

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

This handout is intended to be an overview of the person of the Holy Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit as witnessed in the Bible. Additionally, there's an explanation of what it means to "speak in tongues." If you have any questions or would like additional resources, feel free to contact Pastor Molly at molly@mosaicchapel.org.

Who is 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 1:8

"The Holy Spirit is a person, the third person of the Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He is not a vague, ethereal shadow, nor an impersonal force. He is a person equal in every way with the Father and the Son. All the divine attributes ascribed to the Father and the Son are equally ascribed to the Holy Spirit." BILL BRIGHT, CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST

God sends the Holy Spirit to be His ever-present guide and help in the life of the believer. Specifically, the Holy Spirit:

Gives joy (Luke 10:21; 1 Thessalonians 1:6)	Strengthens and encourages (Acts 9:31)
Teaches (John 14:26)	Helps us in our weakness (John 14:16)
Testifies to who Christ is (John 15:26)	Intercedes (Romans 8:26)
Convicts (John 16:8)	Sanctifies (Romans 15:16)
Leads (Romans 8:14)	Bears witness or testifies (Romans 8:16)
Reveals truth (John 16:13)	Can be resisted (Acts 7:51)

Jesus, Himself outlines the role of the Holy Spirit in John 16:13-15:

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the 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. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will receive from me what he will make known to you."

When we make a decision to put our trust in Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit because:

1. We have been redeemed in Christ. We are now a worthy vessel for the in-dwelling Spirit of God and have new life in Christ!
2. We are marked with a seal, proving us as God's children. (Ephesians 1:11-14)

As we lessen, He will grow. And in doing so, the "fruit of the Spirit" will grow in our lives. (Galatians 5:22-26)

What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is an extra in-filling, or coming upon, of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer for the betterment of others and for the advancement of the kingdom. Specifically, in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God comes on us in a supernatural way in which we now overflow with the Holy Spirit onto the lives of those around us.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit exists because:

1. It's the power of God working through us to help, serve and build up others! (1 Corinthians 12:7)
2. It's the power of God for the advancement of God's kingdom! (Acts 1:8; 2:37-41)

Acts 2:1-12 provides us a context for this, when the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' disciples to equip them for ministry. *"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. Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. Utterly amazed, they asked: 'Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans? Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language? Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!' Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, 'What does this mean?'"

Here are additional examples of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts:

Acts 2:1-12 – The day of Pentecost

Acts 8:14-18 – Believers in Samaria baptized in the Holy Spirit

Acts 9:17-18 – Paul receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:44-48 – Pouring out of the Spirit unto Gentile believers

Acts 19:2 – Believers in Ephesus baptized in the Holy Spirit

What are the Gifts of the Holy Spirit?

As witnessed in the passages above, the Holy Spirit accomplishes His work in part by equipping us with the gifts of the Holy Spirit. *"Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."* (1 Corinthians 12:7-11) See also Romans 12:6-8; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 28-31; Ephesians 4:7-13; 1 Peter 4:10.

The Bible says the power of the Holy Spirit is expressed in the spiritual gifts. Therefore, God's Word strongly encourages us to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to seek out the gifts that accompany Him (2 Timothy 1:6-7). In doing so, Scripture says these gifts will grow in our lives.

What does it mean to "Speak in Tongues"?

In the book of Acts, the reception of Spirit baptism was commonly accompanied by speaking in tongues (Acts 2:4; 8:17-18; 9:17-18; 10:44-46; 19:6) and prophecy (Acts 2:18; 19:6). We've come to use the phrase "speaking in tongues" to describe two different manifestations of the Spirit:

1. Gift of speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10)
 - Public building up of the believers, accompanied by someone else with the gift of interpretation.
 - This can often be the Spirit divinely inspiring someone to speak in a language they don't know or a heavenly language. (Acts 2:1-8)
2. Personal Prayer Language
 - Oftentimes when someone prays for and receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they are given a personal prayer language. (Romans 8:26-27; 1 Corinthians 14:2)
 - A personal prayer language is for intercession and personal use. It's not meant to be shouted from the rooftops or used as a public expression. To use it this way may create confusion and be a distraction to others. (1 Corinthians 14, 13:1)

How do I receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Ask God for it! Have a genuine openness to receiving God's gifts and a prayer language. At no point in Scripture do we witness someone asking for more of the Holy Spirit and it's denied.

Continue being filled with the Holy Spirit!

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is meant to be an ongoing experience. Ask God daily to fill you with His Holy Spirit, His power, that we might serve and give and move in ways that could only be attributed to the supernatural nature of His Spirit working in our lives for the betterment of others and the advance of His kingdom. Paul encourages the Christians: *"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."* (Ephesians 5:18) In the original Greek, *pleroo*, translated here as **"Be filled"** is actually an **ongoing action, meaning to continue being filled.** "Be filled" literally means "keep on being filled constantly and continually." (Bill Bright)