

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

*August 25,
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OPENING PRAYER

Ask God to open your hearts and minds to understand more about the Holy Spirit and His work in our lives.

KEY TAKE AWAYS

1. The Holy Spirit is the fulfillment of the "promise of the Father" mentioned by Jesus.
2. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is distinct from salvation, but available to all believers.
3. The Holy Spirit empowers believers for witness and ministry.
4. There are various signs and manifestations of the Holy Spirit's presence in a believer's life.

QUESTIONS

1. What was your understanding of the Holy Spirit before this sermon? Has anything changed?
2. The speaker mentioned his own journey from skepticism to embracing the Holy Spirit. Can you relate to this in any way? Share your experiences.
3. How do you interpret the different terms used in Acts for receiving the Holy Spirit (baptized with, filled with, fell upon, etc.)? What do these suggest about the nature of this experience?
4. What are some of the signs or evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence mentioned in the sermon? Have you experienced any of these in your own life?
5. The speaker emphasized that the Holy Spirit is not just a force or emotion, but a person. How does this perspective change the way we relate to the Holy Spirit?
6. Why do you think Jesus said it was better for Him to go so the Holy Spirit could come (John 16:7)? What does this suggest about the importance of the Holy Spirit?
7. How might a deeper experience of the Holy Spirit impact our daily lives and our effectiveness in ministry?

PRACTICE

1. Spend time this week praying and asking God to fill you afresh with His Holy Spirit.
2. Identify areas in your life where you need more of the Holy Spirit's power and guidance. Share these with the group for prayer support.
3. Study the book of Acts this week, noting the occurrences and effects of the Holy Spirit's work in the early church.
4. Practice being more aware of the Holy Spirit's presence in your daily life. At the end of each day, reflect on moments where you sensed His guidance or power.
5. If you haven't experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, consider seeking prayer from mature believers in your church.

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank God for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Ask Him to continue to fill and empower each group member for His purposes.

SCRIPTURE MEDITATION

"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