

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



**MENU FOR A
HUNGRY HEART**

YOU ARE HUNGRY FOR MORE OF GOD. THE "MORE" GOD WANTS TO LEAD YOU INTO IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. THIS BOOKLET EXPLAINS WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE AND HOW YOU CAN RECEIVE MORE FROM THE LORD. FEED YOUR SPIRITUAL APPETITE BY READING THIS BOOKLET TODAY!

HUNGRY?

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Spiritual Food For Today's Student

HUNGRY?

A STUDY IN THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT



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Hungry? Spiritual Food for Today's Student

A Study in the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

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So...you're hungry?

Want more of God in your life? Rest assured, He can satisfy your most intense spiritual appetite. This booklet will help you understand how God literally wants to fill you with more of His presence and power. The pages that follow will outline what the Bible says about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, a gift that will allow you to experience and fulfill all that God intends for your life.

By no means will this brief booklet be able to convey all there is to know about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, it can get you started, answer some questions, and whet your appetite for a deeper relationship with Christ. If you've got questions that this booklet doesn't answer, or if you need a more thorough explanation, that's okay. Your youth leader or pastor is there and would love to help you receive this gift from God.

God has a lot to offer you, and He's created you with a lot to offer others. But He wants to prepare and equip you for His purposes. That's part of the reason He wants you to have this gift. So, if you catch yourself thinking, "I don't know if this is for me," think again—and keep reading. This gift *is* for you!

Where did this all begin?

It really started in the Old Testament. Prophets told for hundreds of years about a time when God's Spirit would come and empower people in a special way. They hungered for this experience—this "outpouring." Numbers 11:29 tells how Moses longed for God to put His Spirit on all His people, so they could speak God's message. Isaiah prophesied that the Spirit would come upon people and not leave them. He would even be with their descendants. (See Isaiah 59:21.)

Perhaps the most well-known Old Testament Scripture relating to the coming promise is found in Joel 2:28,29: "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."

From Moses' time to the events described in Acts 2, the Spirit's special empowerment was reserved for particular individuals and situations, mainly involving the prophets. People were not typically "filled" with the Spirit. The fact is that most of God's followers were content to let their leaders and priests mediate between them and God—to do everything for them.



However, that's not what God ultimately had planned. As we see from the passage in Joel, the time was coming when all God's people—not just a select few—would be filled with the Spirit, boldly spreading His message and fulfilling His plans.

The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

"The people were waiting expectantly and were all wondering in their hearts if John might possibly be the Christ. John answered them all, 'I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire'" (Luke 3:15,16).

This is the first time in the New Testament we hear of Holy Spirit baptism. John the Baptist announced this before Jesus' public ministry began. Fast-forward nearly 3 years, to the final hours before His death, Jesus tells about His departure from earth. Though His disciples didn't understand, He assured them that He would not leave them on their own. Instead, He would send the Holy Spirit.

The way Jesus described the Holy Spirit implied that the Spirit would come right alongside Jesus' followers and would never leave them. He would be with them forever. Not only that, but Jesus said that the Spirit would literally be in His followers. (See John 14:15–17.)

Who is the Holy Spirit?

He's not just an impersonal force or concept that represents God's presence. The Bible describes the Spirit as a distinct individual who thinks (Romans 8:27), feels (Isaiah 63:10), testifies (John 15:26), wills (1 Corinthians 12:11), and has the capacity to enjoy our fellowship. God created us with a desire to experience a relationship with Him, and gives the Holy Spirit to fulfill that desire.

The Holy Spirit is God, just as much as Jesus and God the Father. God has revealed himself as a single Being (Deuteronomy 6:4) consisting of three distinct but interrelated Persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. They have different roles, yet they are so perfectly united in nature and character that they are One God, not three. In theological terms, this three-in-One concept is referred to as the Trinity. This profound mystery is revealed throughout Scripture (Isaiah 61:1; Matthew 3:16,17; Luke 3:21,22; John 14:16,23; 2 Corinthians 13:14).

Because He's God, the Holy Spirit is omnipresent (everywhere), omniscient (all-knowing), and omnipotent (all-powerful). He's also loving, forgiving, merciful, and persistent. When people sense things "in their hearts" or consciences, it's often the work of the Spirit, prompting them toward a closer relationship with God.

