

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: LESSON 3

PRACTICAL ASPECTS OF SPIRIT BAPTISM: (continued)

Holy Living. The designation of God's Spirit is Holy, and if we truly are immersed in Him, it leads to a holy life. The more time we spend in God's presence, the more of His presence remains with us. It's like being in a room full of sweet-smelling fragrance. The longer we remain the more of the perfume permeates our clothing, our skin and even our hair (if we have any, that is)!

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, if it really happens, does not simply result in spiritual gifts, it results in spiritual fruit – fruit of the Spirit ([Gal. 5:22-23](#))

As you continue being filled with the Spirit, you grow in your walk in Christ, you grow in holiness. Learn to see the link between being continually filled with the Spirit and its consequences in the believer's life—a joyful spirit, ministry to others, thanksgiving, mutual submission, honoring others, mutual respect, unity.

Power for Witnessing. In Acts, Jesus tells the disciples “[you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses](#)” ([Acts 1:8](#)). This was the first thing the disciples did after they were baptized in the Holy Spirit – they preached the Gospel. (the word “and” in the original Greek is also translated “so that”: “[you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; \[SO THAT\] you will be my witnesses](#)” ([Acts 1:8](#)). This is one of the primary jobs of the Holy Spirit – to empower us to be witnesses. A burning desire to seek and save the lost with boldness is evidence of having been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This was the first thing the disciples did on the day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit will guide you into all truth and will empower you to speak truth to others. “[However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.](#)” ([John 16:13-14](#))

Encouragement for Those Not Yet Baptized:

The Scriptures do not give a formula, but the following considerations will be helpful:

All Believers Are Candidates. Joel predicted that the Lord would pour out His Spirit upon all His people ([Joel 2:28–29](#)). Old and young, male and female, servants - no distinction as to age, gender, or social status - are included in the promise. Peter underscored this theme in his Pentecost speech when he quoted the Joel passage and then declared that the promised gift of the Spirit was “[for you and your children and for all who are far off](#)” ([verses 38,39](#)). IT IS FOR EVERY BELIEVER WHO WANTS IT!

The Spirit Already Indwells All Believers. It is important to stress that the Holy Spirit is not external to a believer not yet baptized in the Spirit. Spirit-baptism is an overwhelming experience of the already indwelling Spirit. You don't have to go search for Him.

Baptism in the Spirit Is a Gift. By definition, a gift is not earned. It is possible for a sincere seeker to be so preoccupied with a sense of personal unworthiness that the Spirit cannot flow freely through that person.

God Will Not Permit Sincere Seekers to Have a Counterfeit Experience. Some are fearful that their “speaking in tongues” will be either self-generated or that it will be prompted by Satan. Such

people need to be assured of Jesus' words in [Luke 11:13](#), "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!" The context says even an earthly father will not permit a requested fish to be substituted by a snake or an egg to be substituted by a scorpion ([Luke 11:11–13](#)).

Be Open and Expect To Receive. The seeker must be willing to do whatever the Lord prompts them to do. The seeker must cooperate with the Holy Spirit and give vocal expression to an inner prompting to utter unfamiliar sounds. Don't be afraid to look like a fool. The experience of the disciples on the Day of Pentecost is instructive; they spoke in tongues "[as the Spirit was giving them utterance](#)" ([Acts 2:4](#)). And people made fun of them and accused them of being drunk. Important to note that the Holy Spirit does not possess people – He will not take you over like a puppet and move your mouth to speak for you. He prompts, but you are the one who does the speaking.

Another barrier: You maybe secretly content with your life as it is. You know that filling or even refilling with the Holy Spirit has a cost – it will cause to change, and you may be afraid of it. What if you're filled with the Holy Spirit, and He tells you to quit your nice and comfortable job? Or to sell everything you own and move to Saudi Arabia to preach the Gospel. Beware of that!

We're not filled with the Holy Spirit to keep the life we've had before. It's not just another spiritual accessory in your life. Filling with the Holy Spirit – a true Filling - ALWAYS results in a drastic change. The power of the Holy Spirit can't be hidden any more than a dynamite explosion can go unnoticed. Everyone in the vicinity will know that something has happened to you.

Obedience is the prerequisite to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: "[And we are His witnesses to these things, and so also is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey Him.](#)" [Acts 5:32](#)

Are you prepared to be obedient to His voice when He fills you, or are you content to keep living the way you're living? This can be a major barrier.

Prayer and Praise Often Lead into the Experience. Jesus' teaching on the Father's disposition to give the Holy Spirit to those that ask Him ([Luke 11:13](#)) follows an extended passage on prayer ([vs 1–12](#)) in which He elaborates on persistence. The Greek verbs for "[ask](#)," "[seek](#)," and "[knock](#)" are in the Greek continuous present tense, suggesting the thought of "[keep asking, keep seeking, keep knocking](#)." This should be distinguished from begging in desperation and frustration; it is persistence in anticipation of a gift. Prior to the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were "[all joined together constantly in prayer](#)" ([Acts 1:14](#)).

Petition should be combined with praise. The Upper Room praying was complemented by the disciples staying "[continually at the temple, praising God](#)" ([Luke 24:53](#)). Spirit baptism seekers should be engaged in praise as well as in petition, since praising God in your own language often facilitates the transition to praising Him in tongues. Like floodgates open up!

Do not be discouraged or get under self-condemnation if the infilling of the Spirit does not take place when you expect. D.L Moody said, "I believe firmly that the moment our hearts are emptied of pride and selfishness and ambition and **everything that is contrary to God's law**, the Holy Spirit will fill every corner of our hearts. But if we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. We must be emptied before we can be filled."