

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a definite experience, subsequent to salvation, whereby the Third Person of the Godhead comes upon the believer to anoint and energize him for special service. It is also called “the fullness of the Spirit”; Luke 3:16
2. It is also called “the promise of the Father”; Luke 24:49. Jesus told the disciples not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father; Acts 1:4.
3. It is a gift; it is free, it cannot be worked for, merited or deserved in any manner. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a free gift of God’s grace.
4. Receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a command of the Lord. Each believer has a responsibility to obey God’s command to be filled with the Spirit. This requires faith, and yielding in obedience to the Lord; Ephesians 5:18.

The Purpose And Necessity Of The Baptism With The Holy Spirit:

- a. It gives power for effective, godly service; Luke 4:18; Matthew 12:28.
- b. It gives power for spiritual warfare; Ephesians 6:12; 1 John 4:4.
- c. It is an “overflow”, which gives us the ability to fulfill the Great Commission; Matthew 10:1; Ephesians 3:20.
- d. It causes your enemies to become your footstool; Acts 2:35; Hebrews 2:8; Ps. 91:13.

What Are The Conditions For Obtaining The Baptism With The Holy Spirit?

1. Understanding our desperate need for God’s mercy and repentance from sin is the first step. The New Birth follows true repentance. The Holy Spirit does not inhabit an unrepentant vessel; see Acts 2:37-38; 17:30.
2. Regeneration. There must be a definite, positive experience of salvation, an encounter with the Lord. One must be in the family of God, before he can receive a gift that the Father offers only to His sons; Luke 11:13; Galatians 4:6.
3. Water Baptism is an important step of obedience; we follow the Master’s example, Who was baptized in water by John the Baptist; Luke 3:21-22. Obedience to God indicates true faith; Acts 2:37-38.
4. People can be filled with the Holy Spirit with the laying on of hands, Acts 9:17-18, and through the anointing preaching of God’s Word; Acts 10:44-48.
5. A growing hunger for the Lord and the desire to please Him, will lead to a deep conviction of the need to be filled with the Holy Spirit. There must be within an

individual a real hunger and thirst for more of God, with an expectant attitude of faith; Matthew 5:6; Psalm 42:1-2; Luke 11:10.

6. There must be a measure of consecration, right motives and a surrender of the self-will to the Father's will. The Spirit Who is holy, does not care to operate through unholy channels. Unholy living is a barrier to receiving His fullness; 2 Timothy 2:19-21.

Evidence That A Believer Has Received This Fullness Of The Spirit:

1. A deeper, growing love, for God and for people, and a greater desire to know Him, is born in the heart for God; Ephesians 1:17-23; 1 Corinthians 13:1

2. Speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance; Acts 2:4; 10:44-46; 19:6

3. A greater passion to reach the lost, a burning desire to proclaim the way of salvation; Acts 11:22-24.

4. A greater power to witness; 1 Corinthians 2:4-5.

5. A greater desire for, and a new power in prayer; Romans 8:26.

6. A deeper love for, and a richer insight into the Word of God; John 16:3

7. The manifestations of the various Gifts of the Spirit; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11.

A. The greatest promise TO THE WORLD is found in John 3:16 "...that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE". The gift of eternal life was offered once and for all at Calvary.

B. The greatest promise TO THE CHURCH is found in Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive POWER after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you".

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