

# **THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

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In the beginning, God originally created the first man Adam with a physical body, a mind, and a spirit. God then placed the Holy Spirit within Adam's spirit, bringing man's spirit to life. "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul." (Genesis 2:7)

Adam received two great benefits from having the Holy Spirit within him. First, he had a special unity with God. Adam (and Eve) actually communicated with God just as you and I might communicate with our husband, wife, or best friend. In fact, it was a deeper communication than we humans have with each other; it was a communication based on trust and intimacy. God and man were comfortable with each other; there were no misunderstandings. The Holy Spirit within Adam was the link between God's mind and Adam's mind and between God's Spirit and man's spirit. God and man walked and talked together in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:8). God would give man any guidance he wanted or needed.

Adam's second great benefit from having the Holy Spirit within was power. Adam actually shared in God's creative and ruling power over the earth and everything in it. Adam had within himself the same power that

caused the explosion through which the universe came into being. This power would help man be fruitful. God had said, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” (Genesis 1:28)

Man was to have a life of growth, optimism, and victory. He was to be master of all he surveyed. Man was also to have dominion over nature. He could control the animals and even the weather because of the power of the Holy Spirit. Adam was to tend the Garden of Eden and dress it. He was to work but it would not be drudgery; it would be fun and a creative challenge (Genesis 2:8). Man would not taste death; the Holy Spirit within him would constantly renew and replenish his life (Genesis 2:7).

Adam lost all these benefits when he sinned. The Holy Spirit cannot abide in the presence of sin because of God’s goodness and justice. God is love; sin is anti-love. God is holy; sin is anti-holy. God and sin are like gasoline and water; they just don’t mix. When Adam sinned, the Holy Spirit departed from Adam. Without the Holy Spirit within, Adam lost direction for his life and became alienated from God. The lines of communication broke down. Without the Holy Spirit’s power, sin became easier for Adam and his descendants. Adam was filled with gloom, selfishness, and self-pity. He lost his power. Man’s lifespan became shorter because sin weakened his body. He lost control over nature and over himself. Without the Holy Spirit, man was little more than a clever animal.

God, however, did not desert man. Whenever man messes up the original plan that God has for his life, a loving, patient God simply formulates a new plan which is usually better than the original because it is filled with mercy and forgiveness; then he offers it again to man. Through Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and later under the leadership of Moses, God formed the nation of Israel (read Genesis and Exodus in the Bible). God would send the world the Savior through this nation; this Savior would restore the Holy Spirit.

Throughout the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was not available to all people, but God would from time to time send the Holy Spirit upon the leaders and teachers of Israel so they would have special power and communication with God to accomplish His purposes. Samson, for example, received great strength to protect his people. Once, a lion attacked Samson. “Behold, a young lion came roaring toward him. And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him mightily, so that he (Samson) tore him (the lion) as one tears a kid, though he had nothing in the hand.” (Judges 14:5-6) The great King David had similar power and guidance to rule. God also gave the Holy Spirit to His prophets, special men chosen to teach Israel the ways of God and to

warn political leaders and people to repent when they had turned from holiness and justice. The prophets had a special communication with God. The prophet Ezekiel, for example, said, “And the word of the Lord came to me saying, ‘Son of man, set your face toward the mountains of Israel, and prophesy against them.’” (Ezekiel 6:1-2)

Although God only gave the Holy Spirit to certain individuals on a “here and there” and “now and then” basis, He promised through the prophets that a day would come when he would restore the Holy Spirit and power on a mass basis to whosoever would come to Him and ask for the Holy Spirit.

*And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; and your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days... And it will come about that whoever calls upon the name of the Lord will be delivered.*

- Joel 2:28-32

This restoration of the Holy Spirit’s power came as a result of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the Savior God had promised Who would not only save man from sin but also restore the creative power of the Holy Spirit which had been lost. This restoration began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2) and will continue until the end of what we call “the Church Age.”

So, one of the most important parts of Jesus’ mission was to make available to people the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. When you are baptized in water, you are dunked or soaked in water, and you come up dripping wet. When you are baptized with the Holy Spirit, you are dunked or soaked into the person of the Holy Spirit and you are dripping with God’s love, strength, and power. It is a spiritual event that you can’t see physically but it is very real because of the tremendous effect it has upon your life and behavior. You are in a new dimension with God. Being born again is like a cake and the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is like the frosting on the cake.