Then in Acts 1, following His death and resurrection and before He returned to heaven, Jesus leaves these instructions for His disciples (verses 4, 5, 8): “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with

Roles of the Holy Spirit: A single name or title cannot fully describe the Holy Spirit's work in a believer's life. Just as the Father and Son are given many names throughout the Bible, the Spirit carries different titles and roles, which give us a more complete understanding of who He is and what He does.

- Counselor (John 14:15–17; 16:5–8)
- Spirit of Truth (John 16:13–15)
- Teacher (1 Corinthians 2:11–13)
- Intercessor (Romans 8:22–27)
- Seal/Deposit (Ephesians 1:13,14)

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.”

Sound familiar? Jesus' instructions are directly related to the words of John the Baptist. Things were about to break loose!

In Acts 2 things pick up on the Day of Pentecost, which is the first day of the Feast of Weeks, an important Jewish holiday. It was 50 days after Passover (*pente*=fifty), and celebrated the gathering of the first fruits of the harvest. So, this was an already momentous occasion for those in Jerusalem that day. A group of 120 of Jesus' followers were obeying His instructions and patiently waiting for what Jesus had promised. They didn't know how it would happen. They only knew that it would be powerful. Then it happened—a noise like wind filled the room and what appeared to be flames settled over everyone's heads. Suddenly the believers were speaking in languages they had never learned.

*But I've seen people be filled in the Spirit,
and I've never seen tongues of fire....*

Neither did anyone else in the New Testament. The only time it mentions tongues of fire is in Acts 2. Most scholars agree that this miraculous event signified the first time the Baptism was given. The wind and fire were evidence of the Spirit's presence, and likely assured Jewish believers that what was taking place was truly from God. Although these signs only happened during the first outpouring, speaking in tongues continued to accompany the baptism in the Holy Spirit. (See Acts 2:4; 10:45,46; 19:6.)



In fact, the only consistent sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is the “speaking in tongues” part. That’s how people knew they were filled with the Spirit. It is the “initial, physical evidence” throughout the New Testament.

The events during this Pentecost celebration provided a dividing line between the Holy Spirit’s *occasional* presence and His *continual* presence. The Holy Spirit didn’t temporarily come upon certain believers, as was His custom in the Old Testament. On this particular day, He filled them with His presence and remained with them.

What Language? When you speak in tongues, it may very well be a language spoken here on earth. (In Acts 2:6, the people who heard the 120 speak in tongues recognized the languages.) However, it may also be a heavenly language—unknown to anyone on earth. (See 1 Corinthians 13:1 where Paul mentions speaking in “tongues of angels.”) Regardless of whether the language is understandable to the hearers or like no other language on earth, it is a means of communicating with and expressing praise to God.

Why do I need to be baptized in the Spirit?

Jesus told His disciples that one of the main reasons He had to leave them shortly after His resurrection was so that the Holy Spirit would come and be with them from then on (see John 16:5–7). The Spirit’s constant presence is that important. The fact is that if Jesus sent the gift, He knows that it’s vital for us to receive it. Here are several reasons to desire the gift:

1. You will be empowered to tell your friends, family, teachers, and others the wonderful message that Jesus Christ is the only way to God and that they can know Him personally. The primary reason God baptizes Christians in the Holy Spirit is not so they can speak in tongues or have a “deeper” experience. They are to use the Spirit’s power to share Jesus with those who don’t know Him. On the Day of Pentecost, the outward sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit was speaking in tongues, but the outward result was that many who didn’t know God were introduced to Him that day. Remember Peter? He denied Jesus three times. In Acts 2, after he was filled with the Spirit, he delivered a bold message to thousands of people! (See also Acts 1:8.)

2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit will provide power to overcome sin. The Holy Spirit helps you resist temptation and follow Jesus Christ. Some may ask, “But I know people who don’t believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit who live better lives than some of my friends who are filled. So, why *do* I need to be filled?” But God didn’t make any distinction among the 120 in the Upper Room. Acts 2 says that they were *all* filled. Being filled gives us spiritual discernment, the ability to know between right and wrong. But don’t confuse the Gift and the person. We can all receive the same gift; however, it’s up to us how we use it.

3. Praying in the Spirit (using the benefit of speaking in tongues) on a regular basis will build you up spiritually. (See 1 Corinthians 14:4.) It will also add effectiveness your prayers. When you don’t have the words to adequately express your desires and concerns to God, the Holy Spirit can pray through you (see Romans 8:26,27). Although you may not see clearly, the Holy Spirit does, and He knows exactly what to say and do. When Spirit-filled believers use their “prayer language” in private times with God, the Holy Spirit is actually praying through them. Although they don’t understand what is communicated, sincere believers can be confident that this language expresses exactly what’s needed.

