

## You Will Be Baptized with the Holy Spirit

*'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.* Joel's prophecy that Peter quotes in Acts 2:17–21, makes clear that the last days will be mixed days—days of powerful witness and days of terrible calamity. Joel says that one feature of the last days will be the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on people of every kind. God's people will receive power; they will be clothed with powerful witness. The church will be awakened and revived and sent with passion and zeal and prophetic power—right in the midst of war, persecution and natural disasters—the flaming end-time will finish the Great Commission, and welcome the King.

*And terrible calamity show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth beneath, blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke; and the sun shall be turned into darkness and the moon into blood, before the day of the Lord comes, the great and manifest day. That whoever calls on the name of the Lord Shall be saved."* In all scriptures the "last days" or the end times or end of the ages when Jesus came. The coming of the Messiah was the beginning of the end—the beginning of the "last days." There will be natural catastrophes; there will be war and bloodshed; there will be blaze and devastation. We are living in the last days, because the last days began with the first coming of Jesus, and will reach their climax at the second coming of Jesus. The "mystery of the kingdom" (Mark 4:11) is that the end of this age came and the kingdom of God arrived. 2 Timothy 3:3 says, "Understand this, that in the last days there will come times of stress. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, inhuman," etc. 2 Peter 3:3 says, "Scoffers will come in the last days with scoffing, following their own passions and saying, 'Where is the promise of his coming?'" Bible teaches that as the end of the last days draws near, spiritual conditions of many will get worse, will be miserable in many ways—morally, socially.

Jesus gave important instructions to His disciples, after the resurrection and prior to His return to Heaven." *Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*(Luke 24:49) The promise to which Jesus referred was the Holy Spirit. *And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever;*(John 14:16-18) One of the purposes of the Holy Spirit is given is to comfort believers. But the Bible gives many other purposes. The Holy Spirit is to: Fill and baptize him: Acts 2:4. Dwell in him, Unite him in one spirit with God and other believers, Pray for him, Conform him to the image of Christ, Reveal Biblical truth to him. Teach him, Guide him, Inspire him to true worship, Strengthen him, Quicken him, Sanctify him, Change him, Convict him when he does wrong, Give assurance of salvation, Give him liberty, Speak through him, Demonstrate God's power. Give him power to witness.

The main purpose and true evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit is to make the Christian a powerful witness for the Gospel: *But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me .., and to the end of the earth.*(Acts 1:8) The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was present immediately in the life of the Apostle Peter. Before the Day of Pentecost he had fearfully denied that he knew Jesus. After his baptism in the Holy Spirit, Peter stood and gave a powerful witness to the Gospel that resulted in the salvation of 3,000 people. It was the power of the Holy Spirit in the early church that resulted in the spread of the Gospel throughout the world. The book of Acts is a record of this powerful witness which was evidence of baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Use of the phrase "to baptize into" the Holy Spirit is the same as when it is used to describe Christian baptism in water. In both cases baptism is an outward confirmation of an inward spiritual condition. The Holy Spirit came down from Heaven on the disciples on the day of Pentecost and completely immersed [or baptized] them in the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist baptized unto the forgiveness of sins, but also proclaimed that Jesus would come with a baptism "*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*"(Mat.3:11) Jesus said in Acts 1:4, "Wait for the promise of the Father," what He meant was, "Wait till the promise of Joel 2:28 is fulfilled." Acts 1:5, Jesus says, "You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Then, in 1:8, he defines the aim of that baptism fully: "You will receive power."

