

# ***Holy Spirit Baptism***

## INTRODUCTION

The methodology for this study is "Question and Answer" followed by reflection. 10 Questions are addressed using this format:

- 1) Question
- 2) Interactive Reading Exercise
- 3) Explanation
- 4) Prayer
- 5) Personal Reflection

Although this Study Guide is designed to be done individually, you are not alone. The Lord will be your Study-Partner, for in Him is all truth (John 14:6). He must reveal to you the truth concerning His Holy Spirit, otherwise this will simply be an intellectual exercise. Let's pray and ask the Lord to be present and involved in your study.

*Dear Lord, thank You for this opportunity to study the Scriptures concerning Your Holy Spirit. I desire to know the truth.*

*I pray according to John 14:16 where You said,*

*"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth..."*

*and according to John 16:13 where You said,*

*"When He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth..."*

*Lead me into Your Truth concerning Holy Spirit Baptism as I study. I ask this in the Name of our Lord Jesus.*

*Amen.*

A few comments will help introduce this precious and important study.

A wise seminary professor said: "*All can. Some do. None must.*"

This means that the gift of Holy Spirit Baptism and speaking in tongues is available to all, received by some, and required of none.

God does not play favorites. He does not select only certain people for this gift. The offer is equally to all. *All can.*

God does have a sovereign plan and timetable for each individual. We cannot know when or how He will uniquely connect with a person through this gift. Also, some people have forgiveness or healing or other areas of freedom to experience before the fullness of Spirit Baptism. God gently guides us into greater and greater freedom and fullness.

Be patient and follow Him. *Some do.*

As Question 4 explains, Jesus breathes His Holy Spirit into everyone who becomes a Christian, just as He did on that first Easter day. Subsequently, Pentecost happens when the Holy Spirit is poured out upon those who are already Christians. As Question 6 explains, Scripture presents speaking in tongues as the normal expected evidence of this personal pentecost. This is a separate encounter with the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, tongues is not a requirement for salvation. *None must.*

Neither is speaking in tongues a mark of spiritual maturity. Christians who encounter the Holy Spirit in this way may still be immature in their character. Speaking in tongues is not a guarantee of someone being Christlike; but, it is a gift that can help a Christian grow.

A wise seminary professor also said: "*The answer to mis-use is not dis-use but proper-use.*"

Some Christians have expressed the gift of speaking in tongues in ways that have been pushy, judgmental, showy, or otherwise immature and offensive. Rather than resisting this wonderful gift because of such mis-use, and allowing this biblical gem to be discarded, a better response is to follow Scripture's teaching about proper use. If you have been hurt by mis-use, ask the Lord to heal you, and forgive those who have offended you.

The first disciples, those who personally knew Jesus, needed this gift as a way of expressing their love for God - a love that is beyond words, and as a means of empowerment for world-changing ministry. Disciples today may also humbly expect to have the Spirit poured out upon them.

## Question #1 - "Who is The Holy Spirit?"

The first step for us to take is to identify Who we are talking about. The Holy Spirit is a Person, one of the Three Persons in the Trinity. He is God. He is unique, THE only Holy Spirit. He is indeed HOLY, totally pure and righteous. He is a SPIRIT, intangible, not limited by time or space.

### Interactive Reading Exercise

(The wording of these questions is taken from the New American Standard Version of the Bible.)

(1) Read the following verses and make a list of titles given to the Holy Spirit:

John 15:26	_____	_____
Rom. 1:4	_____	
Rom. 8:2	_____	
Rom. 8:15	_____	
Heb. 9:14	_____	
Heb. 10:29	_____	
I Pet. 4:14	_____	_____

(2) Read the following verses and make a list of the symbols used for the Holy Spirit:

I Sam. 16:13	_____
Matt. 3:11-12	_____
John 1:32	_____
John 3:8	_____
John 7:37-39	_____
II Cor. 1:22	_____

(3) Read Acts 5:3-4. When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit, he was actually lying to \_\_\_\_\_.

Read Matt. 12:28. Jesus cast out demons by the Spirit of \_\_\_\_\_. These verses reveal that the Holy Spirit is God Himself.

