



Understanding The Holy Spirit And The Holy Spirit Baptism

Topics in Understanding The Holy Spirit

The Eternal Mystery of The Holy Spirit.....	2
Experiencing God Through the Holy Spirit Today.....	3
The Bible and the Power of The Spirit in Manifestation.....	4
The First Baptism; Baptized Into The Body of Christ.....	5
What is the Baptism of the Spirit For?.....	5
Scripture That Enumerates the Gifts of The Holy Spirit.....	5
Spiritual Hindrances From A Former Lifestyle.....	6
Receiving The Holy Ghost, For Many, A Struggle.....	7
Introducing the Gifts of The Holy Spirit.....	7
The Actions of the Holy Spirit in the Assembly of Believers.....	9
Our Proper response to God <i>via</i> The Holy Spirit.....	9
As The Gospel Spread The Miraculous Works of the Holy Spirit Continued.....	10
Holy Ghost and Fire Fell On The Celebration of Pentecost.....	11
Peter's Declaration Of The Meaning of This Power from Heaven.....	11
Luke's Account of Paul's Conversion by Jesus and the Power of God.....	12
Disciples Were Commanded to Wait For the Holy Spirit's Empowerment.....	13
Water Baptism Is Not A Requirement To Be Saved.....	13
Do we Have to Be Qualified to Receive The Baptism of the Holy Spirit?.....	14

Prayer to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.....	15
Receiving and Beginning A Spirit-Filled Life.....	16

The Eternal Mystery of The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is far more relevant to Christianity than most of us realize. The flesh is the flesh, the mind is the mind. These are components of human life and knowledge. But the question of what is spirit (Spirit) immediately drives us into the domain of the supernatural. We are told from the beginning "that God is Spirit" and "no man has seen God at any time" (*John 1:18 and 1John 4:12*).

We are told to imagine, to believe in or to put faith in someone or something we can not see. To the faithless and the atheist the argument ends there. John 1:8 continues to state that, "Jesus has 'declared Him' or made Him known."

We are informed in John 4 that those who "Worship" God must worship him *in Spirit and in Truth*. These words are also veiled and hard to understand. So then, knowing God and how to worship God in this world is a not an easy concept.

Finally I will share what the New Testament says about the Holy Spirit in heaven and on earth:

1John 5:7 Three bear witness in heaven; ***1Jn 5:7 For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 1Jn 5:8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.***

What I discern from this text is that we can only know God in this world through the presence and power of God the Holy Spirit. Jesus before his ministry on earth was in heaven as the Eternal Word. He has returned there again in this capacity.

In His manifestation on earth as Messiah and Son of God, Jesus became the Second person of the trinity, The Son. The son received the Holy Spirit without measure which allowed him to minister the Will of The Father through Holy Spirit's communion and empowerment. After Christ's resurrection Jesus returned to his heavenly place having fulfilled his mission of purchased and providing redemption through his blood and now sits at the right hand of the Father, as high priest and intercessor a roll that had not been in effect prior to his becoming the The Only Begotten Son of God. It is still only the Holy Spirit who now connects us to the life of God and the purposes of God in this world. Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to enforce his presence and purposes on earth. This was the "promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4) Jesus had to go to the Father through his resurrection to make this promise a reality.

Now the Holy Spirit who was promised, could take those things that Jesus said were "of mine" and show them to you.

(John 16:15) ***All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show it unto you.***

Therefore, the things that are of God and spoken of by Jesus, the Son of God, are revealed by the Holy Spirit. Moreover all matters Spiritual and manifestations and the giftings of God are empowered by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is all we know and is our connection to the Divine and the source of Faith and Hope in this world.

Experiencing God Through the Holy Spirit Today

It's ironic that Christians have argued so much about the baptism of the Spirit, when the apostle Paul used it as one of his main arguments to prove that we are all united in Christ! Some theologians believe that the baptism of the Spirit is an experience different from initial salvation. They see it as an additional act of grace, that gives a person much greater spiritual power and boldness, and the ability to live a more victorious Christian life. There is ample evidence in the New Testament epistles especially in the Book of Acts that described the baptism of the Holy Spirit was accompanied by speaking in tongues just as the disciples did at Pentecost. There are also Christian theologians that teach that the manifestations of the Spirit as described in the Bible have past away. This is the doctrine secessionism. Without some of the Holy Spirit empowering we must note there could be no one born again or "born of the Spirit." This is how authentic Christian come into being. It is sad to note that so many churches carry on their activities just fine without out God's presence or power.

The Bible and the Power of The Spirit in Manifestation

The Bible does not actually use the term "baptism of the Spirit" very often. John the Baptist predicted that Jesus would come and baptize with the Spirit and with fire (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33). In Acts 1:5), Jesus recalled John's words, and told His followers that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from then. The spectacular events of the day of Pentecost ten days later seem to be the obvious fulfillment of His words (see Acts 2). The only other mention in Acts (11:16) refers back to Pentecost, explaining that Cornelius, the first Gentile convert, had an experience very similar to the Pentecost manifestations. While these passages make it clear that the believers in Acts 2 experienced a baptism of the Spirit, we do not find a clear explanation of what that baptism means. Nor do we know whether there were other works of the Spirit that were happening at the same time. Certain designated

disciples demonstrated great signs and wonders at this time. Clearly great empowerment, called “great grace” was lavished upon the initial followers of the risen Messiah. The body of Christ had to be propelled forward with great strength to keep “the Way” alive for God’s purposes.

The clearest explanation of the baptism appears in I Corinthians 12:13. Paul is dealing with a situation where the Corinthian church was splitting into factions over the issue of spiritual gifts. Overemphasis on certain spectacular gifts had led to the attitude that some people had more desirable gifts, while others were deficient. In response, Paul exclaims, "We're all one! Don't divide up into cliques!" And to prove his point, he explains, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:13). His main point? All believers share the reality of being baptized by the Spirit. What does it do? It makes us part of the body of Christ, the Church. When did it happen? If every called believer has been baptized in the Spirit. Great Christians down through the years have often experienced dramatic encounters with God after salvation. There is no reason to deny that this is a genuine way that God works with His people. It is also true that equally devout, effective Christians have gone through life without such a "second work" of grace.

We may use whatever words we want to describe our experiences with God. But it is most accurate to say that the Bible uses "baptism of the Holy Spirit" to refer to one of the wonderful things that God does for us the instant we trust Christ and enter His family! Once born into Christ by the incorruptible “seed” the disciple may experience additional in-fillings at times God allows.

The First Baptism; Baptized Into The Body of Christ

In Hebrews Chapter 6 v 2- The writer lays out the essential six “basics” of the Christian Doctrine, among these “baptisms” is listed.

Also see: “Gift of tongues” and “Holy Ghost” Have you received the Holy Spirit?

When the apostle Paul met the twelve believers in Ephesus (Acts 19:2) he asked them a question - "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?" They answered "No, they hadn't even heard about receiving the Holy Spirit." Paul prayed together with them and "the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied". The same thing happened to the 120 people waiting on God's promise of His Holy Spirit in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost, fifty days after Passover. They all spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 1 & 2). This was the supernatural enablement spoken of by Jesus. The disciples may have been expecting this since Jesus was said to be the one who would baptize in the Holy Spirit and fire.”

What is the Baptism of the Spirit For?

What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit for? Jesus said that we would "receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" in Acts 1:8. Power to live holy lives, power to witness, power to pray, to understand scripture, to minister, and to lay down our lives. (Acts 9:17-20; John 16:14; Luke 24:24; Romans 8:26). The Holy Spirit is to be received by all believers so that they can receive, with the power, certain "gifts" from God. Gifts of healing, power wisdom, power faith, power knowledge, power miracle and power to speak the truth of God. In other words, the Holy Spirit is to be received to receive power to be the active "body of Christ" ministering in the earth today.

