

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. The Breath of Life from the Spirit

(John 20:21-22) Then said Jesus to them again, "Peace be unto you: as my Father has sent me, even so send I you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

Thank God: we have become His temple. He lives with me and within me.

But Jesus says there is more available for us. **Look at Acts 1:6:**

*Therefore when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel?" And He said to them, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father has put in His own power. But you shall receive power, after the Holy Spirit has come **upon** you, and you shall be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:6-8a)*

Notice He is speaking to men upon whom He has already breathed and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit.” Now, before He leaves, He wants them to know that there’s more – there is the experience of the Spirit **upon** you.

2. The “Upon” Experience

The Baptism in the Spirit is the Spirit “coming upon” you and immersing you in His Power, so it should **not** be confused with the Spirit coming into you when you receive Christ. It is a gift of God that we receive by faith.

(Luke 24:49) And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you; but remain in the city of Jerusalem, until you are clothed with power from on high. Here Jesus describes it as the Promise of the Father. Now, notice again that these men were already what we would call “saved.”

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

Notice here again that this is something separate from your salvation and it came after these people were saved.

3. The Doorway to the Supernatural Power of God

A. Baptism.

In all four gospels, John the Baptist calls Jesus the One who baptizes in the Holy Spirit. **Baptism** means being immersed, or saturated. We know what water baptism is, but Spirit baptism may be harder to grasp. A good example I heard is that of a toy boat in a bathtub. If you plunge that boat under water, the boat is in the water, but the water is in the boat, too, moving through it. In the Baptism of the Spirit, you are immersed in His power; He comes upon you to saturate you and flow through you.

B. The Promise of the Father.

We saw the first great outpouring of the Spirit in Acts chapter 2, on the Day of Pentecost. (This is where we get the word Pentecostal from.) This was a sign from Heaven that Jesus had poured out the “Promise of the Father.”

God's people had been waiting for the promised day when everyone could experience God, not just a few people. In the Old Testament, only a few special people like prophets and kings had the power of the Spirit. But once Jesus ascended to heaven, a new age, the age of the Spirit, had begun. Peter says in Acts 2: *"...this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel, 'And it shall come to pass in the last days,' says God, 'I will pour out of my Spirit upon **all** flesh'... being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He (Jesus) has shed forth this, which you now see and hear."* (Acts 2)

C. Dunamis.

Jesus said in Acts 1 that we would receive power from God.

D. The sign of tongues.

The unmistakable sign of being baptized in the Spirit is speaking in other tongues. We notice in the Book of Acts that speaking in tongues was seen or implied in the case of everyone who received it. (You can study Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, and 19.) *What is speaking in tongues?* It is speaking in a language we have never learned, through the power of the Holy Spirit. This may be a

human language, or the Bible says it may also be an angelic language.

That's why we sometimes refer to it as a "heavenly language." (1 Cor. 13)

The baptism in the Spirit is not an end in itself; it's a doorway into a fuller life in the Spirit. It empowers us to fulfill the command to take the Gospel to the ends of the earth. Typically, only when we are baptized in the Spirit do we see frequent manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit in our lives.

4. The power of praying in the Spirit

- A. *What is happening when we speak in tongues?*
- B. *What am I saying when I speak in tongues?*
- C. *What's the value of speaking in tongues?*

5. Steps to receiving the Baptism of the Spirit

- A. *Realize that God wants you to receive the Holy Spirit.*
- B. *Ask for the Spirit*
- C. *Believe that we have received when we ask*
- D. *Confess with our lips*