

## The Gift of the Holy Spirit

### Who is the Holy Spirit?

#### John 14:15-17

*“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be with you.”*

#### John 16:7-14

*But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me; in regard to righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and in regard to judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned. I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will bring glory to me [Jesus] by taking from what is mine and making it known to you.*

### Is it scriptural to ask the Father for the Holy Spirit?

#### Luke 11:9-13

*“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

### Can I personally have the Holy Spirit?

#### Acts 2:38-39

*Peter replied, “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.”*

### Didn't I receive the Holy Spirit when I received Christ Jesus as Savior?

#### 1 Corinthians 6:17

*But he who unites himself with the Lord is one with him in spirit.*

#### John 3:5-8

*Jesus answered, “I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”*

## **But there is another encounter that is distinct from conversion and from water baptism: baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

### **John 20:21-22**

*Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

### **Acts 8:14-17**

*When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

### **Acts 19:2-6**

*...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." So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. 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." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*

## **Why exactly do we need the baptism of the Holy Spirit?**

### **Acts 1:8**

*But 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."*

### **Luke 24:49b**

*Stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.*

### **1 Corinthians 2:4-5 (Paul's words)**

*My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power.*

### **1 Corinthians 4:20**

*For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.*

### **2 Timothy 1:7-8a**

*For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline. So do not be ashamed to testify about our Lord.*

## **What happens when believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit?**

### **Acts 2:11-12 (both Jews and converts to Judaism);**

*Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!" Amazed and perplexed, they asked one another, "What does this mean?"*

### **Acts 10:46**

*For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.*

## After I ask for the Holy Spirit, what then? Do I have him forever or does he go away?

### 1 John 2:20, 27

*But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit—just as it has taught you, remain in him.*

### Ephesians 5:18 -20

*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

### 1 Thessalonians 5:19, 21

*Do not put out the Spirit's fire. Test everything. Hold on to the good.*

## What if I'm afraid I'll receive something false or even evil?

### Matthew 24:24

*For false christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect if that were possible.*

### 1 John 4:1-3a

*Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God.*

### 1 Corinthians 12:3

*Therefore I tell you that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God, says "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit.*

## How can I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

### Luke 11:9-10, 13

*"So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"*

There are a number of ways you can receive the baptism. You can pray the "Prayer to Receive" printed at the end of this teaching. You can ask God to be filled with the Holy Spirit and have other believers lay hands on you and pray for you. You can ask God on your own to fill you with his Holy Spirit.

**Along with the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes another gift: a heavenly language, a language from the Holy Spirit to use to pray and praise the Lord.**

**Acts 2:32-33**

*God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.*

**Does speaking in tongues make any sense to the human mind?****1 Corinthians 14:2**

*For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.*

**What is the purpose of speaking in tongues?**+ **Edification of the believer****1 Corinthians 14:4a**

*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself.*

+ **Intercession and ministry to others****Romans 8:26**

*In the same way, 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.*

+ **Effectiveness in spiritual warfare prayer****Ephesians 6:18a**

*And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.*

+ **Worship and praise to God****Acts 2:11b**

*“We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!”*

+ **Reminder of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling presence****2 Corinthians 1:21b, 22**

*He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.*

+ **Praying the exact will of God without error or confusion****Romans 8:27**

*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.*

\*This ability to speak and pray in heavenly languages does not serve the same purpose as the gift of tongues given to certain individuals. It is distinct from the use of the gift of tongues in the church gathering.

**1 Corinthians 12:28**

*And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.*

**1 Corinthians 12:7**

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*

**1 Corinthians 12:10**

*to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.*

**PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT:**

*Dear Heavenly Father, Thank you for the promise of the Holy Spirit.*

*I declare that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior and ask you to baptize me with the Holy Spirit.*

*I receive your Holy Spirit and power for witnessing right now.*

*Thank you for this most precious gift.*

*Thank you also for the gift of being able to pray in the Spirit in heavenly languages.*

*I will open my mouth and speak forth in new tongues to your praise and glory from this moment on.*

*In Jesus' precious name, AMEN*