

The Essentials
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Heb. 6:1-3

- Baptisms

Acts 1:4-8

- Jesus referred to this as “the Promise of the Father” which they had “heard from Him”. This means He had already been speaking about this to them.
 - John 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-11
- Notice, Jesus contrasted this experience with water baptism (v. 5).
- The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is power.

Acts 2:1-4

¹ When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- This is the fulfillment of the promise Jesus gave them in Acts 1:8.
- If you read the rest of Acts 2, you see an immediate change in boldness in Peter.

An ongoing pattern

This is not the only time people were filled with the Spirit. There are a total five different instances in the book of Acts where people received the infilling of the Spirit after they were saved, or in one case at the time of their salvation : Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 9:17; 10:44-46; 19:1-6.

What about speaking in tongues?

This began on the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-4) and is one of the most controversial elements of the Spirit filled experience. This experience of speaking in tongues continued to happen throughout the book of Acts. What is the purpose?

- Initially it was a sign, as on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2.
- Later, we find that it can be a powerful form of prayer and praise – Rom. 8:26,27; I Cor. 14:4, 14-15, Jude 20

Doesn't the Bible say I have the Holy Spirit if I'm saved?

- It does indeed (see Rom. 8:9)
- There are different operations of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus used the metaphor of water to illustrate different works of the Holy Spirit.
 - John 4:14 – a well of salvation
 - John 7:38,39 – rivers of ministry to others (infilling)

Modern day resistance

- Many modern day religious institutions oppose this.
- 1 Cor. 14:39 – “do not forbid to speak in tongues”!
- Modern day Pharisees?
 - “A Pharisee is a deeply religious person who, among other things, staunchly asserts and defends the (religious) status quo.” (*Quenching the Spirit*)

- Many people in these organizations do not feel this way, but unfortunately, those setting the agenda are defending a religious tradition more than honestly exploring scripture.

A worldwide movement

- 80-100 million in America designate themselves as Charismatic or Pentecostal
- 640 million worldwide as of 2000

How Do I Receive?

1. Thirst

John 7:37-39 ³⁷ *On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone **thirsts**, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. "* ³⁹ *But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

2. Ask

Luke 11:11-13 ¹¹ *If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? ¹² Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? ¹³ 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!"*

3. Receive

Acts 8:14-17 - ¹⁴ *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.** ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

- Drink ("Immersion") "..., let him come to Me and drink" (John 7:37)

4. Present your 'members' to God

Rom. 6:13 *"...present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, **and your members as instruments of righteousness to God.**"*

Job 32:18-20 ¹⁸ *For I am full of words; The spirit within me compels me. ¹⁹ Indeed my belly is like wine that has no vent; It is ready to burst like new wineskins. ²⁰ **I will speak, that I may find relief; I must open my lips and answer.***

Do you have the power of God in your life?

- The Greek word for "power" in Acts 1:8 is *dunamis*.
 - Dynamite is only effective in tight places.
- Eph. 5:18 (Amp) - *"And do not be drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but ever be filled and stimulated with the [Holy] Spirit."*