

Holy Spirit I

Spiritual
Growth

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus promised the disciples that when the Holy Spirit came upon them they would be endowed with power to witness for Him (*Acts 1:8*). This power would enable them to preach, to teach, to witness more effectively, to cast out demons, to heal the sick, and to do the works that Jesus did (*John 14:12*). This power would also open the door for each one of them to be used in the gifts of the Spirit (*1 Corinthians 12:7-11*).

On the day of Pentecost about 120 believers were gathered together in one place. All of a sudden they heard a sound like a mighty, rushing wind. They looked up, and to their amazement they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire separating and resting on each one of them. Immediately, all of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (*Acts 2:1-4*).

Wouldn't it be great if each one of us could be filled with the Holy Spirit as the apostles and early believers were? Wouldn't it be great if we could be endowed with power to be a better witness for our Lord throughout our days? Wouldn't it be great if we could be used like the apostles and early disciples were to win the lost, heal the sick, cast out demons, and used in the gifts of the Spirit to build up the church?

The good news is that we can. Every child of God who has been born again can be baptized in the Holy Spirit just like the apostles and early believers were. You, too, can have your own personal Pentecostal experience. You can be a powerful witness for Christ. You can be used in the gifts of the Spirit. Yes, you can be used by God to heal the sick and to cast out demons when the need arises. Jesus, who is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 3:11*), is willing, wanting, and waiting for you to receive this filling of power.

A DISTINCT EXPERIENCE

When a person is born-again (saved), the Holy Spirit takes up residence in them; he indwells them (*Romans 8:9*). Although the Holy Spirit dwells within the believer, the believer has not yet been filled with the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and distinct experience from your salvation experience.

1. Read *Acts 19:1-6* and answer the following:

a. What did Paul ask the disciples in verse 2?

b. Do you think Paul would ask such a question if a person automatically received the fullness of the Spirit when they were saved?

c. After these believers were baptized, Paul laid his hands on them and what came on them? (*verse 6*)

d. What happened proving the Holy Spirit came on them? (verse 6)

2. Examine *Acts 8:12-19* and answer the following:

a. What words indicate that these Samaritans were already saved?

1. "... they b _____ " (verse 12)

2. "... they were b _____ " (verse 12)

b. When the apostles heard that the Samaritans accepted the word of God and had been saved, who did they send to them?

1. _____ (verse 14)

2. _____ (verse 14)

c. When Peter and John arrived, what did they pray for these believers?

(verses 15, 16) _____

d. Did they receive? (verse 17) _____

e. In *verses 18* and *19* we read that Simon saw that the Holy Spirit was, given to the Samaritan believers when the apostles laid their hands on them in prayer. Since you cannot see the Holy Spirit, what do you think Simon saw?

Circle your answer.

1. He saw an angel.

2. He saw Jesus.

3. He saw them speaking in other tongues.

4. He saw them fall over.

3. Read *Acts 10:44-46*.

During Peter's sermon in the house of Cornelious, Cornelious and those with him put their faith in Christ and were immediately baptized in the Holy Spirit.

a. What confirmed to those who had come with Peter that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit? (verses 45, 46) _____

4. Read *Acts 9:17-19*.

Saul, who would later change his name to Paul, was saved on the road to Damascus when the Lord appeared to him and spoke to him (*Acts 9:1-6*). Three days later Ananias was sent by the Lord to pray for Paul that he may:

a. (verse 17) _____

b.. (verse 17) _____

c. Was Paul filled with the Holy Spirit immediately when he was saved, or later?

5. In *Acts 2:4* how many of the 120 believers were filled with the Holy Spirit?

What did all of them do? _____

6. Answer the following statements **True** or **False**.

- a. _____ According to the Bible, the baptism in the Holy Spirit occurs when a
- b. _____ Some, but not all of the early disciples, spoke in tongues when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.
- c. _____ The baptism in the Holy Spirit may occur immediately after salvation, or days, or months later. In either case, it is a distinct experience separate from salvation.
- d. _____ It was the expected common experience for all believers in the first century to be baptized in the Holy Spirit and to speak in tongues.

It is quite clear from Scripture that the Holy Spirit begins to indwell a person at their conversion (*Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13*). It is also very clear from Scripture that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate experience that may occur immediately after conversion or later.

The Bible evidence that a believer has truly been filled with the Spirit is that they will speak in other tongues. This Biblical pattern was set on the day of Pentecost and was the normal experience for all who were filled with the Spirit. This pattern will not change until Christ returns.

