

Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

What is the Baptism in the Spirit?

- The Baptism in the Spirit is a secondary experience of receiving the Spirit, where converted Christians are filled with the Spirit in greater measure.

All Christians are Indwelt by the Holy Spirit at Conversion

- Before we get into the evidence for the idea that “receiving the Holy Spirit” is a post-conversion experience, I want to make clear that every believer is in-fact indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion
 - Romans 8:9; Ephesians 1:12-14

Biblical Evidence for Post-Conversion

- Acts 8:14-17
 - These were true believers
 - The Holy Spirit had not yet fallen on them
 - It seems like the Apostles had the expectation that they weren’t going to automatically “receive the Holy Spirit” just by becoming believers
- Acts 19:1-6
 - In this chapter, Paul clearly has the expectation that they would not necessarily have received the Holy Spirit just because they were converted to Christ.
 - Also, note that they still didn’t receive the Holy Spirit as soon as they believed. They heard the gospel, they believed, they were baptized, then Paul laid hands on them, and then they received the Holy Spirit
- Acts 9:17-19
 - Ananias said that God sent him so that Paul would “regain his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit”, but Paul has clearly become a believer at this point
 - Note that this is also by the laying on of hands like we saw in the other two chapters so far
- Acts 2:1-4
 - In this passage the Apostles received the Holy Spirit
 - But wasn’t the Holy Spirit already indwelling them?
 - They already believed in Christ
 - John 20:21-23
- John 1:29-33
 - This is referring to when Jesus was baptized (Matthew 3:13-17)
 - The Spirit descended on Jesus and remained on Him (very similar to language to the words of Acts “the Holy Spirit fell on”)
 - But are we to believe that the Holy Spirit hadn’t been indwelling Jesus until this point?
 - That would seem rather strange if the Spirit were to indwell John the Baptist from the womb, but not Jesus
- So because of these five passages, I think there is substantial evidence for the idea that term “Receive the Holy Spirit” when used in Acts, is referring to a secondary experience that comes after a person is converted
 - Note that in every cases we saw in Acts, it was shortly after they were converted. Usually moments after, and never more than a few days after.

Clearing Up Misunderstandings

- Believers who have not received the baptism in the Holy Spirit are still indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9)
- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is meant for all believers, just like water baptism is meant for all believers
- There are subsequent fillings (Acts 4:27-31; Ephesians 5:18)

The Effects of the Baptism in the Spirit

- Speaking in tongues (Acts 2:5-8, 10:44-46, 19:6)
- Boldness for the gospel (Acts 2:36, 9:17-20, 4:31)
- Gifts of the Spirit (Acts 2:43, 6:5-8, 19:6)
- General effects of the Spirit, but in greater measure. The baptism in the Spirit is just a greater outpouring of the Holy Spirit, so the effects of it are the same effects the Holy Spirit normally causes, just in greater measure

Answering Questions About Speaking in Tongues

- What is the purpose?
 - Praying to God (and thanksgiving and praise)
 - 1 Corinthians 14:2, 13-16; Acts 2:11, 10:46
 - For edification
 - 1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 1:20
- Is praying in tongues meant for all believers?
 - 1 Corinthians 12:30
 - It seems in the Scriptures like there may be two different types of speaking in tongues
 - Tongues as a gift for cooperative use (1 Corinthians 14:20-28)
 - Tongues as a prayer language
 - There's reason to think that tongues as a prayer language is something for all believers
 - Ephesians 6:18
 - Jude 1:20

How to Receive the Baptism in the Spirit

- What to do
 - There are three elements often related to receiving the Holy Spirit in Scripture
 - Prayer (Acts 8:14-15; Luke 11:9-13)
 - Faith
 - Impartation
 - My personal recommendation for anyone wanting to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is to organize a prayer meeting where you can be prayed for (and where you pray) to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This isn't the only way to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but it's what I would recommend.
- Potential Hindrances
 - Incomplete conversions (John 14:17)
 - Doubt
 - Unrepentant sin (Psalm 66:18)

More Info

- If you would like more information on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Greg did a more detailed series on it that can be found at <https://gcfdayton.org/series/baptized-in-the-holy-spirit/>
- Please feel free to reach out to any of the elders or leadership team with questions or if you would like to get prayed for to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit