

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

What it is and Why you Need it?

Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?

The apostle Paul asked this very important question the the twelve saved disciples of Christ, at Ephesus. (Acts 19:2) They were startled by the question and answered, "We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost." Later in Acts 19:6 when they prayed together, "The Holy Ghost cam on them; and thy spoke with tongues, and prophesied." This should have been expected since in all four gospels. We are told that Jesus will baptize with the Holy Ghost

What is it for?

Power for service, "But ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost has come upon you." (Acts 1:8) Power in witnessing, not only in words but in claiming healing, deliverance, in prayer, in understanding the Word and power to overcome sin and live a victorious life. (Romans 8:26; John 16:14; Luke 24:49; Acts 9:17-20) Even Jesus healed because He was filled with the Holy Spirit. (Acts 10:38) It is the power for your specific ministry.

Must I speak in Tongues?

Yes this is important! This is a gift from God, why would you refuse it? To refuse tongues is to refuse to yield yourself completely to God. If you will not yield completely, you can't be used completely. It is important that you speak in tongues.

Who is it For?

Only for the 'born again' Christians. The Holy Spirit is not available to the world (the unsaved). (John 14:16-17) If you are not sure you are born again, be sure, before you seek the baptism. When you have truly become one of God's children, then "Your heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him." Luke 11:13 It is not only for the apostles, or Jews, or people who lived in the days of the apostles, but for all the saved people in every age. (Acts 2:38,39) It is for all Christians that want a righteous life. "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

A word of Advice

Do not seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit if you do not honestly in your heart wish to be obedient to God and want Him to guide your life. Once we learn to tune in to the leading of the Holy Spirit, we become a target for satan, and he may try to confuse us by supernatural leadings. Most people have had some contact with the occult. That is fortune telling, horoscopes, magic practices and games, spiritism, or false religious teachings. The occult involvements breaks the first commandment of God which is an abomination unto God and gives satan legal access to our lives. (Deuteronomy 18:10-12) Anytime one seeks supranational answers without going through Jesus Christ, satan has a right to answer. If one seeks the baptism of the Holy Spirit it is vital that you confess your faith in Jesus, confess all involvement in occult sins, and promise to destroy all book and objects of the occult. (Acts 19:19) Renounce satan and all his works in your life and command him to depart in Jesus' name.

We must pray for discernment, become educated in satan's tactics and realize that all things supernatural do not come from God. First John 4:1 tells us to "believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God". Many persons have fallen to this deception as they in ignorance thought themselves immune to attacks because of the Baptist. First Peter 5:8 written to Spirit Filled Christians tells us to "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about seeking whom he may devour". We do not state this to

discourage anyone. We have no need to fear, simply be alert to resist Satan and he will flee. (James 4:7)

How to Receive

You may wish to have Spirit filled Christians lay hand on you as Paul did in Acts 19:6 to the twelve believers at Ephesus, or you can wait upon the Lord as the 120 did on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2, or just listen as Cornelius did in Acts 10:44-46. Praise Go for his variety!

Raise your hands to the Lord, close your eyes and let your mind dwell on Jesus, be happy in Jesus, as you ask your Father in heaven to fill you with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Then start praising His name and raising your voice to Him. He will not force you to speak in tongues. As the Lord places a strange word in your mind, speak it out boldly, our lips may stammer, but as you boldly repeat the words, the Spirit will give you more words. Sometimes only a few words come initially, but as you continue to speak for the in faith the Lord will give you a complete vocabulary with which to praise God.

New Language

The new language which the Spirit has given us is not only a sign of the initial reception of the give of the Spirit, but also of continuing presence . **You do not have to with for a special “anointing” or sense of presence of the Holy Spirit to pray in tongues. It can be used at will and should be used continually to build yourself up.** God’s gift are given for a purpose. It is very important to pray in tongues. Practice this new language of the Spirit until it becomes as natural as breathing. As you do, you will experience a new peace and joy of knowing the presence of the Lord. God’s Word tells us that praying in the Spirit ‘edifies’ us, or builds us up in the Lord. (First Corinthians 14:4) God’s Word tells up also that we build up our faith by praying in the Holy Ghost. (Jude 20) You will latter find this is one of your weapons in repelling the attacks of satan.