

# The Baptism of the Holy Ghost

(Adapted from Raymond Woodward's *Life Course 101*)

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people”  
(Isaiah 28:11).

**R**eceiving **THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST** is the third step that God requires in obedience to His salvation plan. God’s Word teaches that this “Spirit baptism” is **ESSENTIAL** for salvation, and promises the Holy Ghost to every believer! The Holy Ghost is the indwelling Spirit of God, which gives us the power to live a Christian life. For the purposes of our study, we are referring to the baptism of the Holy Ghost as a “**third step**,” but we must always remember that there is only one **NEW BIRTH**.

## 1. Throughout the Word of God, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is prophesied.

- It was prophesied by Isaiah.
- Isaiah foretells God using stammering lips and another tongue (Isaiah 28:9-12)
- Paul makes reference to Isaiah’s prophecy in writing to the New Testament church (1 Corinthians 14:21)
- Isaiah refers to the joyfulness of this experience as drawing water from the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:1-6)
- It was prophesied by Joel.
- Joel foretells the outpouring of the Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28-29)
- Peter informs us that the outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4) is the fulfillment of Joel’s prophecy (Acts 2:16-18)
- It was prophesied by John the Baptist.
- All four gospel writers record John’s prophecy of Christ baptizing with the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:18, Luke 3:16, John 1:33)
- Jesus himself declared that John the Baptist was a prophet (Luke 7:24-30)
- It was prophesied by Jesus Christ.
- Jesus alludes to the Holy Ghost as rivers of living water (John 7:37-39)
- The Holy Ghost is the living water (John 4:10-14)
- When Jesus spoke of being born of the Spirit, without question He meant being baptized with the Holy Ghost (John 3:1-8)
- Jesus foretells of the coming Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-13)
- Jesus promises His followers that they will be baptized with the Holy Ghost shortly after His ascension to heaven (Acts 1:5)
- Jesus ascended to heaven to fulfill all these promises (Acts 2:1-4)

## 2. What is the Holy Ghost? First and foremost, it is the Spirit of God. Each of the following are synonymous terms ...

- It is called the Spirit of Christ.
- The terms “Spirit of God” and “Spirit of Christ” are used interchangeably because Jesus is God (Romans 8:9-11)
- Jesus spoke of being WITH us and also being IN us; the Holy Ghost is the Spirit of God coming into our lives (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-18)
- It is called a baptism.
- The Holy Ghost is an “immersion” of the Spirit; God’s Spirit baptizes us into one body (1 Corinthians 12:13)
- Being baptized with the Holy Ghost completes our “one baptism” into Bible salvation (Ephesians 4:5)
- It is called a birth.
- Two distinct elements constitute the “born again” experience – water baptism in the name of Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost baptism (John 3:5)
- Jesus likened the Holy Ghost to birth of the Spirit (John 3:6-8)
- It is called a seal.
- God gives us the Holy Ghost to seal us until the day of redemption (Ephesians 1:13, 4:30, 2 Corinthians 1:22)
- It is called the earnest of our inheritance.
- As great as the baptism of the Holy Ghost is, it is only a “down payment” on what we will receive in the end if we are faithful (2 Corinthians 1:22, 5:5, Ephesians 1:13-14)
- Paul refers to this experience as “the first fruits of the Spirit” (Romans 8:23)
- It is called a rest.
- Jesus invited us to come unto Him and find rest for our souls (Isaiah 28:12, Matthew 11:28-30)
- In Christ, we cease from our labors and enter into the rest (“Sabbath”) of the Holy Ghost (Hebrews 4:1-11)
- It is called the spirit of adoption.
- Through the Holy Ghost we have been adopted as sons of God (Romans 8:15, Galatians 4:4-7, Ephesians 1:5)
- It is called living water.
- Those who have the Holy Ghost have tasted spiritual water from a “spiritual Rock” (1 Corinthians 10:1-4)
- Living water is refreshing and revitalizing; that’s what Jesus said the Holy Ghost is like (John 4:10-14, 7:37-39)
- It is called power from on high.
- We are weak and need power outside the human realm; God has provided this through the Holy Ghost which is power from above (Luke 24:49, Acts 2:1-4, 1 Peter 1:12)
- The Holy Ghost gives us power to be witnesses and live as God directs us in His Word (Acts 1:8, Galatians 5:16)
- It is called the comforter.
- Jesus calls the Holy Ghost by several names identifying His roles: Comforter, Spirit of Truth, a Guide, a Testifier and a Reprover (John 14:16-17, 14:26, 15:26, 16:7-13)

