

What is the 'Baptism In The Holy Spirit'?

Total infilling of the Believer with the Spirit of God. As with Water Baptism so it is with the Spirit's Baptism. We are to be immersed as the Spirit comes upon us and we are filled. The Holy Spirit's activity within us (**NATURE**) is to produce the fruit of the Spirit in our lives, and His activity outwardly or upon us is to manifest the **POWER** of the Spirit through our lives and touch the lives of those around us.

It is a Free Gift – [Acts 2:38-39, 10:44-46](#) You cannot earn nor deserve this gift - it is free to all who desire it. The gift proves God's goodness and greatness, not ours.

It is a Promise – [Joel 2:28-29 Acts 1:4-5](#) The Holy Spirit has been promised to all who believe.

It is Available Immediately – [Luke 11:11-13 Acts 19:1-7](#) Ask and you shall receive. You do not have to 'tarry' in order to receive.

It is Available to Everyone – [Acts 2:38-39](#) There are no age or sex discriminations. The promise is for everyone.

It is a Separate Event to Salvation – [Acts 8:14-17, 19:1-7](#)
'Have you received since you believed?' To repent and believe qualifies the sinner to receive the forgiveness of sins, but the Believer has to ask for the Baptism in the Spirit and receive by faith what has been made readily available by Jesus to everyone.

It is the Enduing of Power – [Acts 1:7-8](#) The Holy Spirit gives us the power to witness through the boldness of preaching and the operation of the Gifts of the Spirit.

It's to be a Continual Experience – [Ephesians 5:18](#) Literally 'be being filled'. The filling of the Spirit is to be repeated as often as you will receive it -get drunk spiritually as opposed to naturally. **Dissipation / no control. It's about who's control.**

New Testament Incidences

The Day of Pentecost – [Acts 2:1-21](#) 'This is that' - Though none of the criteria relating to Joel's prophecy were evident such as prophecies or visions, Peter refers to THIS event as belonging to THAT which is the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy. Here we see the manifestation of 'Speaking with other Tongues', being 'Drunk in the Spirit', 'Boldness', 'Tongues of Fire' and 'Rushing Wind'. **This indicates that the experience is diverse in its nature.** This is the first incidence of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit and it resulted in Peter being transformed from bashful to bold. Peter's incredibly bold preaching resulted in the conviction and salvation of three thousand souls, and the birth of the New Testament Church.

Philip's Exploits in Samaria – [Acts 8:4-13](#) Philip's ministry in the city of Samaria was the result of the scattering of Believers from Jerusalem across the regions of Judea and Samaria because of the persecution Saul was bringing to the Church. Here Philip demonstrated the power of the Spirit as he performed miraculous signs such as casting out evil spirits and healing many sick people. Philip also had four daughters who prophesied. [Acts 21:8](#)

The Household of Cornelius – [Acts 10](#) Cornelius, a Roman Centurion who believed in God. His household, relatives, friends and servants all received the Baptism in the Spirit as Peter spoke to them. Though they were all believers, they had not yet been baptised in water neither had they received the Holy Spirit. This passage teaches us undeniably that God is no respecter of persons.

Three aspects to note in these passages –

- God is no respecter of persons – Age, gender nor race matters - Jews and Gentiles alike.
- God has no order of requirement – Whether baptised in water or not, you qualify.
- God is not limited by method – Though generally the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is received as a result of laying on of hands, this is not a fixed requirement.

The Gifts of the Spirit?

1 Cor 12:1-13 – Not going into Gifts, only basic principles.

The Gifts are for the Profit of All – 1 Cor 12:7 The Body of Christ has been given every spiritual blessing it needs to fulfil its needs. It is to be kept healthy, focused, prosperous and powerful by the constant use of these gifts in their respective places.

The Gifts are Given as the Holy Spirit Wills – 1 Cor 12:11 It is the Holy Spirit that is in charge of the Gifts. He distributes them as He sees fit, when and where they are needed.

