



Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Adapted from FireBible Article: Baptism in the Holy Spirit by Danny Duvall

All believers are entitled to, should expect, and earnestly seek the promise of the Father, the “baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire,” according to the command of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was a normal experience in the early Christian Church. With it comes an awesome power and unique spiritual gifts for living for Jesus and serving in the church.

This experience is distinct from, and subsequent to, the experience of the new birth: Acts 8:12-17; Acts 10:44-46; Acts 11:14-16; and Acts 15:7-9. With the baptism in the Holy Spirit come such experiences as:

- 1) **an overflowing fullness of the Spirit**, John 7:37-39, Acts 4:8
- 2) **a deepened reverence for God**, Acts 2:43,

Scripture quotations are from the ESV® Bible (The Holy Bible, English Standard Version®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved. May not copy or download more than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible.

Hebrews 12:28

- 3) **an intensified consecration to God** and dedication to His work, Acts 2:42
- 4) **and a more active love for Christ**, for His Word and for the lost, Mark 16:20¹

The *Baptism in the Holy Spirit* article from the *FireBible* gives a deeper understanding of this truth:

Luke 3:16 (ESV) John answered them all, saying, “I baptize you with water, but he who is mightier than I is coming, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Acts 1:5 (ESV) for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Acts 11:15–16 (ESV) ¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell on them just as on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ And I

¹ “The Baptism in the Holy Spirit,” The Assemblies of God, <https://ag.org/Beliefs/Statement-of-Fundamental-Truths#7> (Accessed August 21, 2017).

remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’

Important Points About the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. The baptism in the Spirit is intended for **all** who profess faith in Christ, having been born again and have received the indwelling of the Spirit.

Numbers 11:29 (ESV) But Moses said to him, “Are you jealous for my sake? Would that all the LORD’s people were prophets, that the LORD would put his Spirit on them!”

2. It is an operation of the Holy Spirit **distinct and separate** from his work of regeneration. For the disciples, it was clearly a post-regeneration experience.

Acts 11:17 (ESV) If then God gave the same gift to them as he gave to us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”

3. The Bible does speak of people being filled with the Holy Spirit **before** the day of Pentecost. However, the term baptized in the Holy Spirit is only used **after** Christ’s ascension.

Luke 1:15 (ESV) for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.

Luke 24:49 (ESV) And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

4. There are many signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit, but in the book of Acts speaking in tongues is the initial outward sign accompanying the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:4 (ESV) And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Other signs of being filled with the Holy Spirit include:

- a. Prophetic words and declarations of praise.

Acts 10:45–46 (ESV) ⁴⁵ And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God...

b. **Enhanced** sensitivity to sin that grieves the Holy Spirit, a greater seeking after righteousness and a deeper awareness of God's judgement against ungodliness.

John 16:8 (ESV) And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment:

c. A life that brings glory to Jesus Christ.

Acts 4:33 (ESV) ³³ And with great power the apostles were giving their testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon them all.

d. New vision.

Acts 2:17 (ESV) “And in the last days it shall be, God declares, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;

e. Evidence/Products of various gifts of the Spirit.

1 Corinthians 12:4 (ESV) Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit;

1 Corinthians 12:8–9 (ESV) ⁸ For to one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit,

f. A greater desire to pray.

Acts 4:31 (ESV) And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness.

g. Deeper love and understanding of God's Word.

John 16:13 (ESV) When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come.

h. Increasing awareness of God as one's Father.

Acts 1:4 (ESV) And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me;

Galatians 4:6 (ESV) And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, “Abba! Father!”

5. Conditions in which baptism in the Holy Spirit is given.

- a. We must accept by faith Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior and turn away from the world.

Acts 2:38 (ESV) And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- b. Surrendering our wills to God to be an instrument of noble purposes.

2 Timothy 2:21 (ESV) Therefore, if anyone cleanses himself from what is dishonorable, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work.

- c. We must desire to be filled.

Isaiah 44:3 (ESV) For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour my Spirit upon your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

- d. We receive the baptism in the Spirit as an answer to prayer.

Mark 11:24 (ESV) Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.

6. The baptism of the Holy Spirit becomes **faded** glory if a person does not continue in prayer, witness and a life of holiness.

Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit,

GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS:

Read **Acts 1:1-11 (ESV)**. For extra help, look at the study notes on verses 1-11 in a *FireBible*. Answer the following:²

1. In what sense is Acts a continuation of Luke's Gospel?
2. "*The promise of the Father*" is referred to as (what) in Acts 2:4.
3. The baptism in the Spirit is a different experience from (what)?
4. Who baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit?
5. What is the key verse about the baptism in the Holy Spirit in Acts? (Memorize it if you can).

² Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 226-227.

6. According to Luke's gospel, what is the purpose of being baptized in the Spirit?
7. What are some characteristics (or evidence) of the power that the Spirit gives us?
8. Does Luke relate being filled with the Spirit to personal salvation? Explain.
9. Summarize 5 ways in which the Spirit enables us to be witnesses for Christ. Begin each sentence with: "The Spirit enables us to..."

Read the *FireBible* article: *Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.
Answer the following:³

1. Who should seek to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?
2. Does the Holy Spirit live in all who are born again?

³ Quentin McGhee, *Unlocking the Treasures of Your Fire Bible: Resources for Spiritual Understanding*, Springfield, MO, Life Publishers and Faith & Action Series, 2012, Page 227.

3. What did Jesus command His followers to do before they began to witness (Acts 1:4-5)?
4. How was Jesus able to heal and help others (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18)?
5. Are believers immediately baptized in the Spirit when they are born again (saved)?
6. When were the apostles “born again” according to John 20:22?
7. When were the apostles baptized in the Holy Spirit according to Acts 2:4?
8. Have **you** been baptized in the Spirit after you were born again? If not, have you asked Jesus to baptize you in the Spirit? Pray and do that now.

Comment: Once in Acts, Luke refers to the *baptism in the Spirit* as being *filled with the Spirit* (Acts 1:5; 2:4). As the article explains, a believer is baptized once in the Spirit but afterward should be filled and refilled many times. Physically, if we are full today, we still need to eat tomorrow. Likewise, spiritually, we need to be filled daily.

9. In Acts 2:4, believers were *filled with the Spirit*. Was this the baptism in the Spirit referred to in Acts 1:5?
10. According to Acts, what is the first outward sign (or first physical evidence) that a person has been baptized in the Spirit?
11. What are 3 references in Acts that guide us to expect all believers to speak in tongues the first time they are filled with the Spirit?
12. In your *FireBible*, where is the article on *Speaking in Tongues*?
13. What does the baptism in the Holy Spirit bring to believers?

14. Is the Holy Spirit a force, an idea, or an actual person?
15. Besides speaking in tongues, what are some other results of being filled with the Spirit?
16. What are 4 keys to being baptized in the Spirit?
17. How can we prevent the baptism in the Spirit from becoming “faded glory?”

Comment: We cannot win today’s battles with yesterday’s strength.

18. Why do you think our relationship with the Holy Spirit needs to be renewed and maintained?