

Review ( Acts of the Holy Spirit

### How to Receive the Holy Spirit?

Thus far we have looked at the Holy Spirit, who He is, and the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts.

The problem confronting us today is not a biblical problem. Rather, many persons are confused about how to receive the Holy Spirit because of false teachings and false practices. We dare not say which denominations are right or wrong. The best approach, we believe, is to take you to the Holy Scriptures and allow the Scriptures to support themselves.

### The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Again, we have been taught based upon the biases of our denominations. Many have accepted the idea that the baptism of the Holy Spirit comes as a “second experience” after having received Jesus Christ as your Savior (salvation). They also teach this “second experience” is supposed to be accompanied by speaking in tongues (glossolalia). Finally, they teach if you have not spoken in tongues, then, you have NOT received the baptism or received the Holy Spirit.

What is the bottom line?

- You don't have to speak in tongues in order to be saved.
- You don't have to speak in tongues to have the Holy Spirit within you.

However, we have to understand we don't control the Spirit, He controls us. Therefore, we never know what gifts He may choose to bestow upon us. Christ pours Himself into us and anything may happen as He uses us for the kingdom.

Consider 1 Corinthians 12:13

The word baptized in this context is not referring to water baptism. This verse refers to the baptism of the Spirit of God (we were placed into the body of Christ). When you confessed Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit began to dwell within you! There is absolutely no mentioning of speaking in tongues.

### Supporting Text

Remember when the Apostle Paul was elaborating on the gifts within the Body of Christ in 1 Cor. 12:29-30 KJV. Let's take a moment and answer his questions:

- Are we all apostles? Are we all prophets? Are we all teachers? Are we are all workers of miracles? Have we all the gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do we all interpret?

The answer to every one of these questions is a resounding NO! Paul is referring to the gifts within the Body of Christ and not everyone has the gift of “speaking in tongues”. So then, it is wrong to argue that everyone should speak in tongues as evidence of their salvation. You can't speak in a gift you do NOT have!

**Read Romans 6:3-4**

This Scripture, as well, speaks to the baptism of the Spirit. Notice the text says, we identify with him in His death, His burial and His resurrection. This happens at the moment we believe on Jesus Christ as our Savior.

On third Sundays, or whenever we baptize, this is what baptism illustrates. We are buried with Christ in baptism and raised to walk in newness of life. See Acts 1:5 and 11:16.

John had baptized with water (Matthew 3:11). The promise refers to the Spirit of God, not water baptism.

### **See also Galatians 3:27**

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is for all believers without any exception. Every believer is baptized at conversion. Look at the tense of the verb in 1 Cor. 12:13. This confirms it is a one-time occurrence; it does not have to be repeated. (Please keep in mind we are not referring to water baptism!).

### **What is the “filling” of the Spirit?**

Read **Ephesians 5:18**.

What is the difference?

Paul compares a person getting drunk to being filled with the Spirit.

Which one is controlled?

How do we describe a person who is a drunk driver? We say that person is driving under the influence?

Likewise, a person who is filled with the Spirit is under the influence of the Holy Spirit. In this case, it means the believer is under the control of the Holy Spirit. We are no longer controlled by our flesh.

In Ephesians 5:18, Paul commands the believers to be filled with the \_\_\_\_\_. This is not a suggestion. By this, Paul means we are to be controlled by the Spirit.

Consider **Acts 2:4**.

I want to close by referring each of you to Peter’s instructions for receiving the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38-41.

1. The Word of God must be heard!
2. We must be called to Him.
3. We must receive the Word!
4. We must give an expression of our faith by going through the act of water baptism.

We have the greatest opportunity in the world. We can repent, trust Jesus and open ourselves up to the host, God Himself, living in us!