

# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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## God's Dream: Pour His Spirit on all Flesh

*"And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days."* Joel 2:28-29 NIV

## God's Purpose: Power to Witness

Missions is at the heart of the experience.

*"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." ... "But you will 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 1:5 and 8 NIV

## God's Method: Jesus

*"Then John gave this testimony: 'I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'"*  
John 1:32-33 NIV

For further study: Matthew 3:11-17

## Two Distinct Experiences

Salvation (being born again) and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are seen in the Bible as separate encounters. Below are examples of Baptism in the Holy Spirit as different from salvation.

*"And with that he [Jesus] breathed on them and said, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"*  
John 20:22 NIV

In this verse, "breathed" means: "To blow or breathe upon." This word is used only one other time in Genesis 2:7 where God breathed on Adam and he became a living soul. Just as the original creation was completed by an act of God, so too the new creation was completed by an act from the Head of the new creation.  
(Strong's Concordance)

*“When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of the them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.”*

Acts 8:14-17 NIV

For further study: Acts 2, Joel 2:28, Acts 9, Acts 18-19

## Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

### *Tongues*

Three kinds of tongues can be seen in Scripture:

- Prayer language between an individual and God that edifies the spirit man.

*“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”*

1 Corinthians 14:2 NIV

- Public speaking of tongues and interpretation in the church.

*“In anyone speaks in a tongue, two—or at the most three—should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.”*

1 Corinthians 14:27-28 NIV

- The speaking of an earthly language that you have never studied or learned.

*“When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. Utterly amazed, they asked: ‘Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!’ Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, ‘What does this mean?’”*

Acts 2:6-12 NIV

For further study: 1 Corinthians 14, Romans 8:26

### *Prophesying*

*“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” Acts 19:6 NIV*

## How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

### *Ask Jesus (Who is the Baptizer) and the Father*

*“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

Luke 11:9–13 NIV

### *The Laying on of Hands*

As seen in the above scriptures in Acts, it is common to lay hands upon the person wishing to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The ministry of praying and laying on of hands will happen while the rest of the group has a time of worship.

### *Seek the Giver, Not the Gift*

In ministry time, when an opportunity to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit is given, expect to receive God’s evidence of it in your life. Focus on Jesus, not on receiving the gift of tongues or prophesying. These are by-products of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

### *Go Ahead and Speak*

You will receive your prayer language by stepping out in faith. You may not realize that you have to go ahead and speak or allow what is welling up in your spirit to come out. Many people think that God is going to start bursting out and moving their mouth and tongue. You are the vessel. Step out in faith.

### *Believe*

The Holy Spirit is received by faith just like Salvation. So, all who ask receive.