

Holy Spirit Baptism

Your Help From God

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Chapter 1

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

My Experience

I had received salvation when I was a little girl. My parents brought me up in a Christian church and I learned tremendous things about God and the Bible. I loved God, and I sensed the Holy Spirit was with me; but it felt like God wanted me to have something **more**. God brought a few people into my life that knew about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I asked a lot of questions and learned as much as I could from them. I searched and studied scriptures in the Bible about this experience, wondering why I had not heard about this baptism in the church I grew up in. I visited other churches and youth groups that not only taught about it, but they prayed and asked God for it.

I was seventeen years old when I asked God to baptize me with the Holy Spirit. There was a definite change in my life after being filled with the Spirit. I had sensed God in my heart before, but now I was having experiences where I was overwhelmed with the reality of God's presence. I was feeling God's power tangibly in a way that I never had before. I also began to learn about spiritual things from my heart in a whole new light. The Holy Spirit was opening the Bible to me, and the Word of God was coming alive in my own life in a way that I saw how I could apply it. He began to show me truth of who I was in Christ and how God wanted to work through me with His help. As a Christian I always had the Holy Spirit **living** in me, but now His power was **working** in me!

For me, I don't think I really knew what the baptism of the Holy Spirit was until I experienced it myself. All the studying and listening was interesting to my mind, but when it came to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I had to learn to receive spiritually from my heart.

The Purpose

Acts 1:8 "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me ..."

The Bible says that the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, or being "filled with the Spirit," is to give us **power**, or **help from God**. God knows we need His help to live life successfully, and He wants to help us! We need His anointing to walk in victory each day – in our relationships, in our jobs, in our health, in every area! We need help! The Holy Spirit was sent to bring us the help from God that we need.

God also wants to give us power to effectively touch the lives of others. There are people who are in need of God and we are the ones God wants to use to reach them. We can accomplish much more with God's Spirit than we could ever do in our own strength.

Salvation is wonderful. Having our sins forgiven and having a relationship with God is a tremendous thing. However, there is more. There is a power from God that comes through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 2

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of God and the power of God.

The Holy Spirit before Christ

Before Christ, it was impossible for people to become born again, so the Holy Spirit could not live within a person's sinful heart. God is holy and without sin. Anyone with sin would die in His presence. God got as close to His people as He possibly could in the Old Testament. God had the people build a tabernacle so the Holy Spirit could dwell **among** the people. He also would come **upon** certain ministry gifts for a brief period of time, such as kings, priests, and prophets, to help them function in their office.

The Holy Spirit during the life of Christ

In the ministry of Jesus, the Holy Spirit came **upon** Him with power. Acts 10:23 says, *How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.*"

It's important to recognize that Jesus did not perform miracles in His own power, but with the help of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit After Christ

Because of Jesus, people's hearts can become new, and the Holy Spirit is able to come **into** the spirit of a person to stay.

*1 Corinthians 6:19 says, "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is **in** you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"*

*John 14:17 says, "the Spirit of truth... you know Him, for He **dwells with** you and will be **in** you."*

The Holy Spirit not only comes **upon** us, but also is living **in** us and moves **through** us! Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit in John 7:38, "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." This scripture describes the Holy Spirit as being **IN** us and moving **THROUGH** us!

Jesus ministered under the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Now Jesus is telling **you** that **you** can do the same works that He did, and **GREATER**, because now **you** have the anointing of the Holy Spirit (*1 John 2:27*). God is looking for Christians to baptize with the Holy Spirit who will live their lives for His purpose.

John 14:12 Jesus said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these will he do, because I go to My Father."

Chapter 3

IS THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM A SEPARATE EXPERIENCE FROM SALVATION?

Yes, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation. When a person receives salvation, the Holy Spirit will **abide** inside the believer. When a person receives the Holy Spirit baptism, the Holy Spirit will **empower** the believer!

Picture it this way – a Christian has the Holy Spirit living in them like water in a glass. He's there, to assure you of your salvation and to lead you in the right direction. When a Christian receives the Holy Spirit baptism, it is like filling the glass with water to the brim and then pouring it to overflowing! He is there to help you go beyond the limits of what you can do alone! He can do far more beyond the reasoning or imagination of our minds. He can do much more with His power than we could do with our talents and ideas. It's the same Holy Spirit, but He can do more **in** us and **through** us if we are baptized with His power.

Baptism of water and baptism of fire

When a person is first saved they are baptized, or immersed, in water. It is a testimony of the surrender of their life to the lordship of Jesus Christ. When Jesus was on the earth, his cousin, John the Baptist, would baptize in water those who were turning back to God in repentance. John had this to say about Jesus:

*Matthew 3:11 "I indeed baptize you with **water unto repentance**, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.**"*

It is very important to realize that it is **Jesus Christ** who baptizes us in the Holy Spirit. In John 16:7 Jesus said, "...It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, **I will send Him to you.**" (John 15:26) Jesus is the one who gives us this precious gift.