The Gifts are Given to Whom He Wills – 1 Cor 12:11 He has no favourites; whoever makes themselves available, puts themselves in a position of faith to be an instrument for the Master's use. It is then the Holy Spirit will move through them. Age and status have no part to play in the Kingdom of God, even when it comes to Spiritual Gifts.

The Gifts are to be Desired – 1 Cor 12:31, 14:1 We must not fall into false humility - 'Who am I, I'm not worthy!' We are told by the Lord to DESIRE Spiritual Gifts. Desire puts us in that position of readiness and awareness for Him to move through us as He wills.

The Gifts are Not to be Used for Self Exaltation –

1 Cor 12:14-26, 13:1-13 Believers must be aware of the dangers that come with the use of the Gifts. Pride lurks in the back-ground waiting for the person who begins to feel important about their gifting and the way God uses them. The greatest gift anyone can have is that of LOVE.

The Uses of the Gift of Tongues and its Interpretation

The Gift of Tongues has been a source of confusion to many believers from across all denominations. The expression ‘unknown tongue’ appears 6 times in the KJV in reference to the gift of tongues. We will look at the principles of its use –

For Private Use –

- ‘Tongues’ is a Spiritual Language – **1 Cor 12:10, 13:1, 14:2**
- ‘Tongues’ is for speaking to God not to man – **1 Cor 14:2**
- ‘Tongues’ is for edifying ourselves – **1 Cor 14: 4 Jude vs 20**
- ‘Tongues’ is speaking the perfect will of God – **Rom 8:26-27**
1 Cor 14:14
- ‘Tongues’ is to be used as often as you will – **1 Cor 14:18**
- ‘Tongues’ can be used as part of worship – **1Cor 14:15**

For Public Use – (Church gatherings)

- ‘Tongues’ is for a sign to the unbeliever – **Acts 2:5-12.**
1 Cor 14:20-22
- ‘Tongues’ must be interpreted – **1 Cor 14:27-28** (If a tongue is given there must be someone to interpret it. If no interpretation comes then we must cease the use of tongues.)
- ‘Tongues’ must be used in an orderly manner – **1 Cor 14:26-33**
- ‘Tongues’ can be used as part of worship in song – **1 Cor 14:15**
- ‘Tongues’ use is subject to the speaker – **1 Cor 14:28**

Maintaining a Spirit Filled Life (Ephesians 5:14-20)

Be Watchful – Eph 5:14-16 Jesus said, ‘Watch and pray lest you fall into temptation. For the spirit is willing but the flesh is

weak'. **“Christ will give you light”**. We need light in order to see clearly and wisdom to make the right choices.

Give Yourself to Study – Eph 5:17 Understanding the Lord's Will can only come as we learn more about Him and His ways.

Make the Lord your Source of Joy – Eph 5:18 **Making melody.** The Word contrasts the use of alcohol with the filling of the Spirit in the context of being drunk. The one lowers the moral and ethical standards leading to corrupt behaviour and attitude, while the other leads to an increase in Godly living and effectiveness - in the presence of the Lord there is fullness of Joy.

Have the Word of God Constantly on Your Lips – Eph 5:19
As we speak to one another with God's Word, our hearts are lifted and encouraged in the Lord. **Luke 24 - The road to Emmaus.**

Offer Thanksgiving to God in All Things – Eph 5:20 Satan hates nothing more than a worshiper of God who will not quit regardless of what they go through. God is seeking such a people, that He might show Himself strong on their behalf. You can expect the Favour of God when you give your affections solely to Him.

Walk in humility. Eph 5:21. Submitting to one another. Don't think of yourself too highly. Don't allow pride to convince you that you are better than anyone else and don't need anyone else. Pride really does come before a fall.

Conclusion

The Baptism in the Spirit is essential to the Believer who wants to live an effective, influential and prosperous Christian life. As we lead others into the knowledge of Jesus through salvation, we would do well to lead them straight into the Baptism of the Spirit giving them the best possible start to their new life in Christ.