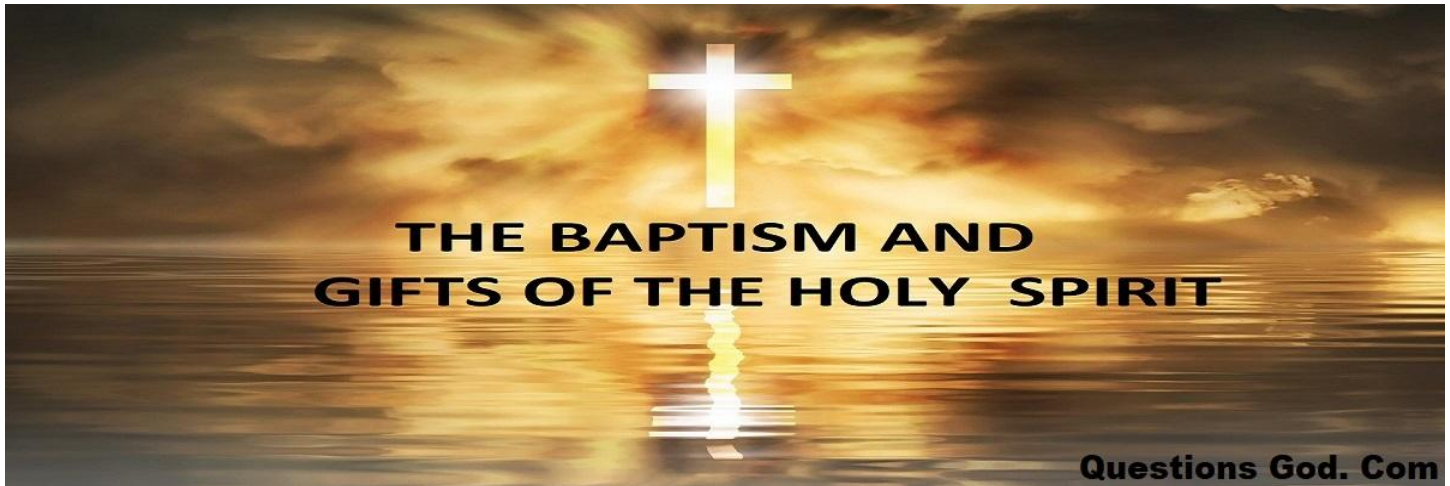


SHARING THE GOSPEL - STEP 1 PREPARATION - CHAPTER 8

BAPTISM AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



When people accept Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior, they receive Christ into their hearts. The Spirit of God connects with the Spirit of the believer. This "**indwelling Spirit**" reproduces and recreates the life of Jesus in the follower's life. This experience of the Fruit of the Spirit operating in our lives happens the instant a person asks Jesus Christ into their heart. (Yesterday's study guide on the [Fruit of the Holy Spirit](#).)

A DISTINCT EXPERIENCE is also for those that believe that Jesus Christ is the Lord of their lives. John the Baptist foretold, "[I baptize you with water, but He \(Jesus\) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit](#)" (Mark 1:8). The indwelling Spirit you receive the moment they are saved (ask Christ into their lives) **reproduces the life of Jesus Christ** (fruit of the Spirit.) The outpouring of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit **reproduces the ministry of Jesus**, containing the Holy Spirit's power. We can use this power and other gifts of the Spirit when witnessing to others. Baptism in the Holy Spirit empowers and equips us for service. Please read [Acts 1:5-8](#).



DENOMINATIONS OF THE CHRISTIAN FAITH HAVE DIFFERENCES AND DEBATES over some areas of scripture.

We all strive for a greater understanding of God's Word, and it can get overwhelming and confusing when denominations are in scriptural conflict with each other.

- Which do we believe?
- Which do we follow?

Remember, God's Word is perfect, but people are fallible (imperfect.) My purpose is not to defend one position but how to deal with conflicts. Handling arguments should arise from love and compassion for each other as Christians.

For instance, some denominations, pastors, and Christians take issue that there is a separate and distinct experience of being Baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. They primarily dispute the legitimacy of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit for believers today.

Responding to this issue, we should consider four simple values:

- Gain knowledge by searching scripture and reading the Bible yourself. Ask God to guide you into all truth to understand the Holy Spirit. I recommend reading the book of Acts. Acts talks about the Church, Baptism, and receiving the Holy Spirit.
- Be honest (*be concerned for what is true.*)
- Be charitable (gracious) and open to God's guidance.
- Make it a matter of prayer. "*Lord, teach me your ways.*"

When discussing issues with other Christians, we must utilize self-control, demonstrating an honorable Christian character by avoiding sowing any seeds of discord. It is essential to respect others' views on the Baptism and Gifts of the Holy Spirit even if you disagree with their understanding.

