



**Baptism in the
Holy Spirit**

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A SUPERNATURAL LIFE!

From our parents we receive natural life, but in order to become Christians we needed a 'Birth from God'.

This week we are going to see how God supernaturally and powerfully equips us to serve Him. Almost everyone has these very common fears about the Christian faith and becoming a Christian:

I WON'T BE ABLE TO KEEP IT UP

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO TELL ANYONE ABOUT THE LORD JESUS I'M SURE

I'LL BE A FAILURE

All of these fears were experienced by the disciples. But just before Jesus ascended to His Father, He promised them something. We will look at the Scriptures and see what it was:

Look up Luke 24:49 and write down what Jesus promised would happen to the disciples.

They would be '_____ '.

Turn to Acts 1:4 - 5 and write down the gift the Father promised.

Now look at Acts 1:8 and write down what they would receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them _____.

What would this enable them to be? _____

So then, this promised gift of the Holy Spirit (sometimes called the baptism of the Spirit) would empower them and equip them to serve the Lord Jesus. Was it for those first disciples only, or for all of God's children?

Look up Acts 2:38-39

Write down verse 39 _____

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WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is not 'it', an impersonal force or power, but a divine person. He is a member of the Trinity - Father, Son and Holy Spirit - and He shares the same nature as the Father and the Son and IS to be worshipped and glorified with them.

He is the gift of the Father and the Son to the Christian so He can live within us and give us spiritual life (John 3:5 - 8).

As He becomes our Strengtheners and Helper, He enables us to live the Christian life fully. The Holy Spirit didn't just come on the scene on Whit Sunday or Pentecost but was always with the Father and the Son. He was involved:

in creation - Genesis 1:1,2

in producing Scriptures and prophecy - 2 Peter 1:20 - 21

in equipping and strengthening God's people in the Old Testament times -

Exodus 31:3 - 5 and Judges 14:6.

But in the Old Testament the prophets always seemed to be longing for the day when He would come in fullness on all the people of God, see Joel 2:28 - 29.

That's what happened on that first Whit Sunday; it was the start of a 'new age', the age of the outpoured Holy Spirit, as we shall go on to see.

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We cannot be holy without the Holy Spirit. We cannot truly serve without Him. We cannot be sure that we are God's children without Him. We need more than a set of rules or head knowledge of Christian teaching. To be baptised in the Holy Spirit is to be totally immersed in the Holy Spirit - that is why being baptised in the Holy Spirit is described in the Bible in a number of ways, i.e. 'being clothed with', 'coming upon', 'outpouring', 'filled with' or 'falling upon'. There is a variety of expressions because people experience His coming in different ways but it all adds up to a very definite experience of receiving the Holy Spirit, clearly evidenced by speaking in tongues.

WHAT DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT DO IN US AND FOR US?

1. As we have seen, Jesus promised that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us, power to be witnesses. A witness is someone who testifies to the truth about someone or something. The Holy Spirit will help us to live and speak in such a way that people will know that we are different - that we are 'Jesus people'. What happened in Acts 4:31 when the people were filled with the Holy Spirit?

They _____

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2. Look up Romans 8:14-16

What does the Holy Spirit do in us?

He testifies (to 'declare and establish as a fact') with our spirit that we are God's children. His coming upon us is a seal securing us as God's possession for ever (Ephesians 1:13,14).

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is described in Romans 5:5 as God pouring out His love into our hearts - this makes for a wonderfully close and secure relationship with our Heavenly Father. It is to experience God's love within us.

3. We shall be able to sing and pray with the help of the Holy Spirit, not only with our minds and in our usual language but from our spirits and with a language given by the Holy Spirit. See 1 Corinthians. 14:15. This 'praying with my spirit' is the same as praying in a tongue.
4. The Holy Spirit is the One who equips God's children for all kinds of service and worship in the church. We do not need great intellect or natural talents - we need the Holy Spirit of God!