John the Baptist preached about this baptism Jesus would give: “After me One is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to stoop down and untie the thong of His sandals. I baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (Mark 1:7-8)

After He rose from the dead, Jesus Himself told His disciples to wait until

they were baptized with the Holy Spirit when they would receive power. The Greek word for power is *dunamis*, or dynamite. The Holy Spirit would be like spiritual dynamite within them and they would become “dynamic” people. Jesus said, “And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father (the Holy Spirit) upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49)

Just before He ascended into heaven, Jesus told them, “John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now... But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.” (Acts 1:5,8) Notice that Jesus didn’t give the disciples an option; He gave them a command. He didn’t say, “Be baptized with the Holy Spirit if you like,” or “It would be nice if you were baptized with the Holy Spirit.” No, He commanded them to wait for this power because it was an essential step in the restoration of their broken, fragmented, defeated humanity. In fact, this power is absolutely essential for the ministry of healing and reconciliation that Jesus established.

True to both His and the Father’s promise, Jesus sent the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost when 120 followers, including His mother Mary, were baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in a new prayer language we call “tongues” (read Acts Chapter 2). The first thing that occurred was that the disciples were restored to a special unity with God. Small flames of fire rested on each of their heads. This was to symbolize that the Holy Spirit was now available again to each individual.

In the Old Testament (read Exodus, Chapter 3), God appeared in a burning bush, and only Moses, His appointed leaser, could talk To Him. The other people couldn’t approach God. But on the Day of Pentecost, the burning bush broke up into little flames and the Holy Spirit took up residence within each person. Their power was restored; they were ready to take on the world; nothing could stop them; the sky, literally, was the limit. Peter, who had been weak-willed and had denied Jesus, was now a bold preacher. Miracles followed: the sick were healed, the dead were raised, bruised and broken hearts and spirits were set free and made whole (Acts 3:4-8; Acts 8:5-8; Acts 9:36-41). Love abounded everywhere (Acts 2:44-47).

This Baptism with the Holy Spirit is still available to us today. Millions have undergone this experience. We receive the same Holy Spirit the disciples received. He has the very same effect on us. Our unity with God is restored and there is a new awareness of the presence of God. We become constantly aware of God’s presence even as we go about our daily business. It’s an amazing experience. Also, we feel new power within. We are better able to resist sin and do positive good. Love, compassion and patience flow

more easily from our personality. It's easier to reach out to other people and be an instrument of strength to them. And, each and every person begins sharing in Jesus' ministry of healing and reconciliation through the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians, Chapter 12).

Along with the Baptism with the Holy Spirit comes the power to pray in "tongues" just as the disciples did on the Day of Pentecost. "Tongues" is the word used to describe praying in a language you don't understand. You open your mouth and start speaking words you don't understand with your mind. It is actually the Holy Spirit within you praying to God on your behalf. The Holy Spirit prays to God the Father for us night and day, and when we pray out loud in tongues we are consciously joining in the prayer the Holy Spirit is praying for us at that very moment (Romans 8:26-27).

All who are baptized with the Holy Spirit have the power to pray in tongues from the moment they receive this baptism. They may or may not actually pray in tongues, but whether they do or not, they have the power within them to do so.

Because "tongues" is a real language, there is always an interpretation or translation of everything spoken in tongues. How does it work? Well, first you pray in tongues. Then you let your mind clear. The first thought that comes to your mind after letting it clear is Jesus Christ speaking to you through the Holy Spirit. The thought that comes to your mind always is in agreement with Scripture in the Bible. It's really so simple and yet so miraculous! It's the same as God walking and talking with Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, only He's walking and talking with you! The ability to pray in tongues and communicate with God is His gift to you; you can use it any time you choose, day or night. You simply operate by faith and believe God is meeting you and communicating with you whenever you exercise praying in tongues because He promised He would, and He is faithful to His promises.

Although you have the power to pray in tongues and interpret at any moment in your life once you are baptized with the Holy Spirit, there are some times when it is not appropriate to do so. In other words, there are some "do"s and "don't"s involved in praying in tongues. Everyone should have a private prayer time every day and this is a good time to also pray in tongues. Do pray in tongues at small, home-type prayer meetings. I love to go to home prayer meetings of about a dozen people or so. We talk about the Bible, pray together, and sometimes end with coffee and cake and fellowship. Often, during prayer time, some of us will pray in tongues, worshipping and praising God in our unknown language. It is a beautiful, moving experience.

