

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

1) The baptism in the Holy Spirit, or being filled with the Holy Spirit, is an elementary principle. Don't make it more complicated than necessary.

(Heb 6:1-2) Therefore, leaving the discussion of the *elementary principles* of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of *baptisms*, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

2) The Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments:

A) In the Old Testament He was given only to priests, prophets or kings. In the New Testament all *believers* can receive Him, regardless of age or spiritual maturity.

(Acts 2:38-39) Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. *"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."*

(John 14:16-17) "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever; *"the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.*

B) In the Old Testament the Spirit generally came *upon* people. In the New Testament He dwells *in* believers.

(1 Cor 3:16) Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the *Spirit of God dwells in you?*

C) In both Testaments He brings power, in the New Testament specifically to be witnesses.

(Acts 1:8) "But you shall receive *power* when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be *witnesses* to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

3) Functions of the Holy Spirit:

to comfort/help

(John 16:7) Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the *Comforter* will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

to guide

(John 16:13) "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will *guide* you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

(Rom 8:14) For as many as are *led by the Spirit of God*, these are sons of God.

to convict

(John 16:8) "And when He has come, He will *convict* the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

to teach

(John 14:26) "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will *teach* you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.

(Luke 12:11-12) "Now when they bring you to the synagogues and magistrates and authorities, do not worry about how or what you should answer, or what you should say. {12} "For the *Holy Spirit will teach you* in that very hour what you ought to say."

to empower

(Luke 24:49) "Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with *power* from on high."

see spiritual gifts (Rom 12:6-8, I Cor 12:8-10,28)

to embolden

(Acts 4:31) And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they *spoke the word of God with boldness.*

to help us pray

(Rom 8:26-27) Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the *Spirit Himself makes intercession for us* with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because *He makes intercession for the saints* according to the will of God.

to build up/strengthen

(Jude 1:20) But you, beloved, *building yourselves up* on your most holy faith, *praying in the Holy Spirit*,

(Eph 3:16) that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be *strengthened* with might *through His Spirit in the inner man*,

to enable us to overcome

(1 John 4:4) You are of God, little children, and have *overcome* them, because *He who is in you is greater* than he who is in the world.

(Gal 5:16) I say then: *Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.*

see fruit of the Spirit (Gal 5:22-23)

4) Every believer receives a deposit of the Spirit.

(2 Cor 1:21-22) Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God, who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a *deposit*.

(1 Cor 12:3) Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and *no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit*.

(Eph 1:13) In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were *sealed with the Holy Spirit* of promise,

5) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is different from the initial deposit of the Spirit.

(John 4:14) "but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become *in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life*."

Water is sometimes used to represent the Holy Spirit in scripture. This verse represents the deposit of the Holy Spirit, contained in you, for your benefit.

(John 7:37-39) On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, *out of his heart will flow rivers of living water*." But this *He spoke concerning the Spirit*, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

This verse represents the baptism of the Holy Spirit, overflowing out of you as a blessing for others.

6) The Apostles receiving the Holy Spirit:

(John 20:22) And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "*Receive the Holy Spirit*."

This was after the resurrection but before Pentecost, and no supernatural gifts were manifest.

(Acts 1:4-5) And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to *wait for the Promise* of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; "for John truly baptized with water, but *you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit* not many days from now."

Having received a deposit of the Spirit, they were commanded not to begin their ministry until they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. How much more do we need the power of His Spirit to effectively do His work?

(Acts 2:1-4) When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all *filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues*, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

This was the first baptism of the Holy Spirit, accompanied by supernatural gifts.

(Acts 4:29-31) "Now, Lord, look on their threats, and grant to Your servants that with all boldness they may speak Your word, "by stretching out Your hand to heal, and that signs and wonders may be done through the name of Your holy Servant Jesus." And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and *they were all filled with the Holy Spirit*, and they spoke the word of God with boldness.

Here the same Apostles are filled with the Spirit again.

(Eph 5:18) And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but *be filled* with the Spirit,

The phrase "be filled" here literally means "keep being continually filled". So while the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a single event, we must also have the Holy Spirit regularly filling and flowing through us.

7) The examples of the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts are distinct from water baptism.

(Acts 8:12-17) But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were *baptized*. Then Simon himself also *believed*; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. 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 upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they *laid hands on them*, and they *received the Holy Spirit*.

Here is the baptism of the Holy Spirit with laying on of hands long after water baptism.

(Acts 10:44-48) While Peter was still speaking these words, the *Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard* the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with *tongues* and magnify God. Then Peter answered, "Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be *baptized* who have *received the Holy Spirit just as we have*?" And he commanded them to be *baptized* in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Here is the baptism of the Holy Spirit without laying on of hands before water baptism.

(Acts 19:1-6) And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some *disciples* he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you *believed*?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were *baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus*. And when Paul had *laid hands on them*, the *Holy Spirit came upon them*, and they spoke with *tongues and prophesied*.

Here is the baptism of the Holy Spirit with laying on of hands immediately after water baptism.

8) I Corinthians 14 describes the difference between praying in the Spirit and a prophetic tongue.

(1 Cor 14:2) For he who speaks in a *tongue* does not speak to men but *to God*, for *no one understands* him; however, *in the spirit* he speaks *mysteries*.

(1 Cor 14:14-15) For if I pray in a tongue, *my spirit prays*, but my *understanding is unfruitful*. What is the conclusion then? I will *pray with the spirit*, and I will also *pray with the understanding*. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

In both cases we are speaking a language by the power of the Holy Spirit that we don't necessarily understand. Clearly praying in the Spirit is not just Spirit led prayer, because it is contrasted with praying with the understanding.

(1 Cor 14:4-5) He who speaks in a tongue *edifies himself*, but he who prophesies edifies the church. *I wish you all spoke with tongues*, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is

greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he *interprets*, that the *church may receive edification*.

(1 Cor 14:18-19) I thank my God *I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

While speaking in tongues is encouraged, and edifies the speaker, it is of no benefit to the church unless it is interpreted and understood.

(1 Cor 14:27-28) If *anyone speaks in a tongue*, let there be two or at the most three, each in turn, and *let one interpret*. But if there is *no interpreter*, let him *keep silent in church*, and let him *speak to himself and to God*.

A public (prophetic) tongue intended for the church must be interpreted. Praying in tongues is not prohibited in the church, but should be to ourselves and God.

9) Every believer should pray in tongues.

(Eph 6:18) praying always with all *prayer and supplication in the Spirit*, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints;

This instruction is *included* in the verses on the armor of God.

10) Praying in the Spirit builds up your faith and helps you abide in God's love. (John 15:9)

(Jude 1:20-21) But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, *praying in the Holy Spirit*, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.

People often report a better sense of God's presence and leading through praying in the Spirit.

11) God will not withhold the baptism of the Holy Spirit from any believer.

(Luke 11:9-13) "So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. "For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. "If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? "Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? "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!"

Don't get discouraged or condemned if you have difficulty receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Just keep trying and believing in His love for you. Remember, this is a gift, not a test.

12) The biggest hindrance to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is our intellect.

(1 Cor 2:14) But the *natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit* of God, for they are foolishness to him; nor can he know them, because they are *spiritually discerned*.

You receive His Spirit in your spirit, not in your head. It takes faith.

You can receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit simply by asking God for it. If you would like prayer for the baptism of the Holy Spirit from someone who has already experienced this blessing, any member of the leadership team would be happy to pray for you.