

UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY SPIRIT

This study is going to talk about three things:

- 1. Who is the Holy Spirit?*
- 2. Understanding the Holy Spirit*
- 3. Filled with the Holy Spirit or flowing in the Holy Spirit*

👁️ **For my visual learners:** (searchable on YouTube)

- [Understand How the Holy Spirit Works from The Bible](#) from The Bible Project
- [What Happened at Pentecost and Why It's Important](#) from The Bible Project

💬 **Personal testimony on my experience with being introduced to the Holy Spirit:**

At 23 years old I was going to college for my undergraduate in FIU (Florida International University). I was always an overachiever and if things didn't pan out I would get frustrated. Somehow I fell into deep depression and I remember one of my classmates told me about bible studies that they do at church. He connected me with women to study the bible and then I got baptized. I remember the church beliefs of the Holy Spirit said that was from long ago and it doesn't exist anymore.


So, while I was at that Church of Christ I remember just studying the word front to back, back to front daily because that was the church lifestyle. It wasn't until years later, that I fell into depression again and no one knew how to deal with it. Eventually, I remember saying to the Lord, "I am leaving this church, but I am not leaving You. When you come back and rescue me, I'll serve you for the rest of my life." That time without the church and eventually leaving God lasted for about 5 years. In 2021, I tried everything from going back to past relationships, drinking, smoking weed and trying to fill that void.

I wanted to be married and have a kid by 30 which was the age I was at the time. I remember going to a tarot card reader which happened to be a Babalalaw or witchdoctor and telling me that "I have the Word of God in me, I don't belong here." I remember still doing a few things to help me in my situation and it only made me more paranoid. The man (witchdoctor) knew the Lord and said you and your family follow me to church and brought us to the church I attend now. Just know, God can use anybody to get you off the trenches. (In the Bible, God even uses a donkey to speak!) There is where I felt something different - I felt the presence of God. It felt alive. I went every morning to the house of prayer they had. I felt the Holy Spirit fall on me strongly as the main Pastor, Apostle, laid hands on us. I felt the love of God, I felt the restoration. Eventually, I heard the

Holy Spirit speak to my heart. The Holy Spirit eventually told me, "You are not my daughter if you continue to do these things." So I gave up every witchcraft activity. I said, "I surrender everything to you Jesus." I recommitted my life to Jesus in the spring of 2021 and got water baptized and Holy Spirit baptized by the summer at age 30 (the same age as Jesus when He was baptized by John the Baptist). In 2024, I saw the same witchdoctor at church and he said to me "I gave up everything. I heard from God, I'm a car salesman now."

Now, with the Holy Spirit I know how to fight in prayer, I know when open doors to the enemy are open and how Jesus can deliver me progressively or instantaneously. I know with the Holy Spirit I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me, and I know it more than a Bible verse – but I'm living and experiencing it! I feel alive and restored. I feel so close to God and can hear the voice of My Shepard. My faith grew so fast and so big, I experienced and experienced big blessings (You'll see in the Unconditional Love Study testimony).

Open up the Bible or YouVersion Bible app (A physical Bible is better for studies) & take a piece of paper and write your answers down (it's so powerful when you write it down, your heart truly changes with this study!)

 **Holy Spirit Bible Study (Version used below is NIV)**

Who is the Holy Spirit?

Read John 14:26:

"But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Read John 16:13

"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come."

1. What are the specific roles of the Holy Spirit mentioned in these verses?
2. How does understanding the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of truth" impact your view of His guidance?

Read Acts 5:3-4: *"Then Peter said, 'Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit... You have not lied just to human beings but to God.'"*

1. How do these verses demonstrate the divinity of the Holy Spirit?
2. Why is it significant that lying to the Holy Spirit is equated with lying to God?

Read 2 Corinthians 3:17: *"Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom."*

1. What does it mean that "the Lord is the Spirit" and where "the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom"?
2. How have you experienced this freedom in your own life?

Understanding the Holy Spirit

Read John 14:16-17: *"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever—the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you."*

Read Romans 8:26-27: *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."*

1. How does the Holy Spirit help us in our weakness according to these verses?
2. Can you share a time when you felt the Holy Spirit interceding for you?

Read Galatians 5:22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law."*

1. List the fruit of the Spirit mentioned in these verses.
2. How can you cultivate more of these qualities in your daily life?

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11: *"There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good... All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines."*

1. What are the different kinds of gifts distributed by the Holy Spirit?
2. How can you discern the spiritual gifts the Holy Spirit has given you?