Some of the “don’t”s of praying in tongues involve larger public gatherings and church services. One should never use tongues or the interpretation of tongues to disrupt a church service. One shouldn’t interrupt a preacher in the middle of his sermon with tongues and interpretations because this causes confusion in the church, and the Holy Spirit *never* causes confusion. Also, *don’t* hold conversations with other people in tongues. The Apostle Paul wrote, “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God.” (1 Corinthians 14:2, King James Version) “Tongues” is vertical, between God and man, not horizontal, between man and man. I once saw two men in a church shaking hands and talking to each other in tongues. They *looked* ridiculous and *were* ridiculous because they were abusing God’s gift.

Now it sometimes happens in large assemblies or church services that Jesus wants to give a message to the assembly or to an individual through the operation of tongues and interpretation. When this happens, someone will stand up in the church and pray in tongues or go up to an individual and pray over them in tongues. Then someone else will stand up and give the interpretation. This manner of operating tongues in public is good. It usually happens at a quiet moment in the service set aside for ministering to those who are sick or depressed by other needs. The tongues and interpretation are not a disruption to the sermon or service, but are to help to comfort someone in need. This is good. This is a “do.”

How much importance should you place behind a message you receive in this manner? Sometimes an important decision in your life may be involved. The Bible has some good guidelines to follow in 1 Corinthians 14. If the message deals with something you have been worried about that no one else knows about, this should give you confidence in the interpretation that God is revealing something to you. Once I was worried about something and a woman in church gave me a “tongues” interpretation about the problem. No one knew I was worried about that problem. Therefore, I had great confidence in that interpretation when it offered me comfort and a solution to the problem.

Another way of proving the truth of such a message is to hear it two or three different times from two or three different people in two or three different places. It’s like God confirming something to you again and again. This would be a true message. The person interpreting the tongues message, furthermore, should be known in the church and have a reputation for love and humility. Also, you can ask the church leaders to judge the prophecy or interpretation and evaluate it. Paul said, “Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge.” (1 Corinthians 14:29, King James Version)

Finally, you ask, “How can I receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit? How can I enter into this close relationship with God and receive this power within me?” There are three basic things you must do.

First, you must be “born again” (John 3:3 and 3:7). This is a must. The Holy Spirit’s power will not be given to someone who has not asked forgiveness for their sins and for Jesus to come live in their heart. You must be truly sorry for your sins, believe that Jesus is the Son of God Who rose from the dead, and ask Him to forgive your sins and come and live in your heart. On the day of Pentecost, when the crowds asked Peter how they could receive the Holy Spirit, he said, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38, King James Version) In other words, there can be no sin standing between you and God; the way to get rid of sin is by asking God’s forgiveness.

Second, because Jesus Christ is the One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit, you must be seeking a closer relationship with Him. Other people may idolize or copy movie stars, sports heroes or political figures, but your desire is to copy Jesus Christ so that when you walk down the street, people almost don’t see you anymore, but they see Jesus Christ. Jesus will honor your seeking and baptize you with the Holy Spirit so you will have the power to be like Him. The Holy spirit will reproduce the fullness of Jesus’ life within you.

Third, you must have an attitude of praise, joy and love. You must be thanking God and encouraging people. You can’t have resentment in your heart or a grudge against anyone. If Jesus could forgive those who crucified Him even while He was on the cross, you must forgive anyone who has hurt you.

If you meet these requirements, you are in a position to receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and have this deep experience with God. Sometimes people who belong to a prayer group find it helpful to have the leaders of the group lay hands on them and pray for them to receive the Holy Spirit. Some people in the Bible received the Holy Spirit this way (Acts, Chapters 8, 9 and 19). At other times, the Holy Spirit just instantly came upon people who were seeking a closer relationship with Jesus and no laying on of hands was involved (Acts 10). There is no one set way; God can act in many ways. The important thing is that you are seeking a closer relationship with Jesus.

I can’t tell you how you will receive the Holy Spirit, but I promise you *will* receive the Holy Spirit if you are seeking Jesus. Jesus said, “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, King James Version).

Things to do:

1. I will repent of all my sins and be truly sorry for them. I want nothing to stand between God and myself.
2. I want to be like Jesus. Every minute of every day I want to do what Jesus would do if He were in my situation.
3. I'm going to thank God and praise Him constantly for my life and everything in it. He's been so good to me. I'm going to forgive everyone who has ever hurt me, and I'll bless them. I'm giving every one of my fellow humans a "clean slate."
4. I'm going to ask the leaders of my prayer group who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit to lay hands on me and pray that I too will receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

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We invite you to send any prayer requests you might have for prayer at our chapel prayer meetings. Send to:

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Also write to be put on our mailing list to receive periodic letters. Let us know specifically if you'd like to receive the Daily Devotional.