Do I understand all of this? Of course not. But I know that God loves us regardless of our views on the subject, and He can use every Christian in miraculous ways to share the Gospel message. I have seen extraordinary testimonies from Christians, pastors, and evangelists of different denominations today and from centuries ago who have been used mightily of God but differ in their view of the Baptism and Gifts of the Holy Spirit.



WHEN CAN I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Some people believe they are immediately baptized in the Holy Spirit when they are born again at the new birth. ([Ezekiel 36:26-27](#)). But we realize from scripture that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is distinct, additional empowerment.

Acts 8:14-17 says,

"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 baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit can occur simultaneously, as in [Acts 10:44-46](#), but often separately and after the salvation experience, as in [Acts 8:12-17](#). In [Acts 19:1-8](#), we discover new believers who were not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit. Paul had to inform them about it, and then he baptized all of them. Like many of today's Christians, they were born again and water baptized but never baptized in the Holy Spirit. But when Paul taught them, they received the Holy Spirit fully, as in [Acts 19:1-6](#).

WHAT SHOULD I DO BEFORE ASKING?

The incredible experience of Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a free gift, as we yield fully to God to receive Him. Jesus will certainly respond to a yielded person. The joy and happiness He gives through total obedience to Him significantly outweighs and surpasses anything anyone could give up.

EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the scriptures, something occurred when believers were baptized in the Holy Spirit. People experienced something; there was clear evidence. These consist of power, speaking in tongues, prophecy, boldness, sharing the Gospel (witnessing), and more. Therefore, they didn't just hope they received but clearly understood and recognized what they had. (*Pause and Reflect.*)

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."*

Acts 10:44-46: *"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."*

Acts 4:31: *"..And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God boldly."*



RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

First, once you have accepted Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, you can ask God to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.

Second, in faith, believe you have received this gift from God. You have to believe that if you ask, you will receive Him. Believe, ask, act, and receive. ([Acts 8:14-17](#), [Acts 9:17](#)).

It is accurate and biblical to have another Christian lay hands on a believer to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but it is also not necessary. You can still receive by faith on your own.

Pray, worship, and seek His face; to see the importance of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. DESIRE it, and PURSUE Him until you are filled. Read the [Book of Acts](#) to understand this more clearly.

SUGGESTED PRAYER OF FAITH TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

"Heavenly Father, I thank You that Jesus saved me, and I pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon me and that the Lord Jesus will baptize me now in the Holy Spirit. I believe and receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit now by faith. Please allow the power and the anointing of God to come upon me right now. May I be empowered and equipped for your service now and each day forward. Thank You for baptizing me in Your Holy Spirit, Lord Jesus." Amen.

The Spirit-filled life is an adventure with Christ. Are you ready for the adventure?

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ENABLES US TO SHARE OUR FAITH

In the Old Testament, the Gift of empowerment by the Holy Spirit was limited to specific individuals such as prophets, priests, and mediators like Moses. However, as stated in the New Testament, everyone who is saved (regenerated) can now be empowered by the Holy Spirit.

Notice at Pentecost (Baptism of the Holy Spirit) is closely tied to the great commission.

Jesus said, *"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 fruit of the Spirit shows the development of a person's character and personality as they are changed into the image of Christ. The Spiritual Gifts of the Spirit are given to every believer for ministry work, including sharing the Gospel (witnessing.)

But the Gifts of the Spirit are not necessarily a tool for deepening a person's spiritual life. People often misunderstand that just because a person speaks in tongues does not mean they are better than others or have more spiritual growth (more characteristics of the fruits of the Spirit) than others.



NINE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The manifestations and demonstrations of the Gifts of the Spirit are given to each person based on God's all-powerful CHOOSING and the needs of each personal situation and calling. The Gifts of the Spirit are as follows from [1 Corinthians 12:4-11](#).

- 1. Word of Wisdom** - Not worldly wisdom, but wisdom that comes from God.
- 2. Word of Knowledge** – An example is Apostle Paul knew the outcome of a shipwreck before it happened. ([Acts 27:22-26](#)).
- 3. Gift of Faith** - Different than faith for salvation or individual faith. It is a supernatural faith for particular needs or works. Many pioneer missionaries and pastors have been given this gift of faith to start work in a developing country or launch a new church from scratch. One example is Evangelist David Wilkerson.
- 4. Gift of Healing** - One example is [Kathryn Kulman](#). I had the privilege of being in one of her services to see all the healings that took place many years ago.
- 5. The Working of Miracles** (Miraculous powers) - God acts on something impossible for us with no natural explanation.
- 6. Gift of Prophecy** - Is foretelling God's Bible truths under the anointing in one's mother tongue. Prophecy edifies the Church, exhorts, encourages, and comforts us.
- 7. Discerning of Spirits** - Do not believe everything that you hear. Always try the spirits to see if they are of God or not.
- 8. Speaking in Tongues** (speaking in a different language.)
 - It is physical evidence of the Baptism of the Spirit.
 - Talking to God in tongues while worshipping or praying.
 - Gift of tongues in giving a message in Church, coupled with interpretation.
- 9. Interpretation of Tongues** – Explaining what was spoken in a different language. The one who actually does the speaking in tongues will not be able to understand what was said until they interpret what was spoken or another with the gift of interpretation to reveal what was said.

