

“If someone should say it is more important to know about Jesus than to know about the Holy Spirit, we would hasten to agree and to add that we could not know Jesus at all apart from the Holy Spirit. He [the Holy Spirit] is here now to lift up our Lord. And our Lord cannot be truly known, magnified, or worshipped apart from the Spirit. We would not make more of Pentecost than Calvary, nor would we make more of the Holy Spirit than Jesus, but surely it is safe and needful to study the Scriptural revelation of Him, and particularly so since we live in the dispensation of the Holy Spirit.

Don Van Hoozier, High Point Church

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Prayer Study #288

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

All that we have studied so far in this Holy Spirit Studies course is but a foundation for how to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. As I have said many times during the past few years. I believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is essential for the last day's Remnant Company, those believers who will stand no matter how much opposition from the kingdom of darkness and the evil world system which we find ourselves living in. We **MUST** have that *dunamis* power and connection to the Spirit of our Lord if we are to overcome *by the blood of the Lamb and the word of our testimony* AND not *love our lives to the death* (Revelation 12:11). In other words, unless we are empowered by the Spirit we will not have a testimony in this evil day and we will not be willing to die, if need be, for the coming Kingdom's sake, whether this death is soulish in nature (i.e. death to our ambitions, plans, egos, dreams, family expectations, desire for worldly success, etc) or actual physical death.

I am taking the liberty to share verbatim the following writings from High Point Church in Macon, Georgia on this subject because these writings are so rich and so scripturally based:

“As you yield your life and will to the Lord Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit enables you to obey God and produce the fruit of God's nature: “Those who let themselves be controlled by their lower nature live only to please themselves, but those who follow after the Holy Spirit find themselves doing those things that please God” (Romans 8:5). “...when the Holy Spirit controls our lives He will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Galatians 5:22,23).

“How is it possible for you to allow God’s Spirit to empower and fulfill your life in Him? A first step is to be baptized (filled to overflowing) in the Holy Spirit. This means to yield your spirit, will, mind, and body to the Spirit so that you are immersed totally in Him, taking on His power and qualities.

“Just before His ascension in heaven, Jesus commanded His followers to receive this Holy Spirit baptism: *“You shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit in just a few days...when the Holy Spirit has come upon (overshadowed, filled) you, you will receive power to testify about me with great effect”* (Acts 1: 5,8). That same promise and power is available to you today.

HOW YOU CAN BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

“Realize that Jesus is the baptizer in the Holy Spirit: *“but He (Christ) shall baptize you with God’s Holy Spirit”* (Mark 1:8).

“The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God which you receive by faith (asking, receiving and believing): *“If even sinful persons like yourselves give children what they need, don’t you realize that your heavenly Father will do at least as much and give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for Him”* (Luke 11:13).

“You must be willing to open your heart, mind and entire life to allow God to fill you with Himself. Jesus said, *“If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, ‘out of his belly (inner being) shall flow rivers of living water’; But this spoke He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive’* (John 7:37-39).

“The rivers of living water (God’s Spirit) is released through your spirit as you ask, receive Him by faith, and offer thanksgiving. God inhabits your praises (Psalms 22:3). This is how Jesus’ disciples were filled on that first Pentecost day: *“...They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”* (Acts 2”4).

“Here is a suggested prayer to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in your life:

“Lord Jesus, I come to you to willingly give you my whole life and I ask now that you baptize me with the Holy Spirit. I receive Him now by faith and thank-you for sending Him to me. I praise you for filling me and now release my tongue to overflow with the Spirit of God in praise to you. Praise the Lord...Hallelujah...Thank-You, Jesus...(continue to praise God as the Spirit gives you words).”

I am so appreciative of the teachings that I got from High Point for I came out of churches that never talked of the baptism in the Spirit. I received good teachings from these churches, but there was a woeful lack of knowledge and blatant ignorance pertaining to such topics as the baptism in the Holy Spirit, Spiritual warfare, the characteristics of the endtimes, etc.

I would like to add to the High Point teaching that we do not receive by someone trying to coach us into speaking in tongues in a prayer line or by someone pushing us over to mimic really being slain in the Holy Spirit. Tongues are a very valid sign of the baptism in the Holy Spirit-many believe it is *the* initial evidence of the baptism, but Jesus is the Baptizer, not the person or people praying over you, and we do not need to pressure people into trying to speak in tongues.