(4) What did the Holy Spirit say in Acts 13:2 ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. This communication shows the Holy Spirit is a  
Person with intelligence.

(5) What did the Holy Spirit forbid in Acts 16:6 ? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.  
This reveals the Holy Spirit is a Person with a will.

(6) What command is given in Eph. 4:30 ? \_\_\_\_\_  
This reveals the Holy Spirit is a Person with feelings, such as grief.

---

## Question #1 - "Who is The Holy Spirit?"

### Explanation

It is important to realize that the Holy Spirit is a Person. We can talk to Him, listen to Him, obey Him, grieve Him, and experience His presence. He is not an "it," or a "spook," or a "wispy unknowable kind-of-thing." We can fellowship with Him as we can with other people. In II Corinthians 13:14 Paul says,

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

### Prayer for a deeper fellowship with the Spirit of God:

*Heavenly Father, I want to have a meaningful relationship with Your Holy Spirit. I want to hear His voice and obey it. I do not want to cause Him grief or sorrow. Holy Spirit, please lead me into true fellowship with You. In the Name of Jesus I pray. Amen.*

### Personal Reflection

In these reflection sections, write as if you were writing in a journal or "spiritual diary." Comment on your thoughts, feelings, and/or questions. Write out your prayers, your requests. Write to the Holy Spirit specifically.

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Holy Spirit, .....

## Question #2 - "What terminology is used in the Bible to refer to Holy Spirit Baptism?"

The experience of Holy Spirit Baptism is referred to in the Bible by several different expressions. Whatever is divine is not fully comprehensible by finite humanity, and so it is with Holy Spirit Baptism. The variety in terminology attempts to reveal something of the richness of the event.

### Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16. In all these accounts, who baptizes with water? \_\_\_\_\_

Who baptizes with the Holy Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

(2) Read Joel 2:28-29 and Acts 2:32-33. \_\_\_\_\_ was raised up by God. \_\_\_\_\_ was exalted to the right hand of God. \_\_\_\_\_ then poured forth the Holy Spirit. So, one way to refer to Holy Spirit Baptism is the "outpouring" of the Holy Spirit.

(3) Besides the terminology "poured out," what other expressions for Holy Spirit Baptism do you see in Acts 10:44-48 ? \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_

(4) What terminology is seen again in Acts 11:15 ? \_\_\_\_\_  
Read Acts 8:14-17. Besides "fall upon," what other expression do you see (vs. 15, 17)? \_\_\_\_\_

(5) Complete Peter's statement from Acts 2:38 : "...and you shall receive the \_\_\_\_\_

(6) Read Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4; 2:33. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Father. Read Luke 11:11-13. Receiving the \_\_\_\_\_ is receiving a good gift.

(7) When were the disciples to receive power ? (Acts 1:8)

\_\_\_\_\_

(8) After His resurrection and before His ascension, Jesus told His disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit. His command is found in Luke 24:46-53. Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-4 is the fulfillment of this promise. Did you read these verses? \_\_\_\_\_

(9) What happened when Paul laid his hands on some disciples in Ephesus? (Acts 19:1-6) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(10) Read Acts 2:4; 4:31; 9:17. In each case the terminology is that they were \_\_\_\_\_ with the Holy Spirit.  
\_\_\_\_\_

## Question #2 - "What terminology is used in the Bible to refer to Holy Spirit Baptism?"

### Explanation

Referred to by several different expressions, Holy Spirit Baptism is seen as a gift of the Father given through His Son. Receiving the Holy Spirit is an experience with God Himself, and therefore human language cannot fully describe it.

### Prayer for experiencing the richness of Holy Spirit Baptism:

*Father, I believe that the gift of Your Holy Spirit is a good gift. I also believe that You can pour Your Spirit out on me. I want to receive the richness of Your promise of the Holy Spirit. Help me to see Jesus as the One Who Baptizes in the Holy Spirit. In His Name I pray. Amen.*

### Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Question #3 - "What is the difference between  
Water Baptism and Holy Spirit Baptism?"  
and

Question #4- "Don't ALL believers have the Holy Spirit?"

We have already read verses that refer to both water baptism and Holy Spirit Baptism (see exercise #1 under Question #2). We will now explore in a bit more detail the difference between them. Water baptism and salvation are very closely connected (though not exactly synonymous), so we will answer Question #4 in this section, also.

Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:4; Luke 3:3. John's baptism in water is described as baptism of \_\_\_\_\_. This was water baptism in the name of John. Because John the Baptist's ministry was only preparing the way for Christ, it was not a baptism of salvation. It prepared the people for Jesus' message of salvation by confronting them with their need to repent and their need for forgiveness.

(2) Water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ is described in Rom. 6:1-11. Read these verses through twice. Through water baptism, we identify ourselves through faith with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. We die to ourselves and sin, we are buried under the water, and we arise to eternal life. Water baptism does not itself bring salvation. Someone who does not believe in Christ can "go through the motions" and not be saved. Eph. 2:8 says it is by grace you have been saved through faith. Water baptism is a commandment of our Lord to all who believe in Him as evidence of our faith in Him. We are blessed through obedience to this command. Did you read Rom. 6:1-11 twice? \_\_\_\_\_

(3) Salvation under the New Covenant of Christ's redemptive work on the cross was not available until after His resurrection ("salvation" in the Old Testament is an issue to be studied separately). Do you believe Christ's disciples were "saved" (in right relationship with God) before His death? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, under which Covenant, the New or the Old? \_\_\_\_\_.

[For the next few questions, cover-up the rest of the page and write your

response before you read the answers that are provided.]

[The answers to (3) is "Old" because they were in right relationship with God but Jesus had not yet died on the cross nor been resurrected.]

Read John 20:22. Did this happen before or after Jesus' resurrection? \_\_\_\_\_

[The answer is "After" because this is Easter day. The New Covenant is being breathed into action for the first time.]

Did John 20:22 happen before or after Jesus' ascension into heaven? \_\_\_\_\_

[The answer is "Before." Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into His disciples and for the first time God indwelt His people in the New Covenant. But, the Spirit had not yet been poured-out upon His people, which could only happen after Jesus ascended.]

(4) Read John 16:5-7. Who is speaking? \_\_\_\_\_ Where is He going away to? \_\_\_\_\_ If He does not go, Who shall not be sent? \_\_\_\_\_ So, when will the Holy Spirit be sent? \_\_\_\_\_

Did the Holy Spirit work through people under the Old Covenant (read Judges 3:10)? \_\_\_\_\_ (This was a temporary enabling by the Holy Spirit for a specific task.) So, the Holy Spirit worked through people in the Old Testament (Covenant), but the Holy Spirit would not be SENT until after Jesus' ascension.

(5) I Corinthians 12:3 says that no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit. The answer to Question #4 is, "YES," every Christian has the Holy Spirit. This is a continual presence of the Holy Spirit within the Christian through faith in Christ. This is different than the occasional enabling given to people in the Old Testament. Read John 20:22 again. Remembering your answers from above, Jesus breathed on His disciples after His \_\_\_\_\_ but before His \_\_\_\_\_ Could this have been the Holy Spirit baptism (refer again to John 16:5-7)? \_\_\_\_\_

In John 20:22, the disciples received the Holy Spirit not for baptism but for New Testament salvation. Therefore, the experience with the Holy Spirit that Jesus says to "wait for" (Acts 1:4-5) is something other than salvation.

- (6) Read Acts 19:1-6. Put the following events in sequence :
- \_\_\_ They were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
  - \_\_\_ The Holy Spirit came on them.
  - \_\_\_ They began speaking with tongues and prophesying.
  - \_\_\_ Paul found some disciples in Ephesus who had been baptized only into John's baptism.
  - \_\_\_ Paul laid his hands upon them.

Here we see Holy Spirit Baptism as an event subsequent to and distinguishable from salvation and water baptism. It is not necessary for a person to be Filled with the Spirit to be saved, but it is necessary for a person to be saved in order to be Filled with the Spirit.

(7) This expression for Holy Spirit Baptism, "Filled with the Holy Spirit" (see again Acts 2:4; 4:31; 9:17), points to the difference between salvation and Holy Spirit Baptism. Every Christian HAS the Holy Spirit. Most Christians have been baptized in water. But not every Christian is FILLED with the Holy Spirit. Read again Acts 8:14-17. Some Samaritans had 'received the word of God,' that is, the gospel of salvation. This means they were Christians. Why were Peter and John sent to these Christians?

