



How to Receive the Baptism of with the Holy Spirit

By Bill Subritzky

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BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. DESCRIPTION

Baptism with the Holy Spirit means being covered, filled, immersed with the Holy Spirit. It is different from baptism with water. It is different from salvation or being "Born Again" which occurs when we receive the Spirit of adoption (Holy Spirit) and become sons and daughters of God because God has sent forth this Spirit of His Son into our hearts:

"And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, 'Abba, Father!' " (Galatians 4:6).

"But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

"For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.' " (Romans 8:9 & 15).

On the Sunday night of his resurrection from the dead Jesus appeared to his disciples in the room where they were assembled with the doors shut. After he had shown them His hands and His side and they saw the wounds He breathed on them and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit."

"Now when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord.

Then Jesus said to them again, 'Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.'

And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.' " (John 20:20-22).

Thus they were born again and received the gift of salvation and the Holy Spirit of adoption.

Jesus then walked with his disciples for forty days teaching them and telling them that He would send the Promise of His Father upon them. He told them to tarry in the city of Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high.

"Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." (Luke 24:49).

In the book of Acts we find that he repeated this command pointing out that John truly baptised with water but they would be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from then.

"And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, 'Which,' He said, 'you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' " (Acts 1:4-5).

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

He told them that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them and that they would be witnesses for Him in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria and to the ends of the earth.

2. PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The primary purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is to make us witnesses for Jesus Christ. We need this experience to enable us to preach the Gospel with full power to heal the sick and cast out demons.

Baptism with the Holy Spirit includes the gift of speaking in tongues which is the gift of speaking in a language not known to us personally. As we pray in tongues the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. Often we do not know how we should pray but the Holy Spirit helps us and makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." (Romans 8:26).

When we pray in a tongue our spirit prays:

"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful." (1 Corinthians 14:14).

The Bible says God is spirit and he who worships God must worship Him in spirit and in truth.

"But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him.

God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth." (John 4:23-24).

When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues this is one way in which we can worship God the Father in spirit and truth.

3. WHO IS THE BAPTISER IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Each of the four Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) say that Jesus is the baptiser with the Holy Spirit:

"I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." (Matthew 3:11).

"I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." (Mark 1:8).

"John answered, saying to them all, 'I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.' " (Luke 3:16).

"I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' " (John 1:33).

4. WHERE IS JESUS NOW?

Jesus is at the right hand of God and having received from the Father the Promise of the Holy Spirit he pours out his promise to all who are willing to receive:

"Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear." (Acts 2:33).

This is the fulfilment of the prophecy spoken by the Prophet Joel in the Old Testament.

*"And it shall come to pass afterward
That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your old men shall dream dreams,
Your young men shall see visions;
And also on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days." (Joel 2:28-29).*

He prophesied that in the last days God would pour out of His Spirit on all flesh, our sons and daughters would prophesy, our young men would see visions, and our old men would dream dreams.

*"And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,
That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;
Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
Your young men shall see visions,
Your old men shall dream dreams.
And on My menservants and on My maidservants
I will pour out My Spirit in those days;
And they shall prophesy." (Acts 2:17-18).*

5. WHEN DID THIS EXPERIENCE FIRST OCCUR?

His disciples had watched Jesus rise up in a cloud out of their sight. About 120 of them then watched and waited a further 10 days in Jerusalem and prayed together in total agreement. After 10 days there was the feast of Pentecost. As they waited together on that day a sound came from Heaven like a rushing mighty wind and filled the whole house where they were sitting. On each of them appeared divided tongues like fire and sat on them. Then they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

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

When all of this sound occurred a multitude of people who were in Jerusalem for that festival came together. They were from many nations and to their amazement they heard the disciples speaking in their languages about the wonderful works of God even though he disciples did not know those languages. Some mocked but others believed and it was then realised that God had fulfilled the promise that He had given to the prophet Joel (see Acts 2:17).

6. DID THIS EXPERIENCE OCCUR ELSEWHERE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT?

Yes, when Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached there were great miracles and many were baptised in the name of Jesus Christ. After that the Apostles came down and the Holy Spirit fell on those people as hands were laid upon them. Simon the sorcerer was so amazed when he saw the gift of the Holy Spirit that he wanted to buy this gift.

"Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. Now when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, saying, 'Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' " (Acts 8:14-19).

