

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

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*First of all, the Holy Spirit is a Gift from God. The Holy Spirit is the Greatest Gift God has ever given the Church besides His Son the Lord Jesus Christ! The Spirit is given to grow God's people into the image of Jesus Christ. We are spirit beings and can only grow through His SPIRIT. Now, it takes time to grow into the image of Jesus as we experience several growth pains. For example, you have the **initial Born Again experience** in which the Holy Spirit baptizes us literally into the Body of Christ. We should understand there will be several baptisms as we grow into the image of Christ!*

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

(Rom. 8:14)

So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. (Rom. 8:8,9)

Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

(John 3:5-8)

What shall we say then? **Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin. Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him:**

Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him. For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. (Rom. 6:1-12)

Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. (Col. 2:12-15)

For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church. (Eph. 5:30-32)

One SPIRIT, One BAPTISM into the Body in Christ

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. (Eph. 4:3-6)

The Doctrine of Baptisms

There is ONE SPIRIT but with several baptisms!

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, **Of the doctrine of baptisms**, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. (Heb. 5:12-6:2)

Here is where things get a little hard to understand regarding the work and experience in the Holy Spirit. This topic is very interesting because there are many different views in different Churches and Denominations.

I grew up Pentecostal and know that a secondary experience with the Holy Spirit is real! I experienced a big difference between being Born Again (salvation) and the Fullness or the Infilling of the Holy Spirit! Pentecostals call it the baptism in the Holy Spirit. All Churches agree on the first experience with the Holy Spirit (Born Again). It's with that second experience in which they differ opinions! The difference is in their terminology. For instance, the Pentecostals say the second experience is called the baptism in the Holy Spirit while the Evangelical Churches say it the infilling or the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Well, after many years of experiencing and walking with the Holy Spirit, and watching great men of God minister the Word from both sides, I've come to my own conclusion in the matter. I asked myself, well, why do I think Billy Graham, Charles Stanley, Adrian Rogers, and many others who weren't Pentecostal also preach great sermons from Heaven? In my mind, this was an important question to be answered! After much prayer, I heard a sermon from a Pentecostal pastor in Bogota Columbia (pastor Abraham), explaining the difference. I felt totally at peace with that message and felt it came from God's Throne. Here's the difference, they are both right in a way. Yes, once you receive the Holy Spirit you're saved, you belong to God and are Born Again (both camps agree). But, the scriptures talk about the fullness of the Spirit or an Infilling that takes place after you believe (both camps agree). Remember the Pentecostals call it "the baptism in the Holy Spirit." All that Truly believe in what Jesus did at the Cross are Saved but Not all are filled with the Holy Spirit (both camps agree). Believing on the atoning work of Jesus Christ is one thing (Salvation), but acquiring the Fullness of the Holy Spirit is quite another. It takes faith and effort on a believer's part to acquire the Fullness of the Holy Spirit. Lazy Christians (unfaithful) might be saved from Hell, but certainly don't have the Fullness of His Spirit. God does not pour out His Spirit on people that don't make an effort to love and study His Word, God does not pour out His Spirit on people who do not pray or greatly desire to know Jesus.

The Fullness of His Spirit is given to people who love God with all their heart and overcome any pain or obstacle to get to Him. Such was the case with the Apostle Paul, he suffered horrible pain and persecution all for the sake of getting to know God more profoundly. God greatly poured out His Spirit upon Paul who became the greatest blessing the Church had ever known (aside from Christ). Paul had many gifts of the Spirit, He also revealed the revelation of the CROSS to the Church!

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. (Phil. 3:7-14)

The True Spirit Filled Church

But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost, Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life. And of some have compassion, making a difference: And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh. Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen. (Jude 20-25)

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled. (Matt. 5:6) *No tongues here!*

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; **and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.** (Acts 4:31) *No tongues here!*

And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, **and be filled with the Holy Ghost.** And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, **and was baptized.** (Acts 9:17,18).
“water baptism”

That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, May be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, **that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.** (Eph. 3:17-19)

Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit;** Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God. (Eph. 5:17-21)

Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God. (Phil. 1:11)

Wherefore, brethren, **look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom,** whom we may appoint over this business. But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and **they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,** and **Philip,** and **Prochorus,** and **Nicanor,** and **Timon,** and **Parmenas,** and **Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch:** Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, **they laid their hands on them.** **And the word of God increased; and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith.** (Acts 6:3-7)

But he, **being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,** And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God. Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, And cast him out of the city, **and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul.** (Acts 7:55-58)

