

## Understanding the Holy Spirit

### *How Do I Receive the Holy Spirit?*

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Arguments are primarily centered around two words concerning the working of the Holy Spirit in salvation, which are: baptism and filling. Some believe there are two distinct experiences while others argue they are the same thing. Some believe it happens over and over, while others that it's one experience.

**Acts 1:5** – *for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”*

**Acts 2:1-13** – Jews baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues without laying on of hands.

**Acts 2:37-38** – *37 Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” 38 And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

**Acts 8:14-17** – The Samaritans believed in Jesus and were baptized in water. They did not receive the Holy Spirit until Peter and John came down and laid hands on them. There is no record that they spoke in tongues.

**Acts 9:1-18** – Paul is blinded after hearing from Jesus, then is told to go to Straight Street. Ananias meets him there to lay hands on him to receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Paul is then water baptized.

**Acts 10:34-48** – The Holy Spirit fell upon the Gentiles while they were listening to the Word of God being preached. The Gentiles then spoke with tongues and then water baptized. There was no record of laying on of hands in this case.

**Acts 16:25-34** – The Philippian Jailor heard the message from Paul and Silas and believed and was water baptized. There is no record of the Holy Spirit, laying of hands, or tongues.

**Acts 19:1-6** – The disciples of John the Baptist believed when they heard the message of Jesus and then were water baptized. The Holy Spirit then came upon them when Paul laid his hands upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

**It's important not to make dogmatic practices out of a transitional book, like Acts. We need to reference other New Testament passages for clarity.**

**John 3:8** *The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

**Romans 6:3-4** – Paul speaks of a spiritual baptism that baptizes us into Christ—his death and resurrection.

**1 Corinthians 12:13** – Paul, again, speaks of this spiritual baptism but that it is done by the Holy Spirit.

**Galatians 3:27-28** – Paul uses similar language in 1 Corinthians 12:13 concerning a spiritual baptism.

**Ephesians 1:13-14** – Paul says that a person who believes in the gospel of Jesus is sealed with the Holy Spirit. Sealed (Greek, *sphragizō*) means confirmed.

**Ephesians 3:16-19** – Paul’s prayer for Christians to be filled with a deeper understanding of God by being filled with strength from the Holy Spirit and knowledge of the love of Christ.

**Ephesians 5:18** – Paul tells Christians to be “*filled with the Spirit.*”

Baptism (Greek, *baptizō*) means immersion.

Fill (Greek, *plēroō*) means to cause to abound.

The definition of being “filled” or “baptized” with the Holy Spirit implies a lessing of ourselves and an increasing of the Spirit’s work in us.

**Romans 12:3** ...*measure of faith that God has assigned.* Cf. **Matthew 17:20-21**

There is an initial faith in the gospel of Jesus that gives justification, but our faith should grow through sanctification (being made holy).

I believe all Christians have the Holy Spirit, but not all Christians are Spirit-filled. Desire, faith, and yielding release the power of the work of the Holy Spirit in our salvation.

A better question: **Do you desire the Holy Spirit to work in your salvation?**

Cf. **1 Corinthians 2:6-16**

### Discipleship Homework:

The scriptures have a lot to say about when and how the Holy Spirit works in our salvation. Spend time this week journaling and meditating on many scriptures listed in the notes. Use the questions below as a guide to help you connect with Holy Spirit.

- Do you have the Holy Spirit? If you’d like to talk more about this with pastor Jarrod, please email him at [jarrod@1116.church](mailto:jarrod@1116.church).
- In what ways has the Holy Spirit worked in your life? What about in the last week?
- What questions do you have about the Holy Spirit? James 4:8 says, “Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you.” Ask Him to reveal the answers to the questions you have and start reading scripture and listening.

Here is a guide prayer you can use this week:

*“Holy Spirit, You are God. Thank you for working in my life. You guided me into salvation, renewed my dead spirit, and you opened my eyes to the Truth. Thank you. Help me to see you more clearly – to recognize your movement in my life. Make me more sensitive to you so I can follow you more closely. I need you to help me be obedient when I recognize your leading. I need you.  
In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*