

# Receiving the Holy Spirit



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# Receiving the Holy Spirit

## KEY SCRIPTURE

Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV) 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.”

## KEY TRUTH

There is a second experience following salvation freely available as God's gift to His children. It is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT — WHO IS HE?

1. The Holy Spirit is the **third member of the Trinity** (Matthew 28:19).

The Holy Spirit is on the earth to help us live victoriously. God the Father is in heaven and the Lord Jesus is at the Father's right hand. It is only the Holy Spirit who is here on the earth to help us. He is our helper, but He will not help somebody who doesn't want to be helped. Therefore, we must ask Him for His help every day.
2. The Holy Spirit is **God's agent on the earth** continuing the ministry of Jesus. We need to operate through Him in order to get things done.
3. The Holy Spirit is **a person**, with personality traits. He can be grieved, lied to, and insulted. He has a voice and a mind.
4. The Holy Spirit knows the past, the present, and the future.
  - He is **omniscient**—all knowing.
  - He is **omnipotent**—all powerful.
  - He is **omnipresent**—everywhere present at the same time.

## THE HOLY SPIRIT — WHAT DOES HE DO?

1. The Holy Spirit is our **Comforter** (John 14:26). We don't have to live in despair, discouragement, or depression. Every day, 24 hours a day, we have the Spirit of God as our indwelling Friend and Comforter.
2. The Holy Spirit is our **prayer partner** (Romans 8:26–27).
3. The Holy Spirit is our **Teacher**. He will give us revelation and understanding of God's word.
4. The Holy Spirit **warns** us and **protects** us from danger and harm. This includes accidents, calamity, deceptive people, and other dangers. His protection covers not only our own lives, but our family and children also.
5. The Holy Spirit **gives us instructions** (Acts 13:2). We are soldiers in God's end-time army, so we can expect orders from the Holy Spirit for the work of God's service.
6. The Holy Spirit **leads** us and **guides** us (Romans 8:14; Acts 16:6-7).

## TEN TRUTHS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Holy Spirit will never leave the born-again child of God (John 14:16).
2. He lives in us (John 14:17).
3. He leads us into all truth (John 14:17).
4. He teaches us (John 14:26).
5. He reminds us of the words of Jesus (John 14:26; John 15:26).
6. He gives guidance and insight into the future (John 16:13).
7. He is the source of all truth (John 15:26).
8. He reveals, glorifies, and testifies of Jesus (John 16:14).
9. The unsaved world cannot recognize or receive Him (John 14:17).
10. He convinces and convicts the unsaved world of the reality of Jesus and their need to accept Him (John 16:8-11).

## YOU SHALL RECEIVE POWER

It is not God's plan or intention that only the five ministries listed in Ephesians 4:11—  
RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT

apostles, prophets, teachers, pastors, and evangelists—heal the sick, deliver the oppressed, work the works of Christ, and set the captives free. **God appointed all Christians to carry out these works.** Jesus promised, “You will receive the power of God!” (Acts 1:8).

Acts 1:8 (NKJV) 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.”

1 Corinthians 4:20 (NKJV) 20 For the kingdom of God is not in word but in power.

Ephesians 3:20 (NKJV) 20 Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us,

1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (NKJV) 4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God.

John 14:12 (NKJV) 12 “Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.

John 7:38 (NKJV) 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.”

God did not design us to be born again and then spend the rest of our lives sitting in church warming the seats! Too many Christians come to church to watch the preacher perform miracles, as if only the five ministries of Ephesians 4:11 have supernatural gifts.

**God wants every born-again Christian to be supernaturally equipped and anointed to destroy the works of the devil**—every born-again factory worker, homemaker, executive, and student.

**Acts 1:8 says, “You shall receive power.”**

**Acts 2:4 says, “They...began.”**

When we are baptized in the Holy Spirit and receive the Bible experience of speaking in tongues, **then our life in the supernatural begins:**

- We *begin* to heal the sick.
- We *begin* to cast out devils.
- We *begin* to preach the gospel in the power of God.
- We *begin* to witness for Christ.
- We *begin* to flow in a new dimension of praise and worship.
- We *receive* revelation knowledge of God's word.
- We *experience* righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.
- We *begin* to destroy the works of the devil in the power of the Spirit.
- We *begin* to set the captives free.
- We *resist* Satan and overcome the flesh.
- We *begin* to move in the gifts of the Spirit.