The baptism of fire, or the Holy Spirit baptism, is when the Holy Spirit gives us the power of God. The fire *represents* the power of God; it isn't a literal fire. Like a natural fire that both cleanses and empowers, this spiritual fire will purify and empower you! After Jesus was raised from the dead and was returning to Heaven, He told His followers that they would soon receive a separate baptism from Jesus, not one of **water** but of **fire!**

*Acts 1:4, 5 "And being assembled together with them, He commanded them no to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; (5) for John truly baptized with **water**, but you shall be baptized with the **Holy Spirit** no many days from now."*

The people of Samaria

The Bible gives us examples of the Holy Spirit baptism as a *separate* experience from salvation. In Acts 8:5-8 we read that Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached salvation. The people received Christ and were baptized in water.

Acts 8:5-8 "...Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. (6) And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. (8) And there was great joy in that city."

The apostles in Jerusalem heard how the people in Samaria responded to the Gospel and sent Peter and John to teach them about **another experience** – the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17 "Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, (15) who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. (16) For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (17) Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

This is one example of the baptism of the Holy Spirit being a separate experience from salvation.

The people of Ephesus

Another example of the baptism of the Holy Spirit as a separate work is found in Acts 19:1-6. We read that Apostle Paul found some **Christians** in the city of Ephesus that had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6 "And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples (2) he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' (3) And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.' (5) When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. (6) And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

The Ephesians had been baptized in water, but had not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. From looking at the Bible we can see that being baptized with the Spirit is a separate experience from salvation.

You don't have to wait

Once an individual has accepted Jesus as their personal Savior, that individual is in a position to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I've seen people get saved and immediately following received the Holy Spirit baptism! You don't have to wait to have the help that you need from God. He's ready and willing to give you the power that you need from Him!

Chapter 4

WHAT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES?

When people are first baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues is one result. **Speaking in tongues is speaking from your spirit in unknown languages by the enabling of the Holy Spirit.**

According to I Corinthians 13:1, the languages that are spoken are various languages of humans and of angels. This scripture says, “Though I speak with the tongues of MEN and of ANGELS, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.” Why would God have us to speak something that we didn’t understand? For exactly this reason – it goes beyond the limits of our thinking. When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit, we have the unlimited, supernatural help of God!

It wasn’t until I was about seventeen that I first heard someone praying in tongues, and it shocked me! I didn’t understand it, and it seemed very strange to me. When the woman realized that she had startled me, she showed me scriptures in the Bible about the Holy Spirit baptism and about speaking in tongues. I wondered why I had never heard about this before, but since it was in the Bible, I knew I wanted to learn more!

The first account of speaking in tongues in the Bible is on the Day of Pentecost when Jesus first sent the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:1-4 “When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2) And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3) Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them 4) and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

I have experienced speaking many different languages over the past several years. Some have sounded like Chinese, some African, and some Indian; but the only language I know is English and some Spanish. There have been times when what I heard coming out of my mouth was like nothing I’ve ever heard before, but I knew it was the **Holy Spirit** giving the utterance to me. I also knew it was in the **Bible**. When you know it is of God, you can trust Him with the supernatural.

WHO DOES THE SPEAKING?

You! It’s not the Holy Spirit that does the speaking- it’s you. Don’t wait for the Holy Spirit to move your mouth for you, because He won’t make you do anything. He will give you the help you need as you yield to Him and start speaking.

Acts 2:4 “And THEY were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave THEM utterance.”

Speaking in tongues comes from your spirit, not your head. It doesn't come from trying to form words that you've thought up. You simply yield to what comes from your heart, and speak it out of your mouth.

You can speak in tongues anytime and anywhere you choose. The Holy Spirit will never come upon you to make you speak in tongues, but He is always available for you to yield yourself to Him in prayer.

WHO ARE WE TALKING TO?

The Bible is very clear that when we are speaking in tongues, we are speaking to God- not to the devil, not to another person, but to **God**. You are praying from your heart to God's heart. We may not understand a word of what we're saying, but God hears and understands it ALL.

1 Corinthians 14:2 "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to GOD, for no one understand him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries."

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR THE PERSONAL USE OF TONGUES?

One difficulty people have had in understanding what the Bible says about tongues is not discerning between the **personal** and the **public** use of tongues. The personal use of speaking in tongues has a different purpose than the public use of tongues. We sometimes refer to the personal use of tongues as "praying in the spirit" or using our "prayer language."

When someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit, they receive the ability to speak in tongues. The **personal** use of tongues describes the initial sign of receiving the baptism, and it is for every believer. There are several reasons why God wants you to have this gift.

