

Spirit Baptism and Indwelling

Have you ever felt that there was something missing in your Christian walk? Do you feel that you need more in your prayer life? Is there a longing in your heart to worship God in spirit and in truth? Maybe you have a strong desire to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. If this is so, you can have these gifts that were promised.

At the point of conversion, a person who is truly remorseful for his or her sins, and understands that they must rely on Christ's atoning death to cleanse them from their sins, will be "born-again" according to the Bible (John 3:16). But being born-again means much more than just saying you are a Christian. It is at this point the Holy Spirit indwells the believer. In 1 Corinthians 3:16, Paul states "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?" Also, in 1 Corinthians 6:19 he writes, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body."

The Spirit of God indwelling the believer at the point of conversion is known as regeneration. In this way, we are "born of Spirit" (John 3:6), and we are made new creations and given a new, righteous nature; however, our old sinful nature remains and we must keep it under submission. The Bible states in Romans 8:5, "Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires." So anyone who is saved must by definition have God's Holy Spirit residing within.

Jesus said that His own baptism was to fulfill all righteousness. In this way He was able to identify with sinful mankind, be a model for others to follow, and affirm John the Baptist and his message. The coming of the Spirit and the voice from heaven showed that Jesus represented another point in God's revelation of Himself and formed the connection between baptism and Christ's act of redemption.

The Coming of the Holy Spirit

Despite the fact the Book of Acts begins with the ascension of Jesus, there is no evidence anyone in the early church perceived Him as "gone" from their midst. He healed, spoke, and directed the work of His disciples. Even when they preached, the disciples thought of Jesus as literally present in their preaching. They asked the listeners of those first sermons, not merely to believe facts about Jesus, but to meet through their words the One who died, rose again, and lives forever. The ascension marked not Christ's departure, but a change in the way Christ performs His ministry of salvation and grace. Consequently, Acts is the continuing story of Jesus' work. It simply begins once He is no longer bound by the limitations of time and space. Acts tells what happened following the ascension when Jesus started to work through His new body, which is the church.

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 with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

The Reason the Holy Spirit was Sent

Jesus sent the Holy Spirit, just as He promised to do, so that He could live in those who would receive Him. He came to do for us what He did for His followers.

The purpose of the Holy Spirit is as follows:

- ✦ bears witness of Jesus revealing God's will and truth to the believer
- ✦ convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and of judgment
- ✦ transforms us in the sight of God

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- ✦ helps us to remember the word of God
- ✦ helps us to lead a Godly life
- ✦ gives us spiritual gifts for the edification of believers
- ✦ is our guarantee of eternal life with God
- ✦ empowers us to be witnesses for our Lord Jesus Christ

The scripture describes the Holy Spirit as having these personal characteristics:

- ✦ Living (Romans 8:11; 1 Corinthians 3:16)
- ✦ Speaking (Acts 8:29; 10:19; 11:12; 21:11; 1 Timothy 4:1; Hebrews 3:7)
- ✦ Authoritative (Acts 10:20; 13:2)
- ✦ Receptive, Emotional (the Spirit may be spoken to, tested, grieved, insulted or blasphemed) (Acts 5:3, 9; Ephesians 4:30; Hebrews 10:29; Matthew 12:31)
- ✦ Guider, interceder, caller, and commissioner (Romans 8:14; Acts 13:2; 20:28)

Word Explanation

Holy Spirit – The third Person of the Trinity through whom God acts, reveals His will, empowers individuals, and discloses His personal presence in the Old and New Testaments. Jesus said that the Spirit is like the wind in that one cannot see it, but one can see its effects. This is true of both the Spirit of God and the spirit of a human being. The table below explains some of the Greek and Hebrew translations of the Spirit.

Pneō	Greek verb for Spirit meaning "to breathe" or "to blow"
Pneuma	Greek word for "breath"; Spirit
Parakletos	Greek word meaning "called to one's side"
Ruach	Hebrew word meaning "the Spirit of God"
Spirit	Equated with God

In the New Testament the Greek word **pneo** is equivalent to the Old Testament *neshawmaw*. An example of the use of pneo is found in John 3 where the Lord Jesus was teaching on being "born again." Furthermore, pneo is the root word for pneuma which means "spirit".