Scripture That Enumerates the Gifts of The Holy Spirit

| The Apostle Paul wrote in his first Corinthian letter to "earnestly desire spiritual gifts" (1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1) Who is the baptism in the Holy Spirit for? Jesus said that "the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven" so the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not for the casual, merely curious inquirer (Matt. 12:31). It is for 'born again' Christians, it is not 'dead religion' it is a living relationship with God, it is not for the unbelieving (John 14:16-17). When as a believer, you ask the Holy Spirit to enter your life he will come along side you and to fill you and cleanse you with His fire (Matt. 3:11); His presence is the living witness of the Risen Jesus. "Your heavenly father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask of Him" (Luke 11:13).

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for now and has always been available for any believer bold enough to trust God and obey Him. When the believers asked for advice of the apostles on the day of Pentecost "What should we do?" they were told to "repent", "be baptized" and "receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Jesus said in His sermon on the mount blessed are they who hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled (Matt . 5:6).

Who does the baptizing? Jesus is the baptizer (Matt 3:11) He baptizes with heavenly fire not water. Fire either purifies or destroys. You may want to have other Spirit Filled Christians lay hands on you and pray but it is not necessary. This is between you and God, just as your salvation is (Acts 2; 10:44-46; 19:6) The Grace of the Holy Spirit If you still have reservations about your Christian commitment or if you are struggling with sin understand that heavenly fire purifies, but don't be afraid. The gift-the promise of our heavenly Father is not evil-he said if your earthly fathers know to give their children good gifts, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to a child who asks for Him? A loving God would not first send His Son to die for us and then turn around and trick us by leading us into something evil.

Spiritual Hindrances From A Former Lifestyle

If you have ever been involved in the occult (Fortune Telling, Satanism, Witchcraft, Horoscopes, Ouija Boards, Spiritism, or non Christian religions) then renounce these things before you seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Once you begin to live in the power of God's Holy Spirit Baptism you may become a target for Satan and he may try to confuse you in the supernatural leading in your life. Silence his voice and renounce his right to your life by confessing yourself a child of God in Jesus' name. You see the occult involvement in our lives were not innocent child's play. They break the first commandment and give Satan legal access to our lives (Deut. 18:10-12). If you are now going to seek supernatural guidance from God by His Holy Spirit then you need to silence all other occult influences in Jesus name (Acts 19:19) destroy all objects in your home or life that have supernatural ties. God speaks through our hearts not through mediums or objects. Don't be afraid - there is no need to fear, simply trust God.

Be alert to Satan's tricks and resist Him (in Jesus' name) and he must flee (Jam. 4:7). If you are filled with the Holy Spirit 1 John 4:1 tells us not to just believe every spirit that speaks but to test the spirits to see if they are from God or not. "Be sober, be vigilant: because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion walks around seeking who he may devour." (1 Peter 5:8) Do not seek the Baptism of the Holy Spirit if you do not want to be Holy and obedient to God and are willing to have Him speak to you and guide your life. Finally I do not want you to think that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the way to "instant" sanctification and a source of personal power for your own use. If this is your heart motivation for reading this tract, repent! You will have neither part nor portion in this blessing of God. (Acts 8:14-24)

Receiving The Holy Ghost, For Many, A Struggle

How can I receive the Holy Spirit? With other Spirit filled Christians or privately, raise your hands up to God in thankfulness and praise. You might close your eyes or leave them open. The important thing is to "ask" - believing God's promise is for you - and then to "receive" of your own free will the blessing of God, called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Start to praise God with your voice, tongue and lips. He will not force you to speak in tongues but you may if you wish. As the "Truth" of God's promised blessing fills you, let it set you free. Step out in faith. Try to say something in a language that only God could understand speaking mysteries to God (1 Cor. 14:2). Maybe you will only be bold enough to speak a few syllables but as you boldly repeat them God will bless you with more. Like a child, your new language of prayer to God will grow.

