

A STRONG FOUNDATION WALKING IN THE SPIRIT

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God's Spirit has shown you everything. His Spirit finds out everything, even what is deep in the mind of God. You are the only one who knows what is in your own mind, and God's Spirit is the only one who knows what is in God's mind. But God has given us his Spirit. That's why we don't think the same way that the people of this world think. That's also why we can recognise the blessings that God has given us. Every word we speak was taught to us by God's Spirit, not by human wisdom. And this same Spirit helps us teach spiritual things to spiritual people. That's why only someone who has God's Spirit can understand spiritual blessings. Anyone who doesn't have God's Spirit thinks these blessings are foolish. (1 Corinthians 2:10-14, CEV)

A line familiar to most Christians is found in 2 Corinthians 13:14:

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The word '*fellowship*' really means 'intimate relationship'. This is more than an ending to a meeting, rather a plea for the fullness of God. In Ephesians 3:19, the Apostle Paul urges the church at Ephesus to "be filled with the fullness of God".

We are a Word and Spirit church. We see both the Word and the Spirit as pivotal to the believers' life, especially those who are part of our body (see Isaiah 2:2 & Joel 2:28).

The Spirit brings life and understanding to the Word of God. Both the Word and the Spirit are needed in order to have the right balance.

Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain your goal by human effort? (Galatians 3:3, NIV)

Our starting point as believers is with the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5:25 says "*if we live in the Spirit let us also walk in the Spirit*".

The Baptism of The Holy Spirit Is Distinctly Different to Being 'Born Again'.

Being 'born again' is a separate event to the baptism of the Holy Spirit; they are distinctly different and not one and the same.

I. The Holy Spirit in The Old Testament

"...and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters..." (Genesis 1:2, NIV)

Even from the very foundation of the world we see the Holy Spirit at work. The moving of the Holy Spirit upon man was different to that of the New Testament:

- The Holy Spirit rested upon various men giving them supernatural strength (Judges 11:29).
- As the Spirit rested upon men they also prophesised (Numbers 11:25).

It is significant to note that the Holy Spirit departed after the temporary work. Once Jesus came, the Holy Spirit remained (John 1:33).

II. How Does the Relationship Between the Holy Spirit and Jesus Work to Build the Church/Believer?

The following table (adapted from 'Principles of Church Life') provides a good cross-reference:

Christ was:	The believer is to be:
Born of the Spirit (Luke 1:35)	Born of the Spirit (John 3:5)
Filled with the Spirit (John 3:34)	Filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 3:19)
Baptised with the Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17)	Baptised with the Spirit (Ephesians 3:19)
Led by the Spirit (Matthew 4:1)	Led by the Spirit (Romans 8:14)
Sealed by the Spirit (John 6:27)	Sealed by the Spirit (Ephesians 3:13)
Empowered by the Spirit (Luke 4:14)	Empowered by the Spirit (Acts 1:8)
Anointed by the Spirit (Acts 10:38)	Anointed by the Spirit (1 John 2:27)

III. Is It Biblical to Use the Term 'Baptised with The Holy Spirit'?

Read: John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16

Circle the correct answer: Yes/No

IV. The Baptism of The Holy Spirit Is:

- A divine promise and blessing (Acts 1:4-5; 2:33, 39).
- Strength available to all who live the believer's life (Acts 1:8; Luke 24:49).
- A definitive, pivotal moment (Acts 19:2).
- Different from being born again and comes after the exchanged life (Acts 8:12-16).
- Part of the normal Christian life (Acts 2:38-39).

V. So What's the Sign of Being Baptised in The Holy Spirit?

Key Scriptures: Acts 2:4; Acts 8:18; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 19:1-6

The key phrase is 'spoke with tongues' (yielding the unruly member!).

Conclusion

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all believers; every tribe and tongue, young and old alike. If you want to be baptised with the Holy Spirit you must first take these simple steps:

- Repent and receive.
- Ask Jesus for the promise.
- Open your mouth.
- Ask a pastor or leader in the church to pray for you.