A translation of the Hebrew word **ruach** and the Greek word **pneuma**, which can be translated as "wind," "breath," or "spirit", depending upon the context. In both Testaments, **spirit** is used of both God and human beings. The Spirit of God is present everywhere (Psalm 139:7).

In the New Testament, the Greek term for the Holy Spirit is **parakletos**, which the NIV translates as "Counselor." The background of this Greek term lies in the law court where the Paraklete helped someone. The Holy Spirit is another "Helper" alongside Jesus for the believer. As Jesus helped disciples during His earthly ministry, so the Spirit helps them after the ascension as they face a hostile world. Meanwhile, Jesus is the Paraklete in the heavenly court (1 John 2:1).

As predicted by John the Baptist (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33) and reiterated by Jesus Himself, the Promise of the Father was the promise of baptism in the Holy Spirit. There are seven references in Scripture to baptism in the Spirit. Five are prophetic (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5); one is historical (Acts 11:15, 16), referring to the Day of Pentecost; and one is doctrinal (1 Corinthians 12:13), explaining the meaning of baptism in the Spirit. The passive tense of the verb indicates that baptism does not depend upon our efforts to obtain the promise, but upon the Lord's will. The future tense demonstrates that there is no uncertainty or doubt in the promise. Spiritual baptism means we have been placed in spiritual union with one another in the body of Jesus Christ, the church (1 Corinthians 12:12-13).

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A Requirement of Obedience

Water Baptism

The Greek word **baptizo**, means to “bathe or immerse.” Therefore, water baptism is being fully immersed in water, which is an outward sign of an inward grace; a declaration and public identification with Christ in His death, burial, and resurrection.

In Acts 19:1-3, Dr. Luke writes: “While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. So Paul asked, “Then what baptism did you receive? “John’s baptism,” they replied. Paul said, “John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance.”

This baptism involved the same elements later interpreted in Christian baptism: repentance, confession, evidence of changed lives, coming judgment, and the coming of the kingdom of God through the Messiah, who would baptize with the Spirit and with fire.

Receiving God’s Final Act of Salvation

Holy Spirit Baptism

The Greek text uses the preposition **en** (“in” or “within”) with the verb **baptizo** to describe the relationship between the Spirit and the believer who has been so baptized. Used with baptizo, it means “completely immersed in”, therefore, being baptized in the Holy Spirit means being completely immersed in the presence and being of God.

Once you are born again, you are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ. This is called the “new birth”; the old man passes away and becomes a “new creature.” Please note: This “new birth” is not the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Luke 24:49: “I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city (Jerusalem) until you have been clothed with power from on high.” The disciples had not yet received the baptism in the Holy Spirit; but, very shortly, they were to receive more -- the power from on high that would make them stronger witnesses!

The primary purpose of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for **POWER**, and this power will enable us to:

- ✦ witness (Acts 1:8; John 15:26-27)
- ✦ pray (Romans 8:26-27)
- ✦ understand the Word (John 14:16)
- ✦ overcome sin (Revelation 12:11)
- ✦ grow, mature, and become spiritually reproductive (James 5:7)
- ✦ operate the spiritual gifts that God has given us (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- ✦ obtain a greater revelation of Jesus (John 15:26)
- ✦ discover the truth of things to come (John 16:13)
- ✦ discover our inheritance in Christ (John 16:15)

When one receives the baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is an utterance by the Spirit, and an expression is made in an unknown tongue or language. In Acts 2:4 it states: “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.” The Holy Spirit is the gift Jesus gave His disciples and is the presence of God at work in the life of the believer and in the world (John 20:22). After Pentecost, great and powerful things began to take place through the hands of a Church that was united in obeying the Spirit. They were spiritually immersed in Him, as viewed from outside themselves (Acts 2).

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The focus is not on tongues, or even on miraculous signs, but on the way these believers allowed the Spirit they had been given to control their lives. The important thing was the way they lived.

Perhaps we decline to give the word "baptism" its complete meaning in this context given that we prefer an in-church religious "experience" to a constant relationship that will seriously interfere with our lives if permitted full expression. Spirit "baptism" is an ongoing immersion in the Spirit, not a religious "experience" which happens in a church service. There is one Baptism in the Spirit, but should be many fillings. "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to corruption. Instead be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). The term "be filled" means to be "continually filled." The Old Testament example is of the Lampstand. The priests were to refill the lamps **twice** daily, once in the morning and once in the evening. "And Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the Lord for the generations to come" (Exodus 30:7-8). That is a good example for us as well. Yesterday's filling is not sufficient for today, nor today's filling sufficient for tomorrow. When was the last time you were filled with the Holy Spirit?