4. Your spiritual language will bring a new dimension to worship. The Holy Spirit helps Spirit-filled students worship God in spirit and truth (John 4:24). The Baptism enhances direct communication with God (see 1 Corinthians 14:2).

5. The Holy Spirit will help you realize your full ministry potential and equip you for spiritual service with spiritual gifts. (This includes the gifts Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 12 through 14.)

Full Benefits: It’s certainly possible to lead people to Jesus without the benefit of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. But trying to do so is like trying to accomplish a task without utilizing the best equipment available. Christians might be able to have a degree of satisfaction and effectiveness without the “fullness” of the Spirit. But consider how much more effective a believer can be if totally immersed in the Spirit. The results of the baptism in the Holy Spirit are obvious from the thousands who responded to Peter’s sermon on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41).

6. You'll read God's Word with new spiritual insight. You'll recognize the presence and teaching of the Holy Spirit during personal Bible study time.

7. You'll become more open to the Spirit's leading in your life. A Christian's goal is to be more Christlike, right? The Holy Spirit develops spiritual "fruit" in your life (see Galatians 5:22,23) and helps you develop godly character traits. When you face tough decisions, the Holy Spirit helps you evaluate the situation and do what's right.

Jesus told His followers to expect the gift of Holy Spirit baptism (Luke 24:49) and to be continually filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) because of the spiritual power and sensitivity it would bring to their lives. From Acts to Revelation, we read about what the disciples did through the power of the Holy Spirit. The Baptism also intensifies the desire and urgency to carry out Christ's commission to take His message throughout the world. (See Acts 1:8; 2:42–47.)

What about speaking in tongues?

Why would I want to do that?

First of all, speaking in tongues is scriptural—the Bible supports it. But why tongues? There is no clear-cut answer as to why God chose something as unusual as speaking in tongues as evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Perhaps it's because the tongue is the most unruly part of the body, extremely difficult for most people to control (James 3:5). And yet, like the rudder of a large ship, it can set the direction for our entire behavior. Therefore, speaking in tongues is an act of submission, indicating that we have given control of our entire beings to God.

Why Tongues?

Some of the other reasons why the unique sign of speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of Holy Spirit baptism might include the following:

- It goes beyond human understanding, so people don't rely on themselves.
- It's a spirit-to-Spirit form of prayer in which God's Spirit prays through ours in direct line with God's will.
- It's a unique, outward sign of God's inward presence, requiring faith to accept.
- It takes a bold, deliberate step. This is fitting, since boldness to witness for Christ is a primary purpose for the Baptism.
- It communicates with God, not people, in a way that is between an individual and the Creator.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit—and speaking in tongues in particular—is one of the most misunderstood Christian activities. But it doesn't have to seem strange or scary. God designed speaking in tongues to be a vital aspect of a believer's everyday walk with Him. It is simply a matter of exercising one of God's gifts as He gives direction.

What is the infilling of the Holy Spirit like?

For one thing, it's not some weird "mumbo jumbo" the speaker makes up. When a person speaks in other tongues, the Holy Spirit is giving guidance by placing words and phrases in the heart and mind of the speaker. However, the person willingly speaks. The Bible uses different word pictures to help us understand the infilling of the Spirit.

1. Baptized—"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). The

word "baptize" means "to immerse or to dip into, as when dyeing a garment." When it's dyed, the color permeates every part of the garment. Its appearance is altered to the tone of the dye. When someone is baptized in the Holy Spirit, the Spirit flows through the person, bringing new qualities into his or her life—a new "color," if you will.

2. Coming upon—"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 1:8).

What Keeps People from Receiving? Perhaps the main things that keep people from receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit are several misunderstandings concerning what should happen and a fear of doing something strange. Some faulty fears and excuses include:

- **"You're making it up."**—That's what the devil would have you believe. But on what basis would you invent a language? You can trust Jesus' promise.
- **"It's not from God."**—Jesus said that the Spirit would baptize people. Looking back at all the good done for Christ through Pentecostal ministries and missions, it doesn't make sense to say that God doesn't use it.
- **"It might be 'in the flesh.'"**—You'll know whether you're trying to attract attention to yourself or if you're humbly desiring to receive from God.
- **"It will take too much commitment."**—Don't let fear or laziness cause you to miss God's best—and your ultimate purpose. God won't force you to do something He doesn't put in your heart.



