

# Foundations Course

## 8. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Introduction

The Holy Spirit is the “executive” member of the Godhead. He is not just a force or an influence. This is a heathen idea – an impersonal force to be harnessed for our use, or to be appeased. For the Christian the Holy Spirit is a person, whom we can know and trust, and whom we allow to empower and motivate us.

The Holy Spirit:

- knows *1 Corinthians 2:9-11*
- wills *1 Corinthians 12:11*
- thinks *Romans 8:27*
- loves *Romans 15:30*
- grieves *Ephesians 4:30*

The Holy Spirit is represented and described in the Bible by various symbols:

- |         |                                 |                         |
|---------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| • fire  | <i>Acts 2:3; Matthew 3:11</i>   | purity, holiness        |
| • wind  | <i>John 3:8; Acts 2:2</i>       | power, movement         |
| • water | <i>John 7:38,39</i>             | refreshing              |
| • oil   | <i>1 John 2:27; Isaiah 61:1</i> | anointing, consecration |
| • dove  | <i>Matthew 3:16</i>             | peace, gentleness       |

The Holy Spirit works in some of these ways. He:

- convicts *John 16:8*
- teaches *John 14:26*
- reminds *John 14:26*
- testifies *John 15:26*
- intercedes *Romans 8:26*
- assures *Romans 8:16*
- empowers *Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8*
- enables *Acts 1:8*

## Holy Spirit promised

In Old Testament times the Holy Spirit worked selectively and sporadically through special servants and to accomplish special tasks. However, an Old Testament prophet foretold the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on all people. *Joel 2:28,29*

The Holy Spirit could not be spread abroad until Jesus had completed his work on the cross.

*“Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him’. By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.” John 7:38-39*

Not until sin had been thoroughly dealt with through the death, burial, resurrection and ascension of Christ, could God indwell his people permanently. This gift was shed forth as proof of the Father’s total acceptance of Jesus’ atoning work on our behalf. *Acts 2:33-36*

John the Baptist prophesied in the New Testament about the gift of the Holy Spirit. *Matthew 3:11-12; Luke 3:16-18*

Jesus promised the Holy Spirit. *John 14:16-17, 26; Luke 24:49*

## Other terms associated with baptism in the Holy Spirit

- come upon      *Acts 10:44; 11:15*
- gift              *Acts 10:45; 11:17*
- poured out      *Acts 10:45*
- receive          *Acts 10:47*
- fill                *Acts 2:4*

## Jesus’ example

1. Jesus was “born of the Spirit.” *Luke 1:35*  
His life came from God, by the power of the Spirit. Jesus said that we need to be “born from above”, or “born again” of the Spirit. *John 3:3, 7*
2. Jesus was baptized in the Spirit after his baptism in water. This was a further work of the Spirit. *Luke 3:21, 22*
3. After being baptized in the Spirit, Jesus:
  - began his ministry *Luke 3:23*
  - was led by the Spirit into the wilderness where he was tempted *Luke 4:1-13*
  - continued his ministry in the power of the Spirit (teaching, casting out demons, healing, preaching, etc.) *Luke 4:14*

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*In regeneration the Holy Spirit imparts LIFE –we are born again. John 3:5-6  
With baptism in the Holy Spirit there is an impartation of POWER. Acts 1:8*

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## Jesus' teaching

In *John 14:17b* Jesus says of the Holy Spirit (to his disciples), "...you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you". Later, after his death and resurrection, the disciples were overjoyed to see Jesus and he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit". *John 20:22*

Jesus later told his disciples that they would preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to nations, being witnesses to his death and resurrection. He then promised to send to them what his Father had promised (the gift of the Holy Spirit), so that they would be clothed with power for the task. *Luke 24:45-53*

We see this power come upon them and begin to operate in the book of Acts, which could appropriately be called "The Acts of the Holy Spirit".

Read: *Acts 1:1-9* -the promise  
*Acts 2:1-16* -the outpouring at Pentecost  
*Acts 2:16-39* -Peter's first sermon  
*Acts 2:40-41* -three thousand added to the church

### *Acts 8:1-20*

Something discernible happened when the believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit. It was not joy (v. 8), healing, deliverance (vs. 13,18,19) or baptism (v. 12). They already had joy, were baptized and had experienced healing and deliverance. Simon had seen these things, but he wanted what he observed subsequently.

### *Acts 9:1-19*

Paul was converted when he encountered Jesus on the road to Damascus, but Ananias was sent to him so that he could receive the Holy Spirit. He is recorded as speaking in tongues in *1 Corinthians 14:18*

### *Acts 10:44-48 and 11:15-17*

The Gentiles received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Peter was surprised that this could be the case and later had to explain it to the other apostles.

Note the different order of events:

- believing
- baptism in the Holy Spirit
- water baptism (*John 3:8*).
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Would the Jewish Christians have baptized the believers if they hadn't seen the evidence of their baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues?

Peter explained to his brethren (*11:15*) that the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles, just as he had on them at the beginning.

### *Acts 19:1-7*

Paul ministered the baptism in the Holy Spirit to the disciples at Ephesus.

Note the order of events:

- repentance
- John's baptism
- faith in Christ
- water baptism
- baptism in the Holy Spirit (tongues and prophecy)

Paul later wrote a letter to the Ephesian church mentioning these matters. *Ephesians 1:13*;  
*Ephesians 5:18*

These are just a few examples of the working of the Holy Spirit in Acts. This pattern was repeated from Jerusalem to many other places over many years. The letters to the various churches indicate that the believers accepted the Spirit-filled life as the norm.

### To receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit

We need to be convinced that it is:

- Biblical
- necessary
- applicable today
- beneficial

We receive through:

- repentance
- faith
- desire
- asking
- expecting to receive
- laying on of hands (although not always necessary)

*“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find;  
knock and the door will be opened to you.  
For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks  
the door will be opened.  
Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead?  
Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion?  
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?”*

*Luke 11:9-13*