Look at 1 Corinthians 12:4 - 11 and write down the various ways in which the Holy Spirit equips God's people - there are nine mentioned in this passage:

- (a) _____
- (b) _____
- (c) _____
- (d) _____
- (e) _____
- (f) _____
- (g) _____
- (h) _____
- (i) _____

Now go back over the list and put a tick against any that you have either seen or heard being used in the church.

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5. The Holy Spirit helps us to understand the words and thoughts of God. Look at 1 Corinthians. 2:8 – 13.

Write down briefly, in your own words, the main thrust of what this message is saying

6. The Holy Spirit does for us what the Lord Jesus did for the disciples - He was with them to teach them how to live God's life. The Holy Spirit comes into us to do the same.

As we live our daily lives the Holy Spirit will teach us to say 'No' to sin and ungodliness, and 'Yes' to God and righteousness. Jesus spoke of this as 'taking up your cross' - the cross means death. Following the desires of the sinful nature is letting those desires 'live'; not following them is 'putting them to death'. Read about this in Gal. 5:13 - 26.

If we 'live in the Spirit' He will enable us to live a very different kind of life from that which we used to live.

What sort of 'fruit' will He produce in our lives? Write them down.

HOW DOES ONE RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Let us look at several examples in the Scriptures of how the Spirit was received. Jot down the key facts in each case.

KEY FACTS

- (a) THE LORD JESUS: 'when all the people were being baptised, Jesus was baptised too. And as He was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on Him in a bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from Heaven "You are my Son, whom I love; with You I am well pleased." Luke 3:21 - 22.
- (b) THE 120 DISCIPLES: "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." Acts 2:4.

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- (c) **THE CENTURION HOUSEHOLD**: "While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers (Jewish Christians) who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." Acts 10:44 - 46.
- (d) **THE EPHESIANS**: ".....they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hand on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied". Acts 19:5 - 6.
- (e) **THE PROMISE OF JESUS**: "Jesus said, 'If anyone is thirsty, let him come and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture says, streams of living water will flow from within him.' By this He meant the Spirit." John 7:37 - 39.

These five passages indicate that there is no set pattern for the receiving of the Holy Spirit. However, certain things are very evident:

1. A longing and a thirst which causes you to ask
2. A coming to the Lord in faith
3. A moment of receiving the Spirit and being filled
4. A responding in worship, praise and tongues.

It is very important that you ask God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Look at Luke 11:11 - 13.

Look it up. Being baptised or filled with the Holy Spirit is not complicated. It means coming to God in faith and receiving what God has promised and then simply letting God do it! You then need to respond (indeed you will!) by praising God with your whole heart, opening your mouth and speaking the words which come from deep within. Don't be afraid of any emotional displays - being baptised in the Spirit will affect your whole inner being and personality.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

This is speaking in a language which you have not learnt but which is given by the Holy Spirit. He does this in order that you can worship, praise, sing, pray or intercede (pray for others) very freely from deep within your spirit in words which He gives. You will not understand the words you speak for they do not come from your mind but your spirit.

Because it is not 'natural' to speak words which you do not understand you may, at first, find yourself thinking 'I'm making this up' - this is not an unusual reaction! The answer to this is to believe what God says in His Word - speaking in tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is perfectly normal for Spirit-baptised Christians to speak in tongues. You are encouraged, too, to ask the Holy Spirit to give you the interpretation for your praying. You will probably find when you pray in English afterwards that God will give you the understanding of what you had previously prayed. See 1 Corinthians. 14:13.

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Praying in tongues or singing praise to God in tongues will usually be a part of your personal praying and fellowshiping with God. If you exercise the gift in a gathering of God's people, then it will need interpreting, either by someone else who has the gift of interpretation or, if this does not happen, by your praying and asking God to give you the interpretation.

DO YOU QUALIFY? Yes/No _____

ARE YOU READY TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT? Yes/No _____