This phrase relates to the idea of a new mission and purpose for the Church. It also implies being covered or equipped for that mission. Think of the Day of Pentecost as the birthday of the Church. The Holy Spirit came upon the 120 people praying in an upper room and He gave them the “marching orders” we follow today. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, He brings a whole new set of circumstances. He reshapes your perspective, your passion, and your purpose.

3. To pour out—“In the last days, God says, ‘I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams’” (Acts 2:17). What happens when water pours out of a dam? The water surges through the floodgates, generating energy. As the Holy Spirit is poured out on you, divine energy comes into your life and flows out through you.

4. Filled—“Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting” (Acts 2:2). “Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). Consider that what fills your physical body nourishes and sustains it. Your spiritual life works in a similar way. Or think of wind filling a ship's sail, driving the ship along. To be filled with the Spirit is to experience the Spirit's control.

An Outward Sign of Inward Change:

Baptism in the Holy Spirit doesn't save us. Repentance and trust in Christ are the necessary steps. But just as baptism in water is an outward testimony of what has taken place inwardly through salvation, Spirit baptism is outward evidence of the Spirit's powerful presence flowing through a believer's life. God's Spirit already dwells in and directs believers' lives from the point of salvation. But in a sense, salvation puts the Holy Spirit into people, and the Baptism helps bring the Spirit out of them in powerful ways. (See Acts 2:37-39.)

Filled to Overflowing: A person who receives spiritual salvation is like a glass that was once empty being filled with fresh water. He or she is no longer empty, but has the Holy Spirit dwelling inside. (See 1 Corinthians 3:16; 6:19.) The baptism in the Holy Spirit is like continuing to pour more water into the glass until it overflows. A person becomes saturated with God's presence to the point where it spills out of their lives and is evident and influential to those around.

5. To receive—“Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:17). This phrase conveys the ideas of both taking and receiving. Thirty-eight times in the Bible it's translated “received.” Thirty-eight times it's translated “took.” On one hand you receive the gift; on the other hand, you must take it and put it to use. If a friend offers you a ten dollar bill, you've got to take the bill in order to receive it. What you do with it after that is up to you.

It's similar when receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Some people expect God to do everything, but that's not how it happens. You don't have to wait for God to give the Spirit to you. He's already given the Spirit—an invaluable gift that will change your life. It doesn't require a big effort on your part to receive. You don't have to beg or plead. Just thank God for His gift and reach out and take what He offers.

Let's Review:

1. Jesus is the baptizer John spoke about. (See Matthew 3:14; Luke 3:15,16.)

2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift God wants you to have. Jesus said that this gift is a promise from the Father. (See Joel 2:28,29; Acts 1:4,5,8.)

3. You must be a Christian—a follower of Jesus Christ—to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. (See John 20:22; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 6:19.)

4. The Bible describes a second work of the Spirit, following salvation. Acts 8:14–17 says, “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 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” (See also Acts 19:6,7 and John 20:22, where Jesus gives the Spirit to His disciples, who were already saved by faith.)

5. The baptism in the Holy Spirit enhances Christians' personal worship and empowers their public witness. (See Acts 1:8; Romans 8:26,27; 1 Corinthians 14:2–4.)



6. Holy Spirit baptism is as relevant today as it was in the Early Church. That's because we need the same power and guidance to live for Christ and accomplish His purposes.

Get Ready!

Perhaps you still have questions about what might happen as you open yourself to be filled with the Spirit. Keep in mind that your personal experience may differ from other people's. No one can tell you exactly how things will happen for you, but there are a few things to keep in mind as you get ready to receive:

1. Get right with God. Repent of any sin, receive forgiveness from Jesus, and submit to His leadership in your life.

2. Ask in faith. Believe that God will fulfill His promise to baptize you in the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33). Don't doubt that you will speak in tongues as the initial physical evidence that you have received God's gift. A strong desire for holy living should accompany your prayer.

3. Be prepared. Some physical things may happen, and that's okay. Stammering lips, tears, and trembling or shaking may accompany this extraordinary experience. However, don't try to manipulate the situation by stirring up your emotions. You've probably seen well-meaning students mob a friend who's praying for the Baptism. They pray louder and push. But God doesn't work that way. Don't seek experiences; seek Him.

