QUICK GUIDE

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The Father's Promised Gift



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QUICK GUIDE:

Baptism in the Holy Spirit - The Promise of the Father

A Bible Study on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

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1. Jesus, the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit

John the Baptist said two things about Jesus:

1. Jesus is the Lam of God

The next day, he saw Jesus coming to him, and said, **“Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!**

(John 1:29)

2. Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit

“I indeed baptize you in water for repentance, but he who comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit** and with fire.”

(Matthew 3:11)

We need to know Jesus in both these ways. If you are saved, you know Jesus as the Lamb of God who has taken your sin away and you will go to heaven when you die, but you also need to know Jesus as the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit.

2. The Father Promised the Holy Spirit

Jesus appeared to His disciples after His resurrection and instructed them to wait for the "promise of the Father". The disciples were already saved, having put their faith in Jesus and believing in His death and resurrection, but the Father had something more for them.

> Being assembled together with them, he commanded them, "Don't depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which you heard from me. For John indeed baptized in water, but **you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit not many days from now**. . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth."
>
> (Acts 1:8)

"Not many days from now" happened ten days later on the Day of Pentecost when they were all baptized in the Holy Spirit. The "promise of the Father" is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

3. It Happened Just As Jesus Said

> Now when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all with one accord in one place. Suddenly there came from the sky a sound like the rushing of a mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. Tongues like fire appeared and were distributed to them, and one sat on each of them. **They were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.**
>
> (Acts 2:1-4)

The Lord Jesus baptized them in the Holy Spirit and as a result they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues, as the Spirit gave them the ability to speak.

Let's face it – Strange events happened on the Day of Pentecost: A mighty wind, tongues of fire settling upon then, speaking in tongues! How did these first disciples know that speaking in tongues came from God? It was all so new to them, but they must have taken comfort from the words of Jesus:

> He said to them . . . "And these signs will accompany those who believe . . . they will speak with new tongues."
>
> (Mark 16:17)

It is good to know that the first time we hear about the concept of speaking in tongues, it came straight from the mouth of Jesus.

4. Laying on of Hands

After the Day of Pentecost the baptism in the Holy Spirit continued to spread. One example is where Philip preached the gospel in Samaria. Great miracles took place and many believed in Jesus and were baptized in water (Acts 8:4-25).

> Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit; for as yet he had fallen on none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of Christ Jesus. Then they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.
>
> (Acts 8:15- 17)

Were the Samaritans saved? Yes, they believed in Jesus and were baptized in water. Had they received the Holy Spirit yet? No, the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on any of them! How did they receive the Holy Spirit? Peter and John laid hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. Can you see that it was a separate event from salvation?

5. Paul Received the Holy Spirit

Does the example of salvation first and then the baptism in the Holy Spirit repeat in the Book of Acts? Paul gets saved on the road to Damascus when Jesus appears to him. Entering Damascus, he is a very different man from the one who left Jerusalem

ready to imprison and kill believers. Three days later the Lord sends an ordinary believer, Ananias, to lay hands on him to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

> Ananias departed, and entered into the house. Laying his hands on him, he said, “Brother Saul, the Lord, who appeared to you on the road by which you came, has sent me, that you may receive your sight, and be filled with the Holy Spirit.”
>
> (Acts 9:17-19)

Note that although Paul had such a supernatural salvation experience, seeing a light so bright it blinded him and even hearing the Lord’s voice, he was not yet filled with the Holy Spirit! He only received the baptism in the Holy Spirit three days later when Ananias laid hands on him.

6. Peter and Cornelius

Peter preached the gospel to Cornelius. In Acts 10:43 Peter says,

> “All the prophets testify about him, that through his name everyone who believes in him will receive remission of sins.”
>
> (Acts 10:43)

At this point Cornelius and his household believe in Jesus and are saved. Verse 44-48 continues:

> While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell** on all those who heard the word. They of the circumcision who believed were amazed, as many as came with Peter, because **the gift of the Holy Spirit was also poured out** on the Gentiles. For they heard them **speaking in other tongues** and magnifying God. Then Peter answered, “Can anyone forbid these people from being baptized with water? **They have received the Holy Spirit** just like us.” He commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.
>
> (Acts 10:44-48)

How did Peter know that Cornelius and his household had received the gift of the Holy Spirit? He knew because he heard them speaking in tongues. To Peter and the believers with him, tongues were the sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

7. Peter Explains

The story continues in Acts 11 where Peter explains to the other apostles what had happened,

> “I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John indeed baptized in water, but you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave to them the same gift as us, when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I, that I could withstand God?”
>
> (Acts 11:16-17)

In Acts 10 & 11 there are 5 synonyms for the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. The Holy Spirit fell on all (Acts 10:44)

2. The gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out (Acts 10:45)

3. They have received the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:47)

4. Baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:16)

5. God gave them the same gift as he gave us (Acts 11:17)

There is one more synonym for the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:4:

6. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit

The gift is the Holy Spirit; tongues are the sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

8. Receiving Long After Salvation

Paul went to the city of Ephesus where he found a group of disciples (Acts 19). He asked them,

> “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They said to him, “No, we haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”
>
> (Acts 19:2)

Now these people were already saved, for they had believed, but they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Paul’s immediate response was to make sure that they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit by laying hands on them:

> When Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke with other tongues and prophesied.
>
> (Acts 19:6)

Paul went on to plant a church in Ephesus; the baptism in the Holy Spirit was part of the foundation he laid. He understood the importance of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in every believer’s life. Later on he wrote the Book of Ephesians to these believers.