Again, in the house of the centurion Cornelius, the Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles and they spoke with tongues.

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. (Acts 10:44-46).

At Ephesus Paul met some disciples of John the Baptist and he told them about Jesus Christ. After they were baptised into the name of the Lord Jesus, Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?'

And they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.'

And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.'

Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would 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 hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:1-6).

7. IS THIS EXPERIENCE FOR ME?

Yes, this experience is for every person who has believed in their heart and confessed with their mouth that Jesus Christ is risen from the dead.

8. HOW DO I RECEIVE THIS EXPERIENCE?

Like salvation it is a gift from God. Just as we can believe to be saved so we can believe to be baptised with the Holy Spirit and receive the gift of tongues.

9. DO I HAVE TO TARRY FOR THIS EXPERIENCE?

Not necessarily. It is a gift from God. If your heart is right towards Him he will give it to you now.

"And I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.

For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg will he offer him a scorpion?

If you then, being evil, 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 11:9-13).

10. CAN THERE BE BLOCKAGES WHICH COULD PREVENT ME FROM RECEIVING THIS EXPERIENCE?

Yes. The following can be blockages:-

1. Unconfessed sin.
2. Lack of true repentance.
3. Unforgiveness.
4. Involvement in witchcraft or the occult.

Involvement by our parents or ancestors needs to be renounced.

It includes taking part in secret societies like Freemasonry and Druids Lodges.

5. Wrong attitude to others.
e.g. Failure to honour our parents
6. Unbelief and doubt.
7. Fear.
8. Blockage of mind.
9. Wrong doctrine (eg. This is not for today)
10. Secular humanism. This is the philosophy behind our modern educational system and much of our political system. It teaches that man should depend on himself and not upon God. It is man centred, not God centred.

11. HOW TO ASK FOR THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Go on your knees before the Lord and confess all your sins and receive God's forgiveness.
2. Acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.
3. Allow the Holy Spirit to remind you of any areas of occult involvement on your part or on the part of your parents or ancestors. Renounce that involvement in the name of Jesus Christ.
4. Believe in your heart that the word of God is absolutely true and that God through Jesus Christ will give this great blessing to you as you believe.
5. Say a simple prayer like this:-
"Dear Heavenly Father, in the name of Jesus Christ, I renounce all my sins (name those sins) and I especially renounce all involvement in the occult or witchcraft on my own part or part of my parents or my ancestors. I renounce all fear and unbelief and any blockage of my mind. I ask you Lord Jesus to baptise me with the Holy Spirit."

12. HOW TO RECEIVE

You may be standing or kneeling. It is good to close our eyes and think of Jesus seated at the right hand of God ready to pour out the Promise of the Father upon us. As we quietly wait upon Him and allow Him to do this we begin to sense the peace of God. We should not listen to what we are saying but let God give us a new language. Then we will find that from our innermost being will flow a river of living water of words as the Holy Spirit helps us.

"But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." (John 4:14).

While we are kneeling and praying to God through Jesus Christ we should realise that the Holy Spirit deep within our heart will rise up as we allow Him to do so. He will come like a river onto our tongue and help us to speak out in our new language.

13. WE MUST DO SOMETHING

God will not force us to do anything. Accordingly, when we are expecting to receive the gift of tongues which accompanies the baptism of the Holy Spirit we should be like a little child and open our mouths and speak out words. If necessary we can start with words which we make up. As we do so the cord between our mind and tongue is cut and our mind no longer controls all the words that come onto our tongues. As we become like a little child and are fools for Jesus Christ making baby-like sounds and continuing to have our heart directed towards God, the Holy Spirit will come upon our tongue and will give us the gift of a new language.

14. SHOULD I EXPECT TO SPEAK IN TONGUES IMMEDIATELY?

Yes, you should expect to speak in tongues immediately because this is a gift from God. However many people through shyness or other reasons do not instantly receive the gift. It is therefore good to go away on your own and wait upon the Lord following the directions set out above. As you do so you will find that God will give you a beautiful language. At first it may not sound very good to your ears but do not worry about that.

