

## THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### MEMORY VERSE

Acts 1:8

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the ends of the earth."

In our last study we discussed water baptism. The word baptism comes from the Greek word baptize, which means to fill, submerge or immerse fully. Just as a person is fully immersed in the water during water baptism, God wants to baptize—totally fill, immerse and submerge—His followers with the Holy Spirit. Before we begin this discussion, we will take a brief look at who the Holy Spirit is.

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead, or Trinity. He is not merely an influence or an intangible force. He is just as much of a Person as God the Father and Jesus the Son. The Holy Spirit is referred to in Scripture as:

1. The Comforter, Helper and/or Teacher (Greek parakletos, meaning one called alongside to help.) (John 14:16, 26)
2. The Spirit of Truth. (John 14:16-17)
3. The Spirit of Christ. (Romans 8:9, 1 Peter 1:10-11)
4. The Spirit of Sonship (or adoption). (Galatians 4:6)

The Holy Spirit thinks (Acts 15:28) and feels (Ephesians 4:30) just as the Father and the Son do. It is the Holy Spirit who:

- Convicts unbelievers of their sin, God's righteousness, and the judgment to come. (John 16:8)
- Quickens us and makes us spiritually alive. (John 3:3-6)
- Teaches and guides us into all truth. (John 16:13)
- Reveals to us the things of Christ. (John 16:14)
- Reveals to us the things of the Father. (1 Corinthians 2:10-12)
- Reveals the future. (John 16:13)
- Imparts the love of God in believers' hearts. (Romans 5:5)
- Bears witness with our spirits that we are children of God (Romans 8:16)
- Imparts hope. (Romans 15:13)

Every born again person has the Holy Spirit (see Romans 8:9 and Ephesians 1:13-14), but not every person has been baptized with the Holy Spirit. In John 20, after His death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and in verse 22 said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit." At this moment the disciples became the first born again people on the planet, and Jesus would commission them to go and make disciple of all the nations. (Matthew 28:16-20)

1. What does Jesus command the disciples to do before they began the task of the Great Commission? (Luke 24:49)
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2. What was the “promise of the Father” they were to receive? (Acts 1:4-5)

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3. What did Jesus say would happen to them when the Holy Spirit came upon them? (Acts 1:8)

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The word power in that verse is the Greek word *dunamos*, which means an explosive power, the word from which we get the English word dynamite. Receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit gives the Christian an explosive power that is able to destroy all the works of the devil in people’s lives! Notice too that this empowering produces the ability to *be* a witness—it gives the power not only to fully preach the gospel but also to live the Christian life.

The Father has committed to the Holy Spirit the responsibility for executing all the designs of heaven with regard to earth. God desires that all things will be “on earth as it is in heaven.” (Matthew 6:10) His goal is two-fold. He wants every person to hear the Gospel, repent of sin, and as a result of faith in Jesus Christ be born again, thus being made a new creation and a child of God (1 Timothy 2:4, 2 Corinthians 5:17, John 1:12).

He also wants each of these new creations to receive the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit and go out and seek and save the lost and destroy the works of the devil just as Jesus did! (Luke 19:10, 1 John 3:8) This is a vital point we must understand and embrace! Jesus was and is fully God (John 1:1, 18), but during His earthly ministry He temporarily laid aside His powers as God and functioned as a man relying on the power of the Holy Spirit (see John 5:19 and Philippians 2:5-8).

4. How did Jesus fulfill His ministry? (Acts 10:38)

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5. What does Jesus say those who believe in Him will do? (John 14:12)

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This is only possible by receiving the power from on high available to us through the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Jesus expects us to walk in the same power He did because He *commanded* His disciples to wait until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4) He commands us to do the same today (see Matthew 28:20)—it is our responsibility to receive the power of God through the baptism of the Holy Spirit and to put it to use for the glory of God!

6. On what should the faith of men not rest? (I Corinthians 2:5)

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7. On what should the faith of men rest? (I Corinthians 2:5)

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8. What happened when the Holy Spirit was given? (Acts 2:1-4)

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Read Acts 2:36-41.

9. How would you compare Peter after he received the baptism in the Holy Spirit compared to his experience the night Jesus was handed over to be crucified? And how would you account for the results of his message (verses 37 and 41)?

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10. How did the believers at Samaria receive the Holy Spirit? (Acts 8:14-17)

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11. How did the first Gentiles receive the Holy Spirit? (Acts 10:44-46)

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12. How did the believers at Ephesus receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit? (Acts 19:1-6)

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13. What happened to each of these groups of people when they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

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14. To whom is the promised gift of the Holy Spirit made available? (Acts 2:39)

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15. To whom will the Father give the Holy Spirit? (Luke 11:13)

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16. How much of the fullness of the Holy Spirit is available to us? (John 3:34, Ephesians 3:19)

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17. What command does God give us regarding being filled with the Holy Spirit? (Ephesians 5:18)

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This verse is of great significance for two reasons. First of all, the command “be filled” is in the present continuous tense—more accurately it means “be being filled” or “be continuously filled” with the Holy Spirit. Being filled with the Spirit is not a subtle, imperceptible experience; there is a first time baptism with the Holy Spirit we receive and we know when we’ve received it! But God never intended that initial filling to be the last!

The second reason this is significant is due to the comparison with wine. When someone is drunk, or filled, with wine, they come under the influence of the alcohol. They no longer act like they usually would. As we are continually filled with the Holy Spirit, we come under the influence of the Holy Spirit, no longer acting like we usually would in our sinful nature. This change operates on both the negative and positive:

when we are constantly filled with the Spirit we not only stop sinning and live righteously, we dare to walk with God and minister to others in ways we would never have had the love or courage to do before!

This is one of the greatest and most important truths in all of scripture.

18. Why did Jesus redeem us from the curse of the law? (Galatians 3:13-14)

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It is completely true that Jesus died for us because He loves us, because He wanted to forgive us, and because He wanted us to be with Him forever in heaven rather than suffer the punishment of hell. However, God's purpose for your life is far greater than you simply being born again and going to heaven. That is wonderful and important—but it was also a necessary step to a greater goal: that you might be filled with the Holy Spirit! Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they were baptized with the Holy Spirit, and when they were they changed the world forever. Today the Lord is speaking to us to seek Him for (continuous) baptisms in the Holy Spirit like the early church had. Can you imagine what the Lord could do with your life if you were filled to overflowing with the presence and power of the Holy Spirit? Can you imagine what the Lord could do with an army of believers truly filled with the Holy Spirit? There are no limits, for nothing is too difficult for Him (Jeremiah 32:27)! Let us seek God for this precious gift that is available to all believers: the fullness of the Holy Spirit in us!