

- **How can one know that he or she has been filled with the Holy Spirit?**

You will know for certain that you have received the Holy Spirit when you begin to speak in tongues as the Spirit enables you (Acts 2:4). This is the first evidence that one has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is what happened in the New Testament when people received the Spirit (Acts 2:4; 10:45-46; 19:6), and you can expect the same thing to happen to you.

Another evidence that you have been filled with the Spirit is a passion for the lost and a determination to reach them for Christ. Along with this passion will come a boldness and power to witness for Him (Acts 4:31).

- **How does speaking in tongues occur?**

Speaking in tongues is a cooperative act between the person being filled with the Spirit and the Spirit himself. At Pentecost the disciples “began to speak in other tongues *as the Spirit enabled them*” (Acts 2:4). They spoke as the Spirit gave them the ability. In the same manner, you will speak, but the Holy Spirit will give you the words. The words will not come from your mind as in normal speech, but they will come from deep inside, from your spirit (John 4:37; 1 Cor. 14:14). You will not understand what you are saying; however, the Holy Spirit will speak through you the words that He gives (v. 2).

As you speak, yield your entire being—body, soul, and spirit—to God. Don’t be afraid. Trust God completely to speak through you.

- **To receive the Holy Spirit, do this . . .**

Approach God’s throne boldly, knowing that whatever He has promised, He will surely provide (Heb. 10:19; 1 John 5:14-15). Don’t be afraid. Give yourself completely to God. In faith, pray this prayer:

Jesus, I boldly come to You to be filled with the Holy Spirit. You promised; You said that, if I would ask the heavenly Father, He would give me the Holy Spirit. I truly believe Your promise. So, right now I ask You, “Lord, fill me with the Holy Spirit!” I give myself completely to you—body, soul, and spirit. I am not afraid. Come, Holy Spirit, fill me now. In Jesus’ name I pray.

Once you have prayed, act in faith to receive the Holy Spirit. Pray and believe this prayer: “In Jesus’ name, I receive the Holy Spirit by faith. I believe that I have received!” You will sense the Spirit’s presence coming upon you and filling you. When you sense the Spirit’s presence within, begin to *speak from the Presence*. That is, speak from deep inside, where you feel the Spirit moving. You will begin to say words you don’t understand. When this happens, don’t be afraid. It is the Holy Spirit empowering you to be Christ’s witness. Continue to yield yourself more and more to the Spirit, allowing Him to flow through you. Praise the Lord, you have been filled with the Holy Spirit! Now go out and tell someone about Christ.

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We would love to hear your testimony of being filled with the Spirit. You can write us and tell us what God has done for you at 580-D W. Central Street, Springfield, MO, USA, 65802. Or you can e-mail us at actsinafrica@agmd.org.



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Did **You**
Receive
the **Holy**
Spirit



When **You**
Believed?

• **Did You Receive the Holy Spirit when You Believed?**

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 have not received, then I urge you to be filled with the Holy Spirit today.

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

On the Day of Pentecost the first Christians received the Holy Spirit in a new and powerful way. The Bible says, “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (Acts 2:4). Today, we too can be filled with the Spirit just like those early believers. Around the world millions of Christians have already received the Holy Spirit in this manner. And every day many more are receiving this wonderful heaven-sent gift.

When one 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 sometimes refers to this experience as 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 when a person 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.

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

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). This powerful experience 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).

It is important to know, however, that the primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is power for witness. Jesus promised, “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 zeal to reach the lost and the power they needed to do it. This witness begins at home and extends to the ends of the earth.

In the Bible Paul asked the Ephesian believers whether they had received the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2). He did this because he wanted to use them to reach all of Asia Minor with the gospel (v. 10). He knew that they first needed to be empowered by the Spirit (see 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 the nations with the gospel (Luke 24:46-48; Acts 1:8).

• **Who can receive the Holy Spirit?**

The Bible teaches that every true Christian can and should receive the Holy Spirit and be filled with God’s presence and power. It says that the promise is for all Christians of every generation until Jesus comes again (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 (Acts 5:32).

Across the globe God is graciously giving this gift to Christians of all ages, of all walks of life, and from many different denominations. He is only looking for hungry hearts (Matt. 5:6; John 7:37). 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 all other gifts from God are received (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 (Luke 11:13). You will never receive God’s blessing until you ask for it (James 4:2). And 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. This is God’s sign that He has empowered you to be His witness.

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