

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The apostle Paul asked this very important question of twelve disciples of Jesus at Ephesus, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” (**Acts 19:2**). They were startled by the question and asked, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.”

Later in **Acts 19:6** when they prayed together, “The Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”

This is consistent with all 4 gospels foretelling that **Jesus** will baptize with the Holy Spirit.

What Is It For?

Power for service. “You shall receive power after the Holy Spirit has come upon you” (**Acts 1:8**). Power in witnessing, not only in words but in demonstration of healing and deliverance, in prayer, in understanding the Word and power to overcome sin and live a victorious life in Christ Jesus. (**John 16:14; Acts 10:38; John 4:24; Acts 2:4**).

God, the Holy Spirit is the great teacher, comforter, helper, strengthener and revealer of truth.

With the baptism with the Holy Spirit, You are anointed to grow from the milk of God’s Word into the stronger meat of the Word. The Holy Spirit helps you grow in spiritual understanding, spiritual gifts, and a closer fellowship with God, the Father as you speak to Him spirit to Spirit; praying mysteries in an unknown tongue.

(See **1 Corinthians chapter 14**.)

Must I Speak in Tongues?

This is a gift from God and Jesus said this experience would give us an big advantage. Why would you refuse it? To refuse this gift is to refuse to yield yourself completely to God. It is vitally important that you develop your spirit language; Speaking in tongues. (**Acts 2:17**.)

Who Is It For?

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is only available to born again believers. (**John 14:16-17**.) If you are not sure you are genuinely born again – read **Romans 10:8-10**. Then confess with your mouth and believe with all your heart that Jesus is your Savior and Lord, and that He has been raised from the dead. Now you’re born again spiritually. (See **2 Corinthians 5:17**.)

How to Receive

If you are in church or at a Christian conference, you can have other spirit-filled believers lay hands on you as Peter and John did in **Acts 8:14-17**, and as Paul did in Acts 19.

It’s okay if you are by yourself too. Raise your hands to the Lord, close your eyes, ask your Father in heaven for what He has promised (**Luke 11:13**).

“Heavenly Father God, I have prayed and confessed Jesus to be my Savior and Lord. Your Word declares that I am born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now I’m asking You for the next spiritual experience – asking that You fill me to overflowing with the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Now, Holy Spirit, please rise up within my spirit and help me speak to the Father in a brand new spiritual language. In Jesus holy name; amen.”

Begin to thank and praise the Lord for filling you with the Holy Spirit. Speak those sounds, words and syllables that rise up from within your spirit – not your own language, but the new language given to you by the Holy Spirit. It could start very simple like, “Ah-ba, Sha-la, Ge-la-sha, Shun-be-la-on”

You have to use **your own voice** to pray or sing “in the spirit” – which is the same as saying, praying or singing in other tongues. God will not force you to speak.

Don’t be concerned with how it sounds, or that it seems unnatural – because it isn’t natural, it’s supernatural. It’s a spiritual gift from God. It’s a “personal spirit language” – it should not be confused with the public gift of tongues.

Continue to bless the Lord for His gift and pray “in the spirit” every day.

You are a born-again, Spirit-filled believer. You’ll never be the same, in Jesus’ mighty name!

John 4:24; 14:16-17, 16:13-14; Acts 1:8, 2:4, 2:17, 8:14-17, 19:2-6; Colossians 3:15-16; Ephesians 5:16; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 14-15.

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Helping Believers live strong
in faith & strong in spirit