AN EXPERIENCE FOR YOU

The baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues did not pass away when the apostles died; it is for all who will receive this gift from God.

Read *Acts 2:38, 39* and complete *verse 39* below.

"The promise is for _____ (speaking to those present on the day of Pentecost) and your _____ and for all who are _____ off (that is us) for as _____ whom the Lord our God will call (that is us)."

2. Match the following statements concerning the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- _____ a. The Holy Spirit will be poured out on all people. (1) *Galatians 3:14*
- _____ b. Whoever "believes in Jesus, streams of living water will flow within him (speaking of the Holy Spirit)" (2) *Joel 2:28, 29*
- _____ c. The baptism in the Spirit is spoken of as a gift from the Father to His children. (3) *John 7:37-39*
- _____ d. We receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit by faith. (4) *Luke 11:13*

3. What did Jesus command his disciples to do in *Acts 1:4, 5*? _____

4. What did Jesus command his disciple to do in. *Luke 24:49*? _____

5. In *Ephesians 5:18* a command is given to all believers. What is the command? _____

6. How should you as a believer respond to this command? _____

The mighty baptism in the Holy Spirit awaits you. Do not let any person, demon, or denomination keep you from receiving this precious needed gift from God. Just as Jesus filled the first century- disciples with the Holy Spirit, so He will fill you. He is "the same yesterday and today and forever (*Hebrews 13:8*)." He is the God who does not change (*Malachi 3:6*). Receive now the gift of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYING IN TONGUES

Once you are baptized in the Holy Spirit you have then received your heavenly prayer language. You will be able to pray in the Spirit at any time. The Holy Spirit will pray through you in different tongues and with different intensity at different times. At times you may be praising and thanking God in tongues (*1 Corinthians 14:16*), and at times you may be interceding for a missionary, a pastor, or for yourself (*Romans 8:26, 27*). Only God knows who and what you will be praying for, unless you are given the interpretation (*1 Corinthians 14:13*).

When you are first baptized in the Holy Spirit, you may speak in tongues fluently and for any length of time. Or, you may speak forth one word or one phrase in tongues. In either case, you have been filled. If you do not speak in tongues fluently when you are initially filled, God will add to your prayer language daily as you speak forth what God gives to you in prayer. Remember, the Holy Spirit will never force you to do anything (*1 Corinthians 14:32*). You must yield to him.

1. In *1 Corinthians 14:15* Paul said he prayed two ways. What were they?
 1. _____
 2. _____
2. What two ways did Paul sing?
 1. _____
 2. _____
3. According to *1 Corinthians 13:1*, what two types of tongues could you be speaking in at any given time?
 1. _____
 2. _____

4. According to *1 Corinthians 14:2*, when a person speaks in tongues he is speaking directly to whom? _____

5. Do you think Satan can interpret your prayers in tongues? _____

THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The difference between the tongues received when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit and the "gift of tongues" spoken of in *1 Corinthians 12:10* and *1 Corinthians 14* is one of purpose or use. They are both the same kinds of tongues, but they have a different purpose.

*The tongues received when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit is for all believers, but the "gift of tongues" is given at the will of the Holy Spirit (*1 Corinthians 12:11*) for use in a public meeting (*1 Corinthians 14*). You may or may not be used by God in the "gift of tongues" in a public meeting, but all believers can be filled with the Spirit and can pray in tongues.

1. According to *1 Corinthians 14:27, 28*, what must take place in a public meeting after the "gift of tongues" is manifested? _____

2. The purpose for the "gift of tongues" and the "interpretation of tongues" is so that the church may be what? (*1 Corinthians 14:5*) _____

3. By the rhetorical question implying "no,, for the answer, Paul asks the question, "...Do all speak in tongues (*1 Corinthians 12:30*)?" Was he referring to the "gift of tongues" or the tongues received when a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit? _____

4. Paul wrote to the Corinthian church to instruct them about spiritual gifts, including the "gift of tongues" (*1 Corinthians 14*). Some Corinthians were spontaneously speaking in tongues in the church services without the interpretation being given. This was causing confusion and disorder. Because of this problem in Corinth, what did Paul say he would rather speak? (*1 Corinthians 14:19*) _____

a. Does this mean we should forbid speaking in tongues? (*1 Corinthians 14:39*) _____

b. We should allow speaking in tongues and encourage it, but- is must be done in order and someone must do what? (*1 Corinthians 14:27, 28*) _____

