

# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

## **What Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a distinct experience from salvation in which a believer is empowered by God for ministry, witness, and service. When we place our faith in Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit comes to dwell within us. However, Scripture also speaks of believers being baptized in the Holy Spirit and receiving power from on high.

Before ascending into heaven, Jesus told His disciples:

"For John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."  
(Acts 1:5 ESV)

Jesus also said:

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8 ESV)

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's empowerment for the work He has called believers to do.

## **Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit Different from Salvation?**

Yes.

The disciples were already believers before the Day of Pentecost. Jesus had taught them, appeared to them after His resurrection, and even breathed on them and said:

"Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20:22 ESV)

Yet He still instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father.

"Stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49 ESV)

This shows that there is a subsequent experience of empowerment beyond conversion.

## **What Happened on the Day of Pentecost?**

On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were gathered together in obedience to Jesus' command.

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

The Holy Spirit was poured out, and the first evidence recorded was that they spoke in tongues as the Spirit enabled them. This was not emotional excitement or human effort. It was a supernatural work of God.

### **What Is the Initial Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

Throughout the book of Acts, when people received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, speaking in tongues repeatedly accompanied the experience.

#### **The Day of Pentecost**

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

#### **Cornelius' Household**

"For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God." (Acts 10:46 ESV)

Peter recognized they had received the Holy Spirit because he heard them speaking in tongues.

#### **The Believers at Ephesus**

"And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying." (Acts 19:6 ESV)

In each clear account where the outward evidence is recorded, speaking in tongues accompanied the baptism of the Holy Spirit. For this reason, many believers understand speaking in tongues to be the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

### **What Is Speaking in Tongues?**

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural language given by the Holy Spirit. It is not learned, memorized, or produced by human effort. On the Day of Pentecost, the believers spoke as:

"the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4 ESV)

The believer does the speaking, but the Holy Spirit provides the language.

### **Why Did God Give This Gift?**

- For Personal Edification

"The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself..." (1 Corinthians 14:4 ESV)

- Praying in tongues strengthens and edifies the believer.

For Prayer Beyond Human Understanding

"The Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words." (Romans 8:26 ESV)

The Holy Spirit helps us pray when we do not know what to pray.

- For Boldness and Power

The disciples who received the Holy Spirit immediately became bold witnesses for Christ.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not merely about receiving a spiritual language; it is about receiving power to live for Christ and advance His Kingdom.

### **Can Every Believer Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

Yes. The promise was never limited to the first disciples. Peter declared:

"For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself." (Acts 2:39 ESV)

Every believer can receive the gift that God has promised.

### **How Do I Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

#### **1. Be Born Again**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for believers.

#### **2. Desire the Gift**

Jesus said:

"How much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" (Luke 11:13 ESV)

#### **3. Ask in Faith**

Receive by faith, trusting God's promise.

#### **4. Yield to the Holy Spirit**

The Holy Spirit does not force Himself upon us. As He gives utterance, we step out in faith and speak.

### **Common Questions**

- Is Speaking in Tongues Required for Salvation?

No. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ alone.

"For by grace you have been saved through faith." (Ephesians 2:8 ESV)

Speaking in tongues does not save a person. Jesus saves.

### **Final Encouragement**

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God, not something to fear. Jesus promised it, the early church received it, and believers today can receive it as well. God desires to empower His people to live holy lives, boldly share the gospel, operate in the gifts of the Spirit, and walk closely with Him.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses..." (Acts 1:8 ESV)

Ask, believe, receive, and allow the Holy Spirit to work through your life for the glory of God.