



Be Filled with the Holy Spirit

Key scriptures

1. You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God **anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power** and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil ... (Acts 10:38).
2. Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had **promised**, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be **baptized** with the Holy Spirit not many days from now (Acts 1:4-5)
3. This Jesus, God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having **received** from the Father **the promise** of the Holy Spirit, He has **poured** forth this which you both see and hear (Acts 2:32-33).
4. And Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will **receive** the **gift** of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).
5. He said to them, 'Did you **receive** the Holy Spirit when you believed?' And they said to him, 'No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit' (Acts 19:2)
6. When they heard this, they were **baptized** in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying" (Acts 19:5-6).
7. But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be **anointed** with fresh **oil** (Ps 92:10).
8. And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52).

Key words

1. Anointed (*chrío*): to smear or rub with oil; i.e., to consecrate or set apart for holy purposes.
2. Promise (*epaggelia*): refers to an announcement (for information, assent, or pledge).
3. Baptized (*baptizo*): to make whelmed; fully wet; i.e., to cover wholly with a fluid.
4. Receive (*lambano*): to take; to get hold of; to accept. Acceptance means to take or receive with a consenting mind; to consent or agree to; an act involving your will.
5. Gift (*dorea*): gift; a thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present.
6. Pour (*ekcheo*): to pour forth; to bestow; to gush.

The Holy Spirit, the Promise of the Father

According to Hebrews 1:1-2, in Old Testament times God spoke to His people through the prophets. In the New Testament times God spoke to His people through His **anointed** Son, Jesus Christ of Nazareth.



- God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways in, in these last days (*lit. at the end of these days*) has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the world (*lit. ages*) (Hebrews 1:1-2).

However, after Jesus' work was done on earth and just before He returned to the Father, Jesus told his followers to wait for the **promise** of the Holy Spirit,

God's promise

Throughout the Bible, we read that God has always promised *something more*.

In OT times God promised to pour out the Holy Spirit

In the Old Testament, God **promised** to pour out His Spirit on *all* mankind, and His Spirit would make God's words known to us *and* bring us to life.

- Behold, I will pour out my Spirit on you; I will make my words known to you (Proverbs 1:23).
- And it will come about after this that I will pour My Spirit on *all* mankind (*flesh*) (Joel 2:28).
- And I will put My Spirit within you, and you will come to life (Ezekiel 37:14).

John the Baptist spoke about the baptism in the Holy Spirit

In the Gospels, we see John the Baptist talking about the ancient promise of the Holy Spirit:

- He who is coming after me is mightier than I ...; He will baptize you in (*with*) the Holy Spirit and fire (Matt 3:11).

Jesus came and God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit

- After being baptized, Jesus went up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and He saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove, and coming upon Him (Matt 3:16)
- You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God **anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power** and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil ... (Acts 10:38).

Defining anointed

⇒ Anointed (*chrío*): to smear or rub with oil; to consecrate or set apart for holy purposes.

- ❖ Olive oil is often a symbol of spiritual power, but since it burns in oil lamps it is also a symbol of light.¹ In the OT, God instructed the people to make an oil of holy ointment (see Exodus 30:25). This anointing oil was a type of the Holy Spirit.

¹ *The Herder Dictionary of Symbols*, p. 140



Then Jesus says to wait for the promise of the Father

And just before He was taken up into heaven, Jesus tells His followers to wait for the Father's **promised gift**, which will soon be given to them in the form of a powerful baptism.

- Behold, I am sending forth the **promise** of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high (Luke 24:49).
- Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had **promised**, 'Which,' He said, 'you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now' (Acts 1:4-5).
- But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you (John 16:7).

Jesus fulfils His promise on Pentecost

In the book of Acts, we read how Jesus fulfilled the promise of the Father on the Feast of Pentecost, 49 days after Passover—the sound of a mighty wind came down from heaven, with tongues of fire resting on the people. Witnessing this, the people wanted to know what it meant.

- When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire being distributed, and they rested on each of them. And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).
- The people were amazed and perplexed, saying to each other, "What does this mean?" ... (Acts 2:12-13).