---

(8) The purpose of water baptism is to confirm our faith and to testify to our faith in Christ. Holy Spirit baptism does these and much more. Read John 16:7-15 and list at least six things the Spirit will do : \_\_\_\_\_

---

---

(9) Read Acts 10:44-48. Is it necessary for a person to be baptized in water before they are baptized in the Spirit? \_\_\_\_\_

---

Question #3 - "What is the difference between  
Water Baptism and Holy Spirit Baptism?"  
and  
Question #4- "Don't ALL believers have the Holy Spirit?"

Explanation

This study explained how John's baptism and water baptism are different from Spirit baptism. Disciples were baptized in water even while Jesus was here on earth, but He had to ascend to the right hand of the Father before the Spirit could be poured out.

Prayer concerning baptism:

*Lord, I want to be obedient to You in baptism. I recognize my need to repent and my need for forgiveness. I want my life to testify of my faith in You. I desire to be pure and holy, and I ask You to cleanse me with the Fire of Your Spirit. Please reveal to me anything in my life that is not pleasing to You. I ask for the power of Your Spirit so that I may be righteous. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.*

Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #5 - "Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit available to believers today, or was it intended for first generation Christians only?"

Scriptures teach that there is a Holy Spirit Baptism. The next question is, is this gift available TODAY? If the Bible clearly indicated that it was given only for a short time, the answer would be "No." If the Bible said nothing on this issue, we could argue from silence, and from the unchangeable nature of God, that the gift is still available. However, the Bible doesn't leave us uninformed concerning this gift's continuance. The answer is a definitive "Yes."

### Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Acts 2:38-39. Who is the promise for? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) The Spirit of God works redemption in us for salvation, we are baptized in Him for power, and He also gives "spiritual gifts" to believers. These spiritual gifts are to purify and empower Christ's Body the Church. Read I Cor. 12:4-11. Why is the manifestation of the Spirit given (vs. 7)? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Read I Cor. 1:4-9. The gospel is confirmed by spiritual gifts and we will be confirmed "to the \_\_\_\_" (vs. 8). We still need the Fullness of the Spirit to confirm and strengthen us today, so it is still available today.

(4) Read I Cor. 13:8-10, 12. Verse 8 says, "knowledge will be done away." Verse 9 says "we know in part." Verse 10 says, "When the \_\_\_\_\_ comes, the partial will be done away." What is "the perfect"?

Has the perfect come? \_\_\_\_\_

Some people would say that "the perfect" means the Bible, in which case knowledge would have ceased, but it hasn't. Verse 12 says, "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I \_\_\_\_\_ in part, but then I shall \_\_\_\_\_ fully." This verse refers to the Second Coming of Christ when we will see Him face to face and know Him fully.

"The perfect" is the Second Coming, the new heavens and new earth. It has not happened yet. Therefore, all of God's gifts meant to help us know Christ and grow in Him will continue until we see Him face to face.

Question #5 - "Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit available to believers today, or was it intended for first generation Christians only?"

Explanation

God says, "You shall be holy, for I am Holy" (1 Pet. 1:16). The Church is to be presented to Christ "having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless" (Eph. 5:27). We as individuals still need the power available through the Fullness of the Spirit. The Church still needs the power of the spiritual gifts. God desires this holiness, so He does not withhold His Spirit from us.

Prayer for the Spirit Today:

*Lord God, thank You for not requiring the impossible from me. Thank You for providing a way for me to be conformed into the image of Your Son. Thank You for making available the gift of Your Spirit so that I may become more and more like Him. Lord, I recognize that righteousness is a process, and I ask that You TODAY empower me to become more righteous. Also, use me to strengthen Your Church and contribute to Her holiness. In Christ's Name I pray. Amen.*

Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Question #6 - "What is the gift of 'tongues'?"  
and  
Question #7 - "What is the content of tongues?"

In some of the scriptures we have read about Holy Spirit Baptism, reference has been made to the phenomenon of "speaking in tongues." We will now look more closely at this gift and how it is related to being Filled with the Spirit.

Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Acts 2:1-4. Fill in the spaces (vs. 4) : "And they were all \_\_\_\_\_ and began to \_\_\_\_\_ as the \_\_\_\_\_"  
\_\_\_\_\_

(2) Read Acts 10:44-46. How did all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter know that the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also? (vs. 46) For \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(3) Read Acts 19:6. What happened when Paul laid his hands on the Ephesian believers? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

(4) Read Acts 8:14-18. Is "tongues" mentioned specifically? \_\_\_\_\_  
Read verse 18 again. Simon SAW that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of hands. Something happened that Simon could see when they received the Spirit. Based on all the preceding Biblical evidence, it is most reasonable to assume that it was the gift of tongues.

(5) Read Acts 9:17. Is "tongues" mentioned specifically? \_\_\_\_\_  
Read I Cor. 14:18. Here we learn that Paul did in fact speak in tongues. It is reasonable to assume, based on the Scriptural norm, that he first began speaking in tongues when he received the Spirit in Acts 9:17.

(6) From these passages it is clear that the normal evidence of being Filled with the Spirit is speaking in tongues. The question you may be asking is, can I be filled with the Spirit and NOT speak in tongues? The Bible seems to indicate that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of

receiving Spirit Baptism. However, because Acts 8:14-18 and 9:17 do not say so SPECIFICALLY as the other passages do, there is room for the view that some people may not speak in tongues when they are Filled. However, it is clear that there is evidence of some kind. If it is not speaking in tongues, then it would need to be some other Biblical evidence of the Spirit. So, \_\_\_\_\_ is the normal evidence of being Filled with the Spirit.

(7) Read Acts 2:4-11 carefully. The disciples were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as \_\_\_\_\_ . The Jews were each one hearing the disciples speak in his own \_\_\_\_\_. Notice Scripture does not say "the disciples were each *speaking* in foreign languages." Be careful not to read into Scripture what it is not saying. So, here is a dual miracle. The disciples were speaking spiritual words. And, the people heard their own language. There is here both a miracle of speech and a miracle of hearing. The content of tongues is not that of a human, earthly language, for tongues is spiritual language. The Lord communicated through this spiritual language to the people, causing them to miraculously hear their own natural language.

(8) Compare this event that happened on Pentecost Day to Paul's teaching about the public exercise of tongues in the congregation (I Cor. 14:4-5). What is equal to prophecy? \_\_\_\_\_ combined with \_\_\_\_\_. It is most reasonable to understand the miracle of "hearing in their own languages" as God Himself interpreting the public use of tongues, since on that day there would not have been members of the congregation ready to offer the interpretation.

(9) Speaking in "other tongues" (Acts 2:4) is transcendent speech. The term "other" means qualitatively different. It is another kind of speech. Human language is one kind of speech. Animals have their own kind of speech. There is non-verbal communication. Music is expressive. There is a communication, then, in the realm of the spirit. Prayer is spiritual communication. God does not hear us through physical ears so that we must speak audibly to Him. He hears us through the spiritual realm. When God speaks to our inner self, He does not (usually!) communicate audibly, but through the spiritual realm. The phenomenon of "other tongues" is that type of communication where God speaks THROUGH a person in spiritual language. The Spirit gives the utterance.

Assume that you do not know German. Imagine German words on a page in front of you. If you were to read them aloud, your mind would not understand the sounds you were making. Even though you do not understand them, do the words still have meaning? \_\_\_\_\_

This prayer language is a way for us to express our love for God, a love that is beyond understandable words.

(10) Read Romans 8:26-27. The Spirit intercedes (prays) for us with \_\_\_\_\_. He intercedes for us according to \_\_\_\_\_. This "prayer language" of the Spirit is the perfect prayer. We may not always know the will of God, but the Spirit does and can therefore pray perfectly. We may not know how to pray for something or someone, but when we pray in the Spirit (speak in tongues), we pray exactly what is needed. God has chosen to work through the prayers of His people, so this is an important aspect of tongues.

(11) Read Mark 16:17-18. Who will speak with new tongues? \_\_\_\_\_ This gift is still available today to all Believers.

(12) Read I Cor. 14:14. When we pray in tongues, does our mind understand what we are saying? \_\_\_\_\_ Our mind is tainted by our sinful nature. Whatever we don't understand with our mind requires faith. It is therefore by faith that we speak in spiritual tongues. This is utterance that transcends the limits of human comprehension. We can pray and sing with the mind. We can also \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ with the spirit (I Cor. 14:15).

(13) Read I Cor. 14:39 and I Thess. 5:19-20. If we forbid speaking in tongues, we quench the \_\_\_\_\_. The Holy Spirit desires to speak, and if we do not allow Him to, He is grieved.

(14) Speaking in tongues is "unfruitful" to the human mind, but it is not "nonsense." Spiritual language is supra-rational communication. When tongues are expressed in the context of a gathering of believers so that all can hear, rather than in a personal time of prayer, there is to be an interpretation of those tongues so that all may benefit. Read I Cor. 14:13-25. Make a note of any questions you have about this passage and ask the Lord about them during your Reflection time. \_\_\_\_\_

(15) Read Acts 2:11. When God miraculously gave the hearers the ability to understand the spiritual language being spoken by the disciples, the content was **PRAISE**. They were speaking of the mighty deeds of \_\_\_\_\_

(16) Read Eph. 5:18-20. When we are filled with the Spirit, we will always give \_\_\_\_\_ for all things. This giving of **THANKS** is often in our prayer language.

(17) Besides **praise** and **thanksgiving**, the content of tongues can also be **MYSTERIES**. Read I Cor. 14:2. Who are you speaking to when you speak in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

(18) Besides p\_\_\_\_\_, t\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_, tongues can also contain PRAYERS of SUPPLICATION. Read Eph. 6:18. Read Rom. 8:26-27 again. Have you ever felt the need to pray for something or someone, and just didn't know what to pray? \_\_\_\_\_ Praying in the Spirit can be a wonderful way to intercede for another person.

---

Question #6 - "What is the gift of 'tongues'?"  
and  
Question #7 - "What is the content of tongues?"

Explanation

A gift of the ability to speak a spiritual language, tongues, is given (normally) when a person receives Holy Spirit Baptism. This confirms that the person has in fact been Filled. We then do not need to wonder whether or not we have been Baptized in the Spirit. The Spirit prays perfectly through a person in a spiritual language that is supra-rational. The content of this communication may be Praise to God, Thanksgiving to God, Mysteries of God, and/or Prayers of supplication to God.

Prayer concerning the gift of tongues:

*Lord God, I desire to know the truth concerning  
the gift of tongues and Holy Spirit baptism.  
Please answer my questions and remove my fears.  
Give me peace and a desire to know You in an ever-  
deepening relationship. I desire to praise You,  
to be thankful, and to appreciate Your Mystery.  
I recognize my need for You. You are my Provider.  
I realize that You have provided a prayer language  
so that Your children may communicate with You  
in a special way. Please show me if there is anything  
that is standing in the way of my receiving this,  
and every, gift You have for me. Please put a desire  
in my heart to seek You more and more each day.  
In Christ's Name I pray. Amen.*

Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #8 - "What are 'Spiritual gifts'?"

There are several references to spiritual gifts in Scripture. Speaking in tongues privately is not specifically one of them, but speaking in tongues publicly is. None of the Gifts are explicitly depicted as initial evidences of Holy Spirit Baptism. They are given for the strengthening of God's people and God's Church. There are three lists of gifts, each with a specific meaning and function. You may want to refer to the "Spiritual Gifts Study" also available from this author for a more in-depth look at the gifts. For now, here is a brief glimpse.

### Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Rom. 12:6-8. List the 7 gifts found here : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ These are known as the Functional or Motivational gifts. Everyone receives one of these gifts when they receive salvation (1 Peter 4:10). All Christians function in these areas to some extent, but one area will be primary. The word for "gift" here is in the same word-family as the word for "joy." These are "joy pipelines," and believers are motivated and joyful when they discover and develop their motivational gift.

(2) Read I Cor. 12:8-10. List the 9 gifts found here : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ These are known as the Manifestation gifts. The Holy Spirit will choose to use a Believer on a specific occasion to manifest Himself. This manifestation is called a Spiritual gift. Believers do not "have" these gifts. We "use them and lose them" on each occasion.