Don't be afraid. This language is not for the benefit of other people it is between you and your Lord and Savior. You will (most often) not even understand what you are saying, but be assured that God says that as you use this prayer language you will be built up and become stronger in faith (Jude 20). Your private

worship of God will be blessed. You do not pray in tongues with your mind but with your spirit (1 Cor. 14:14-15) you are praying with your spirit to God who is a spirit (John 4:24). Even if you do not have the faith to speak in tongues at this time, it's important that you desire to (1 Cor. 14:1,5). One day you may just find yourself doing so. Nevertheless because you invited the Holy Spirit to come into the "house" of your life He has (Rev. 3:20). You will therefore find a new intimacy with Him as you worship and study God's ways. A new "fire" will burn in your life. A new fervency for God will be experienced and a new level of faith will be your. From time to time you may find the ardor of your fellowship at a lower level. No need for alarm - just repent of your distraction and ask the Holy Spirit to fill you anew.

There will always be only one "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" but there can be many fillings of the Holy Spirit of God (Eph. 3:14) God wants you to either be hot or cold – and never ever be satisfied with a lukewarm Christian life (Rev 3:14-22). As you walk in the Spirit you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-25).

Introducing the Gifts of The Holy Spirit

Now it's time for you to learn what the Gifts of the Spirit are and how they operate in your life. Holy Spirit revivals occur as God orders and directs. Revivals are characterized by the Holy Spirit taking charge. It is not and can not be man directed. Amazing series of meetings have happened when the Holy Spirit sends revival beginning with all of the nine gifts or manifestations of the power of the Holy Spirit present and operating in that place. This was the birth place of the modern Pentecostal/charismatic move of God swept the nations. The believing church has seen more of the power of God at work in the earth as in the book of Acts.

In 1 Cor. Chapter 12, Paul lists out these Holy Spirit directed gifts. Any Spirit filled Christian can manifest or release any of these gifts as the Holy Spirit directs them.

The Nine Gifts of The Spirit

In 1 Cor. Chapter 12 Paul lists out these gifts. Any Spirit Filled Christian can manifest or release any of these gifts as the Holy Spirit directs them.

1. The Gift of Faith - the supernatural ability to believe God without doubt. This is one of the three "power" manifestations of the Spirit. It corresponds and is essential to the Gift of Healing and Miracles. It is a manifested Power Gift. It may occur when a person receives supernatural strength in an emergency situation.

2. The Gifts of Healing - supernatural healing through special anointings of the Holy Spirit. Jesus healed in various ways as directed by his Father. It may be so also in how his disciples are used to enact healing.
3. The Working of Miracles - a supernatural display of power that goes beyond the natural to counteract earthly and evil forces.
4. Discerning of Spirits - Spiritual insight into differences between the Holy Spirit, the Human Spirit, and evil Spirits at work in the earth. It is not the discerning of character faults. Discernment is able to see character and motive in those who are purportedly ministering to the body.
5. The Gift of Prophecy - the forth telling of God's utterance. Though future oriented it will always be in accord with existing scripture. It is not a product of the intellect or mind but of the Spirit. It is divinely inspired and anointed words spoken by a believer. Prophecy will always agree with the Logos, the whole counsel of God in scripture. It is not given to influence directions to guide a person's life but may confirm something the Holy Spirit has already shown an individual.
6. Different Kinds of Tongues - This is not to be confused with the use of tongues in private prayer or worship. This refers to the ministry of tongues to others. An utterance from a believer to another in a language unknown to the speaker
(Is. 28:11, Mk. 16 :17, Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; 19:1-7, 1 Cor. 12:10; 13:1-3; 14:2; 14:4- 22; 14:26-31; 28:31)
7. Interpretation of Tongues - Supernatural power to receive and be enabled to reveal the meaning of tongues. Not a translation, but an interpretation. Tongues and Interpretation working together can be the equivalent of prophecy.
8. The Word of Wisdom, A spoken gift that points to an end result or conclusion.
9. A Word of Knowledge. This is a message that reveals a matter of a personal nature about a person or about a situation that would otherwise not be known to the speaker.

The Actions of the Holy Spirit in the Assembly of Believers

The working of these nine Gifts is for the profit and edification of the assembly "Church.". They are for the benefit of the Church and are specifically available to every believer as the Holy Spirit wills (1 Cor. 12:7-11; 14:12). They should all be actively welcomed and expected in your life (1 Cor. 14:1) How Many Gifts Do We Get? And contrary to some secessionist doctrine, they have not ceased to happen in this present age.