Then Peter stood up before the people and explained:

- For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, for it is only the third hour of the day; but this what was spoken of through the prophet Joel: 'And it shall be in the last days,' God says, 'that I will pour forth of My Spirit on all mankind, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. Even upon My bond slaves, both men and women, I will in those days pour forth of my Spirit and they shall prophesy' (Acts 2:14-18).
- This Jesus, God raised up again, to which we are all witnesses. Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having **received** from the Father **the promise** of the Holy Spirit, He has **poured** forth this which you both see and hear (Acts 2:32-33).

Defining promise

⇒ Promise (*epaggelia*) refers to an announcement, for information, assent, or pledge.

- For as many may be the **promises** of God, in Him they are yes (2 Cor 1:20).
- Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness ... Through which He has granted to us His precious and magnificent **promises**, in order that by them you might become partakers of the divine nature (2 Pet 1:3-4).



Defining poured

⇒ Pour (*ekcheo*): to pour forth; to bestow; to gush.

Why Pentecost?

Under the Old Covenant, God's people were to hold a feast three times a year: 1) the Feast of Unleavened Bread (*Passover*), 2) the Feast of Booths (*Succoth*), and 3) the Feast of weeks (*Pentecost*).

Pentecost was called the "Feast of Weeks," because they were to count seven full weeks (or 49 days) beginning on the 2nd day of Passover, and then they were to present offerings of new grain baked loaves with leaven to the Lord.

At Passover, the bread was unleavened, but at Pentecost, the bread was to be leavened. In bread-making, what does the leavening agent do? It causes the dough to rise up; it transforms the dough!

↪ Your Response

- Why was it better for Jesus to go away?
- What is the purpose of leaven (a leavening agent like yeast)?

Who is the promise for?

Quoting Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin, "Jesus Christ is God's gift to the world, but the Holy Spirit is God's gift to His children. The promise of the Holy Spirit is not for the world, but for people who have been born from above." (See John 3:3-8)

The promise is for those who believe

The Holy Spirit is for those who have received forgiveness of their sins and received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

- For **the promise** is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself (Acts 2:39).
- In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your situation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of **promise** (Eph 1:13).

The Holy Spirit is God's gift to believers

The Holy Spirit is God's **gift** to His children. So don't ever pray for an unbeliever, an unsaved or unconverted person, to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

- And Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will **receive the gift** of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).
- If you then, being evil, 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 11:13)?



Defining receive

⇒ Receive (*lambano*): to take; to get hold of; to accept. Acceptance means to take or receive with a consenting mind; to consent or agree to; an act involving your will.

Defining gift

⇒ Gift (*dorea*): gift; a thing given willingly to someone without payment; a present.

Reflection: Shadow or Reality?—Ralph Nault

St. Paul said in Colossians 2:16-17 that the Jewish feasts and celebrations were a shadow of the things to come through Jesus Christ. “Therefore let no one act as your judge in regard to food or drink or in respect to a festival or a new moon or a Sabbath day, things which are a mere shadow of what is to come; but the substance belongs to Christ.”

In other words, the feasts were only a *shadow* of the reality that has been made possible to us through Jesus Christ.

The question is: “Do you have hold of the shadow, or do you have hold of the reality?” Until I received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, I had hold of the shadow, not the reality of God in my heart. Accepting truth in our mind, we can deceive ourselves into thinking we have the reality, but it is only in our vain imagination.

↪ Your Response

- What was the promise of God?
- Who is the promise for?
- What does it mean to you that God kept His promise?

We Need to Receive the Holy Spirit

Have you received the Holy Spirit?

In this interesting conversation, St. Paul asks some disciples at Ephesus if they had received the Holy Spirit when they had believed:

*“It happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the upper country and came to Ephesus, and found some disciples. He said to them, ‘Did you **receive** the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ And they said to him, ‘No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’*

“And he said, ‘Into what then were you baptized?’ And they said, ‘Into John’s baptism.’

“Paul said, ‘John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in Him who was coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’



“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying” – Acts 19:1-6.

Two different types of experiences with the Holy Spirit?

Many Christians are confused about when they received the Holy Spirit. Some say that when we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, we have received everything there is. But others say there is *something more* that we need, a baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit.

Ask yourself, why did Jesus breathe upon His disciples and say ‘Receive the Holy Spirit,’ yet later tell them to wait for what the Father has promised?

- Jesus therefore said to them again, ‘Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, ‘**Receive** the Holy Spirit’ (John 20:21-22).
- Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had **promised**, ‘Which’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me. ... you shall be baptized with (in) the Holy Spirit not many days from now’ (Acts 1:4-5).