Spiritual Growth

One purpose for praying in the spirit is to edify yourself spiritually. The Bible says in I Corinthians 14:4, *"He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself..."* To edify means to build up or strengthen. To make my physical body stronger, I feed it the proper nutritional foods and exercise. It is also important to build myself up spiritually. One way I can strengthen myself spiritually is to pray in tongues. Reading the Bible, worshipping, and going to church are other ways of feeding myself spiritually. If I didn't edify my spirit, my spiritual condition would become weaker.

Another scripture describing the edification of the personal use of tongues is *Jude 20... "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit."* When you are stronger in your spirit, you will rise above circumstances, you will have control over your emotions, and temptations won't have a hold on you! It is important to build ourselves up spiritually. In fact, if you are ever in a bind on a big decision or a work problem and you don't know what to do – pray in the spirit. God will lead you by your spirit, and speaking in tongues will make you more sensitive to that leading within you.

Help to Pray

A second purpose for praying in tongues is to receive the Holy Spirit's help in prayer. When we pray in the power of the Spirit, we are not limited by our understanding. The Holy Spirit can take us beyond what we know to pray out the things that are God's thoughts and desires.

Romans 8:26, 27 describes praying with the Holy Spirit, "...the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

The Holy Spirit helps us when we simply don't know what to do or how to pray. The Bible says we are praying mysteries, things that we don't know with our mind, but God knows!

I Corinthians 14:2 "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks MYSTERIES."

Sometimes God will reveal to me what I have prayed for others, or myself and sometimes I don't need to know. What I do know is that the Bible tells me that I can trust the Holy Spirit to help me to pray from the spirit, not just from my head.

Help to Worship

A third purpose for praying in tongues is that the Holy Spirit helps you to praise the Lord.

I Corinthians 14:15 reads, "...I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will SING with the SPIRIT, and I will also sing with the understanding."

So many times I reach a point in worship where I don't have the words to express what is in my heart toward the Father. So I begin to sing in tongues. I sense a release in my spirit as I yield to the Holy Spirit and sing in an unknown language. This is a beautiful and powerful experience! Singing in the spirit can also be done publicly when the congregation participates as a whole.

There have been times in my personal prayer life when the Holy Spirit will give specific songs, then reveal the words in English so I can sing it with my understanding. Many times the song is what I've needed for the moment, the words lifting Him as Lord over my situation or a prophetic song as a word from God to me.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE FOR THE PUBLIC USE OF TONGUES?

A message from God

The public use of tongues is when someone stands up in a church assembly and speaks in a tongue for everyone to hear (I Corinthians 14:4, 5). The public use of tongues is always followed by the interpretation as a message from God to His church. If someone were to stand up in an assembly and speak in an unknown language without an interpretation, what good would it do if no one could understand what had been said?

Similar to speaking a message in tongues, I've also seen people publicly sing a message in tongues then sing the interpretation. The Lord ministered to the people, and we were blessed!

A sign to the unbeliever

Another purpose for the public use of tongues is for a sign to the unbeliever (I Corinthians 14:22-25.) Being able to speak a language that you've never learned is a supernatural thing. When an unbeliever hears it, and their heart is revealed, they know it has to be **God**.

Chapter 5

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. **First, you must be a Christian to be filled with the Holy Spirit.**

Receive salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. Turn from your sin, believe that Christ paid the price for sin and rose from the dead, and choose to make Jesus the Lord of your life.

Acts 2:38 "... Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

2. **Simply ask and receive the Holy Spirit baptism by faith.**

We receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit the same way that we received salvation, which is by faith. You believe that you receive, whether you feel anything or not. It's so simple.

*Luke 11:9-13 "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. (10) For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. (11) If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone: Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? (12) Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? (13) If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who **ask** Him!"*

3. **Yield yourself to the Holy Spirit, and speak in tongues.**

I've seen some people instantly start speaking several words in tongues. I've seen others speak only a few words at first and later become more fluent. We receive the Holy Spirit baptism by faith, not by outward evidence. Believe you receive whether you speak in tongues or not, the evidence will follow your faith.

Acts 2:4 "And they were are filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

BE FILLED EACH DAY

Once you have experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, continue to receive a fresh outpouring of His Spirit everyday of your life!

Ephesians 5:18 “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”

We have to know that God **wants** to be involved in our everyday lives. God isn't far off, He is as near to us as He can be – in our spirit. Through our spirit we can know His Presence and the supernatural help of God!

AN EXAMPLE PRAYER TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Dear Father God, I thank You that I am a Christian. I ask You in Jesus' name to fill me with the Holy Spirit so that I may receive the fullness of Your Spirit. Lord, I want to have Your help to live my life for You. I want to have Your power to touch the lives of others. I want to be able to praise You from my innermost being, and I want to pray beyond my understanding. Jesus, I believe You are the Baptizer, so I ask You to baptize me in the Spirit now. I believe I receive the Holy Spirit now. Thank You, Lord.