

# BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



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# SECTION 1: WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

Simply put, it's receiving power to be effective witnesses of Jesus. I would define it as the moment when the Holy Spirit comes upon someone and empowers that person to draw people to the Lord by supernatural words and/or actions. A person baptized in the Holy Spirit becomes a vessel in which gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Cor 12:8-10) can manifest.

## **But ye shall receive power...**

- Power – Gr. Dunamis (doo'-nam-is) – force (literally or figuratively); specifically miraculous power (usually by implication a miracle itself): -ability, abundance, meaning, might (-ily, -y, -y deed), (worker of) miracle (-s), power strength, violence, mighty (wonderful) work. (Strong's, G1411)
- Thayer defines it as power for performing miracles.

## **...after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you...**

- Notice the Holy Spirit comes **upon** the person when they are in the Holy Spirit.
- Here Jesus was talking to the disciples who were already believers.

A baptism must have 3 parts: a baptizer, a baptizee, and a medium in which to be baptized.

There are 3 different baptisms talked about in the Bible: the baptism into the Body of Christ, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and water baptism. Let's look at the 3 different baptisms:

1. Baptism into the Body of Christ
  - a. Baptizer: the Holy Spirit
  - b. Baptizee: a new believer
  - c. Medium: the Body of Christ

**For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor 12:13)**

2. Baptism in the Holy Spirit
  - a. Baptizer: Jesus
  - b. Baptizee: a Christian
  - c. Medium: the Holy Spirit

**I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire. (Mat 3:11)**

### 3. Water baptism

- a. Baptizer: a Christian
- b. Baptizee: a Christian
- c. Medium: water

**And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins. (Mar 1:5)**

Because there are 3 baptisms talked about in the Bible, the baptisms are often confused. It is important to know the distinction between each baptism because doctrines have been built off misconceptions. For example, let's look at the following scripture:

**He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. (Mar 16:16)**

This scripture is talking about being baptized into the Body of Christ, which is what happens when you are saved, but some people believe the scripture refers to water baptism. This is what they see when they read it:

*He that believeth and is water baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*

Doctrine has been built from this misinterpretation, and because of that there are Christians that believe you must be water baptized to be saved. If that were the case, anyone who accepted Christ into their heart but didn't have a chance to be immersed in water would be damned. That directly contradicts many verses in the Bible that state what it takes to be saved, one of which is in Romans which reads:

**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Rom 10:9-10)**

Another dangerous misinterpretation of the Bible some people make is that the baptism in the Holy Spirit and being baptized into the Body of Christ are one in the same baptism. Those who follow this doctrine don't believe there is another experience with the Holy Spirit called the baptism in the Holy Spirit that will allow them to operate in God's miraculous power to lead others to Him.

Salvation is when someone believes and is saved.

- They are at that moment sealed with the Holy Spirit.
- They don't have to ask for the Holy Spirit to enter them.
- They receive the Holy Spirit in them.

**In whom (Jesus) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise. (Eph 1:13)**

**Who (God) hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. (2 Cor 1:22)**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is when the Holy Spirit comes upon (or fills) a person who is already saved.

- They do have to ask for it (see Luke 11:13).

- They experience the Holy Spirit coming upon them, or filling them.

**But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

**And his (John the Baptist's) father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying... (Luke 1:67)**

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit always results in an action. Examples:

- Witnessing (Acts 1:8)
- Prophesying (Luke 1:67)
- Speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4)

Scripture clearly shows the disciples being saved and then have a completely different experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

- Disciples saved (Holy Spirit in them).
  - In John 20, Jesus had already been resurrected and had appeared multiple times to His disciples.
  - At this point they knew he was the Messiah.

**And when he (Jesus) had said this, he breathed on them, and said unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit.  
(John 20:22)**

- Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into them and brought their spirit alive, just like God breathed life into Adam in Genesis.
  - The disciples received the Holy Spirit in them.
- Disciples baptized in the Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit upon them).
  - After they received the Holy Spirit in them (were saved), they were then baptized in the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

**And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.  
(Acts 2:2-4)**

We can also see in scripture where Jesus had two different experiences with the Holy Spirit, one where He had the Spirit in Him and then another time when He got the Spirit upon Him.

- Jesus saved (Holy Spirit in Him).

**And the angel answered her (Mary), “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy – the Son of God.” (Luke 1:35)**

- The Holy Spirit was Jesus’ biological Father.
- Just like we carry the DNA of our biological father, Jesus carried the DNA of the Holy Spirit.



- The Holy Spirit was therefore already in Him.
- Jesus baptized in the Holy Spirit (Holy Spirit upon Him).
  - After Jesus was water baptized, He then received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; (Matthew 3:16)**

Further confirmation of this being Jesus' baptism in the Holy Spirit is found a short time later after Jesus went into the wilderness to be tempted and then went to the synagogue in Nazareth.

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)**

Here He recognized that the Holy Spirit was no longer just in Him, but was also upon Him and His ministry, which contained numerous signs, miracles and wonders could then begin.

We'll discuss more about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and how it activates ministry in the next section.