The implication is that there are there are two different types of experiences.

Jesus is our example

Jesus is an example of having two different types of experiences with the Holy Spirit. What was Jesus before He was conceived as a baby in Mary? Was He not like His Father, a Spirit? Yet after He was baptized in water, the Holy Spirit came down upon Him like a dove and anointed Him for His unique purpose here on earth.

This was a totally different experience for Him – another Person of the Trinity came upon Him and **anointed** Him with Power for His work and ministry. (See Luke 3:21-22)

Ralph Nault says, “Jesus is the example for us. It’s not a matter of just knowing the stories about Jesus, but it’s seeing that this is the way we are to walk and live; this is how we are to function. The same was true for the disciples and other New Testament Christians like Saul. The Holy Spirit is the one who called them to the work and empowered them.”

We need a strong spiritual foundation

According to Hebrews, our spiritual foundation includes “repentance from dead works, faith toward God, instruction about washings, laying on of hands, and ...” (See Heb 6:1-2). Notice the sequence: first comes repenting, second turning to God and applying faith, then third comes instruction about “washings.”

These washings have to do with two types of baptisms: water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Baptism in water deals with the sin issue through the cleansing power of the blood of Jesus. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for submersion into God’s power and authority, giving us an anointing so we can be His witnesses.

↪ Your Response

- What do you think?



- What has been your experience?

What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Like Jesus, we need to be anointed from heaven for service just as Jesus was. In the baptism in the Holy Spirit, this is what happens. We receive an anointing from God so we can be His servants and do the things He tells us to do.

In the baptism or filling in the Holy Spirit, we receive a filling or submersion into God's power and authority, bringing us into a new position where we can grow spiritually, function spiritually, use our spiritual authority, use the gifts of the Holy Spirit, and be led by the Holy Spirit.

- 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).

Ralph Nault writes: "A strange thing happened when Pauline and I were baptized in the Holy Spirit. We did not share this with each other for a long time afterwards. Then one day I was telling her that I knew from the moment we were baptized in the Spirit that God had a fulltime ministry for us. She said, "I know it too, and have known it from the time I received the fullness of the Spirit." (*Led by the Spirit*, Chp. 22, "Who Will Go? Whom Can I Send?" p. 100)

We need to receive something from God

In his classic devotional book, Oswald Chambers² comments on Acts 26:18: "The first sovereign work of grace is summed up in the words—'that they may **receive** remission of sins.' When a man fails in Christian experience it is nearly always because he has never **received** anything. The only sign that a man is saved is that he has **received** something from Jesus Christ.

"When a man is born again, he knows that it is because he has **received something as a gift from Almighty God** and not because of his own decision. Salvation means that we are brought to the place where we are able to **receive** something from God on the authority of Jesus Christ."

👉 Your Response

- ⇒ What have you received from God?
- ⇒ Have you received the promise of the Father, the gift of the Holy Spirit?

What is the anointing?

Kenneth E. Hagin explains: "Today we live under the dispensation of the New Covenant; that means we are living under the dispensation of the Holy Spirit. Remember in the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit did not manifest Himself to everyone. Not everyone had the anointing of the Spirit of God upon them—only those whom God had particularly selected to stand in certain

² Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*.



offices were anointed by the Spirit of God. But in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit could now live *inside* all believers and also come *upon* them so they could fulfill God's purposes for them."

The Holy Spirit within

- I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 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 14:16-17).

The Holy Spirit upon

- Ananias entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you regain your sight and be **filled** with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:17).
- ❖ Filled (*pletho*): to fill (lit. or fig – to imbue, influence, supply)

We need the anointing

We first come into contact with the anointing when we are born again by the Spirit of God.

- Jesus answered, 'Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit' (John 3:5-6).
- But you have **received** a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, 'Abba! Father!' The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:15-16).

We as believers are anointed or commissioned by God to tell the good news of the gospel. Everywhere we go, we are to tell the story of Jesus and His redeeming power.

- He said unto them, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. ... 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 16:1 5-18).

Anointed to be priests and kings

Believers are also anointed to be priests and kings unto God. As priests, we pray for others and offer up praises unto God. Because of the anointing, we can reign as kings in this life.

- Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and hath made us Kings and Priests unto God and his Father (Rev 1:5- 6).
- And hast made us unto our God, Kings and Priests: we shall reign on the earth (Rev. 5:10).
- But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should show forth the praises of Him who has called you out of darkness into his marvelous light (1 Pet 2:9).
- Much more they which receive an abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ (Rom 5:17).