9. About Tongues

The idea of speaking in tongues can be a little intimidating, but as we have seen in the Bible, it is the sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the gift the Father promised, and the Father gives good gifts (James 1:17). Jesus said that those who believe in him will speak in tongues (Mark 16:17). It is all good, the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues. Paul is in agreement with Jesus that we should speak in tongues. He was thankful that he spoke in tongues and he warned against forbidding anyone to speak in tongues.

> Now I desire to have you all speak with other tongues
>
> (1 Corinthians 14:5)
>
> I thank my God, I speak with other tongues more than you all.
>
> (1 Corinthians14:18)
>
> don’t forbid speaking with other tongues.
>
> (1 Corinthians14:39)

Have you ever prayed and felt that you lacked the words to adequately express yourself? Tongues will lift your prayer life to a new level.

10. Benefits of Speaking in Tongues

Paul wrote,

> “For he who speaks in another tongue speaks not to men, but to God; for no one understands; but in the Spirit he speaks mysteries.”
>
> (1 Corinthians 14:2)

When you pray you speak to God. God gave tongues to you and He understands what you are praying. If you do not know what to pray in a particular situation, pray in tongues. You will be praying the mysteries of God into that situation.

Paul also wrote,

> . . . praying at all times in the Spirit
>
> (Ephesians 6:18)

To pray in the Spirit is to pray in tongues. We can also worship the Lord in a new way by singing in tongues.

> What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.
>
> (1 Corinthians 14:15)

All of us feel low at times and need encouragement in the Lord. When we speak in tongues, we edify or strengthen ourselves in the Lord. Paul wrote,

> He who speaks in another tongue edifies himself
>
> (1 Corinthians 14:4)

11. What About an Interpretation?

When you **pray** in tongues, you are speaking to God. He gave tongues to you and He understands what you are saying. No interpretation is necessary. The whole church can also pray together in tongues, just as we can pray together in English.

Tongues, however, can also be used to **bring a prophetic message** to the church. Then it needs to be followed by an interpretation. In 1 Corinthians 14 Paul writes within the context of a church meeting,

> Now I desire to have you all speak with other tongues, but rather that you would prophesy. For he is greater who prophesies than he who speaks with other tongues, unless he interprets, that the assembly may be built up
>
> (1 Corinthians14:5)
>
> So also you, since you are zealous for spiritual gifts, seek that you may abound to the building up of the assembly. Therefore let him who speaks in another tongue pray that he may interpret
>
> (1 Corinthians 14:12-13)

Again, this is when you address a group of believers, but you may still pray in tongues and no interpretation is necessary, because God understands.

12. Receive Today

The Father's promise of the Holy Spirit is for us today!

> Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**. For the promise is to you, and to your children, and to all who are far off, even as many as the Lord our God will call to himself."**
>
> (Acts 2:38)

Ask the Father. Jesus said,

> "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?"
>
> (Luke 11:13)

Receive by faith. Paul writes,

> I just want to learn this from you: Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by hearing of faith?
>
> (Galatians 3:2)

13. Pray this Prayer

If you have accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior, ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit by praying this prayer:

> Father, I come to you in the Name of Jesus. I thank you for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit.
>
> Lord Jesus, baptize me now with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
>
> Holy Spirit, I receive you now. Fill me with your Person and with your power and enable me to speak in tongues.
>
> And I renounce any reliance on any wrong spirits or any wrong doctrine in the Name of Jesus.
>
> Amen.

Lift your hands in a prayerful attitude as someone who is baptized in the Holy Spirit lays hands on you. Receive by faith, expect to speak in tongues.

14. Start Speaking . . .

The Bible says,

> *They* spoke in tongues. (Acts 19:6)

The ability to speak in tongues is supernatural, but *you* still have to speak. As hands are laid upon you, the Holy Spirit will put strange sounds in your mouth. In faith, start moving your lips to say these sounds. At first it may sound like babble or groanings, but as you continue the words will become more distinct. Some people receive only a few words, while others gush forth in a more complete language. That's okay. As you use your prayer language, more words will come.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit brings supernatural power. Jesus said, "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you. You will be witnesses to me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the uttermost parts of the earth." (Acts 1:8). You will have more power to be a witness, even to lay hands on the sick for healing. The ability to prophesy, greater depth in worship and a deeper understanding of the Word also come in the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

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