

WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER PENTECOST 06 THE RESPONSE TO PENTECOST 03 RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT STUDY GUIDE

Read Acts 2.38. Today we want to look at Peter's instruction to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. As soon as Peter received the Holy Spirit and started speaking in tongues, he immediately told others to receive the Spirit.

Of all the foundational basic truths, this is the one most people are talking about. Whenever I travel, people want to know about the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. We must get our understanding of the baptism in the Holy Spirit from the Scriptures, not tradition. Now what is a baptism? It is an immersion, a dip into a medium by a baptiser. In this case, Jesus Christ immerses us in the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit comes over you, enveloping you and covering you and immersing you. This is the Holy Spirit baptism, and it is found right at the beginning of the early church:

Read Acts 2.1-4. The whole atmosphere of the church changed as they were immersed in the Holy Spirit, in the power and presence of God. When Peter preached in Acts 10, it says the Holy Spirit fell upon those who heard the word (Acts 10.44). That is another picture of immersion – the Holy Spirit falling on them. Peter recognized this gift as being from God. In Acts 19, the language says that the Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 19.5-6). It is not an immersion in water, but in the person of the Holy Spirit.

Now some people say that you cannot teach from the book of Acts, but that is simply not true, all Scripture is profitable for doctrine (see 2 Tim. 3.16). Another image of the immersion in the Holy Spirit is outflow, which is found in John 7, where Jesus says that when we receive the Holy Spirit we will have rivers of living water flowing out of us. You need that – you need rivers that flow out of you to help and minister to others. The new birth will get you to heaven, but the baptism in the Holy Spirit enables you to bring heaven to earth.

I pastor over thirty nationalities, sometimes I feel like Paul did in 2 Cor. 2.16 thinking "who is sufficient for these things?", but the truth is John 7.38, out of my heart will flow rivers of living water. Those rivers are enough for everyone who comes to Tree of Life, everyone I meet, everyone I see.

Now, when you are filled, you overflow. When the human heart is filled, it overflows, and according to Matthew 12.34, the overflow valve of the human heart is the mouth. When the heart is so full that its contents cannot be held, it can only overflow out of the mouth.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit fills your spirit so entirely, and so supernaturally, that it has to overflow, it has to overflow out of your mouth. I cannot see inside your spirit, inside your heart, but when it is overflow, I can hear that.

Basic Truths about the Holy Spirit Baptism

- I. The Holy Spirit never forces anyone
 - a. He is the Helper, not the Dictator. He will never force you to do anything. He does not make you do things; He does not force you to disturb a meeting and interrupt a preacher. If a spirit is making you do things, it is not the Holy Spirit.
 - b. This means you will never get any more benefit from the Holy Spirit than you are prepared to yield to Him. Many people get baptized in the Holy

Spirit, but you see no benefits in their life because they refuse to be guided, counselled, directed and led by the Spirit. And He will never force them. The baptism of the Holy Spirit, to benefit you, needs you to submit to the Holy Spirit.

2. The Holy Spirit baptism is not a substitute for any other part of the Christian life
 - a. There is no one gift from God that is the super gift that does everything. We need, for example, the full armour of God, not just one piece. If you are missing one piece you are not covered totally. Many Christians have open areas in their life – some people say “I have love, I don’t need the gifts” – no, if you love people you will want to flow in the gifts. But you cannot say “I have the gifts; I do not need love” either. You need love, you need the Word, you need to keep walking by faith, you need to still live by the Word.
3. The Holy Spirit baptism is the door to a new realm
 - a. The Holy Spirit baptism is totally supernatural, and it is often the first time Christians have a direct, supernatural encounter with God. The Holy Spirit baptism is the door to a new realm, and you need to become accustomed to that realm.
 - b. One of the things that will happen is that you will have to learn about flowing in the Spirit, being led by the Spirit, and also the conflict in the spiritual realm. Immediately after the Holy Spirit came on Him, Jesus was tempted by the devil. The devil hates Christians who are full of the Spirit.
4. The Holy Spirit baptism needs us to be in the Word more
 - a. I have seen far too many Christians get filled with the Spirit and neglect the Word and end up shipwrecked. When Jesus was filled with the Spirit, and the devil tempted Him, Jesus responded with the Word. He did not neglect the Word of God. Three times He said “it is written”, get filled with the Holy Spirit and you need to know the Word more.