Additional resources



⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Jesus-the-Only-Foundation-for-Life.pdf>

⇒ Your Response

- How would you explain what happened at Pentecost?
- What does this supernatural event mean to you?
- Have you received the Baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit?

Outpouring of the Holy Spirit

Water, a symbol of the Holy Spirit

In the Bible we see the words *pouring out* in referring to the Holy Spirit.

- And it will come about after this that I will **pour** My Spirit on all mankind (*flesh*) (Joel 2:28).
- Therefore having been exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He has **poured** forth this which you both see and hear (Acts 2:32-33).

Defining pour

⇒ Pour (*ekcheo*): to pour forth; to bestow; to gush.

From the following scriptures, we see that water is also a symbol of the Holy Spirit. .

- For I will *pour out water* on the thirsty land and streams on the dry ground; I will *pour out My Spirit* on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants (Isaiah 44:3).
- “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, from his innermost being (*belly-hollow place*) shall **flow rivers of living water**.” 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 7:38-39).
- ❖ *Water is a symbol of life; without water, there is no life. The Bible speaks of the water of life in the spiritual sense.³ Water can refer to bodily, emotional, & spiritual cleansing; the power of renewal; spiritual life; or the abundance of possibilities.⁴*

Are you thirsty?

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst” (Matt 5:6).

³ *A Dictionary of Symbols*, Tom Chetwynd

⁴ *The Herder Dictionary of Symbols*



In John 4:10-15, Jesus said to the Samaritan woman at the well, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”

- Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost (Isaiah 55:1).
- But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life (John 4:14).
- The Lord will continually guide you, and satisfy your desire (*soul*) in scorched places, and give strength to your bones; and you will be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water whose waters do not fail (Isaiah 58:11).

Your Response

⇒ Do you need a drink of living water?

Additional resources

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/drawing-from-the-well-of-living-water/>

Historical outpourings of the Holy Spirit

Here is short summary of the pouring out of the Holy Spirit in the 20th century:

Spread of Pentecostalism

At end of 19th century Pope Leo XIII dedicated the 20th century to the Holy Spirit. In 1906, the Lord answered his prayer. The Holy Spirit was poured out in the Azusa Street revival in California. This historical revival is considered to be the primary catalyst for the spread of Pentecostalism in the 20th century.⁵

Then in the 1960s, Pope John XXIII welcomed the Holy Spirit afresh to the Roman Catholic world, praying for the Holy Spirit to come and once more revive the church: “May there be repeated thus in the Christian family the spectacle of the apostles gathered together in Jerusalem after the Ascension of Jesus to heaven, and may the Divine Spirit renew your wonders in our time, as though for a new Pentecost.”

Birth of the Charismatic movement

In April 1960, a flickering flame of hope emerged in the midst of spiritual darkness. Time Magazine carried the story: An Episcopal priest, Father Dennis Bennett, had announced to his congregation that he had been baptized in the Holy Spirit and had spoken in tongues. In the middle of our great spiritual vacuum, a lonely voice of one minister boldly proclaimed that modern man can still experience God and the realm of His Spirit.

⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Azusa_Street_Revival



This event seems to mark the beginning of the modern Charismatic Renewal. Other magazines picked up the story. Like a wildfire before a mighty wind, the outpouring of the Holy Spirit quickly spread to most of the historic Protestant denominations. Informal prayer gatherings of people sprang up all across the country, rejoicing and singing praises to a living God, witnessing to His power, and ministering to one another in the gifts of the Spirit.

In 1967, twenty professors and graduate students from Duquesne University in Pittsburgh gathered for a retreat. Their pre-retreat assignment was to read the book of Acts and David Wilkerson's *The Cross and the Switchblade*. As they gathered in the chapel, they too experienced a mighty outpouring of the Spirit. This fire of the Spirit soon spread to Notre Dame University.

Catholic Charismatic prayer groups sprang up across the country. By 1970, a Catholic Charismatic conference at Notre Dame attracted 30,000 Catholics. Priests, nuns and laypeople together sang and prayed in tongues, prophesied and rejoiced in what God was doing.

This fire of the Spirit exploded, something *mainstream* Christianity had not experienced for a long time. Called the Charismatic Movement, it brought a spiritual awakening to millions of people around the world.