The Holy Spirit distributes His gifts to each believer (severally) as He wills.

(1 Cor. 12:11). It is not up to us how many gifts we want or are willing to use but up to the Holy Spirit to give whatever He wants to whoever He wants whenever He wants. It is up to us to appreciate all of them

and to allow the Holy Spirit to use us in any of them to minister to others. A Spiritual gift that is not a usual one may be activated as needed for the needs or edification of the body at a given time.

Some Christians teach that we each get one gift. That teaching conflicts with God's Word. In 1 Cor. 14:1 Paul says desire Gifts and in 1 Cor. 14:5 he says that he wished that we all spoke in tongues. In 1 Cor. 14:31 he says "you all can prophesy." In addition to these evidences it is practical knowledge that one gift cannot be in operation without the use of other gifts ([Tongues, Prophecy, Interpretation][Healing, Miracles, Faith] [Wisdom, Knowledge, Discernment]).

Our Proper response to God via The Holy Spirit

God will let us know in variety of ways when we are to exercise the different Gifts. Sometimes the hands actually feel anointed or other times words or thoughts just flood our consciousness as we grow in the Spirit these things will become more clear. Above all we need to understand that God works through Spirit gifts to reproduce the ministry of the Lord Jesus Christ in his Church.

Mostly with the laying on of hands, the spoken command, or the active intervention of one human being in the lives of others. We will all do this only according to our faith. Thus we need to accept the importance of tongues for Holy self edification. (1 Cor. 14:1-5) The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's way of empowering us to manifest his love to His Church and to cleanse us and make us Holy. 1 Corinthians 14 affirms the purpose of doing all things for the good of "edifying the Body."

We need therefore to acknowledge that love is necessary for the proper use of the Gifts; faith works by love (Gal. 5:6). Love edifies others (1 Cor. 8:1) As God has shown His love for you by giving you faith to believe in and trust in and cling to and rely on Jesus. Repent of anything that would hold you back from experiencing and walking in His fullness through the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him for it. Receive it. Freely it has been given to you - now freely give (Matt. 10:8).

As The Gospel Spread The Miraculous Works of the Holy Spirit Continued

(Acts 19:2) They also spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 1 & 2). Jesus said that we would "receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you" in Acts 1:8 (1 Cor. 12:31, 14:1) (Is. 28:11, Mk. 16 :17, Acts 2:4; 10:44-48; 19:1-7, 1 Cor. 12:10; 13:1-3; 14:2; 14:4-22; 14:26-31; 28:31) Another Source, on the Internet offers this teaching: Brothers and sisters in the Lord, please read this teaching with an open mind and allow the Lord to minister to you through these foundational scriptures concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Another Baptism? John the Baptist said in Matthew 3:11: "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance (water baptism); 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:" From this scripture it may be understood that Jesus is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is also called the Spirit of Jesus. "He takes those things that are his and shows them to us." Jesus (before ascending into heaven) said to His disciples in Acts 1:8 says "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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

The Promise of the Holy Spirit Jesus foretells of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in John 7:37-38: "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 'If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water'." Luke writes in Acts 1:4-5: "And being assembled together with them, (Jesus) 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."

Holy Ghost and Fire Fell On The Celebration of Pentecost

Holy Ghost Fire In Acts 2:4-39 says "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marveled, saying one to another, Behold are not all these which speak Galileans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born? Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia, Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes, Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God. And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, 'These men are full of new wine.'

Peter's Declaration Of The Meaning of This Power from Heaven

But Peter (obviously empowered by the Holy Spirit), standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, 'Ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell in Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall

see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: Whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it. For David speaketh concerning him, I foresaw the Lord always before my face, for he is on my right hand, that I should not be moved: Therefore did my heart rejoice, and my tongue was glad; moreover also my flesh shall rest in hope: Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou hast made known to me the ways of life; thou shalt make me full of joy with thy countenance. Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne; He seeing this before spake of the resurrection of Christ, that his soul was not left in hell, neither his flesh did see corruption. This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand, Until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. What Shall We Do? Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, 'Men and brethren, what shall we do?' Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 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'."

