

A Biblical study of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

In the New Testament we see many people experience salvation. We also see some people have a second experience that seems to empower them for service.

1. Salvation (Spiritual Birth).

John 3:5-7 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

2. Baptism with the Holy Spirit (Spiritual Empowerment).

Acts 1:4,5,8 ...he 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." ...But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Here are 6 examples.

Person	Spiritual Birth	Spiritual Empowerment	Phenomena Accompanying Spiritual Empowerment
Jesus	Matt 1:18	John 1:32	They saw the Spirit as a dove. ^a
Jesus' Disciples	John 20:22	Acts 2:4	They spoke in tongues, heard a violent wind, and saw tongues of fire
People of Samaria	Acts 8:12-13	Acts 8:17-18	No phenomena recorded. ^b
Paul	Acts 9:1-9	Acts 9:17	He received his sight back. ^c
Cornelius and his household	Acts 10:39-43 ^d	Acts 10:44-46	They spoke in tongues and praised God.
Disciples from Ephesus	Acts 19:1-2	Acts 19:6	They spoke in tongues and prophesied.

a. In Acts 2:33 we discover why the observed phenomenon of Jesus' spiritual empowerment differs.

b. Although no phenomena is recorded, upon reading Simon the sorcerer's reaction we can assume some physical phenomenon had to occur.

c. Based 1 Cor 14:18 we can assume that not all of the phenomena is recorded here.

d. Since Peter was preaching about Jesus (not Holy Spirit Baptism) we can infer that Cornelius and his household were birthed and empowered spiritually in the same instant.

Who may receive

Acts 2:39 "For the promise is unto you and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call."

How to receive

Luke 11:9-13 "And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened." You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him."

Emotion of the Baptism explained by Jesus Himself

John 7:37-39 On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them." By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.