

What Is The Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is one of God's greatest gifts to us! It allows us to connect directly to the supernatural power of God, and it is how we access the gifts of the Spirit. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is absolutely necessary if we are going to fulfill Jesus' instructions to heal the sick, raise the dead, cast out demons and usher in the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Jesus told His disciples that unless His life and power were flowing through them, they could not accomplish anything! (John 15:5)

Why Do We Need The Holy Spirit?

It is the Holy Spirit flowing through us that gives us access to the supernatural power of God to destroy the works of the enemy, (like sin, sickness, and oppression), and to see the Kingdom of God break through into the earth. Before Jesus returned to heaven, He told His disciples that they would be "clothed in power" (Luke 24:49) so that they could accomplish all that He had commissioned them (and us) to do. He instructed them to wait until they were "clothed" (immersed, and filled) with the supernatural power of God by the Holy Spirit. Jesus told His disciples that His power could only flow through them if they stayed intimately connected to Him, like a branch attached to a vine. God *wants* to fill and empower us with His Spirit so that His power can flow through us and we can be victorious over sin, our flesh and the devil. Acts 1:8 tells us that we *will receive power* when the Holy Spirit comes upon us. We get to choose how much freedom we give the Holy Spirit to flow through us, and how intimately we want to be connected to Him. He longs for us to be in close relationship with Him, but He will never force Himself on us. He invites us to yield ourself to Him.

What Does Being Baptized In The Holy Spirit Look Like?

One tangible sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is the gift of speaking in a spiritual language where our spirit communicates directly with the Holy Spirit. The Bible calls this speaking in "tongues". This language does not originate in our brain but in our spirit as we yield ourselves to the Holy Spirit operating through us. Speaking in tongues is one of the primary ways that God has designed our spirit to be directly connected to His Spirit. We can actually communicate directly from our spirit to the Spirit of God! The devil *hates* it when we speak in tongues because he can't understand what we are praying! The Bible says that we are speaking "mysteries" to God. (1 Cor. 14:2) When we pray in tongues, our SPIRIT is praying, but we can't understand what we are saying. (1 Cor. 14:4)

Why Should We Speak In Tongues?

WE ARE PRAYING GOD'S PERFECT WILL: When we pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit is praying through us the perfect prayers and will of God. Romans 8:26-27 "The Spirit helps us in our weakness. WE do not know what we ought to pray for, but the SPIRIT Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."

PRAYING IN TONGUES BUILDS UP OUR SPIRIT: Jude 1:20 “Be built up in your holy faith by praying in the Spirit.” Ephesians 3:16 “I pray that He will empower you with strength through His Spirit.” **PRAYING IN TONGUES IS COMMUNICATION FROM MAN TO GOD:** 1 Corinthians 14:2 - “For anyone who speaks in tongues does not speak to people but to God.” The apostle Paul knew that speaking in tongues was so important that he said he thanked God that he spoke in tongues more than any of those he was writing to. (1 Cor. 14:18)

How Do We Receive The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?

First, you must be born again and know Jesus as your Lord and Savior. God the Father is EAGER for each of His children to be intimately connected to Him! Jesus told His followers: “If you sinful people 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 11:13 God is just waiting for us to ask Him! “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24 God also wants us to be able to communicate directly from our spirit to His Spirit so that we can pray prayers that are birthed from the heart of the Father, and so that we can be built up in our faith. As we ask God to fill us with His Holy Spirit and we yield ourselves to Him to speak through us, we can pray a simple prayer something like this: “Father, I desire to be intimately connected to You and the power of Your Holy Spirit. I want to live out the supernatural life that You intended for me. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit and with the gift of speaking in tongues. Holy Spirit, I yield to You in every area of my life! Thank you for filling me. Amen.” After you have invited the Holy Spirit to come fill you with His power, just relax and be ready to receive from Him! You may feel like there is something bubbling up from within you. You just need to open your mouth by faith and let the Holy Spirit release His gift of tongues. It may just be a few syllables or sounds. This is totally normal! Remember, it doesn't come from your mind, but from His Spirit, so it doesn't seem to make sense. Our spirit is speaking "mysteries" to God! It is important that we accept this by faith and continue to yield to the work of the Holy Spirit in our spirit.

What's Next?

Once we have invited the Holy Spirit to fill us and to clothe us with His power, we need to be intentional about staying intimately connected to the Spirit so that we continue to build ourselves up in our faith. Because the gift of tongues flows through our spirit rather than through our mind, we can speak in tongues and “multi-task” while we are going about our daily activities. As we speak in tongues not only is our faith being built up, but we are also praying perfect prayers that originate in the heart of the Father. The more we turn our heart toward the Lord and yield to the Holy Spirit, the more we will be transformed in His Presence and experience His power flowing through us.