**3. Who can have the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches that God is no respecter of persons, so ANYONE can receive this wonderful gift.**

- God's promise of the Holy Ghost is to be poured out on all flesh (Joel 2:28-29, Acts 2:16-17).
- John the Baptist didn't exclude anyone in his preaching about the Holy Ghost (Matthew 3:11).
- Peter declared that the Holy Ghost was for the Jews and those "afar off" (Acts 2:39).
- God has promised to give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him (Luke 11:13).
- God's Word declares that He will give the Holy Ghost to those that obey Him (Acts 5:32).



**God has given "conditional promises" to those who want the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38 is one of them – once you repent and get baptized, you are ready to receive His gift!**

**4. What is the initial evidence of receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches us that it is speaking in tongues.**

- When the New Testament church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).
- Isaiah prophesied of God giving spiritual rest and speaking to His people through stammering lips and another tongue (Isaiah 28:9-12).
- Simon the Sorcerer observed "evidence" when the Samaritans received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-20).
- Cornelius' household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44-48).
- Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), for he spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:18).
- Believers who had only experienced John's baptism were re-baptized and spoke with tongues (Acts 19:1-6).

**5. Why did God choose speaking in tongues as a sign? We cannot be absolutely sure, but we must accept His plan by faith. Here are some possible reasons ...**

- God is sovereign and can do what He wants to do (Isaiah 40:13-14)
- The Bible teaches that "from the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34)
- The tongue (our speech) is the chief means of expression (Proverbs 18:20-21)
- The tongue is the most difficult member of the body to control (James 3:2-8)
- Speaking in tongues is an obvious, universal, external and uniform sign (Acts 11:15-17)
- God often uses things that are unusual, foolish or despised to do His will (1 Corinthians 1:25-29)
- Speaking in tongues reverses the confusion of the Tower of Babel, showing the unity of the church
- God has historically used outward, physical signs to accompany His covenants with man

- Speaking in tongues provides “certainty” since it signifies Spirit baptism at a definite point in time

**6. What will the baptism of the Holy Ghost do for me? It provides inner power to help me live for God!**

- It brings me rest, peace and joy (Isaiah 28:11-12, Romans 14:17)
- It helps me pray (Romans 8:26, 2 Corinthians 14:14-15, Jude 20)
- It gives me power to witness to others about the Lord (Acts 1:8, 4:31)
- It teaches, guides and shows me things to come (John 14:26, 16:13)
- It gives me power over the enemy (Luke 10:19-20, Isaiah 59:19, 1 John 4:1-4)
- It opens the door to other Gifts of the Spirit in my life (1 Corinthians 12 & 14)
- It gives me assurance in my heart that I am truly saved (Romans 8:16)

**7. How important is the baptism of the Holy Ghost? The Bible teaches that it is essential for me to receive this experience.**

- The Holy Ghost is such a sacred thing that Jesus warned us not to blaspheme (“speak against”) the Holy Ghost (Mark 3:28-30).
- Without the Holy Ghost we will not be in the rapture of the church when Jesus returns (Romans 8:11, 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).
- Without the Spirit of Christ we are “none of His” – we do not belong to the family of God (Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 12:3, 2 Timothy 2:19).
- The Bible teaches that we cannot even call Jesus the Lord of our lives except by the power of the Holy Ghost (1 Corinthians 12:3).

**8. I want to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. What do I need to do?**

- Believe the Gospel of Jesus Christ and repent of your sins (Luke 24:47, Acts 20:21)
- Be baptized in Jesus’ name for the remission of your sins (Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38)
- Be comfortable – you don’t have to be in a certain posture to receive God’s gift (Acts 2:2)
- Ask and believe for God’s gift – you do not have to earn it or beg for it (Luke 11:9-13, Acts 5:32)
- Offer worship to God, for nothing pleases Him more – talk to Him like you would talk to your best friend (Hebrews 13:15, Psalm 116:17)
- Let the Spirit of God submerge your spirit and flow through you (John 4:14, 7:37-38) – forget human reasoning and lose yourself in God (Isaiah 55:9)
- Become like a little child, surrender your tongue to the Spirit’s control, and don’t be afraid to speak in an unknown language (Matthew 18:2-4, Galatians 4:6, Isaiah 28:11, Acts 2:4, Psalm 81:10)
- Emotions become affected by what is happening in the spirit, and you may express yourself in a variety of ways – everyone is unique (Acts 13:52)
- You will be in control at all times, and can stop speaking at any time – but the Spirit baptism cannot be fully enjoyed until you drink long and deep (1 Corinthians 14:32, John