First, just like being born again, we receive by FAITH. We can only receive when we are at a point of genuine surrender, or yielding, to the Holy Spirit. We must submit 100% our past, present, future, and our spirit, soul, and body to Jesus. Most often people in the Word of God received, after asking for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, only when they were walking in obedience (John 14:15-17) and were in serious prayer (Luke 3:21-22). The day of Pentecost, we sometimes forget, was preceded by 10 long days of praying and waiting. The Pentecostal company of 120 people in the Upper Room were in unity as they prayed and waited. And today most often the baptism experience is preceded and accompanied by magnifying the Lord in praise and worship.

When people don't receive after asking, it has been my experience that there may be some unconfessed sin (especially unforgiveness towards another), lack of proper submission to spiritual authority, rebellion of some type, or some past occultic involvement that has not been dealt with (the latter is more common than you would think). In addition, some seek who really don't sufficiently desire the baptism in the Spirit or are not willing to surrender to the Lordship of Jesus. Still others doubt the reality of the experience because they have been wrongly taught that it is at best an experience reserved for only 1st Century believers or at worst it is demonic. To those I would only say that we in this ministry believe that the Word of God is inerrant. We counsel those who doubt the validity of the experience to study the scriptures with an open mind. I have never known anyone who has seriously done this that did not believe afterwards that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for today and very needful and available for every believer.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not just some faddish experience to make us have goose bumps and to fuel our emotions. It is a necessary experience to enter into the spiritual realm where we can do real battle against the very

enemy who seeks to destroy the Church of the Living God and who wants to cause every believer to fail and fall. I believe you will never be much of a threat to the enemy until you enter the realm of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And expect intense warfare to follow this experience of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The baptism, in a very real way, makes you the bull's eye for Satan's demonic hoards, because you have been empowered to be a threat and to bring destruction to the kingdom of darkness, and he knows that far more than you do.

I also caution those who receive not to use the experience to form *bless-me clubs* and to isolate themselves from the rest of the Body becoming exclusive instead of inclusive. I believe the baptism is most of all a baptism of love. We cannot really love Him properly without the experience, and we do not love His body and the lost to the extent that He calls us to love without this experience. The chief characteristic that we, as spirit-baptized believers, should show to the Body of Christ is love.

Contrary to what most of you probably think, the baptism is not a sign of spiritual maturity. I have known many charismatics who did not walk in any maturity, and many saved people without the baptism who seemed to walk in great maturity in the Body of Christ than charismatics. I am not downing charismatics who believe in the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit and am obviously one of them. I just know, however, that when you receive this experience, you must go on to maturity to be an effective soldier in the army of the Lord. If you don't intend to go on to maturity, it would almost seem you would be better off not to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

And finally, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a stopping place. There is always more of Him to be had. Our attitude should always be that of John the Baptist who said, "*He must increase, but I must decrease.*" This is a life long process and we must always want more and more of Him in our lives.

For those who like to have a step-by-step approach for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I include the following:

When seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, our focus should be on seeking an encounter with Christ, rather than on seeking an experience. The following steps might be helpful:

1. Ask Jesus to forgive your sins and be sure that you have really been saved and invited Jesus in your heart.
2. Make a heartfelt decision that you want and will receive this precious experience.
3. Set aside a meaningful time to pray. Sometimes this process may require you to pray daily over a period of time.

4. Dedicate yourself to being a temple of the Holy Spirit.
5. Specifically ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.
6. Be worshipful and expectant in your seeking.
7. Express your praise, emotions and feelings to God.
8. As you sense the Holy Spirit, release yourself to Him.

Opening yourself up to the Jesus is sometimes like taking a lid off a vessel. Often those who receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit report becoming vividly conscious of deepening peace, intense joy, and even tumultuous energy. These are all indications of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Sometimes, however, there is no physical reaction. Regardless of the reaction, you should sense a wonderful new assurance of Jesus Christ and a dynamic awakening of faith and much peace in your heart.

Sweet, Sweet Spirit
Doris Akers

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

There are blessings you cannot receive
Till you know Him in His fullness and believe,
You're the one to profit when you say,
"I am going to walk with Jesus all the way."

If you say He saved you from your sin,
Now you're weak, you're bound, and cannot enter in,
You can make it right if you will yield.
You'll enjoy the Holy Spirit that we feel.

CHORUS

Sweet Holy Spirit, Sweet Heavenly Dove
Stay right here with us, filling us with your love.
And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise.
Without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived
When we leave this place.