

*You can  
Experience*  
**GOD'S  
POWER**  
Today

**4** Things You Need to Know

## Four Things You Need to Know to Experience God's Power Today

Jesus' last words before He returned to heaven were, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be my witnesses . . ." (*Acts 1:8*). That promise was not only for His disciples then, it is for all Christians of all ages. You, too, can experience the power of God in your own life. And you can become a powerful witness for Him. To do this, you need to understand four powerful truths:

### 1. Jesus has COMMISSIONED you to be His WITNESS.

*(References contained in this booklet should be read in context from the Bible whenever possible. Except where indicated, all Scriptures are from the New International Version.)*

#### Christ's Commission

Christ has commissioned all Christians to be His witnesses. He said, "You will be my witnesses . . . to the ends of the earth" (*Acts 1:8*). He commanded us to "go and make disciples of all nations" (*Matthew 28:19*).

#### Our Responsibility

The responsibility of every Christian is to witness for Christ. Jesus said, "If you love me, you will obey what I command" (*John 14:15*). Our response to Him must be, "Here

#### Follow Him

Jesus said, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me" (*Matthew 16:24*). To follow Christ is to take Him as your example. It is to seek to live your life the way Jesus lived His.

#### Pray This Prayer

To receive Christ as your Savior, pray this simple prayer from your heart:

*Jesus, I believe that You are the Savior of the world. I believe that You died on the cross for my sins and that You rose again. I know that I am a sinner, and apart from faith in You, I am eternally lost. Please forgive me of my sins and become the Savior and Lord of my life. I now forsake all my sins to follow You. I will follow You all the days of my life. Come into my heart and become the Lord of my life. In Your name I pray. Amen.*

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## A Message of Salvation

Before one can be baptized in the Holy Spirit he or she must first be born again (*John 3:3-7*). Speaking about the Holy Spirit Jesus said, “The world cannot receive [Him], because it neither sees Him nor knows Him” (*John 14:17, NKJV*). We must first become true followers of Christ, then we can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (*Acts 2:39*).

- *To receive Christ and become a candidate for Spirit baptism, do the following:*

### Repent of Your Sins

“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent” (*Acts 17:30*). Repentance is turning from sin and self to God. It is forsaking your sins to live a life of holiness and obedience to Him.

### Believe in Christ

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life” (*John 3:16*). “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved (*Acts 16:31*). To believe in Christ is to put your full trust in Him alone for salvation. We do this by praying and confessing our faith in Him.

am I. Send me” (*Isaiah 6:8*). And, as we are able, we should participate in reaching people around the world.

- *But you may wonder, How can a person like me become powerful witnesses for Christ?*

## 2. Christ has PROMISED you His POWER.

### A Promise for All

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses” (*Acts 1:8*). “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call” (*Acts 2:39*).

### A Command for All

Not only are we promised God’s power, we are commanded to receive His power. Jesus “gave them this command: ‘Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit’” (*Acts 1:4-5*). The Bible commands, “Be filled with the Spirit” (*Eph. 5:18*).

- *Can someone know that he has received God’s power?*

### 3. You can KNOW FOR SURE that you have received God's power.

#### You Can Know

You don't have to question whether you have been filled with the Spirit. Just as the early disciples knew when someone had received the Spirit, so can you: "All the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also, *for* they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God" (*Acts 10:45-46 NASB*). (They knew the Gentiles had been filled with the Spirit *because* they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God.)

#### Two Evidences

When you are filled with the Spirit you can expect two wonderful results:

- **You will speak in a new language.**  
"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (*Acts 2:4*). "When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues
- **You will witness for Christ.**  
"You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses (*Acts 1:8*). "After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken.

- an overflowing fullness of the Spirit (*John 7:37-39*)
- a deepened reverence for God (*Acts 2:43; Hebrews 12:28*).
- a greater consecration to God and His work (*Acts 2:42*)
- A more active love for Christ, His Word, and lost people (*Mark 16:20*)

#### Witness for Christ

Though many blessings come from being baptized in the Holy Spirit, its primary purpose is empowerment for witness (*Acts 1:8*). Once you have been filled with the Spirit, you should immediately begin witnessing for Christ.

#### The Experience Must be Maintained

The Spirit-filled life must be maintained. You should not think that, once you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you have somehow "arrived," and that there is nothing more you need to do. Spirit baptism does indeed bring one into a new and deeper relationship with the Lord. And yet, no matter how powerful your initial infilling may be, your new relationship must be continually renewed. Your life in the Spirit can be maintained by living a life of sincere devotion, disciplined prayer, holiness, and committed witness for Christ.

## Speaking in Tongues

You should know that, when you speak in tongues, the words you speak will not come from your mind, as in natural speech. They will come from deep inside, from your spirit. Jesus said, “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being [his spirit] will flow rivers of living water’” (*John 7:38*).

The Bible says that the “one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries” (*1Cor. 14:2*). Paul testified, “For if I pray in a language I don’t understand, my spirit is praying, but I don’t know what I am saying” (*in 14 Living Bible*).

Your speaking will not be forced; it will be a natural flow of supernatural words. You should simply allow it to happen, and cooperate fully with the Spirit by boldly speaking out in faith. You will begin to speak words you do not understand, words that are coming from the Spirit of God. When this happens, don’t be afraid. Let the words flow!

## Expect Your Life to Change

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a powerful life-changing experience. When you are filled with the Spirit, you can expect many wonderful changes to come into your life, such as,

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly” (*Acts 4:31*).

- *But, you may ask, How can I receive God’s power today?*

## 4. You can RECEIVE God’s power THROUGH FAITH.

Like salvation, Spirit baptism is received by faith (*Galatians 3:14*). As you come to Jesus to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, believe that He will give it to you.

### The Promise of Faith

[Jesus speaking] “Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours” (*Mark 11:24*). “Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him” (*John 7:38*).

### Three Steps of Faith

To be filled with the Spirit and receive God’s power, just take these three simple “faith steps”:

- **Ask in Faith**  
[Jesus speaking] “So I say to you: ‘Ask and it will be given to you . . . your Father in heaven [will] give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!’” (*Luke 11:9-13*).

- **Receive by Faith**  
“For everyone who asks receives...” (*Luke 11:10*).  
“Believe that you have received...” (*Mark 11:24*).
- **Speak in Faith**  
“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them” (*Acts 2:4*).

### To Be Filled with the Spirit, Do This ...

- **Approach God's throne of grace with confidence.**  
Jesus has made the way clear for you to receive grace from Him (*Hebrews 10:19-20*). Claim His promise:  
“Everyone who asks receives” (*Luke 11:10*). Don't doubt; the promise is yours (*Acts 2:39*).
- **Ask the Father for His gift.**  
Remember, God is more anxious to give you the gift of the Spirit than you are to receive it. Boldly pray this prayer:

*Jesus, You promised. You said if I would ask, You would give me Holy Spirit. You said that everyone who asks receives. So, I ask You, right now, fill me, and empower me to be Your witness.*

As you pray, believe that God is hearing and answering your prayer. Believe that, at this very moment, He is filling you with His Spirit. Focus on what God is doing for you

and in you. You will begin to sense the Spirit's presence as He comes upon you.

- **Receive the Spirit.**  
Receiving the Spirit is a bold present-tense step of faith. It occurs in a moment of time when the promise is fully believed and acted upon. It can be compared to Peter's step of faith when he, at the command of Jesus, stepped from the boat and began to walk on water (*Matthew 14:29*).
- **Pray and truly believe this simple prayer:** “*I am now full of the Holy Spirit.*” As you pray, feel the presence of God filling you.
- **Speak as the Spirit directs.**  
Allow the Holy Spirit to gush forth from deep inside. As He does, yield to Him your vocal organs and lips. You will begin to speak words in a language you have never learned. Don't be afraid. God is filling you with His presence and power.
- **Yield yourself more and more to the Spirit.**  
Let the words flow out of you. Speak with all of your heart, holding nothing back, trusting God to do His part (*Psalms 103:1*).

*Praise the Lord! You have been baptized in the Holy Spirit! And you have received His power to be His witness.*