

06 | Power

Holy Spirit baptism



Introduction

The purpose of this study is to give Biblically sound, but easy-to-understand teaching on Holy Spirit Baptism, and also to give you a desire to step out of the boat and experience all God wants to give you.

What is Holy Spirit baptism?

The word 'Baptize' comes from the Greek word 'Baptizo' which means 'to immerse'. Being baptised in the Holy Spirit therefore means to be submerged, overwhelmed, a saturation of spirit, soul, and body with the Holy Spirit. Desiring Holy Spirit Baptism is when we willingly desire that the Holy Spirit permeates and influences our life... not parts of it, but all of it.

The Bible uses interchangeable terms to describe the same experience. Being baptised in/with the Holy Spirit, being filled with the Holy Spirit, receiving the Holy Spirit, are all different ways of saying the same thing.

The purpose

Living a victorious Christian life without the power of the Holy Spirit is very difficult indeed. I believe it was never designed to be lived without the empowerment and enablement of our Helper, the Holy Spirit.

We desperately need the Holy Spirit's ever-present power at work within us transforming, renewing, healing, encouraging, convicting, purifying, liberating, equipping, empowering our lives so we can be the world-changing disciples God purposed us to be! The simple truth is that by being filled with the Holy Spirit, we are given the opportunity to live exciting, effective, victorious, supernatural Christian lives. Who wouldn't be keen for that?

The promise

⁴⁹"And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven." Luke 24:49 (NLT)

⁴In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. ⁵John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Acts 1:4-5 (NLT)

¹⁵"If you love me, obey my commandments. ¹⁶And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, who will never leave you. ¹⁷He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world at large cannot receive him, because it isn't looking for him and doesn't recognize him. But you do, because he lives with you now and later will be in you. John 14:15-17 (NLT)

"...lives with you now and later will be in you"

When we are born-again the Holy Spirit lives with us (as the above verse shows). One of His names is Counsellor which literally means 'to come along side'. When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit, He is no longer just with us, but He inhabits us, and our body becomes His temple.

Biblical accounts

- **Holy Spirit baptism promised in the Old Testament:**

³For I will give you abundant water to quench your thirst and to moisten your parched fields. And I will pour out my Spirit and my blessings on your children. Isaiah 44:3 (NLT)

²⁸“Then after I have poured out my rains again, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions. ²⁹In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants, men and women alike.
Joel 2:28-29 (NLT)

- **Holy Spirit baptism promised by Jesus:**

⁴⁹“*And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven.*” **Luke 24:49 (NLT)**

⁴In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. ⁵John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” **Acts 1:4-5 (NLT)**

- **The first account of Holy Spirit baptism:**

¹On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus’ resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place. ²Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were meeting. ³Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. ⁴And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. ⁵Godly Jews from many nations were living in Jerusalem at that time. ⁶When they heard this sound, they came running to see what it was all about, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. ⁷They were beside themselves with wonder. “How can this be?” they exclaimed. “These people are all from Galilee, ⁸and yet we hear them speaking the languages of the lands where we were born!
Acts 2:1-8 (NLT)

- **Other occurrences of Holy Spirit baptism:**

⁴⁴Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who had heard the message. ⁴⁵The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles, too. ⁴⁶And there could be no doubt about it, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. **Acts 10:44-46a (NLT)**

¹While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior provinces. Finally, he came to Ephesus, where he found several believers. ²“Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them.

“No,” they replied, “we don’t know what you mean. We haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.”

³“Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked.

And they replied, “The baptism of John.”

⁴Paul said, “John’s baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin and turn to God. John himself told the people to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later.”

⁵As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all. **Acts 19:1-6 (NLT)**

Power

⁶When the apostles were with Jesus, they kept asking him, “Lord, are you going to free Israel now and restore our kingdom?”

⁷“*The Father sets those dates,*” he replied, “*and they are not for you to know.*” ⁸*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*”

⁹It was not long after he said this that he was taken up into the sky while they were watching, and he disappeared into a cloud. ¹⁰As they were straining their eyes to see him, two white-robed men suddenly stood there among them. ¹¹They said, “Men of Galilee, why are you standing here staring at the sky? Jesus has been taken away from you into heaven. And someday, just as you saw him go, he will return!” **Acts 1:6-11 (NLT)**

The word 'power' mentioned in verse 8 comes from the Greek word 'Dunamis' which translated literally means several things...

- **Power residing in a thing**

When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, He resides in us... power residing in us.

¹⁹*Or don't you know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit, who lives in you and was given to you by God? You do not belong to yourself, ²⁰for God bought you with a high price. So you must honor God with your body. **1 Corinthians 6:19-20 (NLT)***

³⁰*And do not bring sorrow to God's Holy Spirit by the way you live. Remember, he is the one who has identified you as his own, guaranteeing that you will be saved on the day of redemption. **Ephesians 4:30 (NLT)***

- **Power for performing miracles**

¹⁵*And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. ¹⁶Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. ¹⁷These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak new languages. ¹⁸They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them." **Mark 16:15-18 (NLT)***

¹²*"The truth is, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works, because I am going to be with the Father. ¹³You can ask for anything in my name, and I will do it, because the work of the Son brings glory to the Father. ¹⁴Yes, ask anything in my name, and I will do it! **John 14:12-14 (NLT)***

- **Moral power and excellence of soul**

⁸*No, O people, the LORD has already told you what is good, and this is what he requires: to do what is right, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God. **Micah 6:8 (NLT)***

We will most often fail if we attempt to live of purity, integrity and moral excellence in our own strength. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to live holy lives almost as a by-product.

- **Power consisting in or resting upon armies, forces, hosts**

As mentioned before, the Greek word translated 'power' in Acts 1:8 is 'Dunamis'. The words 'dynamic', 'dynamo' and 'dynamite' originated from this word. When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit, the power that raised Jesus from the dead is in us. Worth thinking about.

Satan's counterfeit

Satan always provides counterfeit imitations for all God gifts. Twisted, enslaving, cheap and nasty forgeries of the real thing. The Bible uses being intoxicated by alcohol as an example...

¹⁸*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)***

A person who is drunk... acts differently, talks differently, thinks differently, and feels differently. Alcohol's control results in *impaired* judgement.

A person who is filled with the Holy Spirit... acts differently, talks differently, thinks differently, and feels differently. The Spirit's control results in *improved* judgement.

One-time occurrence?

¹⁸*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. **Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)***

The original translation of the second half of this verse is: “Instead be continually be filled with the Holy Spirit”, which means Holy Spirit Baptism is definitely not just a one-time event but a continuous reoccurrence!

Imagine carrying a glass of water (filled to the brim) with you all day. Imagine playing sport, accidentally bumping into someone at the supermarket, doing the vacuuming etc. Imagine there are also a couple of cracks in the glass. And on top of all that imagine giving thirsty people a sip of your water. At the end of the day I very much doubt you will have a drop of water left in your glass.

It's the same with the Holy Spirit. Living in this fallen world we are naturally going to get knocked around spiritually. After all, we only have the world, the flesh, and the devil against us! Then, as we are Jesus' hand and feet to the world we will naturally give out to others in everyday life (you can't give what you haven't got). It is easy to see that regular, ongoing filling of the Holy Spirit is essential.

All filled

Holy Spirit baptism is a gift from God to all believers everywhere! The experience is for every single person who has believed in their heart and confessed with their mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord.

*³¹After this prayer, the meeting place shook, and they were **all filled** with the Holy Spirit. Then they preached the word of God with boldness. **Acts 4:31 (NLT)***

Evidences

When a person is baptised in the Holy Spirit there is always genuine proof that something supernatural has happened (as seen in the various Biblical accounts). The major evidences of Holy Spirit baptism are...

1. Tongues

The one major evidence of Holy Spirit baptism is being able to speak in tongues, an unlearned language.

2. Holiness

The Holy Spirit isn't called 'Holy' for nothing. When we are filled with Him, a natural result will be a turning away of things that grieve Him and a hunger for the things that please Him.

3. Enthusiasm

The word 'enthusiasm' comes from the Greek words 'en Theos' which means 'God within'. If the Holy Spirit is dwelling in us, we will be enthusiastic people!

4. Boldness

Holy Spirit saturated people have a boldness about them that is definitely not of their own making. Peter for example, at Jesus' arrest, was terrified and ended up denying Him three times. But after being Holy Spirit baptised we see a very different Peter.

*¹³The members of the council were amazed when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, for they could see that they were ordinary men who had had no special training. They also recognized them as men who had been with Jesus. **Acts 4:13 (NLT)***

5. A supernatural life

The Christian life is the greatest adventure if lived surrendered to God. What good can comic-book superheroes do? The world needs men and women empowered by the greatest superhero, and displaying His power!

6. Holy Spirit fruit

Genuine, ongoing Holy Spirit Baptism will result in a transformed life characterized by love for others, moral excellence, godly character etc.

²²But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, and self-control. **Galatians 5:22-23a (NLT)**

Speaking in tongues

¹⁴For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don't understand what I am saying. ¹⁵Well then, what shall I do? I will do both. I will pray in the spirit, and I will pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will sing in words I understand. **1 Corinthians 14:14-15 (NLT)**

Speaking in tongues is a form of prayer in which our spirit is communicating directly with God. It is speaking in another language that you have never learned. The languages of tongues vary hugely and can either be a heavenly language or an earthly one (tongues of men and of angels – 1 Corinthians 13:1).

Public and personal

There are two different kinds of tongues. One is for personal use, and is an evidence of being Holy Spirit baptised. The other, is called the 'gift' of tongues, and is a sign to unbelievers in public meetings that God is among them, and must be interpreted (this is covered in another study).

Benefits

The benefits of speaking in tongues are many and significant.

1. Personal edification/encouragement

⁴A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally in the Lord, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church. **1 Corinthians 14:4 (NLT)**

Speaking in tongues is for personal edification. Meaning when we regularly speak in tongues, we build up our Spirit and become stronger Christians! It's an awesome blessing, and it's a shame that many Christians shy away from it.

2. When words can't express

When we are overwhelmed with God in worship, sometimes our own language just can't express our worship to God.

3. Brings God's anointing

When God's people corporately speak in tongues in prayer, praise and worship it attracts the tangible presence of God.

4. Spiritual warfare

Demonic influences will often flee when people speak in tongues.

5. Intercession

Sometimes we have a burden to pray but don't know how or what to pray. At these times speaking in tongues is very powerful as our spirit knows what to pray, even when our brain doesn't.

²⁶And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. ²⁷And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will. **Romans 8:26-27 (NLT)**

Reasons why people don't speak in tongues

There are several reasons why many Christians haven't experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the accompanying ability of speaking in tongues...

1. Fear

Many people are genuinely frightened of HS baptism/tongues because it is wrongfully portrayed as something bizarre. Also, it is human nature to be afraid of what we don't understand or feel uncomfortable about.

2. Wrong teaching

Christians who have received wrong teaching on Holy Spirit baptism and speaking in tongues put up walls in their life that they become prisoners in. The most common lies which are taught by some churches are...

- Speaking in tongues is demonic.
- Speaking in tongues is only for some Christians, not all.
- Holy Spirit Baptism happens when one is born again.

All are erroneous as this study has hopefully shown.

3. Inadequate explanation

Many people never experience Holy Spirit baptism and speaking in tongues, because they are not given adequate instructions about how to receive these freely from God.

4. Unbelief

Remember that unbelief stopped an entire generation of Israelites entering into the Promised Land that God had given them. They died in the wilderness. Unbelief stops so many people entering into the promises that God has for them, including Holy Spirit baptism.

5. Sin

Sin separates us from God and it will be a major hindrance in experiencing speaking in tongues.

¹⁸If I had not confessed the sin in my heart, my Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹But God did listen! He paid attention to my prayer. Psalm 66:18 (NLT)

6. Lack of persistence

Many people give up on desiring to speak in tongues because they have been prayed for many times before but it hasn't come. Sometimes we must be persistent.

