



## **THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST?**

Upon receiving salvation, the next significant step for a believer is to seek the power of the Holy Spirit. This is a distinct experience from salvation, marking the moment when the Holy Spirit takes up residence within you.

Receiving the Holy Spirit upon salvation begins a transformative journey, shaping our character to reflect Christ. However, the baptism of the Holy Ghost, a powerful gift, equips us for the ministry of Christ, empowering us in ways we can't even imagine. This baptism is available to all who ask in faith, ready to embrace the incredible transformation it brings.

*...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!* **Luke 11:13**

This gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential to living the victorious Christian life. Even Jesus was baptized in the Holy Spirit! And He did not begin His public ministry or operate in miracles, heal anyone, or cast out any demons until after this occurrence.

*When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."* **Luke 3:21-22**

If the sinless Son of God needed to be baptized in the Holy Spirit before beginning His ministry, how could any of us think we can be an effective Christian without it? In fact, Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem and not begin their ministries until they had received the power of the Holy Spirit.

*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* **Acts 1:4-5**

The Bible calls this experience of receiving the power of the Holy Spirit using different terms in different places. It is called:

## **THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER**

**Luke 24:49 (KJV)** And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

**Acts 1:4-5 (KJV)** <sup>4</sup> And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me. <sup>5</sup> For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

**Acts 2:39 (KJV)** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.

## **BEING BAPTIZED IN OR WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Acts 1:5 (KJV)** For John truly baptized with water, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

**Mark 1:8 (KJV)** I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.

**Acts 11:14-17 (KJV)** Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved. <sup>15</sup> And as I began to speak, **the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.** <sup>16</sup> Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. <sup>17</sup> Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as *he did* unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

## **BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**

**Acts 4:31 (KJV)** And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

## **RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**Acts 8:14-20 (KJV)** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

<sup>15</sup> Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: <sup>16</sup> (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) <sup>17</sup> Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. <sup>18</sup> And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. <sup>20</sup> But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

## **HOLY SPIRIT FELL ON THEM**

**Acts 10:44 (KJV)** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

**Acts 19:4-6 (KJV)** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. <sup>5</sup> When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

<sup>6</sup> And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

**Every one of these events occurred after a believer was born again.  
Receiving salvation is the only requirement!**

### **Who is the Holy Spirit?**

The Holy Spirit is one of the three members of the Godhead. The Holy Spirit is God. He is not substandard to Father and Son but an equal part of the Trinity, who is one God manifested in three parts.

The Bible teaches us that the Holy Spirit is your Comforter, Teacher, Helper, and Counselor and is the Spirit of Truth. Holy Spirit will abide with you forever.

*And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever* **John 14:16**

Holy Spirit will comfort you through challenges and teach you all things. He will remind you of what Jesus has said. He'll also tell you things to come. *But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.* **John 14:26**

*However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.* **John 16:13**

Just like God the Father and God the Son, God the Holy Spirit will never condemn you or beat you down. He keeps no record of wrongs and loves you unconditionally.

He does not point out your flaws, but instead reminds you of your righteousness in Christ. Holy Spirit will be your best friend!

## **How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

I cannot encourage you enough to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit! Outside of salvation, it is the most important decision you will ever make. When I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, my life began to drastically change for the better.

The biggest change that I noticed the quickest was that I could actually understand the Bible!

My eyes were opened, and I could see things from the Word that I had never seen before. The entire Kingdom of God opened up to me. I had been blind, unable to really understand the Word of God, even though I was a born-again Christian.

I was able to perceive how much God loved me in a real way. Things that I had heard in church became real to me. My life was drastically different from before.

We receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the same way we receive salvation- we simply ask in faith and believe we receive. When we ask God for something, we believe we receive it when we pray.

This is a prayer of faith. You may not feel anything, and that's perfectly normal. Just believe you receive and start thanking God.

## **Prayer to Receive the Power of the Holy Spirit**

God wants to give you His Holy Spirit. He loves you and wants you to have the supernatural power you need to live this life. All you have to do is ask, believe, and receive!

If you want, you can pray something like this:

*Father, I recognize that I need Your power to live this Christian life. Please baptize me with Your Holy Spirit. By faith, I receive it right now! Thank you for filling me with Your power! Holy Spirit, You are welcome in my life! In Jesus Name, Amen*

It's really that simple. Everything from God is a grace gift, paid for by Jesus. Just receive! You do not have to earn it or deserve it in any way.

## **What is Praying in the Holy Spirit?**

God's Word shows us that one of the first manifestations to occur when you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit is the ability to pray in tongues (also referred to as praying in the Spirit).

**Praying in the Holy Spirit is a supernatural prayer language that is given to a believer upon receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.**

Some syllables from a language you don't recognize will rise up from your heart to your mouth. Begin to speak them out loud. This is your new prayer language that you can use to speak directly to God from your spirit (1 Corinthians 14:2).

Holy Spirit does not take over your mouth. You are in complete control of when you choose to allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you. You activate and stop this prayer language whenever you want. You do the speaking, and Holy Spirit gives the inspiration (Acts 2:4).

If you don't begin to pray in tongues right away, it's OK. Many people hinder this gift because of wrong beliefs that were taught about praying in tongues. Keep practicing, and you will develop this prayer language.

Starting out, playing worship music may help you to begin to pray in tongues. You can sing and worship for a while, then begin to speak the syllables out loud that will be coming up from your heart.

Other people begin praying in their native language and then switch over. Some people quote scripture for a while and then begin to pray in their heavenly language.

Once you begin praying in tongues more frequently, it will quite literally become a second language to you. You can pray in the spirit while cleaning, showering, driving, or anywhere you want, anytime you want.

**There are so many benefits of praying in tongues,** including edifying yourself (1 Corinthians 14:4), building yourself up in faith (Jude 20), and praying for the hidden wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 14:2).

When you pray in tongues, it is the Holy Spirit interceding for you. You might not know what to pray, but Holy Spirit does. You are allowing Holy Spirit to pray perfect prayers through you! You may be praying for the protection of a loved one or prophesying your future.

*Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Romans 8:26*

Praying in the Spirit will keep you in tune with the Spirit and bring revelation and knowledge of things pertaining to the Kingdom that will give you victory in every situation!

May this information about the Holy Spirit bring you blessings and lead to positive changes in your life as you study it.

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