4:14, 7:37-38)



Remember that it is **IMPOSSIBLE** for God to fill people with His Spirit when they refuse to yield. No one can be filled with **SELF** and **GOD** at the same time. Neither can two languages be spoken at once. Since God will not take your vocabulary away, you must **VOLUNTARILY** yield yourself to His control. **GOD** does not speak in tongues – **PEOPLE** speak in tongues as His Spirit gives the words. What an incredible experience it is to surrender completely to God!

“As bad as you are, you still know how to give good gifts to your children. But your heavenly Father is even more ready to give the Holy Spirit to anyone who asks.” (Luke 11:13)

<b>The Holy Spirit is Given to “Believers”</b>	
<b>First believe ...</b>	<b>... then receive!</b>
“And these signs shall follow them that <b>believe</b> ...	... in my name ... they shall speak with new tongues.” (Mark 16:17)
“He that <b>believeth</b> on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water ...	... But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that <b>believe</b> on him should <b>receive</b> ...” (John 7:38-39)
“... Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ...	... ye shall <b>receive</b> the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)
“... after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye <b>believed</b> ...	... ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise.” (Ephesians 1:13)
“... how much more shall your heavenly Father give ...	... the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” (Luke 11:13)
“... God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who <b>believed</b> on the Lord Jesus Christ ...” (Acts 11:17)	“... Have ye <b>received</b> the Holy Ghost since ye <b>believed</b> ?” (Acts 19:2)

When Jesus was crucified and buried, these were ACTS OF MEN. But when He resurrected, it was an ACT OF GOD! When we repent and get baptized, these are ACTS OF MEN (in obedience to God’s Word). But when God fills us with His Spirit, it is a miraculous ACT OF GOD!

When I receive the Holy Ghost, I am applying the resurrection of Jesus Christ to my life, making it effective in me!

## The Gospel of the NT Preachers

Chart by David Bernard

All the New Testament writers and preachers taught the same salvation message in answer to the question of what a person must do to be saved. The elements (excluding faith) necessary to experience salvation in one's life as are follows:

Preacher	Repentance	Water Baptism	Spirit Baptism
John the Baptist	Matthew 3:2,8, Luke 3:8	Matthew 3:6, Mk. 1:8, Lk. 3:3	Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16
Jesus Christ	Matt. 4:17, Mk. 1:15, Lk. 13:3-5	Matt. 28:19, Mark 16:16, Jn. 3:5, 4:1	Acts 1:4-8, Lk. 11:13, Jn. 3:5, 7:38-39, 20:22
Peter	Acts 2:38, 3:19	Acts 2:38, 10:48	Acts 2:38, 11:15-17
Philip		Acts 8:12,16	Acts 8:15-16
Ananias		Acts 22:16	Acts 9:17
Paul	Acts 17:30	Acts 19:3-5	Acts 19:2,6
Author of Hebrews	Hebrews 6:1	Heb. 6:1, 10:22	Hebrews 6:1, 10:15
John the Apostle		1 John 5:8-10	1 John 5:8-10

### Study Questions

1. List the four Gospel accounts of John the Baptist's prophecy of Christ baptizing with the Holy Ghost and fire.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_

2. List (with Scripture reference) the six (6) times Jesus prophesied of the Holy Ghost baptism.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

3. Give a brief definition of the term "Holy Ghost." \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Write the synonymous term for "Holy Ghost" mentioned in each of the Scripture passages listed.

- 1) Romans 8:9-11 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) John 14:16-17, 26 \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) Acts 2:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) 1Corinthians 10:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) Ephesians 1:13-14 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) 2 Corinthians 1:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7) Ephesians 4:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) John 3:6-8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) Galatians 4:4-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 10) Hebrews 4:1-11 \_\_\_\_\_

5. List five verses (Scripture references) that support the statement that "ANYONE can have the Holy Ghost."

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_

6. If you want to receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost what do you need to do? List nine (9) suggestions (with Scripture reference) that will help.

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_  
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