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## How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, spiritual death is taken from you and you become a new creature in Christ. And without the Holy Spirit, your new birth wouldn't be possible. But even after you become a new creation, God's desire and plan is that you receive the *Baptism* in the Holy Spirit.

Your Baptism in the Holy Spirit is received by faith. Jesus said in Luke 11:13, "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" When you ask in faith, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you.

The Holy Spirit is received in the same way any other gift from your heavenly Father is received—by faith. Just as one by faith says "I receive salvation" or "I receive my healing" not by feelings but by faith according to God's Word, one receives the Holy Spirit by saying, "I am filled with the Spirit of God."

Your heavenly Father will give you the Holy Ghost if you ask Him. As with any act of faith, don't wait until there is a feeling or outward manifestation to declare what God has given you according to His Word. You don't say, "Lord, when You let me talk in tongues, then I will believe your Word" any more than you would say, "Lord, when You heal me, then I will believe Your Word that by Jesus' stripes I was healed."

When you have done what Jesus said and asked your heavenly Father to give the Holy Spirit, then believe that you have received. Tell the Lord, "Because You have declared You freely give me the Holy Spirit if I ask, from this moment on, as far as I am concerned, I am a Spirit-filled believer."

Receiving the Holy Spirit is so important to the believer being equipped to fulfill his purpose and destiny in God. Before He was raised to heaven, Jesus blessed His disciples and then charged them: "And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; *they shall speak with new tongues*; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover" (Mark 16:17-18). In the Bible, when believers received the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in a heavenly language. Acts 2:4 says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." This is still true today. When you accept the Spirit's indwelling, your spirit will immediately have a desire to express itself in praise to God. The Holy Spirit will give utterance through you as you give Him permission.

When you pray in tongues, you are praying in the spirit. You are letting the Holy Spirit pray through your spirit. The *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition* says in 1 Corinthians 14:14, "My spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays...." Just as English is the voice of your mind, your prayer language is the voice of your spirit.

Speaking in tongues is simply speaking in a language that only God understands—even you won't understand it. This happens as the Holy Spirit prays through you about things you may not

*know* about or may not know *how* to pray about (Romans 8:26).

The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Helper. So when you pray in tongues, what actually happens is that the Holy Spirit searches your heart and prays through you the perfect will of God (verse 27). You actually utter the secret truths and hidden things which are not obvious to the understanding of your mind (1 Corinthians 14:2, *Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

To pray in tongues, you need to realize that speaking with an unknown tongue is the voice of your heart. Speaking in a known tongue is the voice of the human mind (unless one of the vocal gifts of the nine gifts of the Spirit is in operation). The Holy Spirit of God will give you utterance, the same as your mind gives you thoughts to speak (Acts 2:4).

To speak in tongues, you must operate with the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:14, “For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive...” (*Amplified Bible, Classic Edition*).

Notice that Paul said it was he who did the speaking. Ask the Holy Spirit to take charge of your tongue, then yield your tongue to His use. You cannot speak in your own language and tongues at the same time, just as you cannot speak with English and French at the same time. When your voice and tongue begin forming syllables around the expression your heart desires to release, you will also speak in tongues. It will be your tongue, your breath, your vocal cords and you will be actively forming words. You will supply the sounds, but the Holy Spirit will supply the words—words unknown to you. It may seem awkward to you at first, but continue. Like a child learning to speak, you will grow.

As you seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, remember, you need not wait to get a word from God about it—you already have His Word. Nor do you need to wait around for the Spirit. The Spirit of God entered His ministry on the Day of Pentecost and He has been here ever since. He has never left!

Furthermore, you need not be concerned over being deceived and ending up with something from the devil. When you ask your heavenly Father for one of His promises, including the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you can be confident the gift given is from God, not Satan. Jesus said: “...how *much more* shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13). So if you desire to receive your Baptism in the Holy Spirit, ask Him now.

*Heavenly Father, I am a believer. I am Your child and You are my Father. Jesus is my Lord. I believe with all my heart that Your Word is true.*

*Your Word says if I will ask, I will receive the Holy Spirit. So in the Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord, I am asking You to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit. Jesus, baptize me in the Holy Spirit.*

*Because of Your Word, I believe that I now receive and I thank You for it. I believe the Holy Spirit is within me and, by faith, I accept it.*

*Now, Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues, as You give me the utterance.*

Now begin giving sound to the expressions in your heart. Speak and hear the Holy Spirit speaking through you.

Rejoice! You’ve just been baptized in the Holy Spirit! You’ve been endued with power—hallelujah!

**Scripture References:** Luke 11:10-13; Acts 2:4; Jude 20; 1 Corinthians 14:4