COMPARISON CHART OF THE SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN FRUIT AND GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

FRUIT	GIFTS
Character Related Matthew 7:21	Non-Character Related Matthew 7:22-23
Living a Godly Life John 15:4-5	Work of the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:7,11
Produced by the Spirit Galatians 5:22-24	Distributed by the Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:4,11
For the Glory of God Matthew 5:16	For the Common Good 1 Corinthians 12:7
Showing to be a Disciple John 15:8	Edification of Self/Others 1 Corinthians 14:3-5
No Signs & Wonders John 13:35	Signs & Wonders 1 Corinthians 14:22
Evidence of Your Identity in Christ	Tools for Ministry
Enablement Ephesians 1:3	Empowerment Acts 1:8
Produce	Desire



FOR THOSE FILLED WITH THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT:

We notice that Jesus is truly revealed and manifested in their lives. We can know if someone lives their life by the Spirit simply by observing how they live, to see if their life is producing fruit. We all should eagerly and consistently be desiring the Gifts of the Holy Spirit so we can build up the body of believers. But never forget

that we should be focused on walking in the love of God in the Fruit of the Spirit at all times also.

The Gifts are mainly tools (*resources*) that God has provided us to stimulate faith in ourselves and others. The Gifts help us to minister to other people. Choose to live your life in a way that is pleasing to Him. Bear good fruit. Everything else is useless without the Fruit of the Spirit.

In [Luke 18:1-8](#), the parable of the persistent widow, Jesus showed His disciples that they should always pray and not give up. So, if you are a BELIEVER in Christ that has never been baptized with the Holy Spirit, I encourage and invite you to ask the Lord for this **Gift**. He promises to provide this excellent and desirable **Gift** to those who ask.

PERSONAL TESTIMONY

When I repented of my sins, I believed and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior, and I received the indwelling Spirit of God (I was aware of the Fruit of the Spirit progressively working in my life.) It was a wonderful experience. For the next year or so, I had folks

praying for me to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, but I didn't receive it. You ask why? Everyone is different, and in my case, I was shy and introverted, and I didn't like being in front of many people.

One night a year later, I was alone praying and worshipping God, not thinking about receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Suddenly, I realized my words were not enough to worship God. I got lost in God's love, worshipping Him out of my whole heart, not just in my head.

That night I was filled and Baptized with the Holy Spirit. In the past, I focused on the experience and not the purpose of the Holy Spirit. Everyone's experience is different in receiving the Holy Spirit. But the focus should always be on Jesus and His love for you and your love for Him, not just receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Tell Jesus how much you love Him; thank and praise Him, pray and worship Him, and lift up your voice to Him. Now let Him give you all-new words of praise you never knew before.

Keep praying to God each day in the language that the Holy Spirit has given you. Relax and receive, and make sure to focus on Him, not just on the experience. It is not as much a head experience but a heart experience.

If you have not received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, I encourage you to keep seeking quietly at home or with a Christian brother or sister. God can still use you in amazing ways for those who do not receive the Baptism, are taught differently, or still have questions. No matter what we think or know about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, God will use you in mighty ways as we submit to His presence, working in and through us.

CONCLUSION

Our intention is to always glorify God. Don't focus simply on Him blessing you. We are told to *"... be filled with the Spirit"* ([Ephesians 5:18](#)). Literally, this passage conveys the thought that we should be filled continually. The idea is that the experience is designed not to be a one-time occasion but rather a continuing experience.

Regardless of what **Gifts** believers possess, we are called to abide in Christ and develop the same Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.) ([Galatians 5:22-23](#)).

Christians may receive different Spiritual Gifts; however, we should each be known by the same Fruit of the Spirit.

Next Study Guide - Chapter 9 - ABCs OF SHARING

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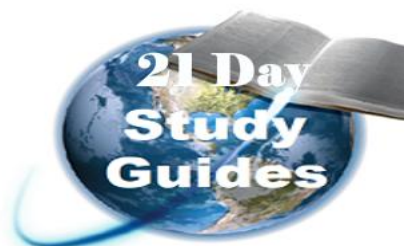
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