

Essential Foundations

Power Connection

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Power Connection

Hebrews 6:1–3 (NKJV)

Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. And this we will do if God permits.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Acts 1:4–8 (NKJV)

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, “Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” And He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

Four Important Truths About the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

1. The Holy Spirit is God.

Genesis 1:2 (NKJV)

The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

2. We are born of the Spirit at the moment of salvation.

John 3:5–8 (NKJV)

Jesus answered, “Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’ The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

3. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is a separate and subsequent experience to salvation.**Acts 8:12–17 (NKJV)**

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1–6 (NKJV)

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.” Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had

laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

4. It is impossible to fulfill God's will for our lives without the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power.

How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- **Purity**
- **Humility**
- **Put Faith in God's Grace**

Galatians 3:5–14 (NKJV)

Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith? Just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Therefore know that only those who are of faith are sons of Abraham. And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel to Abraham beforehand, saying, “In you all the nations shall be blessed.” So then those who are of faith are blessed with believing Abraham. For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the law, to do them.” But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for “the just shall live by faith.” Yet the law is not of faith, but “the man who does them shall live by them.” Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

- **Ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit and receive the Holy Spirit into your life by faith.**

John 1:32–34 (NKJV)

And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven

like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

- **Be sensitive to the presence of the Holy Spirit and to His promptings to speak in tongues.**

Acts 10:44–48 (NKJV)

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, “Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?” And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked him to stay a few days.

Romans 8:26 (NKJV)

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

1 Corinthians 14:14–15 (NKJV)

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

1 Corinthians 14:18 (NKJV)

I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all...

Small Group Guide: Power Connection

Opening Question

What does “being filled with the Holy Spirit” mean to you personally? Is it something you’ve experienced or are still curious about?

The Power We Were Meant to Walk In

Hebrews 6:1–2 outlines the essential building blocks of a strong, mature faith. One of those foundations is the *doctrine of baptisms* — plural. This includes both **water baptism** (a symbol of salvation and public declaration of faith) and **Holy Spirit baptism** (a supernatural empowerment for daily life and ministry).

Jesus Himself told His disciples — who were already believers — to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism in the Holy Spirit before beginning their mission (Acts 1:4–8). Why? Because this baptism would give them **power** to be His witnesses, beginning where they lived and stretching to the ends of the earth.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate and essential experience for every believer. It's not about emotionalism or status but rather *connection to power* that we desperately need to live fruitful, obedient lives.

Holy Spirit's power helps us:

- Obey when it's hard
- Pray with authority
- Love boldly and serve sacrificially
- Stand firm in trials and temptations

Holy Spirit dwells within us. But like any connection, it must be maintained. Ephesians 5:18 says to “be continually filled” with the Holy Spirit. This means staying in alignment with Him, staying hungry for Him, and staying open to His leading.

Being filled with the Spirit is an ongoing lifestyle — one that keeps our spiritual foundation strong and helps us live the empowered lives we’re called to live.

Read Aloud Together

Hebrews 6:1–2

Acts 1:4–8

For Discussion

1. Why do you think the Bible treats the doctrine of baptisms — including the baptism in the Holy Spirit — as a foundational part of spiritual growth?
2. Based on Acts 1:8, what is the primary purpose of the baptism in the Holy Spirit? How have you seen that purpose play out in your life (or not yet)?
3. What are some ways we can “stay filled” with the Holy Spirit in daily life? What helps you personally?
4. What do you sense the Holy Spirit might want to strengthen or awaken in your spiritual life right now?
5. Are there any questions you have about Holy Spirit baptism or speaking in tongues?

Group Activation

Has everyone in your group been baptized in the Holy Spirit? If not, and they would like to be, lay hands on each individual and pray for them to receive Holy Spirit baptism by faith (Luke 11:13).