15. PRACTISING THE GIFT

It is vital that you continue to practise the gift each day until you become fluent with your new language. Satan will try to tell you that it is your mind which is leading you or alternatively that you have not received the gift. Remember that he is a liar and a cheat. Continue to trust the Lord. Soon you will find that this river of life will flow out of your innermost being and you will become very fluent in your new language. When you do not know how to pray through your mind you will now be able to pray directly to God in the spirit. No longer will your prayers be limited to the thoughts that cross your natural mind. As you pray in tongues with the help of the Holy Spirit you will be able to pray to God in a much wider dimension.

16. DO I NEED HANDS LAID UPON ME TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Not necessarily. Many have received this experience simply by praying in their own bedrooms or elsewhere. Some have just received it as a sovereign gift from God. However, most people need encouragement from others and it is therefore good for other believers to lay hands upon you to receive this gift. Whenever hands are laid upon you by others we should plead the blood of Jesus Christ to ensure that no oppression passes between us.

17. CAN I BE PRAYED FOR MORE THAN ONCE?

Yes. As long as we have a believing heart and are acting in faith there is no reason why we cannot be prayed for several times if we do not receive the full gift of tongues the first time. However we must always be acting in faith for whatever is not from faith is from sin.

"But he who doubts is condemned if he eats, because he does not eat from faith; for whatever is not from faith is sin." (Romans 14:23).

We should expect to receive and believe we have received and act upon that belief.

18. REPEATING WORDS

Sometimes believers seeking the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues listen to the first words which they say and then keep repeating them. After a while they say the same thing over and over again. If we do this, we should stop and begin forming new words with our mouth and allowing the Holy Spirit to anoint them and turn them into an unknown language.

19. IS THERE SUCH A THING AS A DEMONIC TONGUE?

Yes; Satan hates to see believers receive the Holy Spirit tongue. Sometimes he will counterfeit by trying to bring a spirit other than the Holy Spirit onto our tongue. This only happens very occasionally and we should not be afraid that it will happen to us because God is greater than any power that Satan can offer. The symptoms of this happening is that the person appears to be speaking without any real control and seems to go into a hypnotic-like state. If that happens we should immediately stop the person from speaking and start praying again for a fresh baptism of the Holy Spirit until the person has total control of their tongue and speaks out with the help of the Holy Spirit. They may need to do this several times before the demon power gives up and leaves.

20. DO I NEED TO BE BAPTISED IN WATER BEFORE I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Not necessarily, although the baptism in water should follow acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour. God can baptise us with the Holy Spirit immediately when we come to salvation.

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word.

And those of circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God."
(Acts 10:44-46).

21. DO ALL BELIEVERS SPEAK IN TONGUES?

No. There are many sincere Bible-believing Christians who do not speak in tongues and they are on their way to heaven. We must remember that the gift of tongues is a gift and not all believers want to receive this gift. This may be due to a variety of reasons including their church doctrines etc. Those who do decide to receive this gift from the Lord should at all times maintain a loving, caring attitude towards all other believers. The fact that we have received the gift of tongues does not make us better than other people. Remember God will not judge us by the gifts he has given us but by the fruit of the Holy Spirit in our lives i.e. love joy peace long-suffering gentleness goodness faith meekness and temperance.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long- suffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self- control. Against such there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

From my experience I have concluded that those who desire and seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues with all their heart always receive this gift when they are properly counselled. I have also concluded from my own personal experience that when people come into this experience of the gift of tongues that a release occurs in their spirit towards God and a greater openness occurs in their relationship with the Lord.

SUMMARY

At all times we must love and obey God and Jesus Christ and love one another. God offers us spiritual gifts. From my own personal experience I believe we should seek them diligently. Paul says "Pursue love and desire spiritual gifts".

"Pursue love, and desire spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy." (1 Corinthians 14:1).

MY TESTIMONY

When I was baptised with the Holy Spirit and received the gift of tongues, my wife and four children came into the same experience at the same time. Our marriage was immediately healed as were my relationships with my children.

The Holy Spirit immediately impressed upon my wife and myself the need to start a prayer meeting in our home. Over a period of 8 years the numbers grew each week until several hundred were attending. Over those years many thousands were saved, healed and baptised with the Holy Spirit. For many years I have ministered in upwards of 100 meetings a year and held many crusades in numerous countries. I could not have done this without the power of the Holy Spirit in my life and especially the baptism with the Holy Spirit. My prayer life has been totally changed as I have been able to pray to God past my natural mind with the help of the Holy Spirit.

I know that I would never have had the ministry which the Lord has given me without the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues.