

HAVE YOU BEEN BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is the initial empowering with the Holy Spirit. The word of God uses other terms to describe it, such as: *"clothed with power," "filled with the Holy Spirit," "receiving the Holy Spirit,"* etc. Whatever the term, it describes an experience of empowering with the Holy Spirit that was a common occurrence among New Testament believers and considered needful in the work of God's kingdom. There is as much biblical evidence for the baptism with the Holy Spirit as there is for the conversion experience of being born again. You and I need this same Holy Spirit power to come *"upon" us, today!* Have you been baptized with Holy Spirit?

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

There may be many ideas as to how to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, but there is one overwhelming scriptural qualification, that of being spiritually thirsty for God's power in order to serve Him. There must be an openness and a desire on the part of the believer, seeking the power of the Holy Spirit that God has made available to them. Do you have an openness and a desire to seek for the power that God has made available to you? If you do, here are some of the steps you should consider: 1) surrender yourself to God and forsake all sin; 2) pray and ask Jesus to baptize you with His Holy Spirit; 3) by faith, receive what the *"Father has promised"*; and 4) be available to God's Spirit to give you the evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

THE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Often, the evidence becomes the focus for many believers seeking the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It is natural for people seeking this experience to look for evidences of God's power in their life. In the early church, the experience of speaking in tongues was the most common evidence. (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6) Because speaking in tongues is often misunderstood, unnatural to

our experience, and uncomfortable to attempt, many believers withdraw from seeking the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Though speaking in tongues was a common evidence, it is important to remember that "power" to serve God is the key evidence. Also, it is important to recognize that God has given supernatural gifts as *"power-tools"* to be used to build His kingdom. Speaking in tongues is one of those gifts and the Apostle Paul teaches that it is a gift available for all who are Spirit-filled believers. It is a gift to be used to build us up spiritually, as a special prayer language to God, for praising God, and as a sign to unbelievers. Focus your attention on receiving God's power by faith and pray for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Ask other Spirit-filled believers to pray with you and expect God to give you evidence of the power of His Holy Spirit. He will!

AN INVITATION

Do you thirst for God's Holy Spirit power in your life? If you do pray that Jesus will baptize you with the Holy Spirit. Expect God's power to come upon you that you might serve Him and His church with supernatural power. Make yourself available to the Holy Spirit to give you a prayer language (speaking in tongues) and other spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12) as evidence of that power.

And, *"You shall receive power..."*

But You

Shall Receive

Power...

KNOW THE TRUTH



"...AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU FREE."

Pastor Lynn Kern

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

POWER FOR YOUR LIFE

There is power needed to be a witness for Christ. There is power needed to be an effective member of God's family. There is power needed to live victoriously over sin and the devil. Since the Christian life is a supernatural life, it requires supernatural power to live it successfully. Are you experiencing the supernatural power of God to live your Christian life, successfully?

YOU NEED HOLY SPIRIT POWER

Before Jesus sent His disciples into all the world to proclaim God's good news and establish the church, He told them to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out this great task. Today, the need for God's power through the Holy Spirit is as great as ever. If you are going to participate in God's work, God's way, you will need that same power in your life.

THE POWER OF JESUS

The life and ministry of Jesus is an example for us. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and had the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in Him from the beginning of His earthly life. Later, as He began His earthly ministry, He was baptized by John in the river Jordan. It was during that baptism that *"...heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in bodily form like a dove, and a voice came out of heaven, 'Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.'*" (Luke 3:21-22) This was not only the beginning of His public ministry, but it also marked the beginning of His supernatural power to heal, deliver, perform miracles, and speak God's message with great effectiveness. Jesus was empowered by the Holy Spirit *"...descending upon Him."* He later refers back to that empowering experience: *"...the Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the*

poor. He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are down-trodden." (Luke 4:18) If Jesus needed the power of the Holy Spirit, so do you.

THE POWER OF THE DISCIPLES

(The Holy Spirit "With" Them)

The life and ministry of the disciples is also an example for us. During the three and a half years they followed Jesus, they had the presence of the Holy Spirit *"with"* them. Jesus, speaking of the Holy Spirit, said, *"...that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you."* (John 14:17) Earlier in His ministry, Jesus spoke of the Holy Spirit and told them when they would receive the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit: *"But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified."* (John 7:39)

(The Holy Spirit "In" Them)

After Jesus had died and rose again, being glorified, He appears to the disciples for the second time and *"...breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'*" (John 20:22) Here, in fulfillment of His promise, they receive the presence of the Holy Spirit *"in"* them. They now have the Holy Spirit, the Helper to teach them the things of God and lead them in their life. When you became a Christian, the Holy Spirit came into your life and your human spirit became alive to God and the ways of God. You were "born again" and the Holy Spirit began a work of change in your life.

(The Holy Spirit "Upon" Them)

However, Jesus told the disciples to wait for the Father's promise of power in order to successfully live the Christian life and be an effective witness for Jesus. *"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of the Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed*

with power from on high" (Luke 24:49) They needed the power of the Holy Spirit He had in His ministry. That brings us back to Acts 1:8: *"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..."* Notice in these two statements of Jesus, He speaks of the Holy Spirit coming *"upon"* them with power. This was a separate experience that they were to have in order to receive the empowering of the Holy Spirit.

THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

This separate, empowering with the Holy Spirit, has been called the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus used this phrase in Acts 1:5: *"...for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."* From John the Baptist's statement in Luke 3:16, we know that Jesus is the One Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit. The term *"baptize"* with the Holy Spirit means to cover with, anoint, fill, or immerse in the power of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost, the disciples were *"...filled with the Holy Spirit,"* and began to experience the supernatural power of God's Spirit to enable them to take God's message to the world.

RESULTS OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Throughout the book of Acts, in the history of the early church, we see the results of this necessary and powerful experience. It gave the believers boldness and courage to be a witness to their faith in Christ. (Acts 4:31) Peter is a great example of what the power of the Holy Spirit can do. See (Acts 2:14-41) It was considered to be so important to the leaders of the early church, that they sent Peter and John to pray for the Samaritans who had just been converted to Christ. (Acts 8:12-17) The Apostle Paul was converted on the road to Damascus, but he was empowered by the Holy Spirit when Ananias came to pray for him. What a difference it made in his life. (Acts 9:17-22) Other examples include: Gentiles at Cornelius' house (Acts 10:44-48) and the Ephesians believers (Acts 19:1-7).