5. Match the following statements with the correct Scripture.

- | | | |
|--------|--|--------------------------------|
| ___ a. | Tongues are a sign for unbelievers. | (1) <i>1 Corinthians 14:39</i> |
| ___ b. | Two or, at most, three messages in tongues with their interpretations should be permitted in one service. | (2) <i>1 Corinthians 14:27</i> |
| ___ c. | We should never forbid speaking in tongues. | (3) <i>1 Corinthians 14:22</i> |
| ___ d. | All tongues with their interpretations, and all prophecies, should be judged to make sure they are scriptural. | (4) <i>1 Corinthians 14:29</i> |

It is important that you understand the difference between the "gift of tongues" spoken of in *1 Corinthians 12* and *14* and the "tongues" all believers receive when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

6. To make sure you understand the difference, answer the statements below **True** or **False**.

- ___ 1. All believers are used in the "gift of tongues."
- ___ 2. The "gift of tongues" and the tongues received when baptized in the Holy Spirit has the same purpose or use.
- ___ 3. The "gift of tongues" is for use in a public meeting only.
- ___ 4. You may pray in tongues daily, but you may or may not be used in "the gift of tongues" in a public meeting.

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is not a confusing, complex, complicated, or difficult process. It is as simple as a child receiving a gift from his father. The only qualification a person needs to be baptized in the Holy Spirit is they must be a born-again child of God (*John 3:3*).

The Bible tells us in *Acts 1:4* that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. A gift cannot be earned, it is free. To receive a gift you need only take it and it is yours immediately.

Before the outpouring of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost, Jesus commanded his disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift the Father promised (*Acts 1:4*). Today we need not wait or tarry, the Holy Spirit has already been poured out. If there is any waiting or tarrying in God's presence for the filling of the Holy Spirit, it is a matter of our adjusting and yielding to God.

HINDRANCES TO RECEIVING

As stated above, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a free gift from God to be received by faith. At times, though, a child of God may be hindered from receiving this blessed gift.

Let us open God's word and eliminate any hindrance.

HINDRANCE #1 - FEAR

1. What fear, if any, do you have about being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues? _____

2. What promise do you find in *Luke 11:11-13* that eliminates any fears that you may have? _____

3. What type of gifts does God give? (*James 1:17*) _____

HINDRANCE #2 - LACK OF DESIRE

1. In *Matthew 5:6* Jesus said that those who have two things will be filled. What are those two things?

a. _____

b. _____

2. What does it mean to you to hunger and thirst for righteousness? _____

3. The sons of Korah had a hunger and thirst for God and the things of God. What did they compare it to? (*Psalm 42:1-2*) _____

4. Slowly read *Psalm 63:1-8* for an inspiring example of a man thirsting after God. How does reading about David thirsting and longing for more of God make you feel?

5. Read *Revelation 21:6* and answer the following questions.
- To the person who is thirsty, Jesus will give what? _____

 - What will it cost you for this drink? _____

 - What does the water of life refer to? _____

Are you thirsty for more of God? Do you want to know Him better? Do you want to be used by Him? Do you intensely desire more of Him? Do you want to be close to Him? Are you thirsty? If you are, you will be filled.

HINDRANCE #3 - A SENSE OF UNWORTHINESS

The devil will tell you that you are not worthy to receive the baptism in the Spirit. He will remind you of all your past sins, failures, and shortcomings. He will tell you that when you get perfect, you will receive. BUT THE DEVIL IS A LIAR! We do not receive this gift because we are worthy, we receive it because we need it. The only prerequisite to receiving is that you are a born-again child of God. That is it.

- Who was not perfect, denied Christ three times, yet was baptized in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost? (*John 18:25-27*) _____
- Who was not perfect, doubted that Christ rose from the dead, yet was filled with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost? (*John 20:24-29*) _____

3. What imperfect disciples spoke in the wrong spirit and wanted to call fire down from heaven on some Samaritans, yet were filled with the Holy Spirit?
(Luke 9:51-56) _____

If we had to be worthy or perfect to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, none of us would ever be filled.

HINDRANCE #4 - DOUBT AND UNBELIEF

1. According to James 1:6, 7, what will the person receive who doubts the promises of God? _____

As a believer you must reject doubt and unbelief and stand on the promise of God, that if you ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit you will be filled (Luke 11:13).

HINDRANCE #5 LACK OF YIELDING

When a person asks to be filled with the Spirit, they must completely yield themselves to Him. Resisting the Holy Spirit not only grieves God, but hinders being filled.

