

THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 8: THE TRAIL OF TONGUES: BIBLICAL MODELS OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Main Idea: The Book of Acts records at least **163** people who received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, although there were likely more. The Book of Acts records men and women receiving the Holy Spirit **five** times. This lesson investigates the five instances, examining each one to see what the baptism in the Holy Spirit looked like and how the people knew they had received the Baptism.

Scripture: Acts 2:1-13; 8:4-19; 9:10-20; 10:44-47; 19:1-7





SIGHTLINE: Acquire Your Target

What did the Scripture mean to the original author and audience? As you explore information on the author, content, culture, history, land, and language of the Bible, you will gain a better understanding of the intended message of God's Word.

There is a principle of hermeneutics (the study of interpreting Scripture) which states Scripture interprets Scripture. This means that if you do not understand a particular Scripture, you can use other parts of Scripture to help you understand it. Though receiving guidance from wise counsel and godly leadership can be very helpful, it's far from mandatory to take what God breathed and go to someone else in order to understand what the Scripture means. You can go to all of Scripture and allow the Scripture to speak to you and paint a picture of the Scripture you are studying.

So, before we take a look at Acts, it would be beneficial to pause and read John 14-16. In these three chapters, Jesus essentially instructed the disciples on what to do in the upper room. He explained the role of the Holy Spirit, talking about who the Spirit was and what He would do. If you would like a more in-depth study on these chapters, you may go to <https://digital.myhealthychurch.com/Digital-Items/Mens-Ministries/Journey-through-John>

With Jesus' words in John as the background, we can proceed to Acts. Based on five instances of Holy Spirit baptism in Acts, and using the hermeneutical principle of Scripture interpreting Scripture, you learn at least two things.

First, **those who received were already believers in all cases.** This means receiving the Holy Spirit is a separate and subsequent experience to being saved. In some cases, it took place immediately after conversion. In other cases, it happened months or years later. But no matter when it happens, Spirit baptism is something all believers should expect and seek.

The second thing we learn is **what to expect as an outward sign when you receive the Holy Spirit.** In three of the five cases in Acts, the author Luke reveals that the believers spoke in tongues. Furthermore, in the two cases where tongues is not specifically mentioned, it is clearly implied. From the preponderance of evidence, you can safely conclude that speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.





CROSSHAIR: Focus on Your Target

What does this study say to you? Through studying the biblical explanations and principles in this study below, you will better understand what God is saying to you today.

As you read the Scripture, and let Scripture interpret Scripture, you will discover the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a requirement but a gift. Do you have to speak in tongues? Absolutely not; you get to speak in tongues.

Additional signs that may accompany Holy Spirit baptism include prophesying, magnifying God, and even miracles. Read the following five passages in Acts:

- The fulfillment of Jesus' promise at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-13)
- The Holy Spirit's outpouring in Samaria (Acts 8:4-19)
- The Holy Spirit's outpouring on Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:10-20)
- The Holy Spirit's outpouring in Caesarea (Acts 10:44-47)
- The Holy Spirit's outpouring on the Ephesians (Acts 19:1-7)

For more info on each of these moves of the Holy Spirit, see Appendix D in the Appendix document for this product.



BULLSEYE: Zero in on Your Target

How can this study apply to your life? By listening to the Holy Spirit's leading as you answer this series of questions, you can gain useful insights that will help you apply the truth of God's Word to your daily life.

Write down your answer to the following questions here or in your journal:

- Who appears in the passages you read?
- Where are these passages taking place?
- When are these passages occurring?
- Why are these passages important?
- What is happening in these passages?
- What verse stood out to you? Why?



- Describe your understanding of the hermeneutic principle that Scripture interprets Scripture. Why is this important as you study the Bible?

Re-read Acts 2:1-13; 8:4-19; 9:10-20; 10:44-47; and 19:1-7 and answer the following four questions:

- In each of the passages of Scripture, were the people who received Spirit baptism already believers? How do you know?
- In each of the passages of Scripture, how did those who received Spirit baptism know they had?
- In each of the passages of Scripture, how was the Holy Spirit received?



- In each of the passages of Scripture, what effect did receiving Spirit baptism have on their daily lives?
- Describe your Spirit baptism journey thus far.

USING MY *FIREBIBLE*

Read the study notes for the following verses in the *FireBible* and answer the accompanying questions:

- Acts 2:2–3. What two things might the fire represent?
- Acts 2:4. Summarize in your own words the six meanings of the first Spirit outpouring.



- Acts 8:6. Describe the reasons Christ promised He would use miraculous signs to confirm His Word.
- Acts 8:17–18. Why is the baptism in the Holy Spirit vital for your life? What do outward signs provide for the people around you?
- Acts 9:17. Describe the eight reasons why it is safe to assume Paul spoke in tongues.
- Acts 10:44. Describe the three reasons why the Holy Spirit brought Cornelius' house into a new and personal relationship with God.



- Acts 19:2. Describe in your own words the three facts about the question Paul asked.
- Acts 19:6. How many years after the first outpouring in Acts 2 did this event occur? Why is this time lapse significant?
- Read the *FireBible* chart “The Work of the Holy Spirit” and write out five to seven observations regarding Holy Spirit and His role throughout history.





TRIGGER PULL: Hit Your Target

How does this study affect your relationship with God and others? You experience God's Word in action as you use it to direct your journey with Him and those around you. Answer the following questions and record the answers below or in your journal.

- Take some time to listen to the Lord about what you just studied. How did this study help deepen your love for God?
- Write down a thought from this study that you experienced this week.
- As a result of your deepened love for God, how can you practically demonstrate the thought you experienced to your family and to others around you?

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®)
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