7. Demonic influence

If there are demonic squatters in a person's life, they will fight bitterly to hinder a person being Holy Spirit baptised and speaking in tongues. If you were a demon, would you enjoy sharing lodgings with the Holy Spirit?

Are you ready?

Below are some simple guidelines to follow if you are keen to be saturated in the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues.

1. Spend time in God's presence

Praise and worship brings the presence of God.

2. Get right with God

Repentance is vital when praying for Holy Spirit baptism. Unrepentant sin, unforgiveness, and dishonouring parents are three major hindrances to receiving Holy Spirit baptism and spiritual gifts from God.

Spend time in prayer, asking God to show you any areas of sin in your life, confess those sins, repent and ask forgiveness from God.

3. Ask Jesus to baptise you with the Holy Spirit

Jesus is the One who baptises in the Holy Spirit, and He delights in answering the prayers of His children!

¹¹*"[John the Baptist] baptize with water those who turn from their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is far greater than I am—so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. He [Jesus Christ] will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.* **Matthew 3:11 (NLT)**

³²*"This prophecy was speaking of Jesus, whom God raised from the dead, and we all are witnesses of this. ³³Now he sits on the throne of highest honor in heaven, at God's right hand. And the Father, as he had promised, gave him the Holy Spirit to pour out upon us, just as you see and hear today.* **Acts 2:33 (NLT)**

¹¹*"You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? ¹²Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! ¹³If you sinful people 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 11:11-13 (NLT)**

4. Be hungry

⁶*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.* **Matthew 5:6 (NLT)**

5. Step out in faith

The Holy Spirit is a gentleman and will not force you to do anything. To speak in tongues you must step out in faith and just start speaking! Remember the story of Peter walking on the water towards Jesus? He had to physically get out of the boat before Jesus allowed the miracle to happen.

²⁸*Then Peter called to him, "Lord, if it's really you, tell me to come to you, walking on the water."*

²⁹*"Yes, come," Jesus said.*

So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus.

Matthew 14:28-29 (NLT)

It is the same process with speaking in tongues. Moving the lips and tongue is necessary for any language and tongues is no exception. We must start making sounds in faith and when the Holy Spirit sees our faith He will furnish the words.

To make it a bit easier, you might like to copy another person speaking in tongues, and then step out in faith to trust that God will give you your own language. The Greek word for 'daddy' is 'abba', and sounds quite similar to the sound of some words spoken in tongues. You may prefer to say 'abba' a few times before taking the plunge of faith. Whatever you do, you must realise that it is a step of faith! The Holy Spirit won't make your mouth move for you, but He will shape the words as you speak them.

6. Be persistent

You may not speak in tongues immediately. Please do not listen to Satan's whispers of discouragement. Be persistent and you will!

⁹*"And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. ¹⁰For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.*

Luke 11:9-10 (NLT)

7. Speak clearly and slowly

At first, because of shyness or excitement, people tend either to be really quiet, or really quick with their new language. As you begin to speak, relax a little and learn to speak clearly and slowly. Don't be ashamed of this amazing new ability!

8. Ask God for more vocabulary

As a child learns to speak new words as they grow, we too can receive more words that we can use when speaking in tongues. Be bold and ask God for more!

9. Pray in tongues everyday

To be effective, overcoming Christians, it is essential to speak in tongues everyday. We are strengthened spiritually as we speak in tongues.

Conclusion

This is just a brief study on the subject of Holy Spirit baptism, but I hope that it has been helpful. Living the Christian life is the greatest adventure we can live, and being Holy Spirit baptised is another experience in this amazing journey with God. Keep going! There is so much more to experience and discover.

How much of the Holy Spirit do you have? How much of you does the Holy Spirit have?

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Symon lives in Whangarei, New Zealand with his wife and four children. He serves on the pastoral staff of Christian Renewal Fellowship and has been in fulltime ministry since 1998. For further studies visit www.renewalyouth.org or Symon's blog at www.symondrake.com.