

Answers to Frequent Questions About the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

1. Do we receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Jesus as our Saviour?

Yes. In [John 20:22](#), after He was risen, Jesus breathed on them (the disciples), and said to them "Receive the Holy Spirit". This was prior to them being baptized with the Holy Spirit, which occurred later on the Day of Pentecost ([Acts 2](#)). Also, in [Romans 8:9-11](#), the Apostle Paul indicates the Holy Spirit DWELLS IN US when we belong to Jesus. It is through the Holy Spirit that we receive new life and are born again when we receive Jesus as our Saviour.

2. Is the Baptism with the Holy Spirit a different experience from being born again?

Yes, though they can occur together. IN THE CASE OF THE DISCIPLES, they received the Holy Spirit after Jesus was risen, in [John 20.22](#). Then later, just before Jesus ascended, in [Acts 1:5](#), He told them that they would be baptized in the Holy Spirit in not many days' time, which came to pass in [Acts:2](#), after Jesus ascended. In the case of the City of Samaria the people believed and were baptized in water through the preaching of Phillip. After this, Peter and John came to lay hands on them because the Holy Spirit "had fallen upon none_of them" ([Acts 8:12-17](#)).

IN THE CASE OF CORNELIUS and his family and friends, they were baptized with the Holy Spirit as soon as they believed - in fact before they were even baptized in water! TODAY similar things happen. Some believers are baptized in the Holy Spirit at the time of their salvation, while others receive later after the laying on of hands.

3. What is the purpose of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

It gives us POWER to be witnesses for Jesus to the world ([Acts: 1:8](#)). Jesus commanded His disciples wait for this to happen before they left Jerusalem to start their mission ([Acts 1: 4-5](#)). It also opens the door to the flow of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit. [Acts 2](#) refers to visions, dreams, prophecy and speaking in other tongues. This last one in particular did not occur before the Day of Pentecost. [John 7:33-34](#) tells us that "rivers of living water" will flow out of our heart. Further gifts of the Holy Spirit are given in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11.

4. Are all believers meant to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Yes. In [Acts 2:17-18](#), Peter said that it is for ALL FLESH, and mentioned young men, old men, sons and daughters, in fact all of God's menservants and maidservants (i.e. male and female.) He then went on to declare to all of the crowd that the promise was them, their children, all who are far off, AS MANY AS GOD WILL CALL ([Acts 2:39](#)). He also said that it is for the LAST DAYS ([Acts 2:17](#)), which surely includes us today, confirmed by the millions of believers who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit throughout the world.

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5. Why was it necessary for the disciples to wait?

Because Jesus first had to ascend into heaven and be GLORIFIED at the right hand of God in order to receive the Holy Spirit for pouring out, which took place on the Day of Pentecost ([Acts 2:33](#)). If He had not told them to wait, they would have gone out too soon, before receiving the power for their task.

[John 7:39](#) also tells us that Jesus had to be glorified first. After the Day of Pentecost, it is clear that it was not necessary to wait. CORNELEUS and his group were baptized in the Holy Spirit immediately as Peter spoke ([Acts 10:44](#)).

6. How did the disciples know when they received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Peter and his party RECOGNIZED that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on Cornelius and the others when “they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God” ([Acts 10:45-46](#)). Peter then ACKNOWLEDGED that they received “just as we have” ([Acts 10:47](#)). This clearly refers to speaking with other tongues and glorifying God, which happened to Peter and the other disciples when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost ([Acts 2: 4](#)). The disciples at Ephesus also spoke with tongues when the Holy Spirit came upon them when Paul laid hands on them. Thus it is reasonable to conclude that, for us today, speaking in other tongues is clear evidence that we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

(See JO-AL Answers to Frequent Questions About Speaking in Tongues)

7. How do we receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

It was received in three ways in the Book of Acts. On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples received as they sought God ([Acts 2: 1-4](#)). In the house of Cornelius, the Spirit simply fell as the people believed the preaching ([Acts 10: 44](#)). Otherwise it occurred through the laying on of hands ([Acts 8:17](#), [Acts 9:17](#) and [Acts 19: 6](#)). Similar things occur today. Many have received while seeking the Lord, many others have received through the laying on of hands, and sometimes the Spirit falls during preaching. One thing is clear from the Scriptures, it is not necessary to wait! The only qualification is to be a believer. Jesus tells us in [Luke 11:13](#) that “if we know how to give good gifts to our children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him”.

We strongly encourage you to enter into this exciting realm of spiritual life.