Matthew 3:11 (NKJV) 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

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

This Pentecostal experience is called:

- Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
- Being filled with the Holy Spirit.

## HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **Our Lord Jesus Christ is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit. We can come to Jesus with childlike faith and ask Him to baptize us in the Holy Spirit.**

Matthew 3:11

Mark 1:8

Luke 3:16

John 1:33

2. **Following salvation, God's gift for all believers is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.** Salvation is God's gift to the sinner, which involves being born of the Spirit

(John 3:3-5). The Holy Spirit is God's gift to His children and involves being baptized in the Spirit (Acts 1:5).

Luke 11:13

John 7:37-39

Acts 2:38-39

### **3. When we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we will receive the Bible evidence of speaking in tongues.**

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

Notice that "all" believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and "all" spoke in other tongues. The New Testament record clearly shows that being baptized in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues are connected together:

- On the day of Pentecost, the 120 believers were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4).
- Eight years after Pentecost, the new converts in Samaria received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:12-19). Although tongues are not specifically mentioned, Simon saw supernatural evidence that the new converts had received the Holy Spirit.
- Three days after Paul was born again, he received the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands (Acts 9:17). Although tongues are not specifically mentioned, we know clearly from Scripture that he did speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- Ten years after Pentecost, Cornelius and the Gentiles received the baptism in the Holy Spirit by hearing the preaching of the word, and they spoke in tongues (Acts 10:44-46).
- Twenty years after Pentecost, the believers in Ephesus received the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-6).

### **Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit carries with it the evidence of speaking in tongues.**

#### **4. We must remove any barriers to receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, such as:**

- Lack of knowledge or wrong doctrine
- Pride, especially religious pride
- Fear
- Our natural mind, which can get in the way and become a blockage

## STEPS TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. **We repent and acknowledge Jesus as our Lord and Savior.**
2. **We ask Jesus to baptize us with the Holy Spirit.**
3. **We believe we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit because we asked in faith** (Luke 11:13).
4. **As an act of faith, we open our mouths and start speaking out the new language that God gives us.**

We must open our mouths and speak out in tongues (not in English) the language that the Holy Spirit gives us. It is our voice and our mouth, but we are giving voice to the utterance of the Holy Spirit. We must be bold and fluent, not keeping our mouth shut (Acts 2:4; Psalm 81:10), nor praising the Lord in English, because we can't speak two languages at the same time. We must speak the syllables, the sounds from our spirit by faith, not listening to the devil or our minds. The devil will put negative thoughts into our minds and tell us, "It's just 'mumbo jumbo' or 'gibberish.'" Give no place to the devil!

## RESULTS OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are *specific results* of being filled with the Holy Spirit, which we need to know.

1. We receive the supernatural power of God over the devil, demons, fear, and sickness (Acts 1:8).
2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit opens the door for us to operate in the supernatural gifts of the Spirit and experience the powers of the age to come (Hebrews 6:4-5).  
The revelation gifts, power gifts, and vocal gifts of the Spirit are God's gifts from Heaven that give us a "taste" of the supernatural realm of the Holy Spirit beyond the veil of the flesh.
3. The baptism in the Holy Spirit **transforms our prayer lives** and make us vessels of effective prayer (Romans 8:26-27).

4. The baptism in the Holy Spirit empowers us to become **bold witnesses and effective soul winners** (Acts 1:8; Acts 4:29-31, 33).
5. The baptism in the Holy Spirit **enables us to receive God’s guidance** and direction in all aspects of our lives (Romans 8:14).
6. The baptism in the Holy Spirit **energizes our physical bodies with resurrection life** so that we can walk in divine health. Releasing the rivers of living water out of our spirit drives out sickness and brings health to our flesh (Romans 8:11; John 7:38).
7. The baptism in the Holy Spirit equips us to walk in the agape love of God (Romans 5:5; Jude 20:21).

## PURPOSES OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1. Speaking in tongues is a **supernatural means of direct communication with God** (1 Corinthians 14:2).
2. Speaking in tongues causes us to **speak mysteries**, “divine secrets,” and “hidden wisdom” to God. Praying in tongues is the believer’s “hotline” to Heaven.

