

We Believe In
The Baptism In The Holy Spirit
Joel 2:28-29

28“And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.”

This is a promise from our Heavenly Father. A promise is only as good as the one who is giving the promise. Remember when you were a kid and just simply saying “I promise” wasn’t good enough. You had to add things like “I promise, cross my heart” or “I pinky swear.” Or the big daddy “I promise on my life.” And if you really want to show just how serious you are you say, “I promise to God.” You can’t get any higher than that!

In Luke 24:49, we hear Jesus telling the men and women gathered in the upper room, ***“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”***

Again in Acts 1:4-5 Jesus gave this command, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the the Holy Spirit.”

And just before Jesus ascended to Heaven in ***Acts 1:8 he said, “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.”***

The baptism in the Spirit was necessary before the first disciples were to leave Jerusalem or even begin to fulfill the Great Commission. They needed power and the very name Holy Spirit is connected with power. He came as the gift that was promised and as the power! But power to do what?

To be **“His witnesses.”** Jesus commanded them to not even leave Jerusalem until they had received the gift his Father promised. That should tell you how important it is to the Father that we receive the Holy Spirit's power.

So first we see the promise of the Holy Spirit by the Father. So let's talk about the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

So in addition to the power for service through the Holy Spirit to be a witness to the world. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is also a gateway to a mode of worship that blesses other believers as well. The baptism of the Holy Spirit isn't this one-time emotional experience that is here today and gone tomorrow.

After they were filled with the Holy Spirit, **Acts 2:42** tells us of the lasting affects of the baptism. Listen to this, ***“They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”*** Then skip down to verse 46-47 ***46 “Everyday they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, 47 praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people.”***

This baptism in the Holy Spirit did something to them in the way they did life together! It deepened their love for God, for His Word, for one another, and for the lost! Everything had changed. You are no longer a person who I go to church with, you are now my brother and sister. This Bible is no longer a book I have to read but is now food for Spirit and nourishment for Soul. And we look at others through the eyes of Jesus with compassion and grace. The Holy Spirit has changed everything!

We need to get a fresh revelation today that the baptism of the Holy Spirit isn't just an emotional experience. It is an open door that leads to

a growing relationship with the Holy Spirit and with other believers. It leads to a life of service where the gifts of Spirit provide power and wisdom for the spread of the gospel and the growth of the church.

So with all of this said, it begs the question, how do I receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? In **Acts 2:1-4** shows us what happened on the day of Pentecost. **1 “When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like The blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seem to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”**

For those that have been paying attention to the summer out reach calendar there is a need, as we go into ministry this summer to our community to be plugged into the holy spirits power in order that we Be empowered to be good witnesses of the message of Jesus Christ. If you are planning on being a part of these ministries, then I would ask you to come this morning and let’s get a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit this morning.