(3) Another distinct list of gifts is found in Eph. 4:11-12. These are not to be confused with the other lists of gifts. They are the 5 Equipping Gifts. List them here : \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ These are given to believers whom Christ chooses to lead His Church. Their purpose is to equip all members of the Church to do the work of the ministry.

## Question #8 - "What are 'Spiritual gifts'?"

### Explanation

Everyone has an important part in fulfilling God's purposes. God enables us to do our part by Filling us with the Spirit and also by distributing His gifts.

### Prayer for Gifts:

*Father, I realize that You have a role for me to play in Your Purposes. I desire to be as strong as possible so that I can do my part. I want to be involved in Your Church, and I want Your Church to be pleasing in Your sight. I ask You to distribute Your gifts as You see fit to accomplish these things. I submit myself to You and ask You to use me to further Your Kingdom on earth. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

### Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #9 - "Why is it important to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?"

There are many reasons why Holy Spirit Baptism is important. One reason is to be a vessel prepared for God's use (2 Tim. 2:15, 20-21). Another reason is for a more pure and joyful relationship with God. While not everyone who receives the Baptism grows into a mature Christian, those who do receive the Baptism experience benefits that help them grow. There are other reasons, too.

### Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Eph. 5:18-19 and Psalm 103:1. One of the most precious reasons to be Filled with the Spirit is enhanced COMMUNICATION WITH GOD. We can express ourselves in a rich, spiritually meaningful way in our personal times with the Lord. Fill in the blank : "...singing and making melody with \_\_\_\_\_ to the Lord."

(2) Read I Cor. 14:4. "One who speaks in a tongue \_\_\_\_\_ himself." Being Filled with the Spirit and speaking in tongues is a way for a person to be edified, encouraged, built-up, strengthen in their inner-self. This strength is necessary to a righteous life-style of obedience. Read Jude 20: "building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in \_\_\_\_\_"

(3) Holy Spirit Baptism not only edifies us for today, but also gives us hope for the future. Jesus Christ will return someday (we don't know when), and the glorious time of eternity with Him will begin. For the Christian, this is our Blessed Hope. We look forward to seeing Him face to face. We work for the advancement of His Kingdom on earth so that when He returns it will be for a Glorious Church. We look forward to hearing Him say, "Well done, My good and faithful servant." He pours the Holy Spirit out on us so that we can be strengthened, but also to give us a sign of the end times (an eschatological sign). Read Acts 2:17-18. When will the Spirit be poured forth? \_\_\_\_\_ God is sovereignly preparing His people through the Outpouring of His Spirit for the consummation of history. Speaking in tongues is a sign of God's radical invasion of countless lives in preparation for the final outreach of the gospel. This preparation is also to war against the powers of darkness that are increasingly pressing in on us. The Fullness of the Spirit brings victory.

(4) Power for ministry, for service, is a primary reason for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. \_\_\_\_\_ was empowered for His three year ministry when the Holy Spirit descended on Him as a dove (Read Luke 3:22; 4:1; 4:14). Jesus intended for the same Spirit of power to come upon His disciples. Read Acts 1:8.

---

## Question #9 - "Why is it important to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?"

### Explanation

Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit enhances our communication with God, strengthens us spiritually, and prepares us for God's final actions in history. We can pray perfect prayers when we don't know what to pray, and we can praise God purely and totally.

### Prayer for insight:

*Lord God, Your purposes are higher than I could ever understand. You are moving human history toward its fulfillment. I want to be able to participate in Your work here on earth. I desire the privilege of being used by You to further Your Kingdom. I know You love me and accept me the way I am, that no works could make You love me more than You already do. But I want to express by love and gratitude to You by being involved in Your work. Please reveal to me what my role is and enable me, through the infilling of Your Spirit, to fulfill it. In Jesus' Name. Amen.*

### Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #10 - "How do I receive Holy Spirit Baptism?"

We have explored Holy Spirit Baptism and the (usual) initial evidence of other tongues. Now is the time for a decision. Do you want to personally experience what you have been learning about? The most important "prerequisite" to receiving the Holy Spirit is an intense desire to EXPRESS love for God, to KNOW Him more and to SERVE Him fruitfully.

### Interactive Reading Exercise

(1) Read Acts 2:38-39. It is necessary to have faith in Christ, to repent, to be a Christian, before the promise of the Spirit can be received. Read Acts 10:44. What happened while Peter was still speaking? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ The Gentiles had FAITH in Christ and were then FILLED. Have you given your life to Jesus Christ, the Risen Savior, and asked Him to be your Lord? \_\_\_\_\_ (Rom. 3:23, 5:8, 6:23, 10:9 and Eph. 2:8-10).

(2) Read Acts 10:44 again, and then Acts 2:1-4. In these cases, the Spirit was poured out on believers with no "human agent," that is, with no other Christian specifically praying or laying hands on them. God may Fill you with His Spirit when you are alone. Some personality types respond best to the move of the Spirit in quiet, private moments.

(3) Read Acts 8:14-17. What did Peter and John do in verse 17? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ God may choose to use other Christians in your Spirit Baptism. In water baptism, a person is baptized BY another Christian, IN (or with) water, INTO Christ. In Spirit baptism, a person is baptized BY Christ, IN (or with) the Holy Spirit, INTO power. Since Christ isn't here to physically do the baptizing, He may do it through a human servant. He may choose to do this to build bonds between people in His Church. Sharing the experience of Baptism with someone is very special. So, you may be Filled with the Spirit while someone else is praying for you or laying hands on you.

(4) Psalm 51:17 says, "A broken and contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise." We need an attitude of humility when we come to God. If He reveals something requiring healing, then often He will gently bring us peace in that area before proceeding with Spirit Baptism. If He reveals something that needs repentance, or restitution, or reconciliation, we must

be willing to obey. That does not mean we must be perfect. Remember, one reason the Spirit is given is so that we ARE ABLE to overcome sin. Read I Pet. 5:6-7. What does God promise to those who humble themselves? \_\_\_\_\_

## Question #10 - "How do I receive Holy Spirit Baptism?"

### Explanation

The promise of the Holy Spirit is available to all those who have repented and come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ. God desires us to experience a life of strength and joy, which is only possible through His Spirit.

### Prayer for Holy Spirit Baptism:

*Heavenly Father, I believe that You gave Your Son to redeem humanity from the eternal consequences of sin. I also believe that Jesus Christ pours out the Holy Spirit on believers to give them power in this life. Please reveal to me any areas in my heart that need healing. Please reveal to me any areas in which I need to repent, make restitution, or seek reconciliation. I am willing to do all I can, and to wait patiently on You, and I recognize my need for the power of Your Spirit.*

*I earnestly desire to KNOW YOU and to SERVE YOU. I ask You now, Jesus, to Baptize me in Your Holy Spirit. Fill me with Your Power so that I can know You and serve You in a dynamic way. I also ask for Your gifts. Make me a vessel for You. Conform me to the image of Christ. Use me to make a difference in Your Church and this world. In the precious Name of Jesus I pray. Amen.*

### Personal Reflection

Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Congratulations! You have finished this study on Holy Spirit Baptism, but your journey is just beginning. The Lord Himself promises to send you the Holy Spirit who will “teach you all things” (John 14:26). If you still have questions, keep seeking Him and you will find Him (Luke 11:9). Sometimes there is a path to walk before we get to the place of receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, a path of learning and healing. Trust Jesus, hold His Hand, and He will guide you along your way. And, after receiving the gift of tongues, treasure this gift and use it often, speaking and singing in the Spirit. Learn to express your heart to the Lord using your prayer language like a love language. And, watch for Him to perform miracles as you daily walk in the power of His Holy Spirit. God bless you on your journey.

Sources:

New American Standard Bible.

J. Rodman Williams. *Renewal Theology Vol. 2*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1990.

Copies of this Bible Study may be made and distributed  
for a royalties fee of \$5.00 per copy, payable to the author:

The Rev. Dr. Susan Bubbers  
4293 Crooked Mile Rd.  
Merritt Island, FL 32952  
[www.DrSusanBubbers.org](http://www.DrSusanBubbers.org)

If you have questions or comments regarding this Study,  
please email the author at [Author@DrSusanBubbers.org](mailto:Author@DrSusanBubbers.org)