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit Baptism (EIGHT FOLD)

I. Gateway into the Supernatural

The Holy Spirit baptism is the gateway into the supernatural, Hebrews 6.4-5 says that if we have become partakers of the Holy Spirit then we have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come. The Holy Spirit opens the doorway to the powers of the age to come. We are touching the power of heaven now before we die. The Holy Spirit baptism is a door into the supernatural realm. You see getting baptized in the Holy Spirit is not the ending, it is the beginning. It makes the supernatural, naturally.

Looking at Acts, you will see the supernatural in every chapter. You have no such thing as New Testament Christianity without there being supernatural occurrences. God did special miracles through Paul (Acts 19.11), that means literally “the kind of miracles that do not happen every day”. For most people all miracles are special, but God wants us to be in a place where miracles are so common, we can have special miracles. This is not supposed to be theory, it is supposed to be our experience.

2. The Power to Witness

You shall receive power after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you, and you shall be my witnesses (Acts 1.8)

The baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us the supernatural power to be witnesses. We are witnesses of Jesus Christ, not to a doctrine or experience, but to Jesus. We are not witnessing to an event, but to Jesus. When we have the power, we can be witnesses.

3. A Prayer Language

The Holy Spirit gives you access to a prayer language, and additional help to pray as well. Romans 8.26 and 27 tells us that the Spirit helps us in our infirmities when we do not know how to pray for as we should. All of us have an infirmity – not a sickness – but we do not know how to pray as we should be praying. No one does! I have heard people pray without help, and it can be very long, very learned, very sincere as these people tell God what they think He should be doing right now.

That is not really praying, praying is flowing with the Spirit, listening to Him, and letting Him pray through you. You are the temple, and He prays alongside you, helping you. And tongues is a huge part of that.

4. A Teacher

The Holy Spirit fills us so He can teach us. He will guide us into all truth (John 16.13), and so therefore the Holy Spirit is the greatest Teacher of the Scriptures. Jesus told us the Spirit of truth leads us into all truth and reminds us of what Jesus said (John 14.26). The Holy Spirit teaches us all things, but His favourite topic is Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit loves to reveal Jesus, to teach about Jesus, to point to Jesus, to convince us of Jesus, to glorify Jesus (John 16.14). The Holy Spirit can make the Bible come alive in a new way, make the people in it seem so vivid and real, make the truths jump out at us and help us see Jesus in a fresh way.

Now, we need human teachers too, do not become crazy and say you only need the Holy Spirit to teach you – I have never met anyone who says that who is mature and fruitful. But, He is the greatest teacher of all – He is the greatest Revealer of Jesus Christ that exists. He shows you where Jesus is more than anyone ever can.

Right now, Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of the Father, He has all power on heaven and earth and has given it to us. When the Holy Spirit fell on the day of Pentecost, He started teaching the disciples about their authority in Christ, He started glorifying Jesus, He started reminding them of the words of Jesus, and He let them know He was here.

Peter got up and preached a powerful message, Peter who seven weeks ago denied Jesus – what changed – He got baptized in the Holy Spirit and got a Bible study from the Holy Spirit about Jesus. Peter preached “Therefore, being exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured this out which you now see and here” (Acts 2.33). Who revealed Jesus to Peter? The Holy Spirit.

5. An Exalter of Jesus

The Holy Spirit exalts Jesus and when the Holy Spirit fills us, He starts to fill us with thoughts of exalting Jesus. If we flow with Him, we will start to exalt Jesus in our lives, in our praises, in our hearts in fresh and new ways.

6. Our Guide

The Holy Spirit fills us to guide us and lead us. Again, Jesus said the Spirit will guide us into all truth. You and I need guidance, we need supernatural warnings and directions to help us survive in the world today. If we only live in the natural, we will mess up over and over again.

Jesus told us that as it was in the days of Noah, it will be in the days of the son of man (Luke 17:26), and most people see that as the increase of wickedness in the end of time, and there is that, but the other distinctive thing about Noah was the building of the ark for the saving of his household (Hebrews 11:7). Noah did not have a natural revelation of what was happening, he was warned by Jesus. We need to have Jesus warn us of danger in a very real way, and that is part of the role of the Holy Spirit.

