

Holy Spirit – Lesson 5

Baptized with the Holy Spirit



Four ways that the Church has understood the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1. Christian Rite.
2. Simultaneous to Spiritual Birth.
3. Empowerment.
4. Tongues Necessary for Salvation.

John's Promise of Being Baptized with the Holy Spirit

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire." (Matthew 3:11-12)

To understand the Baptism with the Holy Spirit its best to look at the book of Acts.

Let's walk through Acts and look at the times people are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

- At the beginning of Acts we read of Jesus' own promise.

"Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (Acts 1:4-5)

Then Jesus speaks of the effect of this phenomenon a few verses later:

"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)
Notice the phrase "comes on you."

Then we arrive at the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2.

"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." (Acts 2:4)

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy." (Acts 2:17-18, quoting Joel 2:28-29)

- Then, watch what Peter says in verse 33.

"Exalted to the right hand of God, [Jesus] has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear." (Acts 2:33)

"Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39)

How believers received the Holy Spirit

Acts 4:6-8 ⁶ *Annas the high priest was there, and so were Caiaphas, John, Alexander and others of the high priest's family.* ⁷ *They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?"* ⁸ *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!*

Acts 13:6-11 ⁶ *They traveled through the whole island until they came to Paphos. There they met a Jewish sorcerer and false prophet named Bar-Jesus,* ⁷ *who was an attendant of the proconsul, Sergius Paulus. The proconsul, an intelligent man, sent for Barnabas and Saul because he wanted to hear the word of God.* ⁸ *But Elymas the sorcerer (for that is what his name means) opposed them and tried to turn the proconsul from the faith.* ⁹ *Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said,* ¹⁰ *"You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"* ¹¹ *Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind for a time, not even able to see the light of the sun."*

"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." **(Acts 4:31)**

- NOTE: This doesn't represent an initial filling of the Holy Spirit like we saw at Pentecost, and will see in Samaria, Caesarea, and Ephesus, but something amazing happened – some kind of earthquake and a special boldness in testifying to Jesus.

In Acts 5 we see Peter's testimony before the Sanhedrin, he testifies:

- *"We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."* **(Acts 5:32)**

The Holy Spirit to Samaritans

"When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit." **(Acts 8:15-17)**

Why didn't the Samaritans receive the Holy Spirit when they believed in Christ and were baptized?

Paul is the next person who is recorded in Acts as receiving the Holy Spirit.

"¹⁷ Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord – Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here – has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁸ *Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized,* ¹⁹ *and after taking some food, he regained his strength."* **(Acts 9:17-19a)**

"⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵ The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ 'Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' ⁴⁸ *So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ."* **(Acts 10:44-48a)**

“¹⁵ As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ ¹⁷ So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?” (Acts 11:15-17)

• **So, Peter argues before the Jerusalem Council that Gentile believers have to be accepted because they are accepted by God which is evidenced by them receiving the Holy Spirit.**

“God, who knows the heart, showed that he accepted them by giving the Holy Spirit to them, just as he did to us.” (Acts 15:8)

Here’s one last incident of an initial receiving of the Holy Spirit. It happens in Ephesus.

“¹ While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ² and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ ³ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ ‘John’s baptism,’ they replied. ⁴ Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ ⁵ On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.” (Acts 19:1-7)

What’s this teach us about being baptized with the Holy Spirit?

- 1. The term “baptized with the Spirit” is used by Luke alongside other synonyms.**
- 2. The initial reception of the Holy Spirit is often accompanied by speaking in tongues and/or prophecy and/or praise.**
- 3. The Book of Acts doesn’t record speaking in tongues every time some person or group receives the Spirit.**
- 4. A person’s lack of the Holy Spirit can be diagnosed without hearing him or her speak in tongues.**
- 5. As a general rule, people are expected to receive the Holy Spirit when they first believe in Jesus, not later, as in Ephesus (Acts 19:2).**
- 6. Christians who have already received the Spirit can have special and powerful fillings of the Holy Spirit from time to time (Acts 4:8, 31; 13:9, 52).**

Baptism into Christ’s Body

“For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.” (1 Corinthians 12:13)

Romans 6::3-6 ³ Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶ For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with,^[a] that we should no longer be slaves to sin—

Clear references to an initial reception of the Spirit in Paul’s writings.

“I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?” (Galatians 3:2)

“Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?” (Galatians 3:5)

“He redeemed us ... so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit.” (Galatians 3:14)

The Holy Spirit and the Assemblies of God

• Among their “16 Fundamental Truths,” two summarized here:

#7. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and subsequent experience following conversion. Spirit baptism brings empowerment to live an overcoming Christian life and to be an effective witness.

#8. Speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

They teach concerning “the baptism in the Holy Spirit” that:

1. It is **separate** from conversion,
2. It is **subsequent** to conversion,
3. It provides **empowerment** for life and ministry, and
4. Speaking in tongues is the **initial physical evidence**.

Separation. *The pattern from scripture is that people should receive the Holy Spirit when they believe, not later.*

Subsequence. *The disciples waiting in Jerusalem until they receive the Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4) does not set the pattern, for Jesus’ command to wait in Jerusalem anticipates the one-of-a-kind historical outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament era that takes place on the Day of Pentecost.*

Speaking in tongues.

To state categorically that: “Speaking in tongues is the initial physical evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit,” overstates the evidence, and contradicts the experience of millions of Christ-loving, Spirit-empowered Christians around the world who haven’t spoken in tongues, but in many cases experience the same power and joy as their Pentecostal brethren.