

WHAT IS THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

What is the difference between being '*born again*' by the Spirit and being '*baptised*' in the Spirit?

Scripture teaches that there is a clear difference between the work of the Spirit in our conversion and His extra infilling known as Holy Spirit baptism as witnessed on the Day of Pentecost *Acts 2*.

Christian Initiation.

Acts 2:38-39 (isv) Peter answered them, "Repent (confession) and be baptized, (in water) every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the Holy Spirit as a gift. (Baptism of the Spirit) For this promise belongs to you and your children, as well as to all those who are far away, whom the Lord our God may call to himself."

- . Confession of Christ as Saviour - (*repentance*)
- . Baptism in water - (*sanctification*)
- . Baptism in the Holy Spirit - (*empowerment*)

Each of these are **different** experiences and are **normally** separated from each other in time.

Jesus' example is recorded for us to follow.

Jesus was born of the Holy Spirit

*Luke 1:35 (gnb) The angel answered, "The **Holy Spirit will come on you, and God's power will rest upon you. For this reason the holy child will be called the Son of God.***

Jesus was baptised in water

Matthew 3:13-16a (gw) Then Jesus appeared. He came from Galilee to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. ...when Jesus had been baptized, He immediately came up out of the water...

Jesus as a man was baptised in the Holy Spirit

*Matthew 3:16b-17 (isp) ...suddenly the heavens opened up for Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him.** Then a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love. I am pleased with Him!"*

We are **Born again BY the Spirit** and afterwards we should desire to be **Baptised IN the Spirit.**

John the Baptist: “...*I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come One who is more powerful than I,...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.*” **Matthew 3:11**

Baptizio was a common Greek word.

English: Baptism meaning being ‘**immersed**’, or ‘**dipped**’ into.

Two phrases are commonly used to explain this extra experience known as Holy Spirit baptism: ‘*baptised in the Spirit*’ or ‘*filled with the Spirit.*’

When we are immersed, **we are in something**.
When we are filled, **something is in us!**

Luke describes Holy Spirit baptism as...

- To **Receive** the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:38; 8:15; 8:19*
- To be **Filled** with the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:4; 9:17*
- Holy Spirit **coming** upon people. *Acts 8:16*
- Holy Spirit being **poured** out on people.
Acts 10:45
- Baptised **with** the Holy Spirit. *Acts 1:5*
- Being **clothed** with power. *Luke 24:49*

Luke doesn't use a consistent name, because the experience of Holy Spirit baptism is too magnificent and too wonderful to be limited to only one expression.

Why do we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

To provide believers with the **ability power** to be effective witnesses for Christ.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

To give believers **access** to the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit. *1 Corinthians 12:1-11*

To **empower** believers to use our delegated **authority** in Christ over the powers of darkness.

Luke 10:19 Jesus said, "Behold, I give unto you power ("exousia" authority) to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power ("dunamis" ability) of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you."

By **praying in the spirit** (speaking in tongues), the Holy Spirit **builds** us up in our faith.

Jude 1:20 (nasb) But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.

To **help** us in our prayer life.

Romans 8:26 (tlb) *And in the same way - by our faith - the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't even know what we should pray for nor how to pray as we should, but the **Holy Spirit prays for us** with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words.*

How do we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Acts 2:4 (niv) *“They were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit, and **began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.**”*

The Holy Spirit gave them the ability to speak in tongues ‘*as the Spirit enabled them.*’

We ask or pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. The Spirit enables us with the ability to speak in other tongues; the evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit!

To receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit, we simply ask Jesus to fill us and totally believe that He will.

After all, John the Baptist declared, *“Jesus will baptise you with the Holy Spirit... **Matthew 3:11***

Ask and receive the infilling of the Spirit, with the evidence of being filled with the new ability to speak in tongues.

Conclusion

Every day we need the ***influence*** of the Holy Spirit in our lives to ***effectively*** live for and to serve God.

Ephesians 3:20 (nkjv) Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the (Holy Spirit's) power that works in us.