Luke's Account of Paul's Conversion by Jesus and the Power of God

In Acts 9:5-6, Luke writes about Saul's journey to Damascus: "And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, 'Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?' And he said, 'Who art thou Lord?' And the Lord said, 'I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.' And he

(Saul) trembling and astonished said, 'Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?' And the Lord said unto him, 'Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.'" As you read on, in Acts 9:17-18 Luke writes: "And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.' And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized (in the Holy Spirit)."

Be of good courage. God will fill you with the Holy Spirit, but first we must be converted, born again and be willing to receive His free gift by faith which will empower us and make you aware of heavenly things. We must first believe in order to receive. This may have been in a time past or at the very time of that one acts through faith to believe. The Purpose of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit Four main reasons for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit are as follows:

Power for service (Acts 1:8),

Power in prayer (Romans 8:26-27),

Power to understand the Word (Isaiah 28:12),

And power to overcome sin (Revelation 12:11).

12 Steps that precede Holy Spirit baptism 1. A person must accept Jesus Christ as Savior before he or she can experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit. * Once you are born again, you are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. This is called the "new birth"; the old man passes away and becomes a "new creature."

Please note: This "new birth" is not the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Luke 24:49 : "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high."

Disciples Were Commanded to Wait For the Holy Spirit's Empowerment

Before Attempting To Go Into The World

The disciples had not yet received the baptism in the Holy Spirit; but, very shortly, they were to receive more - the power from on high which would make them stronger witnesses!

* 2. water baptism (being fully immersed in water) is an outward sign of an inward grace. In Acts 8:12-17, Luke writes about Philip preaching Christ: "But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon

himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus (water baptism). Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost."

Water Baptism Is Not A Requirement To Be Saved

But an acknowledgment of dying to the flesh and raised to life, thus sharing in Jesus' Resurrection.

I believe that water baptism is not a factor in preparation of receiving Holy Spirit baptism. The Acts 8 account merely acknowledges the first act of grace. In Acts 19:1-3, Luke writes: "And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, 'Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?' And they said unto him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.' And he (Paul) said unto them, 'Unto what then were ye baptized?' And they said, 'Unto John's baptism' (water baptism)." You see beloved, these men were disciples of Jesus, but they were not empowered with the gift of the Holy Spirit. In verse 6, however, Luke writes: "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." *

Do we Have to Be Qualified to Receive The Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the Bible evidence of speaking in other tongues.

1. We cannot merit or deserve the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is a gift. * Jesus said in Luke 11:13: "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?"

2. All believers are commanded to receive, "Be filled with the Spirit." * Ephesians 5:18 -- "And be not drunk with wine, in wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit."

3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not for Jews only, but for everyone! In Acts 10:44-45 Luke writes: "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision (the Gentiles or non-Jews) which believed were astonished, as many came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost."

4. When one receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, there is an utterance by the Spirit, and an expression is made in an unknown tongue. * Acts 2:4 states: "They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." The people cooperated in speaking, but the Holy Spirit gave the utterance.

5. This speaking is a devotional language by personal edification and communion with God in the Spirit. * I Corinthians 14:4 states: "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church."

6. You need to relax and rest in the Spirit so you can experience this refreshing * Isaiah 28:12 states: "This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing."

7. The baptism of the Holy Spirit may come upon you as you worship and praise God. * Allow yourself to move under the anointing into a dimension of expression that is not your own language. Do not be afraid to speak forth the words as the Spirit gives utterance.

8. You should pray in tongues regularly. * Jude 1:20 states: "But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost." * I Corinthians 14:18 states: "I thank God that I speak in tongues more than you all."

9. Praying in the Spirit is a marvelous way to communicate with God. The Holy Spirit knows what is needed and guides the prayer. * Romans 8:26-27 states: "Likewise 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. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

10. The Holy Spirit is for all people. * Joel 2:28-29 states: "And it shall come to pass afterward I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit."