According to historian Eddie L. Hyatt, by the mid-1990s this movement claimed 450 million adherents worldwide and was adding over 23 million every year. It encompassed 8000 different ethnic groups speaking 7000 different languages (*2000 Years of Charismatic Christianity*).

These people all shared a basic single event that crystallized for them the reality of a living, personal God and the power of the charismata (spiritual gifts) – a life-changing encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Pope John Paul II

On the Eve of Pentecost 1998, Pope John Paul II (1978-2005) continued to emphasize the importance of the person and work of the Holy Spirit: "Open yourselves docilely to the gifts of the Spirit! Accept gratefully and obediently the charismata which the Spirit never ceases to bestow on us."

- ❖ 1986 *Dominium et Vivificantem: document on the work of the Holy Spirit* gives profound teaching about the role of the Spirit in revealing Jesus, bringing about personal transformation and empowering for mission. Had a sense of the need for the church to encounter the Spirit.

Additional resources

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/ode-to-the-holy-spirit/>

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/spiritual-awakening-the-fire-of-the-spirit/>



Welcome the Holy Spirit into your life

After we have received Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, we need to ask the Holy Spirit to come upon us and fill us with His power.

We need to be empowered by the Holy Spirit to go into the world, to fulfill the Great Commission. We need the Holy Spirit to speak to us and tell us what to do. We desperately need the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

It is not enough to mentally accept ideas about the Holy Spirit in our minds, but we must possess the reality of them in our hearts. We need personal revelation and experience with the Holy Spirit.

- 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 1:7).
- And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God with boldness (Acts 4:31).

Do you need the Holy Spirit?

Do you have an inner confidence that you have received the Holy Spirit, the power of God? Do you have an inner witness saying, “Abba, Father. I belong to You.” Is there a place within you that says, *I know, because I know?* This is the issue here.

- But you have **received** a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’ The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are the children of God (Romans 8:15-16).

The promise of the Father is not just for a few holy saints, but for all those who believe.

- For *the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God shall call to Himself*” (Acts 2:38-39).

Your Response

- Reflect on scriptures on the Holy Spirit, asking God to give you understanding of them.
- Read the book of Acts, especially the scriptures about the Holy Spirit.

Additional resources

Read how I received the fullness or baptism of the Holy Spirit in these blogs.

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/first-step-spiritual-quest-begins/>

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/i-find-the-key/>

⇒ <https://judithdoctor.com/the-holy-spirit-comes/>



Receiving the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit

First, you need to ask

Jesus tells us to ask, and it shall be given to us. We must ask our Heavenly Father to baptize us or fill us with the Holy Spirit.

- For everyone who asks **receives**, and he who seeks find, and everyone who knocks, the door shall be opened. When a child who asks his father for a fish, will his father give him a snake? Or if he asks for an egg, will he be given a scorpion? If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask? (Luke 11:8-13).

Second, you need to apply faith

The Holy Spirit is received through faith, the same way we accept Jesus Christ to be our personal Lord and Savior.

St. Paul explains that we receive the Spirit through hearing with faith. Our faith is involved; we must have confidence and assurance in our heart that when we ask, we will receive. .

- This is the only thing I want to find out from you: did you **receive** the Spirit by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith? (Galatians 3:2)

Being baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit requires an act of faith. It is an act of faith on the part of the person praying over someone; it is an act of faith on the part of the person who is receiving.

Ralph Nault suggests this explains why it seems some people receive much more than others: "Their faith has been inspired and built up, and they are expecting something wonderful to happen. So something powerful happens in their life. Other people are not expecting a whole lot, so they don't seem to receive much. By your faith be it done to you."

Faith is not imagination or the wishing of things into being. It is the conviction of truth by the inner working of the Holy Spirit, who only persuades us to believe what actually exists.

❖ Faith (*pistis*): persuasion, convinced, reliance upon God.

Third, you need to receive

Once we ask, we need to believe that we have received! Pray like this:

Heavenly Father, I come to You right now in this moment. I thank You that Jesus has forgiven me of my sins through His blood on the cross. I need your power and authority in my life. I want to serve only You. Lord Jesus, I ask you to baptize me now in the Holy Spirit.

*Please **fill** me with your power and anoint me for the work you have called me to do.*

I do now receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit by faith, because You cannot lie.

