwhelming sense of God's love, grace and power or in many cases a combination of these (Acts 2:15, 28: 13:52).

Memory Verse:

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 1:8

Speaking in tongues is mentioned in the majority of the accounts recorded of those receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. (Acts 2:5, Acts 10:44,45, Acts 19:6) And that in the remaining instance where this phenomenon was not mentioned (Acts 8:15) it is apparent that something observable was happening (Acts 8:18). The only other instance of the initial baptism in the Holy Spirit event recorded is that of Paul's (Acts 9:17). Here his sight was restored at the event but there is no mention of tongues. Later, however, in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians he heartily endorses the gift of tongues and claims to be an ardent practitioner of the gift himself (1 Corinthians 14:4,5,14,15,18, 39). He even states that he desired that everyone spoke in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:5a). And strictly adds, "do not forbid speaking in tongues" (1 Corinthians 14:39).

What can we conclude from this?

- Speaking in Tongues is linked to the baptism of the Holy Spirit in most recorded accounts in the Bible.
- Speaking in tongues is beneficial for praise, prayer and personal edification.
- As a spiritual gift it is something to be desired.
- The Apostle Paul spoke in tongues a lot.
- We should desire this gift as well.

How do you speak in tongues?

Many have raised questions about how someone speaks in tongues. First, you must understand that it is the Spirit of God that "gives utterance."(Acts 2:4) In other words, the Holy Spirit gives you the words to say. You must speak them, but He is faithful to give them. Just as your mind tells you what to say when you want to speak, the Holy Spirit will also give you words to say. You must be the one to speak the words.

When you speak, your voice box, tongue, lungs and mouth all work together to form words. When this happens, the very words that you want to speak come out. The same things happen when you speak in tongues. Without you having to think about it, the Holy Spirit will direct all of your speaking faculties to speak the "words of the Spirit." You will speak, but it is He who will tell you what to say.

The Next Steps:

Now that you realize that being immersed, filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit is God's will for all Christians, if you have not received this expression of God's grace, you may do so now. You can either find a small group leader, pastor or mature Christian in your church who can pray with and for you, or you can simply open yourself up now, or when you are in a comfortable place with time to pray, and ask the Lord to fill you with his Spirit.

receive God's gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gives us power to be witnesses and examples of the salvation and new life offered in Christ.

What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

From the scriptures above we can see that baptism in the Spirit occurs when the believer encounters Jesus Christ and is immersed in the Spirit of God. This results in an increased awareness and realization of God, his presence and his supernatural power. The purpose of this power is to equip us to be like and serve the Lord Jesus. The baptism in the Holy Spirit becomes the power behind everything good that we do as Christians and it is the gateway to a life filled with supernatural power and the ability to make Christ known.

The Nature of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

How does one become filled with the Holy Spirit? The scriptures make clear that it is both an experience of outpouring from above and an experience of drinking from within.

Outward

"In the last days, God says, I will _____ my Spirit on all people."

Acts 2:17

"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit _____ them as he had _____ us at the beginning."

Acts 11:15

Inward

"Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and _____. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from _____ him. By this he meant _____, whom those who believed in him were later to receive."

John 7:37-39

Outward Evidence

In all four accounts recorded in the Bible, where we see people initially filled with the Holy Spirit, there is a direct account of an outward manifestation that can be seen or heard that makes obvious the fact that they have been inundated with God's Spirit. In the Bible we always see some outward evidence of what the Holy Spirit is doing.

"The wind blows wherever it pleases. You _____, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with _____ born of the Spirit."

“.....He [Christ] has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now _____ and _____.”
Acts 2:33

Jesus said that we can't see the Spirit, just as we can't see the wind but we do see certain outward effects of the Spirit as we do the wind (i.e. rustling leaves). The outward effect of the first outpouring of the Holy Spirit in history in the book of Acts was also something which they could see and hear.

Here are four accounts in the Bible of people initially being filled or baptized in the Holy Spirit. Notice that what is common among them is some kind of an outward supernatural manifestation.

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to _____ as the Spirit _____ enabled them.”
Acts 2:4

When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might _____ the Holy Spirit,.....
When Simon _____ that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands,.....
Acts 8:15, 18

“The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the gentiles. For they heard them _____ and _____ God.”
Acts 10:45-46

“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they _____ and _____.”
Acts 19:6

The Bible teaches that some kind of outward expression accompanies the experience of being “baptized”, “filled”, or “overflowed”, with the Holy Spirit. It is not a small, insignificant or passive experience. The fullness of God's Spirit poured out and overflowing an individual is very significant. Sometimes it may be emotional, certainly edifying and, as we have learned here, the experience can be quite varied.

Here are some things to remember.

- If you are saved, you already have the person of the Holy Spirit (Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9).
- The empowering of the Holy Spirit is a promise for all who ask (Luke 11:11-13).
- Any believer may receive this empowering of the Holy Spirit (Joel 2:28-29).

- The Holy Spirit gives power to witness (Acts 1:8).
- The Holy Spirit helps us to pray (Romans 8:26).
- A person may be water baptized and saved but not yet be baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-16). This appears to be the case with the original disciples as well. In John 20:21-22 when Jesus appears to His disciples for the first time after His resurrection He gives them this command and blessing:

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "_____".
John 20:21-22.

(Note that this occurred over 40 days before the Pentecost outpouring. It was also these same disciples that he later told to wait in Jerusalem for the power of the Spirit in Acts 1:4-5)

- Some believers may receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit before they are baptized in water.

“Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.”
So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.
Acts 10:47-48

- This experience can be repeated. In Acts 4:31 we see the original disciples some time after Pentecost experiencing another infilling.

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all _____ and spoke the word of God boldly.
Acts 4:31

A special word about ‘speaking in tongues’

For many the experience of speaking in tongues is viewed as the ‘initial evidence’ that someone has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This implies that if you haven't spoken in tongues then you haven't been filled with the Holy Spirit. That conclusion seems to go beyond the scriptures in this matter. However, Scripture is clear about us being filled with the Spirit. It is essential for a fruitful Christian life. But does one have to speak in tongues? The answer is no. You don't have to speak in tongues to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, a good case can be made from the Scriptures that this experience was normative.