

6 The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

I. Be Filled With the Spirit

Ephesians 5:17-18

Acts 9:17

According to Ephesians 5:17-18, is being filled by the Spirit a request or is it a command? _____
What changed Saul supernaturally in Acts 9:17? _____

To be filled (*pleroo* = filled to capacity) with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18) is part of the gift of the Holy Spirit that was given by Jesus Christ which came on the day of Pentecost. It is the same full measure of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ had.

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Chapter 6: The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

Explain how the following verses document the truth that believers today have the same full measure of the Holy Spirit that Jesus Christ had:

John 3:34; Colossians 1:27; Ephesians 2:19-22; Ephesians 1:3.

In the Old Testament, men and women did walk in the power of the Spirit of God. However, their filling was not full. It was only a partial filling which manifested spiritual power in selected portions. They were not given a full measure of the Holy Spirit like Jesus Christ and the believers of today. Yet – look how powerful even a partial filling was!!! Note that this spirit could be lost, as happened to King Saul.

- Exodus 28:3 – filled (*male* – to fill up, to be full, to be armed!!!!) with the spirit of wisdom
- Exodus 31:3 – filled (*male*) – with the Spirit of God – wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and workmanship
- Exodus 35:31 – filled (*male*) with wisdom, understanding, knowledge & workmanship
- Ezekiel 43:5 – the Spirit took Ezekiel, and He filled (*male*) the house of the Lord with glory!!!
- Numbers 27:18 – the Spirit in Joshua distinguished him for service and ordination
- Deuteronomy 34:9 – Joshua was full of the spirit of wisdom

The Old Testament also describes this partial filling of the Spirit as a “coming upon” an individual rather than a filling. Some examples of these records are noted below:

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II. The Evidence of Being Filled With the Spirit

Luke 1:15

Luke 1:41

Luke 1:67

These verses declare that the following three people were filled with the Holy Spirit: _____,
_____, and _____.

Of these three, which one was filled from birth? _____

What was the supernatural evidence of this in-filling of the Holy Spirit? In other words, what did they do that indicated they had received a filling of the Holy Spirit? _____

There are several words in the Greek language of the New Testament which are translated simply as “filled”. Two such words that are of particular interest here in this study are the words *pletho* and *pleroo*. The first word, *pletho*, means a filling to the point of overflowing. The second word, *pleroo*, means a filling to capacity.

In all three of the verses mentioned above in Luke, the word “filled” is the Greek word *pletho*, meaning “to be filled to overflowing.” Notice that when the Holy Spirit fills a person to overflowing, something flows out of them. In the cases above with Elizabeth and Zacharias, what flowed out of them was prophecy. This came from the filling of the Holy Spirit. When a person is filled to overflowing (*pletho*) there will always be an outward manifestation into the senses realm (prophecy, speaking in tongues, etc.).

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We will see the distinction between *pleroo* filling (to capacity) and *pletho* filling (to overflowing) very clearly in the following verses from the book of Acts on the day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:1-2

In verse two above, note that the word “filled” is the word *eplerosen* (from the root word *pleroo*) which means to be _____ to capacity. In other words, the place where they were sitting was getting ready to burst open and explode with the Holy Spirit!

Acts 2:3-4

In Acts 2:4, the Holy Spirit did not just fill to capacity like He did in verse two. Now the word “filled” is *pletho*, which means to fill to _____.

What was the evidence of the overflowing filling of the Holy Spirit? _____

What was the evidence for Elizabeth and Zacharias? _____

What can you conclude about what happens when a person becomes filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit?

So far we have learned that when the Holy Spirit fills a person, there is an outpouring, an overflowing evidence (such as prophecy and speaking in tongues) which shows that the Holy Spirit is within.

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We have also learned that in the Old Testament, the filling of the Holy Spirit was partial rather than full, and that the Spirit could be lost.

But we have also learned that in the New Testament, things are different. Instead of being able to lose the Holy Spirit due to disobedience, the Holy Spirit is given as a gift that cannot be lost, and it is given in the same full measure that Jesus Christ received. WOW! What a gift!!