The Holy Spirit is invisible to natural eye. He was compared by Jesus to the wind: *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.*(John 3:8) Although the wind is invisible, the effects which it produces can be seen and heard. When the wind blows the dust rises from the ground, the trees all bend in one direction, leaves rustle, the waves of the sea roar. These are all physical signs of the wind. So it is with the Holy Spirit. Even though He is invisible, the effects which the Holy Spirit produces can be seen and heard. There are three places in the New Testament where record what happened when people were baptized in the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:2-4 is the record of what happened on day of Pentecost: *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

## How to Receive The Baptism of the Holy Spirit - 2 -

Acts 10:44-46 records what happened when Peter preached the Gospel to a man named Cornelius and his family: Acts 19:6 describes what happened to the converts at Ephesus: As we compare these passages there is one physical sign which is common to all three: Those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit spoke with other tongues. On the day of Pentecost there was the sound of a rushing wind and visible tongues of fire were seen. The one outward sign which the apostles observed in the experience of Cornelius and his household was that they spoke with tongues. This physical sign was proof to the disciples that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Tongues can also be a language not known to man. This is called an unknown tongue: *For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*(I Corinthians 14:2)

The purposes for manifestation of "other tongues" received through baptism in the Holy Spirit identifies in ICo.14. Prayer to God, Self-edification: Edification means to build or promote spiritual growth, When interpreted they edify the church, Intercession, Sign to unbelievers, Praise. Jesus left His followers with a responsibility to extend Gospel message to the ends of the earth. The power of the Holy Spirit would help them fulfill this task. Part of this "power" of the Holy Spirit was special gifts which the Holy Spirit gives believers to equip them to minister effectively. In Ephesians 4:12-15, their purpose is revealed spiritual gifts are for Perfecting of the saints, Promoting the work of the ministry, Edifying Christ and the church. The end objectives of these gifts are that we will: Be united in the faith. Develop our knowledge of Christ. Develop in perfection, with Christ as our model. Become stable, not deceived by false doctrines. Mature spiritually in Christ. All the gifts which God gave to accomplish objectives are still operative today. Spiritual gifts come from the Holy Spirit. It is important for us to discover and use our spirituals gift in church. The Holy Spirit develops in life of the believer qualities which the Bible calls "spiritual fruit." The fruit refers to the nature of the Holy Spirit being evident in the life of a believer. God desires that all the fruit be evident in the life of Christian.(GAL5:22) *But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance;* The development of these qualities are important function of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

We received a measure of the Holy Spirit upon our lives when we were born again. And when Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples, saying —Receive the Holy Spirit, He was saying, in effect, that He was God who first breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life and now He was imparting to them spiritual life again, creating them a new. (JOH20:22); When we were baptized in the Holy Spirit, subsequently we received the baptismal' measure of the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks of measures of the Spirit. God told Moses that He would take the Spirit that was upon him and put the same anointing upon the seventy elders. Here is an example of a man having a great anointing of the Holy Spirit and a part of the power being taken from him by the Lord, to be divided, used to anoint seventy others.

The following are Biblical guidelines for receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**Repent and be baptized:** This will put you in a position of spiritual interest: *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*(Acts 2:38)The first thing you must have before asking God for this gift is the right motive.

**Believe it is for you:** 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.(Acts2:39) Believer shall receive the promise of the Holy Spirit in the way of repentance.

**Desire it:** *If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*(John 7:37-39) There must be a hungering and thirsting after God.(Matthew 5:6) We will be filled in direct proportion to our thirst for Him.

**Realize it is a gift:** The Holy Spirit has already been given. It was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost. Because it is a gift, you can do nothing to earn it: ...the gift of the Holy Spirit.(Acts 2:38) that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.(Gal. 3:2,5,14) Begin to praise and thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. You will have to be willing to fully surrender to whatever God's perfect plan and destiny is going to be for your life.

**Ask and seek:** Persistently seek until you receive: For everyone who asks receives,(Luke 11:9-10) Pursue with confidence in the Father's goodness, care and protection. *If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him"*(Luke 11:11-13)

**Yield to God:** Do not be afraid to speak the language of the Spirit as you are praising and worshiping God. As you praise Him audibly you will first experience stammering lips. Yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit and He will speak through you words foreign to your understanding. This is sign of Holy Spirit baptism. *For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.*(Isa.28:11) they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. We need to be continuously filled with the Spirit.(Eph.5:18)

**Tarry meeting:** Waiting with expectation. The Holy Spirit can be received through laying on of hands (Acts 8,9,19) or without laying on of hands. God's power often passes through your body like a powerful current and fills you with a joy and happiness. The disciples were so filled with joy that the people thought they were drunk with new wine.