*Thank You, Lord Jesus, for baptizing me in Your Holy Spirit, for **filling** me with Your Spirit. Thank you for giving me this gift. In Jesus' name, I pray. Amen.*



- ❖ Remember we receive the Holy Spirit not because we feel or sense anything but because our faith is anchored or rooted in the promise of God. And He cannot lie!

Be renewed – get anointed anew with fresh oil

Kenneth E. Hagin says, “After a person is born from above, there should be an initial infilling with the Holy Spirit, then there should be many refillings of the Holy Spirit or fresh anointings.”

The example of King David

Consider David: he was anointed as a young lad by Samuel to be king. However later he says, “I shall be anointed with fresh oil” in his psalm of praise and thanksgiving to God.

- But my horn shalt thou exalt like the horn of an unicorn: I shall be **anointed** with fresh oil (Ps. 92:10)

The example of the disciples

What do the following scriptures about Peter and John and their companions tell you?

- Then Peter, filled (*lit. having just been filled*) with the Holy Spirit said to them (Acts 4:8).
- And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:31).
- And the disciples were continually filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit (Acts 13:52).

St. Paul tells believers to “be filled with the Spirit”

- Be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish but understand what the will of the Lord is. And don’t get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:15-19).

Greek scholars say “be filled with the Spirit” literally is saying, “Be *being* filled with the Spirit.” This may not make sense to you, but consider what Paul may be trying to tell these believers.

Stay filled with the Holy Spirit

I like this next scripture, because I think it is telling us how we to stay filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father (Ephesians 5:19-20).



Needs to be renewed occasionally

Ralph Nault suggests the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit may need to be renewed: “We have learned down through the years this baptism of power and authority needs to be renewed from time to time. It is not just a one-time experience.

“Yes, you might say, you got it all when you experienced the baptism or filling of the Holy Spirit. Yes, it is all available to you at that point, but have you got it all? No. Very obviously you didn’t.

“From the beginning of our walk and from that point on, there are always additions, as our faith is involved. As we learn and understand, and as we experience more, our faith has grown down through the years. I function with more authority than I did five years ago. I function with much more authority than ten years ago, yet I had some authority when I began.

“Was the potential there from the beginning? Yes it was, but I wasn’t using it and didn’t even know how to use it. So these things are not just a one-shot thing. When you have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, in one sense you have it all, yet you don’t even know how to use it all. It is an on-going experiential walk with this power and authority from God.

“As we go along, there can be a change in ministries, and it is also a part of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. All of a sudden there is a new anointing; God anoints us into another new area.

“The Holy Spirit elevates you into a new position, and with it, there is another anointing – another baptism at that point – of the authority, or a new gift or talent that you have not used.”

Additional resources

⇒ Kenneth E. Hagin: “A Fresh Anointing,” Chapter 5, *New Testament Pattern*, p 41.

↪ **Your Response**

- Can you say, “Jesus Christ of Nazareth is the Son of God, and He has come in the flesh?”
- Do you want to draw closer to Jesus Christ and do what He says?
- Do you want to be baptized or refilled with the Holy Spirit?

Reflection: Can I Know God’s Voice?—Ralph Nault

The first time I heard God speak to me and was aware of it, and knowing it was indeed God, was right after people prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit. I was thirty-nine years old. I want you to note this: It happened soon after others prayed for me to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

I had gone to church for many years. If you had asked me if I were a Christian, I would have said, yes, and I believe I was. I believe that God had spoken to me many times before, but I had not recognized it as Him. Why didn’t I recognize His voice sooner? It had something to do with the following Scriptures, I am sure.

When the disciples were greatly distressed because Jesus spoke about leaving and they would no longer have Him to guide and direct them, Jesus told them these things:



- And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; 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 14:16-17).
- But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you (John 14:26).
- But when He, the Spirit of Truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine and shall disclose it to you (John 16:13-14).

For years, I thought that God spoke only to a few very special people who were very holy. I have now come to the conclusion He speaks to sinners too. I am glad, for like Paul, I can say that I am the chiefest of sinners. For those who have the same mistaken idea, don't be hindered any longer.

God wants to speak to you. In fact, He probably has something very important to say to you. You may need people to pray over you to receive the Holy Spirit, even if you have been a Christian many years. (*Led by the Spirit*, Chp. 2, "Can I Know God's Voice," pps. 7-11)

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