

# BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

**Bible Passage:** Joel 2:28-30, Acts 2:1-21, 36-41, Luke 24:49, John 7:37-39

**Memory Verse:** He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water – John 7:38

## Introduction

Baptism of the Holy Spirit describes a supernatural immersion which a believer experiences after salvation. In comparison with the water baptism, Jesus is the baptizer (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33) and the Holy Spirit is the river. Other connected words include Holy Ghost, Pentecost, Charismatic and Speaking in tongues. Although, the Holy Spirit comes into a believer at salvation (Romans 8:16, 1Cor 12:13), the full manifestation (flow out) and profiting is further experienced after baptism - which is initiated by the evidence of speaking in tongues. Some scriptures describe it as being `filled with the Holy Spirit` (Acts 2:4, 4:31, 9:17-18). The disciple were already saved, yet Jesus `breathed on them to receive the Holy Spirit` (John 20:22). Then, later in Acts 1:4-5, "And 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 shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now".

## Why do we need Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a promise from the father and Jesus said that all believers need Him (Acts 1:4-5). When a believer is baptized in the Holy Spirit, he receives divine endowment (power) from above to preach the gospel with boldness (Acts 4:31), live a purer life and have a deeper devotion to God. Additionally, it results in a renewed dedication and appreciation for God, the ability to live a more victorious Christian life, a fervent prayer life, a stronger insatiable desire to read the Bible and fellowship with other believers and a gateway to manifestation of spiritual gifts.

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

Baptism of the Holy Spirit is received by willingly and genuinely taking the following steps –

- a. Believe that God is willing to baptize you. It is a gift from God (Acts 1:4b) and can only be received by faith.
- b. Commitment to live holy, by the grace of God.
- c. Ask Jesus to baptize you.
- d. Release yourself completely into the river of God's Spirit (like in baptism). Don't try to rationalize or make meaning or sense out of the experience.
- e. Receive the Holy Spirit.
- f. Release your tongue and the Holy Spirit to take over, as you speak. (Acts 2:4)

## More benefits of Holy Spirit baptism

With this gift, God will become much more active in your daily life and will start to supernaturally show Himself to you in a several variety of ways, as you speak in tongues. This gift is a major door opener to a better walk with the Lord and enjoying the wonder of His miracles.

## Scriptural Reading Assignment

Acts 1-2, Joel 2, Romans 8