So which is it? The Fullness of the Spirit, the Baptism of the Spirit, or Mature in the Spirit? I've come to this conclusion. You need all three to become all that God wants you to be! Now, here's where I walk on egg shells because I really am not sure! That is; do you receive the gift of tongues when you receive the fullness of the Spirit, or are they two separate events? What about maturity, what is that? That's where the controversy lies. You have great preachers that don't speak in tongues but yet are filled with the Spirit that deliver powerful sermons from the Throne. I'll just leave you with the scriptures and you can come up with your own conclusion! I believe Maturity is essential in a believers life and ONLY comes by experience with the WORD and the SPIRIT. Speaking in tongues is not to be confused with the spiritual Maturity of a believer. You can speak in tongues and Not be a Mature Christian. Now, this being said; the gift of tongues is a powerful gift and should be sought after. I myself have experienced this gift and it has made a powerful difference in my life. Paul said, I speak in tongues more than all of you, and he also said forbid not the speaking in tongues.

I thank my God, **I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.**

(1 Cor. 14:18,19)

Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? **do all speak with tongues?** do all interpret? But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. (1 Cor. 12:29-13:1)

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant. Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order. (1 Cor. 14:38-40)

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? (1 Cor. 14:23)

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. (1 Cor. 12:11)

If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. (1 Cor. 14:27)

*Here's an interesting point! Regarding the Filling of the Spirit and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit; Notice when Baptized in the Holy Spirit "it says He (Holy Spirit) **came upon them**, while in the Infilling of the Holy Spirit it says; "**be Filled with the Holy Spirit!**"*

Regardless of Interpretation, the Gifts must be Done with Respect and Order

*The gifts in a Church need to be done with order and respect to the Holy Spirit. I have been in some Pentecostal Churches who did not know what they were doing and made a fool of themselves insulting the Holy Spirit. Gifts are given to edify the Church Not to Brag on Yourself and demean your brother, be happy with the gift God has given you, do not get jealous of someone else's gift or murmur against the Lord. God is perfect and knows what gift to give you. **Pride goes before destruction, but the humble shall be exalted!** (Prov. 18:12)*

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led. Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost. **Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles;**

to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. (1 Cor. 12:1-13)

The Maturity of the Believer.

I believe the Most Essential is the Maturity of the people! What good would it do if you were highly gifted and used them incorrectly for lack of Maturity. You would chase people away instead of attract them to the Spirit the author of the gifts.

For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. (Heb. 5:12-14)

Finally, Lets Trace the Manifestations of the SPIRIT in Church History

1. Jesus Appears to the Disciples for the First Time after the Resurrection

Jesus appears supernaturally in their mist and breathed the Holy Spirit into them. This is Salvation (Born Again) not the Infilling.

Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, **Peace be unto you.** And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, **he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:** (John 20:19-22)

In this Encounter they Received the Holy Spirit and were Born Again: Up until this moment they had experienced the Holy Spirit, but the Spirit was not permanently in them. Jesus breaths the Holy Spirit into them.

They were Born Again at this moment (Saved, and Belong to Jesus). Breathed into them means in the Greek; when you inflate a balloon and the balloon receives your breath. It is the same Word God uses in (Gen. 2:7) when He breathed into Adam the breath of Life.

Notice Some Days Later Jesus said; Tarry Here Until You Be Endued with Power

*“And behold, **I am sending the promise of My Father upon you;** but you are to **stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**”*

(Luke 24:49) NASB

*Notice, Jesus said it was a future event, and **commanded them to wait** until they be **endued with power**. Also notice He said this power would come **Upon Them** (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit was already in them, but Jesus was talking about a new and subsequent experience. **Endued with power** is the act of putting on a new garment or clothing (ARMOR) of power from on high. Notice He said to wait for the promise of my Father! The two key words here are **Promise** and **Power**. Another way to say this I think would be the Infilling (the Fullness of the Spirit) or in Pentecostal language “**the Baptism in the Holy Spirit!**” God knew that if they were to be victorious over the world, the flesh, and the devil, they would need Power from on high (God’s Power). They could never overcome these three evil powerful enemies without God’s intervention, **the Holy Spirit**.*

*Gathering them together, **He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem**, but to **wait for what the Father had promised**, “Which,” He said, “you heard of from Me; for **John baptized with water**, but **you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**” (Acts 1:4,5)*

*“**Noticed He said baptized with the Holy Spirit!**”*

*But you **will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;** and **you shall be My witnesses** both in Jerusalem and in all Judea, and Samaria, and as far as the remotest part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) NASB. “**Upon You**”*

*This tells us what the purpose of the Holy Spirit **coming upon them** is for (power). The power of the Holy Spirit is all throughout the Book of Acts. It is a pattern not a one time event in the past. Now, does one always speak in tongues when the Spirit comes upon them? That’s the controversy (I’ll take the Fifth):*

2. The Church's First Encounter with the Infilling and Tongues of Fire

And when the day of Pentecost was 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 all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-4)

This was the first experience (encounter) the Church had with the Infilling of the Holy Spirit and speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

3. One Year Later After Pentecost; Samaria Receives the Holy Spirit

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. And there was great joy in that city. (Acts 8:5-8)

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (Acts 8:14-17)

Notice when Philip preached and did miracles among them the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon them. The only requirement to receive the Infilling or the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (however you interpreted) “is to be Saved.” If you don't have the Holy Spirit inside you, you are not saved. You can't be baptized in water, and have no part in the Baptism or the Infilling of the Holy Spirit unless you are Saved!

However, you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

If Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, **yet the spirit is alive because of righteousness**. But **if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you**, **He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you**. (Rom. 8:9-11)

NASB

4. 7 Years Later After Pentecost; The Roman Soldier Receives the Holy Spirit

They said, “**Cornelius, a centurion, a righteous and God-fearing man well spoken of by the entire nation of the Jews**, was divinely directed by a holy angel to send for you to come to his house and hear a message from you.” So he invited them in and gave them lodging. Now on the next day he got ready and went away with them, and some of the brothers from Joppa accompanied him. On the following day he entered Caesarea. Now **Cornelius was expecting them** and had **called together his relatives and close friends**. (Acts 10:22-24) NASB

While Peter was still speaking these words, **the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message**. **All the Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had also been poured out on the Gentiles**. For **they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God**. Then Peter responded, “**Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized, who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did**, can he?” And **he ordered them to be baptized (water) in the name of Jesus Christ**.

(Acts 10:44-48) NASB

The Gentiles also receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with Tongues!

5. 23 Years Later After Pentecost; Ephesus Receives the Holy Spirit

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and **finding certain disciples**, He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost**. And he said unto them, **Unto what then were ye baptized?** And they said, **Unto John's baptism (Salvation)**. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And **when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them;** and **they spake with tongues,** and **prophesied.** And all the men were about twelve. (Acts 19:1-7)

*Question; Why would the great Apostle Paul ask such a question?
Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?*

All throughout the History of the Book of Acts; You'll Find the Same Pattern

- 1. get Saved***
- 2. get Baptized in Water***
- 3. get the Infilling or the Baptism in the Holy Spirit***

There are Three Essential New Testament Baptisms

*The English word “**baptism**” comes from the Greek word “**baptizo**,” which is translated to dip, plunge, immerse, submerge, bury or overwhelm. Example;*

I baptize you with water (*water baptism unto repentance*) to show that you have repented, but the one who will come after me will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire** (*baptism with the Holy Spirit*). He is much greater than I am; and I am not good enough even to carry his sandals. (Matt. 3:11)

A). The Holy Spirit Baptizes us into Jesus (*Salvation through the Cross*)

For by **one Spirit are we all baptized into one body**, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and **have been all made to drink into one Spirit.** (1 Cor. 12:13)

For as many of you as have been **baptized into Christ** have **put on Christ.** There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are **all one in Christ Jesus.** And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. (Gal. 3:27-29)

Know ye not, that so many of us as were **baptized into Jesus Christ** were **baptized into his death**?

Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (Rom. 6:3-5)

B). Water Baptism (human administrators) Not the Holy Spirit

The baptism mentioned in Matt. 28:19 had human administrators. Christ commissioned the apostles to go and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Inasmuch as an apostle could not baptize “in the Spirit” (only Christ could do that - Matt. 3:11), one is forced to conclude that the baptism of (Matt. 28:19) is water baptism, not Spirit baptism.

C). Jesus Baptizes us in the Holy Spirit / the Infilling (power to witness)

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere - in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8) NLT

John answered them all, “I baptize you with water, but one more powerful than I am is coming - I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Luke 3:16) NET

For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. (Acts 1:5)

I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, ‘The one on whom you see the Spirit descend and rest is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Chosen One of God.” (John 1:33,34) NLT