

Foundations 6a Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 6:1-3 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. And this we will do if God permits.

Before the disciples were born again the Holy Spirit was with them. Prior to going to the cross, Jesus spoke to His disciples, saying: “If you love Me, keep My commandments. 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.” **John 14:15-17**

After the resurrection of Jesus the Holy Spirit was in them

Then, the same day (that Jesus rose from the grave) at evening, being the first of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, “Peace with you.” When He had said this, He showed them *His* hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. So Jesus said to them again, “Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit.”

When we receive Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside us. “Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?” **1 Cor. 3:16**

After the disciples received the indwelling Holy Spirit, Jesus told them about the baptism with the Holy Spirit that would come.

And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) 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.” **Acts 1:4-5**

Two of the primary purposes of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit are:

- 1) to receive power and**
- 2) to become witnesses to Jesus.**

“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.” **Acts 1:8**

Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit before they went into all the world.

“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.” **Luke 24:49**

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost

“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. 3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants. I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy.’

Acts 2:1-4,16-18

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit that was experienced on the day of Pentecost is a gift promised for all believers today

“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.” **Acts 2:38-39**

How do we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit today?

As stated in the above verse (Acts 2:38) we should repent and be baptized in water. If we pursue a lifestyle of obedience to His commands, and we ask Him with faith, we will receive. “And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.” **Acts 5:32**

We receive the Holy Spirit by asking with faith

And He (Jesus) said to them, “Which of you shall have a friend, and go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves; for a friend of mine has come to me on his journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; and he will answer from within and say, ‘Do not trouble me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot rise and give to you’? I say to you, though he will not rise and give to him because he is his friend, yet because of his persistence he will rise and give him as many as he needs. “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!” **Luke 11:5-13**

In the above illustration, the man was seeking and knocking at his neighbor's door so that he might receive something to give away to a friend in need. The bread that he was given was not for himself. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not given so we can have a thrilling experience. The reason that we seek to be baptized with the Holy Spirit is so that God can use us as vessels to bless other people.

At the beginning of His public ministry, after Jesus was baptized with the Holy Spirit, He said:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” **Luke 4:18-19**

To preach, to heal, to proclaim freedom, to bring sight, to set free, to help people. God gives us the baptism with His Holy Spirit so we can serve others with supernatural ability.

Every believer should seek and receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. This is the only way we will have “power from on high” (Luke 24:49) which is what we need in order to serve the Lord and to become an effective witness.

The “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” is not a one-time event. In our journey of walking with God and serving Him, we will need to be re-filled with the Holy Spirit many times throughout our life.

The same people who were “filled with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:4) on the day of Pentecost, needed to be filled with the Holy Spirit again (Acts 4:31) when they prayed for boldness and God’s power to speak God’s word. “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.”

Acts 4:30-31

After we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit, we are to pursue a lifestyle of continually “being filled” with the Holy Spirit. “And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be (continually being) filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another in the fear of God.”

Let us hunger for and seek after the baptism with the Holy Spirit. May we be motivated by love for God and for serving His people. May we maintain a continual infilling of the Holy Spirit by cultivating a heart of thanksgiving and praise to God, along with submission to God-ordained authority. Amen.