Understanding The Holy Spirit: In the Life of Believers

Read Ephesians 1:13-14: *"And you also were included in Christ when you heard the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation. When you believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession—to the praise of his glory."*

1. What does it mean to be "sealed" with the Holy Spirit?
2. How does this "seal" serve as a guarantee of our inheritance?

Read Romans 8:9: *"You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ."*

1. According to this verse, what distinguishes those who belong to Christ?
2. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit influence your daily decisions and actions?

Read 1 Corinthians 3:16: *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?"*

1. What does it mean to be God's temple with His Spirit dwelling within us?
2. How should this truth affect the way we live our lives?

Read Titus 3:5-6: *"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior."*

1. How does the Holy Spirit contribute to our salvation and renewal?
2. What does it mean for the Holy Spirit to be "poured out on us generously"?

Read Galatians 5:16-17: *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh. They are in conflict with each other, so that you are not to do whatever you want.*

1. What does it mean to "walk by the Spirit"?
2. How does this passage describe the conflict between the Spirit and the flesh?

Being Filled & Flowing in the Holy Spirit

Read Acts 2:1-4: *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

- This event marks the birth of the Church and the fulfillment of Jesus' promise that the Holy Spirit would come upon His disciples (Acts 1:8).
- The disciples spoke in different languages, enabling people from various regions to hear the gospel in their own tongues, which helped spread the message of Jesus rapidly.
- Speaking in tongues here serves as a miraculous sign validating the apostles' message and God's presence among them.

Cornelius's Household

Read Acts 10:44-46: *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."*

- This event occurs during Peter's visit to Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, signifying the extension of the gospel and the Holy Spirit to the Gentiles, not just Jews.
- Speaking in tongues here is evidence of the Holy Spirit's presence and acceptance of Gentiles into the faith, breaking down ethnic barriers in the early church.

Read Acts 19:1-6: *"Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."*

- Paul encounters disciples in Ephesus who had received John's baptism but had not heard of the Holy Spirit. After being baptized in the name of Jesus, they received the Holy Spirit.
- Speaking in tongues and prophesying confirmed that they had received the Holy Spirit, validating Paul's ministry and the completeness of their Christian experience.

Spiritual Gifts

Read 1 Corinthians 12-14

- 1 Corinthians 12:10: "To another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues."
- 1 Corinthians 14:2: "For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit."
- 1 Corinthians 14:39: "Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues."

Paul provides a detailed discussion on the use and regulation of spiritual gifts, including speaking in tongues, within the church.

Speaking in tongues is presented as one of the spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit for the edification of the church, alongside other gifts like prophecy and healing.

Paul emphasizes the need for order and interpretation in public worship to ensure that speaking in tongues edifies the congregation.

Summary and Reflection

1. **Diverse Manifestations:** Speaking in tongues is shown in various contexts—Pentecost (Acts 2), Cornelius's household (Acts 10), and the Ephesian disciples (Acts 19)—demonstrating it as a sign of receiving the Holy Spirit across different groups and situations.
2. **Purpose:** The primary purpose of speaking in tongues includes personal edification, corporate edification (when interpreted), and as a sign to unbelievers of God's supernatural work.
3. **Guidance:** Paul's letters provide practical guidance on the use of tongues within the church, promoting order, understanding, and mutual edification.

Reflection Questions

1. How do the different accounts of speaking in tongues in Acts illustrate the inclusiveness of the gospel?
2. What role does speaking in tongues play in your understanding of the Holy Spirit's work in the church today?
3. How can the principles outlined by Paul in 1 Corinthians help in the responsible and edifying use of spiritual gifts, including speaking in tongues, in modern church settings?

Baptism by Fire and the Holy Spirit

(Selected passages)

John the Baptist Proclamation:

Read Matthew 3:11: *John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

This prophecy foretells the coming of Jesus and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost:

Read Acts 2:1-4: *On the day of Pentecost, the followers of Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by tongues of fire resting on each of them and their subsequent speaking in other languages.*

This event fulfilled John the Baptist's prophecy and demonstrated the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus' Promise:

Read Acts 1:5: *Jesus told His disciples, "For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."*

This highlights the importance of the Holy Spirit's baptism as an empowering experience for believers.

Significance:

- Empowerment: Baptism by the Holy Spirit is often associated with receiving power for ministry and witnessing/saving souls (Acts 1:8).
- Purification: Baptism by fire signifies purification and the refining of believers, symbolizing the removal of impurities and the presence of God's holy fire (Malachi 3:2-3).

Azusa Street Revival 🔥

Background:

The Azusa Street Revival was a historic series of revival meetings that took place in Los Angeles, California, from 1906 to 1915. It is widely regarded as the catalyst for the modern Pentecostal movement.