When we are immersed in the Holy Spirit, He can speak to us spirit to spirit. I can tell you as I have travelled the world, the Holy Spirit has always travelled with me and led me supernaturally.

7. For Health

The baptism of the Holy Spirit makes you healthier. Firstly, when you pray in tongues you edify yourself (1 Cor. 14:3) – not just your soul, your whole self. That includes your body. The resurrection life of Jesus can be seen in our bodies through the power of the Holy Spirit.

8. For Unity

When the Jews heard the Gentiles praying in tongues that united the Jewish and Gentile Christians, and the power of the baptism of the Holy Spirit to bring unity is remarkable. It brings people together from different cultures and backgrounds and so on.

How to Receive the Holy Spirit – the Bible Way

If we are to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and also be able to lead others into it, we need to understand how to receive Him. Jesus loves to baptise in the Holy Spirit, and He is the one who baptises in the Holy Spirit (John 1:31-34).

We know that Jesus when teaching about the Holy Spirit, said it like this:

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. He spoke this 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)

Jesus was speaking about a future event here because it was still before His death and resurrection. It is not correct to apply this passage to the new birth, because it is referring to believers.

The New Covenant begins with an exchange of persons. As Jesus draws near to the end of His earthly ministry, He starts to prepare His disciples for Him to leave, and that another person would take His place. At this point, Jesus is so emphatic the Holy Spirit is a person. He is basically saying that “I, the person of Jesus Christ, will go, but another person, the Holy Spirit, will come”.

And Jesus told us that this exchange was better for us (John 16:7). It is better to live the Holy Spirit life than the Jesus life! It is better to have the Holy Spirit inside us than Jesus with us. You are better off with Jesus in heaven and the Holy Spirit inside you than Jesus next to us and the Spirit in heaven!

This is so obviously true with the early church – as soon as the Holy Spirit came, they turned the world upside down and the teaching and power of Jesus became so real to them. The moment the Holy Spirit came they understood things at a whole new level, they stopped being stupid at grasping truths about Jesus and got them.

Many times, I have heard Christians say things like “I wished I walked with Jesus 2000 years ago”, and that is not Biblical – what is Biblical is living today with the Holy Spirit inside you.

So, how do we receive the Holy Spirit? The Scriptures are clear:

You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you (Acts 1:8)

We need that power, we need the Holy Spirit. So, what happened when it came?

When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 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 in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4)

The Holy Spirit fell on them. They were all individually filled with the Spirit. They then began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

So, the Holy Spirit has three jobs, to fall, to fill and to give utterance. We have one job – to speak the words that the Spirit gives us. We control the overflow valve. We cannot do the Holy Spirit's bit, but He will not do our bit, we have to speak those syllables out by faith.

They were all filled – there are no exceptions. If you want, you can be filled by the Holy Spirit. You can begin to speak in tongues. You can have overflow.

This is the Biblical pattern for receiving the Holy Spirit – if you teach this way, people will receive. You have to teach them that Jesus sends the Holy Spirit, that the Holy Spirit baptism is for all believers, that it is something worth having, that the Holy Spirit will give you words and you have to speak them. He will not speak for you.

The moment a Christian believes it will happen; it will happen.

Now, you can actually receive the Holy Spirit without having an understanding of the experience. This happened in Acts 10, and it has happened to several people I know.

So, if I was leading someone in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I would normally go to John 7, and look there, and then Acts 2. In John 7:37-39, I would give someone the following truths:

I. Be Thirsty.

- a. Jesus said “if anyone thirst” – in other words, you have to realize that just being born again is not enough. You need something more. If you are not thirsty, there is no point in trying to force it on you.
2. Come to Jesus
 - a. He is the one that is going to Baptise you in the Holy Spirit, no one else. If you want the baptism, you need to go to the baptiser. And anyone who comes to Him, He will in no ways cast out (John 6.37)
3. Drink
 - a. What a beautiful and simple picture. You just receive. I cannot drink for you, no one can. You cannot drink with your mouth closed, you cannot receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with your mouth closed. You open your mouth and drink.