While worshiping and praising God, a man asked the Lord to fill him with the Holy Spirit. All of a sudden words and phrases came up from his spirit and he felt his tongue ready to speak them out, but he stopped and would not yield his tongue to the Holy Spirit.

What, if anything, is or has held you back from receiving the filling of the Holy Spirit? _____

HINDRANCE #6 - SIN

If there is open, flagrant, known sin in your life, the word of God tells you to "Repent ... and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38)

God gives the Holy Spirit to those who do what? (Acts 5:32) _____

God does not require perfect people to be filled, but He does want clean ones. Examine yourself and look into your heart to make sure your relationship with the Lord is right.

HINDRANCE #7 - LACK OF FAITH

According to *Mark 11:24* when we ask for something in prayer, we should what?

After asking the Lord Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit, receive then the filling in faith. Thank Him and praise Him for filling you. As you are praising Him and thanking Him, the Holy Spirit who has filled you will give you words and phrases that will seek expression through your tongue. At this moment, speak out vocally and in faith whatever the words or phrases may be. These words and phrases will be in other tongues and will not come from your mind, but from your spirit.

Do not fall for the trick of the devil and try to figure out if what you are speaking is from your own mind or from God, just speak it in faith.

Remember, being filled with the Spirit is a very simple thing. Just ask your heavenly Father to fill you, receive in faith, and let the Holy Spirit speak through you.

HINDRANCE #8 - PRIDE

Who does the Lord resist? (*James 4:6*) _____

If you cannot humble yourself and become like a little child, you will never receive the blessing of being filled with the Spirit or any other blessing from God.

HINDRANCES

List the eight hindrances:

- | | | | |
|----|-------|----|-------|
| 1. | _____ | 5. | _____ |
| 2. | _____ | 6. | _____ |
| 3. | _____ | 7. | _____ |
| 4. | _____ | 8. | _____ |

If any of these above hindrances have kept you from being filled with the Spirit, take a moment in prayer and ask God to forgive you, then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Millions around the world have been filled with the Spirit. God loves you as much as any of His children. If He has filled others, He will fill you.

AT ANY TIME IN ANY PLACE

Where do you need to go to be baptized in the Holy Spirit? You can be filled with the Spirit at home alone, at church while others are praying for you, or in your car while driving down the road. The place, the time, and your posture - whether sitting, standing or laying - has nothing to do with your being baptized in the Holy Spirit. God fills each one of His seeking children in different places at different times.

1. In *Acts 8:17* what did Peter and John do as they prayed for the Samaritan believers to receive the filling of the Spirit? _____
2. Often believers are filled with the Spirit when other believers do what? (*Acts 19:6 and Acts 9:17*) _____
3. Is it always necessary to have other believers lay hands on you in prayer to receive the filling of the Spirit? (*Acts 10:44-46*) _____

Whether you are at home alone or at church with other believers praying for you, it is very helpful for you to be in an attitude of praise and worship as you seek to be filled with the Spirit. Close your eyes and keep your mind focused on Jesus the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. He will fill you as you yield yourself to Him.

4. Answer the following questions True or False.
 - a. _____ When a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit takes over the believer's tongue and speaks for the person.
 - b. _____ If there is any waiting or tarrying in God's presence for the filling of the Spirit, it is a matter of our adjusting and yielding to God.
 - c. _____ The only prerequisite to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit is that a person must be a born-again child of God.
 - d. _____ Praising and worshiping the Lord while seeking to be filled with the Spirit only hinders things.

BENEFITS OF PRAYING IN TONGUES

Thank God that whenever we do not know how to pray for a situation or circumstance, we can pray in the Spirit (in tongues) the perfect prayer. There are many wonderful benefits that come to the Spirit-filled believer when they pray in tongues. Let us examine five of them in God's word.

BENEFIT #1 - PERFECT FAITH

1. At times we may not pray in perfect faith but with doubt and unbelief. If we do, the word of God tells us we will receive what? (*James 1:6-8*)

2. Do you believe the Holy Spirit has perfect faith? _____
Why do you believe or disbelieve this? _____

3. What must we have in order to get our prayers answered? (*Matt. 21:21-22*)

When you pray in the Spirit (in tongues), you always pray in perfect faith. The Holy Spirit has perfect faith and when you pray in the Spirit, your prayers are always heard and always answered.

BENEFIT #2 - EDIFICATION

What will happen to you if you pray in the Spirit (in tongues)?

a. (Jude 20) _____

b. (1 Corinthians 14:4) _____

When you pray in the Spirit, you build yourself up spiritually. When a car battery is drained of its power, it is hooked up to a battery charger and is charged up to its full capacity. As believers we can be drained of our spiritual vitality and usefulness by the trials, temptations, and circumstances that we face in life. When we pray in the Spirit, we are in a sense hooking up with God and getting charged up spiritually. Our spirit is refreshed, strengthened, and renewed.

The Holy Spirit knows your deepest needs and your weaknesses. He even knows the needs you have that you're not even aware of. And when you pray in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit - with your spirit - prays to the Father the perfect prayer in perfect faith.

BENEFIT #3 - THE PERFECT WILL OF GOD

1. Read Romans 8:26, 27 and answer the following

a. How does the Holy Spirit help us in prayer? (verse 26) _____

b. How does the Spirit intercede for us? (verse 27) _____

c. According to James 4:3, we sometimes do not receive an answer to our prayers because? _____

d. Do you think the Holy Spirit could ever pray through us with wrong motives? _____

This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of Him. (1 John 5:14-15)

When you pray in the Spirit, you always pray in the perfect will of God.

BENEFIT #4 - THE PRAYER OF PURITY

1. What keeps our prayers from being answered? (*Psalm 66:18*) _____

2. Can God the Holy Spirit sin? _____

*Since God the Holy Spirit cannot sin, He prays through us in perfect purity.
No sin can hinder the prayer prayed in tongues.*

BENEFIT #5 - THE PERFECT PRAYER

Could a missionary overseas who is in danger be the focus of your prayers in tongues without you even knowing it? _____

Often we do not know how to pray for our needs or for the needs of others. Often we do not even know what the true need is, but God the Holy Spirit knows everything. He is omniscient (all-knowing); He is omnipresent (everywhere at once); He is omnipotent (all powerful), and He can use you to pray for someone desperately in need without you even knowing it.

BENEFITS

In your own words list the five benefits to praying in tongues.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Once a person has been filled with the Holy Spirit, they enter into a new dimension in their walk with God. Being filled with the Spirit is not an end, but just the beginning to life in the Spirit.

BAPTISM OF FIRE

BAPTISM OF FIRE

(en pneumati hagio kai puri): This expression is used in Matt 3:11. The copulative kai requires that the baptism "in the Holy Ghost and in fire," should be regarded as one and the same thing. It does violence to the construction, therefore, to make this statement refer to the fire Of judgment. The difficulty has always been in associating fire with the person of the Holy Ghost. But in the connection of fire with the work or influence of the Holy Ghost the difficulty disappears. The thought of John is that the Saviour would give them the Divine Sanctifier as purifying water to wash away their sins and as a refining fire to consume their dross; to kindle in their hearts the holy flame of Divine love and zeal; to illuminate their souls with heavenly wisdom. The statement, therefore, in this verse indicates the manner in which Christ will admit them to discipleship and prepare them for His service. See BAPTISM; FIRE.

JACOB W. KAPP

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BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

BAPTISM OF THE SPIRIT. This momentous spiritual operation is set forth in the NT as the basis of all the believer's positions and possessions "in Christ" (Eph 1:3; Col 2:10; 3:1-4; etc.). The operation is prophetic in the gospels (Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16-17; John 1:33-34, where Christ is the baptizer), historic in the Acts (cf. Acts 1:5 with 11:16), and doctrinal in the epistles (1 Cor 12:13, where the Spirit is named specifically as the agent; Rom 6:3-4; Gal 3:26-27; Col 2:9-12; Eph 4:5). The Spirit's baptizing work, placing the believer "in Christ," occurred initially at Pentecost at the advent of the Spirit, who baptized believing Jews "into Christ." In Acts 8, Samaritans were baptized in this way for the first time; in chap. 10, Gentiles likewise were so baptized, at which point the normal agency of the Spirit as baptizer was attained. According to the clear teaching of the epistles, every believer is baptized by the Spirit into Christ the moment he is regenerated. He is also simultaneously indwelt by the Spirit and sealed eternally, with the privilege of being filled with the Spirit, as the conditions for filling are met. No subject in all the range of biblical theology is so neglected, on one hand, or misunderstood and abused, on the other, as this. The baptism of the Spirit is widely confused with regeneration and with the indwelling, sealing, and filling ministries of the Spirit, as well as with water baptism and a so-called "second blessing."

M.F.U.; R.K.H.

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