The steps to receive the Holy Spirit are:

- ✦ Be sure that you have been saved and baptized in water,
- ✦ Have a clean heart,
- ✦ Have a strong desire to receive the Holy Spirit,
- ✦ Submit yourself to the laying on of hands,
- ✦ Pray in faith (ask Father God) for the Holy Spirit.

How are we refilled? **First**, it is by asking: "After they prayed, the place where they were was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly" (Acts 4:31); **second**, we are refilled by praise: "Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord"... (Ephesians 5:19); **third**, we may be filled when we are filled with His Word. This means that we are to read, memorize, and meditate on it; "... for out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks" (Matthew 12:34).

Conclusion

One thing we should be mindful of is that we have not yet been fully redeemed, but now have the Spirit as a deposit guaranteeing that complete redemption. Let us not grieve the Holy Spirit by clinging to bitterness, wrath, anger, chaos, or slander as a way of life, because part of His work is to build all believers, in unity, into a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the one who will lead and guide us into all truth (John 16:13). This is the truth necessary to be mature saints and thoroughly equipped servants.

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Reference Verses

Book	Verse(s)
Exodus 30:7-8	"Aaron must burn fragrant incense on the altar every morning when he tends the lamps. He must burn incense again when he lights the lamps at twilight so incense will burn regularly before the LORD for the generations to come."
Psalms 139:7	Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence?
Matthew 3:11	"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
Matthew 12:31, 34	And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. You brood of vipers, how can you who are evil say anything good? For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks.
Mark 1:8	"I baptize you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."
Luke 3:16	John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire."
Luke 24:49	"I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
John 1:33	I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.'
John 3:6, 16	Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. "For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."
John 14:26	But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.
John 15:26-27	"When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me." "And you also must testify, for you have been with me from the beginning."
John 16:8-11	When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

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John 16:13, 15	But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will take from what is mine and make it known to you.
John 20:22	And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
Acts 1:5, 8	"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." "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 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.
Acts 4:31, 33	After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly. With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.
Acts 5:3, 9	Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land?" Peter said to her, "How could you agree to test the Spirit of the Lord? Look! The feet of the men who buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out also."
Acts 8:29	The Spirit told Philip, "Go to that chariot and stay near it."
Acts 10:19-20	While Peter was still thinking about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Simon, three men are looking for you. So get up and go downstairs. Do not hesitate to go with them, for I have sent them."
Acts 11:12, 15-16	The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'
Acts 13:2	While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them."

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Acts 19:1-3	While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.
Acts 20:28	Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he bought with his own blood.
Acts 21:11	Coming over to us, he took Paul's belt, tied his own hands and feet with it and said, "The Holy Spirit says, 'In this way the Jews of Jerusalem will bind the owner of this belt and will hand him over to the Gentiles.'"
Romans 8:5, 11, 14, 26-27	Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you. because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.
1 Corinthians 2:4-5	My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.
1 Corinthians 3:16	Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?
1 Corinthians 6:11, 19	And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;
1 Corinthians 12:4-7	There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but the same God works all of them in all men. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

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1 Corinthians 12:11-13	All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
1 Corinthians 14:12	So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.
Galatians 5:22-23	But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.
Ephesians 1:13-14	And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory.
Ephesians 4:30	And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
Ephesians 5:18-20	Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.
1 Timothy 4:1	The Spirit clearly says that in later times some will abandon the faith and follow deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.
Hebrews 3:7-10	So, as the Holy Spirit says: "Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the desert, where your fathers tested and tried me and for forty years saw what I did. That is why I was angry with that generation, and I said, 'Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.'
Hebrews 10:29	How much more severely do you think a man deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?
James 5:7	Be patient, then, brothers, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop and how patient he is for the autumn and spring rains.
1 John 2:1	My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.
Revelation 12:11	They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; they did not love their lives so much as to shrink from death.

All Scriptures are taken from the New International Version (NIV)