11. The Holy Spirit will enable you to become a strong witness and allow you to perform signs and wonders. * Acts 1:8 states: "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 Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost parts

of the earth." * Jesus said in John 14:12: "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father."

12. Prayer to Receive the Holy Spirit * "Father God, You said in Your Word, "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).

Prayer to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

I'm asking You in Jesus' name to baptize me with the Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues as You give me the utterance (Acts 2:4). Then, begin to praise God for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Now slowly start to speak those words and syllables you receive that are bubbling up inside your stomach -- not words or syllables in your own language, but the language given to you by the Holy Spirit. Now boldly worship and praise Him in His words. That is the language of the Holy Spirit.

* I recommend having a believer who is filled with the Holy Ghost to pray over you and with laying hands on you to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17-18); however, you can pray the prayer above in the privacy of your own home to receive the Holy Spirit. One of the 5 basics of Apostolic Christianity is mentioned in Hebrews Chapter 6 is laying on of hands.

Crossroads of Canada Web Site Offers this teaching: Jesus Christ wants to fill you with His Holy Spirit so that His power can be released through your life as the Father promised to all believers (Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:16-18). The Holy Spirit will lead you to a full, purposeful, meaningful and rewarding life in Jesus Christ. A study of the believers in the book of Acts reveals that after they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke with boldness about Christ, they overcame great difficulties and they worked miracles of healing and deliverance. When you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, all the blessings and gifts of the Holy Spirit are available to you (Gal. 5:22-23; 1 Cor. 12:1-7).

It is the Holy Spirit who empowers you to be a witness for Christ with signs following (Mark 16:20; Acts 1:8; John 14:12;16:8,13-15). What Scripture Says "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you" (John 14: 16,17). "For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now" (Acts 1:5). "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8). "Now when the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire, and 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 2:1- 4). "But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days,' says God, 'that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams'" (Acts 2:16-17). The Apostle Peter explained on the day the Holy Spirit came upon the early believers that this is for you too: "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39). "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?" (Luke 11:13).

Receiving and Beginning A Spirit-Filled Life

How To Receive The Holy Spirit-filled life is available to all those who are thirsty for the rivers of living water. If you have never accepted Jesus into your heart and life, you can become a brand new person by doing so. The first step is to repent of your sin and renounce any involvement you may have had in the past with the occult, fortunetelling and/or horoscopes. The next step is to forgive any who have wronged you. Then call upon the Lord to save and forgive you (Romans 10:13; 1 John 1:9; John 1:12). When you do this, there will be great joy in heaven over your decision (Luke 15:7). In Luke 11:13, Jesus also says the Father will give you the Holy Spirit if you ask Him. By faith, take Jesus at His Word. Receive it by thanking Him (also an act of faith) for honoring your desire, even if you don't sense any immediate change.

It is important to maintain an attitude of thanksgiving and worship to the Lord in order to receive His promised blessing. Speaking in tongues was the first physical manifestation of the Holy Spirit baptism throughout the book of Acts (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6).

Once you have asked for this baptism, ask God to anoint you. Then in praise and worship, wait for the anointing. This witness of tongues will come forth. Expect it! Rejoice in it! You are a unique individual, and your experiences will be your own. God wants us to communicate with Him, learn about Him, hear His voice, do His will and be baptized with His Spirit. He also wants us to conform to the example given us by the Holy Spirit to help you accomplish all of the things that are important. The Holy Spirit contributes to your life every moment of every day. He helps you understand the Bible, He teaches you truth, and helps you to pray. One of the principles of the Kingdom of God concerns being in agreement with Him and with another person as you pray.

Be encouraged to ask a Spirit-filled Christian such as one of our prayer partners to pray with you. As You Pray Offer thanksgiving and praise to God for baptizing you with the Spirit. As you are praising God, thank Him for meeting further needs, such as healing for your family or relatives. Praise Him for His blessings. Praise Him for all things and in all things (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Find a group of other believers who are Spirit filled and worship with them so you can begin to grow in understanding, wisdom and knowledge. As you experience a greater faith and joy in the Lord, you will also find yourself experiencing more spiritual fullness and growth.

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