Romans 8:26

1 Corinthians 2:6-14

1 Corinthians 14:2

When we speak or pray in tongues, our minds are unfruitful and understand nothing. Our minds are bypassed and detached, and our spirits are in control. We are praying in tongues by the Holy Spirit out of our spirits and talking mysteries to God. Jesus said that believers have the privilege and the ability to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of God (Matthew 13:11). Furthermore, no devil or demon understands what we are saying in tongues. The devil has no idea what we are praying for or praying about.

3. Speaking in tongues is a God-given way to **edify ourselves** (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20-21).

*Praying in the Holy Spirit is a supernatural means of building up our spirit.* To edify means to build up, strengthen, restore, replenish with spiritual power, and construct. Praying in tongues builds up our inner man, and helps us to love God and stay on fire for Him. When we don’t pray in tongues, our heart grows cold.

4. When we speak in tongues, we have the **God-given ability to interpret what we**

**have spoken** in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:13). We can pray to interpret in English what we have spoken in tongues.

5. Speaking in tongues **energizes** and activates **our human spirit** with the life of God.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

Proverbs 20:27

John 7:38

**Praying in tongues releases living water from our spirit man and energizes our spirit with strength and spiritual power.**

6. Speaking in tongues **disconnects us from the interruptions of the mind** because our understanding is unfruitful. As we pray in tongues, it stops and shuts off the distractions of our mind (1 Corinthians 14:14).
7. Praying in tongues is a decision of the will, and therefore **brings our will into line with the will of God** (1 Corinthians 14:15; Romans 8:27). When we pray in tongues, we put our will in subjection to the will of God.

## THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit opens us up to the supernatural realm of God and is the gateway to flowing in the nine gifts of the Spirit. These nine manifestations or gifts of God's divine power are for the church today and are available to us through the Holy Spirit.

John 7:38

Acts 1:8

Acts 19:6

1 Corinthians 12:1-11

1 Corinthians 14:1

Hebrews 2:4

The nine supernatural Holy Spirit gifts, as outlined in 1 Corinthians 12, are:

### 1. **Word of wisdom**

The word of wisdom is supernaturally imparted direction from God telling us how to deal with a situation in the days ahead. It is God imparting a piece of divine wisdom concerning how to solve a problem facing us **in the future**.

## **2. Word of knowledge**

The word of knowledge is supernaturally imparted information or facts, which God knows about and we don't know, concerning people and situations in the present.

## **3. Gift of divine faith**

The gift of special faith is the supernatural ability to believe God in a specific situation when we are emptied of all doubt and unbelief. It is wonder working faith in a specific situation and makes the impossible possible.

## **4. Gifts of healing**

The gifts of healings is the supernatural impartation of God's healing anointing through us to cure diseases and heal the sick.

## **5. Working of miracles**

The supernatural gift of the working of miracles is divine, supernatural power that intervenes in the ordinary course of nature, for example, to start a storm or re-create missing limbs.

## **6. Discerning of spirits**

The gift of discerning of spirits is supernatural insight into the spiritual realm to detect angels and demons. Through this gift, we look directly into the spirit world. It is also the ability to know what is behind a manifestation—whether it is God, the devil, or human flesh operating.

## **7. Prophecy**

The gift of prophecy is a supernatural utterance in our own language but not conceived by our own human thought or reasoning. It is spoken out in a public congregation to edify, exhort, and bring comfort to the church.

## **8. Different kinds of tongues**

The supernatural gift of different kinds of tongues is the supernatural ability to speak out in the congregation a message from God in a language that is not known to us it is not our prayer language.

## **9. Interpretation of tongues**

The gift of interpretation of tongues is the supernatural ability to interpret in English what has been spoken through the gift of tongues.

God wants us to function in these divine supernatural gifts not only inside the church, but

outside the church as well. As we yield to the Holy Spirit, the power of God and these gifts will operate wherever we are—in supermarkets, in department stores, at our neighborhood fast food restaurant, in the post office, the bank, the gas station, in hotels, universities, in the gym, where we work, where we live, wherever we go. The key is that we must stay full of the Holy Spirit and be open to his leading and promptings.

## THE ACTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The book of Acts records the continuation of the ministry of Jesus through the person and power of the Holy Spirit manifested in the lives of believers. The Holy Spirit is the executive of the Godhead in the earth today carrying on the works and ministry of Jesus.

### **Acts 1:2**

Jesus gives commandments to His disciples by the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 1:5**

Jesus promises His disciples the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 1:8**

God's supernatural power is imparted through the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 2:4**

All believers receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and all speak in tongues.