4. Keep your head. Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a choice. Some people never receive because they're waiting for a mystical, uncontrollable experience. But the Spirit doesn't just overpower a person's will. We cooperate with and invite Him into our lives. There are times when the Holy Spirit seems to completely take over and a person speaks effortlessly in tongues. But this isn't how you're likely to exercise the gift on a regular basis. The Bible teaches that spiritual gifts are subject to those who receive them. (See 1 Corinthians 14:32.) God does the baptizing, but you're responsible for how you respond.

Still Need Power: Some people think that this powerful experience, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, was only as a sign to help get the first Church started. But the purpose wasn't just to get people's attention or prove God's power. Jesus said the Spirit would provide His followers with ongoing power and guidance. (See John 16:13.) This purpose is just as relevant today, as we still need that power and guidance to carry on the Church's mission.

Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

There is no specific, lengthy formula to guarantee being baptized in the Holy Spirit, but there are some helpful patterns you can follow as you pray and prepare to receive this powerful gift:

- **Relax.** Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit isn't always an instantaneous experience. Even in the Book of Acts, the believers in the Upper Room waited 10 days. So, don't get discouraged.
- **Worship God.** The Baptism is a means of glorifying God. It's not about what *you get*; it's about what *He gives*. Turn your complete attention toward Him. Create an atmosphere of worship and thanksgiving by expressing love and appreciation out loud, not just in your mind.
- **Seek the Giver, not just the gift.** Your focus should not be on tongues or a spiritual experience; it should be on getting more of Jesus. The Holy Spirit wants to draw attention to Christ (John 16:13,14).
- **Leave your native language so you can speak a new language.** As you worship and wait, you may sense strange, unknown words or syllables coming to your mind. You can't speak two languages at once, so at some point you must stop speaking in your own language and start praising in the spiritual language. Don't wait for the Holy Spirit to speak for you. He will give the words but you will do the speaking. (If your lips and tongue start stammering or trembling, the Holy Spirit is trying to get you to speak. You may not hear the words in your mind, but when you surrender to the Spirit and step out in faith, He will honor your faith and help you speak.)
- **Trust that you're getting what you asked for.** God promises to give the good gift of the Holy Spirit to those who sincerely desire Him. (See Luke 11:9–13.) Often, when people begin to sense the Spirit prompting them to speak, they're afraid it might just be their own words or simple gibberish. But if your focus is truly on Christ, and you're willing to take a bold step and use the gift, you can be confident you're getting exactly what He promised.

Speak, even if it doesn't sound like a language? Many languages and dialects may not sound like anything to you, not because you don't understand them. Being filled with the Spirit isn't based on your understanding, but on speaking in obedience to the Spirit's leading.

Speak, even if it is only a few syllables? Don't worry if your spiritual language seems limited at first. More will come. Don't revert to your native language after you start speaking in tongues, whether there are many words or just a few. Cooperate with the Spirit and don't be afraid to move your tongue and lips to form the words.

Don't get discouraged if you don't receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit immediately. Keep expecting and stay open. Express your hunger for more of God during your personal prayer time. You may want to enlist a Spirit-filled friend, parent, or youth leader to agree with you in prayer. Respond to an altar call at church and ask others to pray with you so you might be filled.

Receiving this gift does not have to take a long time, and often it doesn't. At other times, people may have difficulty accepting all God has to offer. It doesn't necessarily mean that they're any more or less spiritual. The most important thing is to continue worshiping and depending on Jesus, the Baptizer.

Good news!

God loves you and wants to fill you with His Holy Spirit more than you can possibly desire. He wants to satisfy your spiritual hunger. And He wants to empower you to fulfill the purposes for which He's created you. So trust Him as you receive this gift. Study the Bible for yourself. Open your heart to know and love Jesus in a deeper way. If you're ready to receive, say this simple prayer of commitment aloud:

"Dear God, I'm hungry for more of You, and I want all You've made available to me. I know the baptism in the Holy Spirit is real and is for me today. I want to be filled with Your Spirit. I open my heart completely to You. Please fill me so I can praise You in the language You will give to me. In Jesus' name, Amen."

Now, begin to praise God out loud and let Him fill you. Remember, God can fill you any time, anywhere—your bedroom, a church altar, a car (not while you're driving), in the shower, on a grassy field....God is not limited by location or time.

Continue to pray in the Spirit every day. This is a vital part of your spiritual development (see 1 Corinthians 14:4). Being filled with the Spirit is more than a one-time experience, it's an ongoing aspect of Christian life. The more you choose to speak in tongues, the easier it becomes to recognize and respond to the Holy Spirit's guidance.

God knows you're hungry. He will fill you!

notes

HUNGRY?