## **Check on Learning**

1. *In your own words, define what the baptism in the Holy Spirit is.*

2. *In your own words, explain the difference between salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit.*

## SECTION 2: WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR?

The primary reason for the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to draw people to the Lord by words, actions, or a combination of both. This includes the gifts of the Spirit being manifested in the person who is baptized in the Holy Spirit to accomplish this goal.

Since drawing people to Jesus (witnessing) is the goal of every ministry, it can also be said that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the event that launches any ministry a person is called to do.

- Neither the disciples' nor Jesus' ministry started until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**But you (disciples) will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth. (Acts 1:8)**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me (Jesus), because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord. (Luke 4:18-19)**

It is important to note that the disciples spent over three years with Jesus, eating what He ate, sleeping where He slept, listening to His words and seeing the miracles performed through Him. If anyone was qualified to be a witness of who Jesus was, it was them! Yet, Jesus told them not to do anything, including witnessing, until they first were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

**And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:4-5)**

When the Holy Spirit moves in someone who is baptized in Him there will be powerful words and signs that will accompany that person. Peter, who was afraid and denied Jesus after He was arrested, spoke with boldness in Acts

Many people who were baptized in the Holy Spirit throughout the book of Acts spoke with boldness and often showed miraculous signs of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. One of the main signs that followed people who received this baptism was speaking in tongues.

**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)**

Should someone baptized in the Holy Spirit expect the Spirit to manifest in one or more of the gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10? Yes!

Below are examples from Luke of people being baptized in the Holy Spirit followed by the manifestation of the Spirit immediately or soon afterwards.

- John the Baptist would be baptized in the Holy Spirit and he went on to prophesy the coming of the Messiah (Luke 1:15).
- Elisabeth was baptized in the Holy Spirit and prophesied and shared words of knowledge (Luke 1:41).
- Zacharias was baptized in the Holy Spirit and prophesied (Luke 1:67).

- Simeon was baptized in the Holy Spirit and prophesied (Luke 2:25).
- Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit and then prophesied, as well as showed many miracles, signs and wonders (Luke 3:22).
- Disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit and then spoke in tongues and had various other manifestations (Acts 2:4).
- Disciples were again filled with the Holy Spirit and had various manifestations (Acts 4:31).
  - The baptism in the Holy Spirit happens on a specific occasion, but then refreshings (a constant filling or refilling) occur.
- Stephen was full of the Holy Spirit and did great miracles and saw Heaven in a vision (Acts 6:5 and 7:55).
- Believers in Samaria received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and even though specific manifestations aren't described, the fact that Simon the magician **saw** the people received the baptism leads one to believe he saw some sort of manifestation(s) (Acts 8:17).
- Ananias laid hands on Paul to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and Paul went on to operate in many gifts, as well as teach about them (Acts 9:17).
- Cornelius and his household were baptized in the Holy Spirit and they began to speak in tongues (Acts 10:45).
- Barnabas was sent to minister as far as Antioch and because of his witness many people were saved (Acts 11:24).

## Check on Learning

1. *What is the reason for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit?*
2. *The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the event that launches the \_\_\_\_\_ a person is called to do.*
3. *Should there be a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit upon receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_*
4. *What are some biblical examples of manifestations of the Spirit occurring after someone received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?*

## **SECTION 3: HOW DOES SOMEONE RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit works the same way as receiving salvation. One just simply asks for it and believes they received it!

**If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? (Luke 11:13)**

This verse should not be confused with salvation, because for a person to be saved they confess Jesus is Lord and believe God raised him from the dead. Receiving the Holy Spirit in them at salvation is an automatic and instantaneous gift from God. A person doesn't ask for the Holy Spirit to be saved.

**That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. (Romans 10:9-10)**

Once someone asks to be baptized in the Holy Spirit, how can they be sure they received it?

- What if there is no immediate manifestation of the Spirit (tongues, prophesy, etc)?
  - God is a God of His word, so if He says whoever asks for the Holy Spirit will receive it that is good enough!

- Should there be manifestation(s) of the Spirit once the baptism in the Holy Spirit is received? Yes, but even if there isn't, the promise is in Luke 13:11 that asking is all it takes!
  - It is probably an issue of the mind getting in the way of the Spirit and that's why a person may not experience a manifestation right away.
  - The recipient of the baptism in the Holy Spirit should not give up, but instead seek the gifts to manifest in their life.

**Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy. (1 Cor 14:1)**

Remember, everyone that received the baptism in the Holy Spirit did show signs of the Spirit manifesting through them. It's the same for us today!

Like with salvation, it is good (though not required) to have the person repeat a prayer to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This gets their mouth confessing and ensures they ask for it.

A simple example of a prayer is:

***Lord, I believe you want to baptize me in Your Holy Spirit, and I ask for this baptism in Jesus' name and I believe I have received it.***

They don't have to beg or plead. Just simply believe the word of God and receive it.



## Check on Learning

1. *How does someone receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?*
2. *How does a person know they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?*
3. *If no gift of the Spirit manifests after someone asks to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, does that mean it didn't work? Please explain.*
4. *Why is it good to lead someone in prayer and have them repeat after you to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?*