1. Key Figures:

- William J. Seymour: An African American preacher and the leader of the Azusa Street Mission. His teachings on the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues drew people from diverse backgrounds.
- Charles Parham: Seymour's mentor who introduced him to the doctrine of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

2. Events:

- The revival began on April 9, 1906, at a small house on Bonnie Brae Street when Seymour and several others experienced speaking in tongues.
- As the meetings grew, they moved to a larger location at 312 Azusa Street.

3. Characteristics:

- Spontaneous Worship: Services were marked by spontaneous worship, prayer, speaking in tongues, and testimonies of healings and miracles.
- Racial Integration: The revival was notable for its racial integration, with people of different ethnic backgrounds worshipping together, which was radical for its time.
- Global Impact: The revival attracted thousands of visitors from around the world who carried the Pentecostal message back to their home countries, leading to the global spread of Pentecostalism.

Legacy:

- Pentecostal Movement: The Azusa Street Revival is considered the birthplace of the modern Pentecostal movement, which emphasizes the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including speaking in tongues, prophecy, and healing.
- Charismatic Movement: It also influenced the Charismatic movement within mainline Protestant and Catholic churches in the mid-20th century.

Reflection and Application

1. Personal Experience:

- How have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit in your own life?
- What impact has it had on your faith and ministry?

2. Global Perspective:

- What challenges do you face in living a life led by the Holy Spirit?
- How can you rely more on the Holy Spirit to overcome these challenges?

Read Matthew 26:41: *"Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."*

Context:

This verse is part of the account of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane. Just before His arrest and crucifixion, Jesus took Peter, James, and John with Him to pray. He asked them to keep watch with Him, but they fell asleep multiple times despite His urging.

Remember these 3 things:

1. Watch and Pray:
 - Jesus instructs His disciples to stay awake and pray to avoid falling into temptation. This is a call to be spiritually vigilant and reliant on God through prayer.
2. The Spirit is Willing:
 - The "spirit" refers to the inner being or the part of a person that desires to follow God and do what is right. This indicates the disciples' genuine desire to obey and support Jesus.
3. The Flesh is Weak:
 - The "flesh" refers to human nature and its physical and emotional limitations. Despite good intentions, human weakness often prevents following through.

Apply to your life:

1. Recognize Human Weakness:
 - Acknowledge that even with the best intentions, we are prone to failure because of our human limitations. This recognition is the first step toward seeking God's help.
2. Dependence on Prayer:
 - Use prayer as a tool to stay vigilant against temptations. Regular, sincere prayer strengthens our connection with God and helps us draw on His strength.
3. Spiritual Vigilance:
 - Be aware of the spiritual battles we face daily. Just as the disciples were asked to keep watch, we must stay alert to the spiritual dangers around us and actively seek God's protection.
4. Balancing Will and Weakness:
 - Understand that while our spirit may have the right intentions, our flesh can fail us. Learning to balance this dynamic involves being compassionate with ourselves while earnestly seeking God's empowerment.

Reflection Questions:

1. In what areas of your life do you feel the tension between your willing spirit and weak flesh?
2. How can you incorporate more vigilant prayer into your daily routine to guard against temptation?
3. What practical steps can you take to rely more on God's strength rather than your own when facing challenges?

Have you been baptized with the Holy Spirit? If not, please say the prayer below out loud and come expectant full of faith, God moves by faith.

Prayer Declaration:

Father God, I want to be baptized by fire and the Holy Spirit. I declare in the Mighty Name of Jesus, pour out a fresh outpour of the Holy Spirit on me. So, I can be activated in my gifts that you deposited in me before I was even born. Father, I want a fresh encounter with you. Please baptize me anew and afresh. Pour out your fresh oil over me that I may be able to edify others and bring souls to Christ by moving in the Holy Spirit. Show up in my dreams, let it happen supernaturally so I can be a living walking testimony! In Jesus Mighty Name! AMEN!

Call to salvation:

Will you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior today? Or have you known Jesus before and slipped away? He is calling you back! He died for you and me and wiped the slate clean of our sin. We have a second chance. If you want to accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior or recommit your life to him, say this prayer out loud right now:

Heavenly Father, I recognize that I am a sinner and that my sin separates me from you. I repent of all my sins and confess Jesus as my Lord and my Savior. I believe with all my heart that God the Father raised Jesus from the dead. Lord Jesus, come into my heart and come into my life. The day I die, when I open my eyes, I will be in your arms. Amen!

Did you give your life to Jesus today? We want to hear from you! **Text saved to (954) 998-4054** one of the TBG members would like to pray for you and connect you with a community of believers.