



CONNECT

**FIRST STEPS - LESSON 11: BAPTISM OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT**



Objectives

- New believers to realise the importance and benefits of being baptised in the Holy Spirit.
- New believers to take the step of faith to be receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.
- New believers to understand how live the Christian life by depending on the power of the Holy Spirit.
- New believers to have a clear understanding of how to be baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Introduction

Have you noticed the fan in the corner of your living room? No one pays much attention to it until it needs to be used. However, once you switch it on, the fan can generate enormous power. Likewise, our Christian life can be exciting and victorious, or boring and empty. It depends on how much we choose to seek God and live in His power. It is a case of living in the Spirit versus the flesh.

To experience His power, we need to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

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.

Acts 1:8

The Significance

1. Deepening of our relationship with God

When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit, it opens the door to a whole new realm of potential experience with God's power. This fresh experience and the more powerful work of the Holy Spirit can draw us into a closer, more intimate relationship with the triune God. We would want to know more of God and all of His incredible ways, through a deeper desire and hunger to study the Bible and prayer.

2. For the advancement of the Great Commission

When Jesus gave the Great Commission, He knew that His disciples could not fulfil it by their own power.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore, He had a special gift in store for them: It was His plan to give them the same power that He had, the power of the Spirit of God. So, immediately after giving them the Great Commission, Jesus commanded his disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father promised – The Holy Spirit.

On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:4-5

He further promised in **Acts 1:8**, that when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit, we will receive God's power in being His witnesses.

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.

Acts 1:8

3. Deepening of our prayer life with our Lord

The Holy Spirit will also help you in your own personal prayer life with the Lord.

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God.

Romans 8:26-27

4. To operate in our spiritual giftings effectively

With you now being baptised in the Holy Spirit, you will now be in a better position to receive God's anointing on your life. The anointing is the power of the Holy Spirit operating through you to accomplish whatever God wants you to do for Him. It will be God's supernatural power flowing through you, not your power. Your powers are limited, but God's power is not! The baptism with the Holy Spirit will enhance the demonstration of the gifts of the Holy Spirit; such as a gift of prophecy, gift of healing etc.

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Acts 19:6

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work.

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

5. To speak in new tongues

Speaking in new tongues is the most evident sign of being baptised in the Holy Spirit. Throughout the New Testament, we can see that all of those who were baptised in the spirit broke out in new tongues.

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them,

"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?"

"John's baptism," they replied.

Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Acts 19:1-6

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them

Acts 2:4

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17

When we talk, we have to think of words in order to communicate, but when we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we still use our mouth to speak out a language that we have not learned or prepared. It is of God, because we speak without using our thought processes.

In **1 Corinthians 14**, Paul was addressing the church regarding speaking in tongues. Praying in tongues is to edify, encourage and build up our inner spirit.

For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort.

Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church.

1 Corinthians 14:2-4

Mentor Chat

1. How do I know that when I speak in tongues, it is of God and not of my own utterance?

This comes from a disciplined life of reading the Bible, praying and checking our lives with other more matured Christians. If we are walking closely with God, we have the assurance that we are operating in the Spirit and not from our flesh.

How Do We Receive Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?

1. Asking and praying

This scripture tells us that God compares giving the gift of the Holy Spirit as a father who wants to give good gifts to his children. God does not set up any conditions for us to be empowered by the Holy Spirit except for the fact that we have to sincerely, actively ask Him. God desires His children to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Luke 11:9-13

2. Laying of hands

There are times when people receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit unexpectedly.

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, "Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptised with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.

Acts 10:44-47

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 2:1-4

However, most incidents of the early church received the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands.

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Acts 19:6

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-17

How Do We Pray To Receive The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?

1. Desire for the Holy Spirit's fullness and empowerment

“So I say to you: Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened. “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Luke 11:9-13

- 2. Confess all known sins to God and tell God about our desire to receive**
- 3. Focus on God. When we feel the gentle urge to pray, co-operate with the Holy Spirit by adding sound to the words**

Barriers To Receiving Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

Jesus compared God’s giving of the Holy Spirit to Christians, who are His children, to a father who wants to give good gifts to his children.

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!

Luke 11:13

In this verse we can see that God does not set any conditions for us to be baptised in the Holy Spirit except that we have to ask Him. God already has the desire to give the Holy Spirit to His children. Nevertheless, we find four reasons that cause Christians to not receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

- 1. Not really wanting to receive God’s power**
- 2. Having unconfessed sin (unforgiveness, bitterness etc.)**
- 3. Lack of faith**

Some Christians do not really believe that they can be baptised in the Holy Spirit and be able to speak in new tongues. Lack of faith might perhaps come from a past experience of failure to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

4. Lack of understanding

Some people think that when they are baptised in the Holy Spirit, their mouth will move by itself. Therefore, they shut their mouth and wait for the Holy Spirit to move their mouth to speak. However, this is a misunderstanding. God’s gives the language. Normally, we need to speak it out aloud.

Mentor Chat

1. What should I do after receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Use this new language in private times with God and also in times of corporate prayer. This helps us strengthen our spiritual lives, receive help in times of weaknesses and receive empowerment in doing God’s work. We need to be faithful in applying this gift. Our sensitivity to the Spirit’s prompting will also increase as we pray more often.

Reflection Station

1. How can I start living in the Spirit today? What are some practical things I can do?

Conclusion

We are not expected to live a normal life as Christians. We should expect to live a life that is full of God's power. This allows us to live an exciting life because we will see God's power being demonstrated in us and through us. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is the way to receive and experience the fullness of God's power in our Christian life and all we have to do is to ask God for it.

**A Christian who neglects the Holy Spirit is like
a lamp that is not plugged in.**

Memory Verse

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.

ACTS 1:8



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