

Do I Need the Holy Spirit Baptism?

The Bible indicates that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a normal and necessary part of the Christian life. That is because, spiritually speaking, it is a new birth. Jesus spoke to a man named Nicodemus (John 3) and told him that to enter into the kingdom of heaven, he would have to be born again of water and of the spirit. The Holy Spirit baptism is that new spirit birth. It gives the believer constant joy, victory over doing wrong, spiritual power, godly wisdom and many other results of God's presence in a life.

How Can I Receive the Holy Spirit Baptism?

The apostle Paul, finding a group of disciples in Asia Minor, asked them an important question:

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” They answered, “No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

“When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied” (Acts 19:2, 6).

The New Testament Book of Acts records the initial experiences of the church. The common outward evidence shown by people baptized in the Holy Spirit was their inspired speaking in a language unknown to others or even to themselves! The Bible refers to this sign as “speaking in tongues.” This experience is still a vital part of the normal Christian life today. After a person has been through this spiritual baptism experience, speaking in tongues becomes a natural part of their prayer and praise life.

What Should I Do Then?

We invite you to join with us and receive this experience. It will change your life—you will be a new person endowed with a vital spiritual dimension to your life. All that is necessary is a heart willing to receive all of God's grace and experience His promises.

Campus Ministry International

CMI affirms the biblical foundation for a relationship with God: We are to turn away from doing wrong, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ in accordance with scriptural examples, receive the marvelous gift of the Holy Spirit, and embrace a daily walk with Him. (See Acts 2:38.)

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* All scriptural references are from the New International Version.

The Baptism



of the Holy Spirit

How Spiritual Are You?

There is a great interest in spirituality at this time. Eastern religions, Islam and other non-traditional beliefs have become more common in the United States, and many people have become curious about the condition of their spirit. A recent rash of books and magazine articles about the presence and activities of angels characterizes the concern of the popular mind. The question behind this trend is a simple and ancient one: if there is a spiritual reality, how do I get in touch with it?

The Bible is a book that reveals spiritual truths from God. It was written by men who penned words under the direction of the Holy Spirit. These particular men received a special touch of God—the actual text says that the Holy Spirit “came upon them.” These otherwise ordinary individuals felt at times a supernatural urge to speak words inspired by God. Their powerful spiritual experience, however, was a seldom occurrence, and it was one granted to only a few special people.

The Rest of the Story

Two ancient prophets were especially used by God to reveal a further step in God’s evolving relationship with humankind. The prophet Ezekiel, writing in about 600 B.C., wrote these words on behalf of God:

“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to fol-

low my decrees and be careful to keep my laws” (Ezekiel 36:26-27).

This statement represents a new step in the intimacy between God and mankind in its promise of spiritual communion on a personal basis. The prophet Joel confirmed and expanded that promise by saying:

“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions” (Joel 2:28).

Taken together, these two prophecies herald the dawn of a new age in which all people would have the opportunity to personally commune with God’s Spirit.

The enacting of this prophecy occurred on a Jewish religious holiday called “Pentecost” in about 34 A.D. On that date, the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the disciples of Jesus with a variety of accompanying supernatural events. The apostle Peter himself explained to his fellow countrymen that the events they were witnessing was the actual happening of the prophet’s prediction (Acts 2).

What Does It Mean to be Filled With the Holy Spirit?

God works in the life of believers through the Holy Spirit, drawing them to truth and goodness. But to be filled with the Holy Spirit is a unique event that occurs in the life of sincere believers today, just as it did on the Day of Pentecost. It is a time when God’s Spirit completely saturates a person’s whole being, brings their spirit to life and establishes a spiritual bond with God. It is an experience replete with joy, love and the peace of God. The experience is almost indescribable to one that has not been through it, but perfectly natural once it has been understood. For these reasons it is called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The word *baptism* includes the meaning of total submersion—here in the Spirit of God.

