



# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

*A Pentecostal Theological Study & Teaching Guide*

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## Section 1: What Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

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The baptism of the Holy Spirit is one of the most exciting and important beliefs in the Pentecostal church. Pentecostals believe that after a person is saved (becomes a Christian), there is a second special experience waiting for them — being "baptized" or filled with the Holy Spirit. This is not the same as being born again. It is a separate, powerful experience that gives believers new power to serve God and share their faith.

### Acts 1:8

*"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."*

### Key Idea

Salvation gives you a NEW LIFE. The baptism of the Holy Spirit gives you NEW POWER for that life.

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## Section 2: What Does the Bible Say?

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The Bible tells us about the baptism of the Holy Spirit in several places. The most famous example is the Day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2. Jesus had already risen from the dead and gone back to heaven. He told His disciples to WAIT in Jerusalem until they received power from above.

### Acts 2:1-4

*"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

### Other key Bible passages:

- Acts 8:14-17 — The Samaritans received the Holy Spirit after Peter and John prayed for them.
- Acts 10:44-46 — Cornelius and his household received the Holy Spirit while Peter was still preaching.
- Acts 19:1-6 — Disciples in Ephesus received the Holy Spirit when Paul laid hands on them.
- Luke 24:49 — Jesus called it "the promise of my Father" — a gift to be clothed with power.
- John 14:16-17 — Jesus promised the Father would send another Helper, the Spirit of Truth.

#### Pattern Alert!

Notice the pattern: people got SAVED, and then later received the BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT as a separate experience. This is the Pentecostal understanding of two distinct works of grace.

## Section 3: Speaking in Tongues — The Initial Evidence

One of the most important and unique beliefs in Pentecostal theology is that speaking in tongues (also called "glossolalia") is the INITIAL PHYSICAL EVIDENCE of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This means when someone is first baptized in the Holy Spirit, they will speak in a language they have never learned — a heavenly language given by the Spirit.

#### Acts 2:4

*"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

Pentecostals point out that every time the Bible specifically records what happened when people received the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues was part of it. This makes tongues the "sign" or "proof" that the experience has happened.

### Two types of tongues in the Bible:

- INITIAL EVIDENCE — The first sign when someone is baptized in the Spirit (Acts 2, 10, 19). Every believer can have this.
- GIFT OF TONGUES — A continuing spiritual gift for use in church worship, often with interpretation (1 Corinthians 12-14). Not everyone operates in this gift publicly.

#### Think of it this way:

Tongues as initial evidence is like a receipt — it shows the transaction happened. The gift of tongues is like using a skill regularly in ministry.

## Section 4: Why Do We Need This Experience?

Pentecostals teach that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not just an emotional feeling — it is a supernatural empowerment for Christian living and ministry. Jesus Himself told His disciples NOT to go out and preach until they had received this power. If Jesus said His disciples needed it, we need it too!

### What the baptism of the Holy Spirit does for believers:

- BOLDNESS — Gives courage to share the Gospel even in tough situations (Acts 4:31).
- PRAYER — Enables deeper, Spirit-led prayer and intercession (Romans 8:26-27).
- WORSHIP — Opens up a new dimension of praise and worship (Ephesians 5:18-19).
- GIFTS — Activates the spiritual gifts listed in 1 Corinthians 12 (healing, prophecy, miracles, etc.).
- HOLINESS — Helps believers live a set-apart, godly life through the Spirit's power.
- WITNESS — Equips believers to be effective witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8).

#### Ephesians 5:18

*"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."*

#### Important Truth:

Being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time-only experience. Pentecostals believe believers should continually be filled and refilled with the Holy Spirit throughout their lives.

## Section 5: How Can Someone Receive the Baptism?

Good news — the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a GIFT from God, not something you earn! But Pentecostal teachers do emphasize some important steps to receiving this experience.

### Steps to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- BE SAVED FIRST — You must be born again before receiving the baptism (Acts 2:38).
- ASK GOD — Simply ask! Luke 11:13 says, "How much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"
- SURRENDER — Let go of fear and pride. Trust God completely and open your heart.
- BELIEVE — Have faith that God wants to give you this gift. Don't doubt!
- RECEIVE BY FAITH — Just like salvation, you receive the Holy Spirit by faith, not feelings.
- OPEN YOUR MOUTH & SPEAK — The disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them words. You cooperate with the Spirit and speak what He gives you.

**Luke 11:13**

*"If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

**Remember:**

You don't have to be "good enough" or "spiritual enough." This gift is for every believer. God is MORE willing to give you the Holy Spirit than you are to receive Him!

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## Section 6: A Brief History of the Pentecostal Movement

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Many Christians throughout history had the Holy Spirit in their lives, but the modern Pentecostal movement as we know it today began in the early 1900s. God began to restore the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit to the church after centuries of it being largely absent from mainstream Christianity.

### Key moments in Pentecostal history:

- 1901 — Charles Parham's Bible school in Topeka, Kansas: Agnes Ozman spoke in tongues on January 1, 1901, marking the beginning of the modern Pentecostal movement.
- 1906 — The Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, led by William J. Seymour. This multi-year revival saw thousands receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It spread the Pentecostal message around the world.
- 1914 — The Assemblies of God was founded, becoming one of the largest Pentecostal denominations in the world.
- 1960s — The Charismatic Renewal brought Pentecostal experiences into mainline Protestant and Catholic churches.
- Today — There are over 600 million Pentecostal and Charismatic Christians worldwide, making it one of the fastest-growing movements in church history.

#### Did You Know?

The Azusa Street Revival was remarkable because it was multiracial in an era of deep racial segregation in America. The Holy Spirit broke down racial barriers — a sign of His power!

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*"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit..." — Acts 2:4*