### **Acts 2:17-18**

Peter quotes the prophet Joel concerning God's promises of the mighty last-day outpouring of the Spirit.

### **Acts 2:33**

At Jesus' ascension into heaven, He sends the Holy Spirit into the earth.

### **Acts 2:38-39**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all believers and can be received immediately after salvation.

### **Acts 3:19**

Repentance brings a new refreshing of the Holy Spirit into our lives.

### **Acts 4:8, 13**

Being filled with the Holy Spirit makes us bold.

**Acts 4:29-31**

Earnest prayer brings a re-filling of the power and presence of the Holy Spirit. We can pray for boldness and we can and should pray for a fresh re-filling of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

**Acts 4:33**

The Holy Spirit gives the early church great power and great grace to be witnesses of the reality of Jesus.

**Acts 5:3-4, 9-10**

The Holy Spirit can be lied to. This sin and other sins against the person of the Holy Spirit brings divine judgment.

**Acts 5:32**

God promises the Holy Spirit and his presence to believers who live a life of obedience.

**Acts 6:3,5**

New Testament deacons are to be full of and controlled by the Holy Spirit. This is an essential qualification in the selection of deacons.

**Acts 7:51**

The Holy Spirit can be resisted. We can resist his ministry and his work in our life.

**Acts 7:55**

Stephen is so full of the Holy Spirit and His anointing that he sees the glory of God, Heaven, and Jesus.

**Acts 8:14-17**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit can be received through the laying on of hands.

**Acts 8:29**

The Holy Spirit has a voice; He speaks and directs Philip to witness to the Ethiopian eunuch.

**Acts 8:39-40**

The Holy Spirit supernaturally transports Philip to Azotus, 25 miles away.

**Acts 9:31**

The secret to supernatural church growth is intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 10:19-20**

After receiving the Holy Spirit inspired vision, Peter gets specific instructions from the Spirit.

**Acts 10:36-38**

The word of God reveals that the anointing of the Holy Spirit was the key factor in the healing ministry of Jesus.

**Acts 10:44-46**

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit is received by a group of Italians immediately after they are saved.

**Acts 11:12**

Peter testifies he received instructions from the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 11:21**

The hand of the Lord is a phrase used to describe the anointing of the Holy Spirit. Here it means that God moved in signs, wonders, and salvation.

**Acts 11:24**

Barnabas is an effective minister because he is full of the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 11:28**

The Holy Spirit reveals the future through the words of a prophet.

**Acts 13:2-4**

The Holy Spirit selects and separates men for specific ministry and send them out to fulfill a specific mission.

**Acts 13:52**

When we are full of the Holy Spirit, we should also be full of joy (Roman 14:17).

**Acts 14:3**

The Holy Spirit confirms the truth and integrity of God's word with miraculous signs and wonders (Romans 15:18–19).

**Acts 15:28**

The disciples and the Holy Spirit have a close, personal, intimate relationship and companionship.

### **Acts 16:6-10**

The Holy Spirit speaks to Paul and shares with him where he should and should not preach the gospel.

### **Acts 17:16**

The Holy Spirit is grieved, and he stirs Paul about the idle worship in Athens.

### **Acts 18:9**

The Holy Spirit speaks to Paul in a vision to encourage him to be bold in his ministry.

### **Acts 19:6**

The believers at Ephesus are filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately operate in the gift of prophecy.

### **Acts 19:21**

Paul's life and ministry are according to the plans and purposes of the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 20:23**

Through the operation of the gifts, the Holy Spirit signifies and testifies what danger lies ahead for Paul in Jerusalem.

### **Acts 20:28**

The Holy Spirit is the “divine executive” over the church.

### **Acts 21:10-11**

Paul received a personal prophecy as a confirmation of what is going to happen to him in Jerusalem.

## **KEY VERSES ON THE HOLY SPIRIT**

Romans 14:17 (NKJV) 17 for the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 (NKJV) 13 Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:18-19 (NKJV) 18 For I will not dare to speak of any of those things which Christ has not accomplished through me, in word

and deed, to make the Gentiles obedient— 19 in mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God, so that from Jerusalem and round about to Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.

Romans 15:30 (NKJV) 30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

2 Corinthians 13:14 (NKJV) 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

1 Thessalonians 1:5 (NKJV) 5 For our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, as you know what kind of men we were among you for your sake.

Hebrews 2:4 (NKJV) 4 God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

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