

Christian friend, I have a very important question for you. It is a question that was asked of believers in the Bible (Acts 19:2).^{*} My question is this: “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” If you haven’t, then I urge; you to receive the Holy Spirit today.

What does it mean to “receive the Holy Spirit?”

It was on the day of Pentecost that the first Christians received the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, “They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave the utterance.” Today, we too can be filled with the Spirit as were those early believers on the Day of Pentecost. All across the world millions of Christians have already received the Holy Spirit just like those early disciples. And many more are daily receiving this wonderful gift.

When a person receives the Holy Spirit, he or she is filled with God’s presence and power. Jesus promised, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you” (Acts 1:8). The Bible calls this this experience the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16; Acts 1:5; 11:16).

What is the purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?”

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a powerful, life-changing experience from God (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:2). It is a promise for all believers (Acts 2:17-18; 2:38-39).

Many wonderful blessings come to a person when he or she is baptized in the Holy Spirit. These blessings include overflowing joy (Acts 13:52; Rom. 14:17; Gal. 5:22; 1 Thess. 1:6), an overwhelming sense of

God’s nearness (Matt. 28:20), and a greater awareness of God’s presence and power within. Other benefits include increased power in prayer (Rom. 8:26-27) and a greater love for God’s word, God’s people, and lost humanity (Rom. 5:5). Spirit baptism also brings power to do the works of Christ (John 14:14-17), including the full manifestation of spiritual gifts according to the will of the Spirit (1 Cor. 12:7-11).

The primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is power for witness. Jesus said, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, *and you will be my witnesses.*” Those early Christians who received the Holy Spirit were filled with the power of God to witness. This witness will begin at home and will extend to the ends of the earth.

Paul asked the Ephesian believers whether they had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2) because he intended to use these men to reach all of Asia Minor with the gospel (v. 10), and they first needed to be empowered by the Spirit before they began the work (cf., Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5).

When you receive the Holy Spirit you will receive many wonderful benefits. The greatest of these will be power to share Christ with your lost friends and neighbors and to participate in God’s mission to reach all nations with the gospel (Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8).

Who can receive the Holy Spirit?

Every true Christian can receive the Holy Spirit and be filled with God’s presence and power. The Bible says that the promise of the Spirit is for all Christians of every generation (Acts 2:38-39). Anyone who has been truly born again, sincerely desires a closer walk with Christ, and wants to become an effective witness for Him can receive this marvelous gift.

Across the globe God is giving this wonderful gift to Christians of all ages, of all walks of life, and from many different denominations. He is only looking for hungry hearts. Dear friend, you too can receive the Holy Spirit today.

What must one do to receive the Holy Spirit?

The gift of the Holy Spirit is received by faith, just as are all other gifts from God (John 7:37; Gal. 3:2). You can receive the Holy Spirit today by taking these three simple “faith steps”:

Ask in faith. Jesus said that the Heavenly Father gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask for it (Luke 11:13). You will never receive God’s blessing until you ask (James 4:2). Your asking must be in faith. This means that, when you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit, you should consciously believe that He is hearing and answering your prayer. You expect Him to do what He has promised!

Receive by faith. God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to everyone who asks (Luke 11:9-13). However, once God gives you the gift of the Holy Spirit, you must reach out by faith and receive it. Jesus taught how this can happen. He said, “Whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (Mark 11:24). The moment you truly believe, the Holy Spirit will enter and fill your entire being. You will sense His powerful presence within.

Speak in faith. When the disciples received the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost they “began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4). The same thing will happen to you when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. When you ask, and by faith receive, He will come and fill you. Once you sense His overflowing presence within, begin to speak out in faith. You will begin to speak in a language you have never learned. It is God’s sign that He has empowered you to be His witness.

^{*} To receive maximum benefit from this study, look up and read all Scripture references. All references are from the NIV.