
Helping a Child Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

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If you are going to help children receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you should have received this baptism with the initial physical evidence of speaking in an unknown language that the Holy Spirit gives. This is the most important gift a Christian will receive after salvation. Listed below are some helpful guidelines when praying with a child to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Keep instructions brief and positive. Do not make it a "super spiritual" experience. Try to eliminate any fears the child might have. The baptism with the Holy Spirit should be a natural part of the Christian experience. Luke 11:13 tells us, "If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Emphasize the Reasons

1. Jesus commanded us to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. (Acts 1:4-5)
2. The Holy Spirit teaches believers what God wants us to be and do. (John 16:13)
3. The Holy Spirit gives us power to be a witness for Jesus. (Acts 1:8)
4. The Holy Spirit make us stronger. (Jude 20)
5. The Holy Spirit helps us pray as God wants. (Romans 8:26-27)

Explain the Process

1. If you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior, the Holy Spirit is already inside

you (1 Corinthians 6:19). The Holy Spirit is the one who made you realize you needed Jesus. The Holy Spirit is the one who lets us know what is right and what is wrong. Even more so, the Holy Spirit wants to give you the power to be witnesses of God's love and care.

2. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is the way God wants you to experience more power and understand God's presence in our every day lives. Ask the child a few questions; "If you ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, He will give you the ability to speak in a new spiritual language. Do you want that?" If they say "no," ask them why and minister accordingly. Do not pressure them if they say "no." When the child is ready, it will happen. If he or she responds with "yes," proceed with the following:

An example of a prayer to say with them: "Jesus, baptize me in the Holy Spirit so I can have the power to be a witness for you. Lord, fill my mouth and my heart with praise to you. Thank you for giving me the ability to speak in languages I've never known before. I have received everything you promised. Help me to use my new spiritual language. Amen."

3. Using your spiritual language. Jesus will not take over their voice or mouth. They must choose to say the words that the Holy Spirit gives them. There are probably unusual sounding words going through their minds. Ask them to say

the words they hear. Some children may do this quietly; others may be excited and say these words loudly. Do not suggest words to the child.

Explain that speaking in "tongues" is not taught or learned; it is the physical evidence or proof that you have received the gift of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The next evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is to show the "fruit of the spirit" in their lives. Another evidence is the releasing of spiritual gifts as discussed in lesson six.

Continue to Pray with the Children

Pray with them until you are confident they have fully released their prayer language. Encourage them to use their prayer language every day. This could do this in the shower, while walking, or before they go to sleep. Pray with them again at your next meeting.