

Acts 19: 1—7— Paul meets some believers from Ephesus and it is recorded that the Holy Spirit “*came upon them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*”

**Other passages to consider:**

Acts 4: 23—31— Here we see the Apostle’s prayer for **boldness** to continue to share the message of Jesus in the midst of persecution and opposition. Vs. 31 says, “*...the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and they spoke the word of God with boldness.*” It’s not surprising that speaking in tongues is not mentioned here since the prayer request (vs. 29) was specifically for boldness and so the writer of Acts focused on the fact that God had answered that prayer!

Acts 9: 17—It is evident that the Apostle Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues (I Corinthians 14: 18). Based on the Scriptural evidence it is reasonable to deduce that this type of speech is to be expected whenever the experience of the “baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit” occurs. However this marks a beginning, not an end. This Pentecostal experience will cause the “*fruit of the Spirit*” (Galatians 5: 22 & 23) to be more evident in our lives. If the result is any less than this it falls short of God’s full purpose for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**Conclusion**

If you are a follower of Jesus and are convinced that He sent the Holy Spirit as a gift, and for the purposes for which He explained, and if you believe this Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for believers today, then seek God for this experience. However, let your focus be more upon seeking the Giver, than the gift itself. In prayer, ask God to give you all He has for you so your relationship with Him can be all that He intends it to be!

Luke 11: 13—“*If you, being 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.*”

**If there is anything we can do**

**or**

**If you have any questions  
please call the church office  
and  
ask for one of the pastors!**

**Pentecostal  
Distinctive:  
"Baptism in  
The Holy Spirit"**



## ***Pentecostal Distinctive: “Baptism in The Holy Spirit”***

Ever since the “Day of Pentecost” (AD 33), as recorded in Acts 2, there have been questions and controversy surrounding the Biblical doctrine of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It began with the original disciples being “filled with” (Acts 2: 4) the Holy Spirit and speaking in languages they had never learned. In the Old Testament, Joel prophesied about supernatural events which began with this ‘outpouring’ of God’s Spirit (Joel 2: 28 & 29). From that time until now, in church history, the Holy Spirit has been supernaturally manifested in and through earnest and seeking Believers. This ‘baptism’ experience is not reserved for those who wear the denominational label, “Pentecostal”. It is the experience of Christians from all denominations, particularly in the 20th century.

### ***Jesus the Baptizer***

In Matthew 3:11 John the Baptist said, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I..**He** (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” Jesus knew that after He left this earth, His followers would need God’s power to continue the mission that He had begun. So Jesus promised to send the “Comforter/Counselor” (see John 14: 16 ff.; 16: 7) to dwell within and empower Christians for effective service.

### ***Separate From Salvation?***

According to the Bible, the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” is a separate and subsequent experience to that of salvation. At salvation we receive, by faith, Christ’s forgiveness and His gift of eternal life. The Spirit indwells all true believers according to Romans 8: 9, “...if anyone does not belong to Christ” (also Ephesians 1: 13). It is important to note that you DO NOT have to be baptized in the Holy Spirit to be a true follower of Christ, as some wrongly teach. The only pre-requisite for entrance into heaven is personally receiving Jesus Christ and His forgiveness (Eph. 2: 8). Remember, Jesus was speaking to His followers in Acts 1: 5 when he promised that they would be ‘baptized with the Holy Spirit’ in a few days. They **were** His true followers, but had not yet been filled with the Holy Spirit (also Acts 19: 2–6). However, it is equally clear that Christ viewed it as important since He commanded His followers to wait until they were “endued with power from on high” (Luke 24: 49).

### ***Purpose of Spirit Baptism***

The Holy Spirit’s role can be summed up in Jesus’ words from John 16: 14, “He will glorify Me (Jesus).” We also ‘glorify’ Jesus by being good representatives of Him in this world. Jesus promised to equip us to do so. In Acts 1: 8 He promised His followers at that time (and us), that we would receive power when the Holy Spirit would come upon us and as a result be witnesses to Jesus wherever we go!

### ***Who may receive?***

The “in-filling of the Spirit” is a gift that Christ offers to every Christian. In Acts 2: 4 & 10: 44 we are told that “all” who were gathered were filled with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 2: 39 Peter, in referring back to this “gift of the Holy Spirit” (vs. 38b) said, “For the promise is to you and your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.” Later on Paul told the Christians in the city of Ephesus to “be filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5: 18). It is not an experience reserved for a select group or type of Christian, but is intended for all Believers in every generation.

### ***Initial Physical Evidence***

We believe the Bible teaches that the initial (but not only) evidence that someone has been baptized in the Holy Spirit is “speaking in tongues.” **Let’s look at the Book of Acts:**

Acts 2: 4 — “...were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Jesus referred to this instance in Acts 1: 5 where he said, “...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 10: 44-48 — In this case, non-Jewish believers received the Holy Spirit, and the Jewish believers knew it was true because the “heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.” In recounting this experience in Acts 11: 16, Peter said, “I remember the word of the Lord... ‘you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit’.” Peter is saying that this is what happened back in Acts 10: 45 & 46.