Then I would go to Acts 2.I-4 and read that with them, and show them:

4. Receive
 - a. The Holy Spirit has already fell, we just need to receive
5. Get Utterance
 - a. The Holy Spirit will give us utterance. I tell people it is syllables, because when I say words people are expecting something understandable, and it is not. It is syllables. Some people hear them in their mind, others in their heart, others right in their gut.
6. Speak in Tongues
 - a. You have to take those syllables and speak them out. You cannot speak in English and speak in tongues. You have to speak out what the Holy Spirit is saying, that is the overflow. You will then speak a language you do not know.

I would then tell people there are two initial carnal response to the Holy Spirit, first you think you are making it up and secondly you freeze waiting for God to do it all. Neither is Biblical. The Holy Spirit gives the words, and you are speaking.

And maybe as a last Scripture, I might turn to Matthew 7.9-II and Luke II.I3, which talks about God being a good Father and giving us good gifts, and how we will not get something bad when we ask for the Holy Spirit.

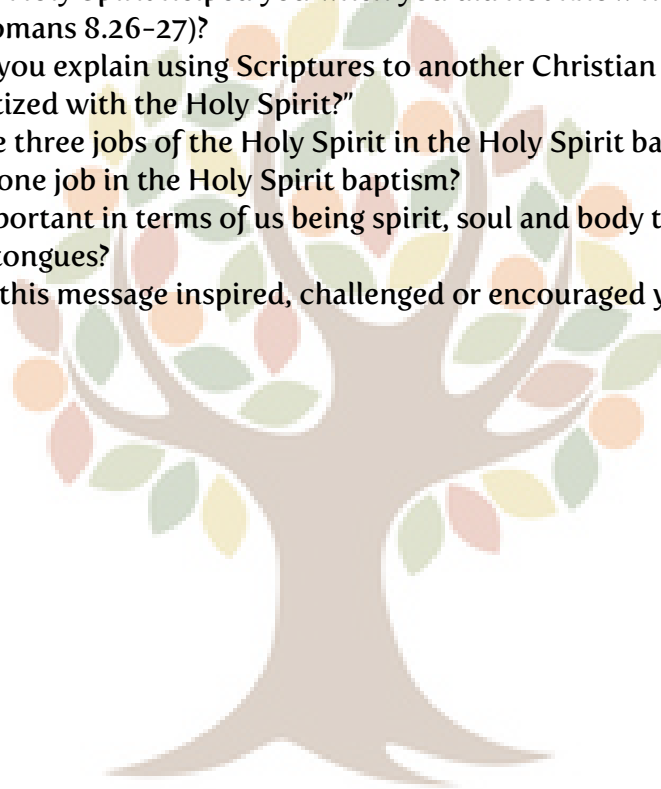
Continuing With the Holy Spirit

Remember the Holy Spirit is our guide, so when we are baptized in Him, He will guide us more clearly than we have ever experienced before. We need to be led by the Spirit – we need to keep speaking in tongues. When the Scripture says we need to be led by the Spirit (Romans 8.I4) the verb is in the continual present tense, we need to be continually led by the Spirit of the Lord.

There are many Christians baptised in the Holy Spirit but they have never been led by the Spirit, never gone on to live in fruitfulness, never achieved maturity, never become great Christians. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not an end, it is the beginning to the life of a fruitful witness, a deeper walk with the Father, a supernatural ongoing revelation of Jesus, and the open door to the gifts of the Spirit.

WE DON'T NEED ANOTHER PENTECOST 06 THE RESPONSE TO PENTECOST 03
RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT STUDY GUIDE QUESTIONS

- I. 1. What does the word "baptism" mean?
2. What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
3. What did everyone who was baptized in the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts do?
4. When have you had an experience of the Holy Spirit helping you?
5. Have you ever had an experience of the Holy Spirit trying to help you, but you refused it?
6. "The Holy Spirit baptism is the door to a new realm". What new realms has being in baptized in the Holy Spirit opened up to you?
7. How has the Holy Spirit helped you when you did not know how to pray as you ought (cf. Romans 8.26-27)?
8. How would you explain using Scriptures to another Christian who asks you "how can I be baptized with the Holy Spirit?"
9. What are the three jobs of the Holy Spirit in the Holy Spirit baptism?
- IO. What is our one job in the Holy Spirit baptism?
- II. Why is it important in terms of us being spirit, soul and body that we spend time speaking in tongues?
- I2. What about this message inspired, challenged or encouraged you the most?



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