Thus far we have seen that when a person is filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit, something flows out of them which gives a testimony or evidence of the presence of God's Spirit within that person. In light of this, please read Acts 1:4-5, 8.

Acts 1:8

What does Acts 1:8 indicate concerning one of the purposes of being baptized in the Holy Spirit? _____

We next want to explore what this gift is, how it is received, and how are we to use it.

III. What is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Matthew 3:11

John's baptism was with _____. What was the purpose of this baptism?

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Although the translation of verse 22 that you may be reading may have the words “he breathed on *them*”, the phrase means that He blew or breathed into or upon. He was giving them the Holy Spirit. You may recall that the disciples already had been sent out with a partial filling of the Holy Spirit in Matthew 10 and Luke 9 when Jesus gave them authority to heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, and cast out demons (Matthew 10:7). But because it was still before the day of Pentecost, they could not yet receive it fully into overflowing. As yet, they could only receive it within, but not yet to the full measure that Jesus Christ had flowing out of Him.

Why did Jesus give them this partial filling at this time and not wait for the full filling in full measure of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost? One reason may be they were still in fear from the persecution and murder of Jesus Christ.

<p>Which verse noted above explains the state of mind of the disciples before Jesus gave them the Holy Spirit in verse 22? _____</p> <p>Contrast John 20:19 with 21:1-3. What happened in between these two verses which caused the disciples to no longer hide in fear? _____</p> <p>Do you think the presence of the Holy Spirit made a difference to change their behavior from hiding in fear to openly traveling from Jerusalem to Galilee and going fishing? _____</p>
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Jesus first appeared to some of the disciples in Jerusalem the day after His resurrection (John 20:19-23). He again appeared to them eight days later when Thomas was present (John 20:24-31). Jesus told them to go meet Him in Galilee on a mountain (Matthew 28:10, 16-17). Afterward as Pentecost (the Feast of Weeks) drew near, they returned to Jerusalem as Jesus instructed them:

- Luke 24:49 _____

- Acts 1:3-8 _____

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Read Luke 24:49 again. It says that the promise of the Father would come upon (*epi* which means “down upon”) you. Compare this verse with Acts 1:4. Are these two verses speaking of the same thing? _____

Read Acts 1:4 and 5. From these verses, what is the Promise of the Father also called? _____

Now read Acts 1:8. Describe how the following four terms “The Promise of the Father”, “The Holy Spirit”, “baptized in the Holy Spirit”, “power from on high”, used in Luke 24:49, and Acts 1:4-5, 8 are all related:

In Acts 1:8, Jesus promised they would receive the Holy Spirit, which was also called the _____ of the Father in verse 4.

Did Jesus make any exceptions or attach any conditions to receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit in this verse? _____

Luke 11:11-13

Does Jesus or The Father make any exceptions when They promise to give something? _____

Would They make any exception for you and refuse to give you the gift of the Holy Spirit? _____

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Was there any mention of having to be good enough, or worthy enough, or having enough knowledge or experience before receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____

Up to this point, we have investigated not only the first time the Holy Spirit was received (on the day of Pentecost in Acts chapter 2), but we have also studied the subsequent times the baptism of the Holy Spirit was received in the book of Acts.

Match the following instances of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with their Scripture references:

<input type="checkbox"/> Ananias laying hands on the future Apostle Paul	Acts 8:14-19
<input type="checkbox"/> Paul laying his hands on the believers in Ephesus	Acts 2:1-41
<input type="checkbox"/> Simon wanting to pay Philip to buy this power to lay hands and minister the baptism of the Holy Spirit	Acts 19:1-6
<input type="checkbox"/> The Day of Pentecost	Acts 10:44-46
<input type="checkbox"/> Peter at Cornelius' house	Acts 9:17

Notice that although before the day of Pentecost when the baptism of the Holy Spirit was first released into the Body of Christ, Jesus had told the disciples to wait for it to come, is there any indication that believers must wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit since the day of Pentecost? _____

What other characteristics can we glean about receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit noted in the records we have studied so far? Circle the correct answer to the following questions, and note the Scripture which documents your answer from the following list of Scriptures:

John 20:22 John 14:16-17 Acts 2:1-4
 Acts 8:14-19 Acts 9:17 Acts 10:44-46
 Acts 19:1-6 Romans 11:29 Ephesians 5:18

It often is received through the laying on of hands	True	False	Reference example _____
It is only received through the laying on of hands	True	False	Reference example _____
It is usually indicated by speaking in tongues	True	False	Reference example _____
But may also be indicated by prophecy	True	False	Reference example _____
It is a gift that can never be lost or taken away	True	False	Reference example _____
Jesus taught His disciples ahead of time to receive it	True	False	Reference example _____

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God is selective and gives the Holy Spirit only if			
We will work for it	True	False	Reference example _____
Believers today are not commanded to be filled with			
The Spirit	True	False	Reference example _____

IV. The Promise Is By Faith of Jesus Christ

Matthew 3:11-12

What are the two things Jesus came to baptize in? _____ and _____.

According to Matthew 3:12, what is the purpose of the fire that Jesus baptizes us in? _____

In Hebrews 12:25-29, a connection is made between hearing the voice of the Lord, and cleansing (purifying) fire. Additionally, the Lord has shaken the earth (physical things), and is now shaking heaven (things that are spiritual). According to these verses, what things survive this shaking and this fire, and what things do not?

Would it be logical to say that the things that survive the shaking and fire of the Lord are only those things which cannot be shaken (or burned)? _____

What actions on your part (from verse 25) result in things that will remain through the shaking and the fire?

Is hearing and obeying the voice of the Lord an essential part of this surviving? _____

Explain your answer after reviewing John 5:25; 10:3; 10:16; 10:27; Hebrews 3:6-4:1-6; and Revelation 3:20-22: _____

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Mark 16:15-16

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<p>Compare Matthew 3:11-12 with the baptism noted in Mark 16:15. What baptism(s) did Jesus mean when He declared “he that believes and is baptized shall be saved”? _____</p> <p>_____</p> <p>From Mark 16:15, can a person be saved without going through these two baptisms? _____</p> <p>What can we conclude about how necessary is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____</p> <p>_____</p>
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Mark 16:17-20

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Mark 16:17 says that “these signs shall follow them that believe.” What signs are listed in these verses as evidence of believing faith? _____

Can we grow in faith? _____

Name two verses in Romans chapter 10 and Galatians chapter 5 which note how we grow in faith (believing):

From what you have learned so far in this chapter, how does receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit relate to our being able to grow in faith to have signs following our walk in Christ? _____

Will genuine signs follow believers in Christ without faith? _____

Compare John 14:12 and Mark 16:17-20. Explain how the baptism of the Holy Spirit enables these Scriptures to become possible for believers today. _____

According to Acts 1:5 and 8, can a believer be an effective witness for Jesus Christ without the baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____

Luke 11:9-13 _____

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Please join in prayer and in faith to receive into outward evidence in your life, the Holy Spirit that you already received on the inside when you asked Jesus Christ into your heart.

Father, Your Written Word in I John 4:13 declares that You have given me of Your Spirit. I have already received Your Spirit when I asked Jesus Christ to be My Lord and Savior. The gift of the Holy Spirit which You gave me then, is still in me now, as a lasting gift of love from You to me. I ask now for the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that I might walk more fully in the anointing of His power which He first revealed to Your people on the day of Pentecost. I ask in faith, knowing that You are blessed to give to all who ask You in faith. Teach me how to walk in each one of the manifestations of this gift of the Holy Spirit so that I can bring You more glory in my life and fulfill the purposes You have marked out for me. I rejoice that in You, I have not only salvation, but also I have been clothed in the power of the Holy Spirit in order to bring You glory in the days ahead. Hallelujah! In the name of Jesus Christ I pray, and I receive, Amen.

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