



The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

When do we receive the Holy Spirit into our lives?

- This happens in two steps:
- **First**, the Holy Spirit comes to live within us when we become a Christian. That's what makes us a Christian. (Rom 8:9)
- **Second**, God promised that if we asked, the Holy Spirit would come and baptize us also, giving us power to witness. (Acts 1:8)

1. Acts 2: The Initial Outpouring

- 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2...

- The Holy Spirit blows in and baptizes everyone in the Upper Room
- The first truly Christian sermon began with a stout denial that the disciples were drunk!
- Everyone who was baptized spoke in a language they didn't learn, as a sign that they were now Spirit-baptized and empowered for witness.

→ Notice the change in Peter!

- This is the purpose of the baptism: to give believers power to witness. Not comfort, or tongues, or a badge of spirituality!
- “And you shall receive *power* when the Holy Spirit comes on you, and *you will be my witnesses* in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Acts 10: The Evidence of Cornelius

- Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. **46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.**

Acts 19: The Ephesian Disciples

- Acts 19:1 While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples 2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."
- 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

→ In each situation, the sign that God gave to show the believers that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit was the gift of tongues, or unknown languages.

→ What the baptism is....

- It is all about ***power for witness***
- It gives us greater boldness and courage when telling others about Jesus
- It gives us a new prayer language when we pray everyday in tongues as the Spirit enables us

What the baptism is NOT...

- It is not about “getting tongues”
- It is not a badge of spirituality
- It does not mean you’ve “arrived”
- It doesn’t mean you’re any better than someone who hasn’t yet been baptized in the Holy Spirit



Questions about Spirit-Baptism

1. How do we receive the baptism?

- Understand that this gift is for you
- Hunger for everything God has for you
- Realize that you need more power to witness for Jesus more effectively
- Ask God to baptize you; believe that He will do it
- Worship Jesus
- Speak the language He gives you

2. What are some obstacles to receiving our baptism?

- Expecting a great, earth-shattering experience – and none happens.
Remember: everyone experiences God in their own way!
- The language sounds too strange.
Remember: Satan is a liar!
- Pride: we're afraid of how we might react when God touches us. ***Remember: God never makes you do anything!***

3. Do we have to wait sometimes?

- We don't wait as the Disciples had to for the initial outpouring of the Spirit.
- Often, however, when it seems we have to wait awhile, we are simply getting ourselves in a place of hunger and surrender to the Lord.
- We are not waiting for more of Him, He is waiting for more of us!

4. Why did God choose tongues as the evidence?

- - It is an external evidence
- - It shows no favouritism: Poor, rich, intelligent, immature
- - It shows the complete surrender to God of the believer, as the tongue is considered to be full of deadly poison (James 3:8)

5. Can you be baptized in the Spirit and not speak in tongues?

- - While scripture does not say you *must* speak in tongues as evidence, in every instance where an evidence is mentioned, tongues is the evidence.

6. What if you were baptized and can no longer speak in tongues?

- - we need to ask God to refresh our gift. Like water that stops running and gets stale, so the river of God must be kept fresh by use. God never intended our prayer language to be a one-time thing.

7. Are tongues a real language? Should we pray in tongues so the Devil cannot understand us?

- - They are tongues of *men and angels*. Should we care if the Devil can hear us pray? It is an extra-Biblical question.

8. Does one “arrive” when baptized in the Spirit?

- Hardly! One has just arrived at the starting line, with the power to run the race! Salvation puts you in the race, the Baptism gives you the power to run it well.