

cords and, as an act of your will, speak them out. The Holy Spirit isn't going to take over your mouth and force you to speak. You have control over when you speak or remain silent."

After you have asked for the infilling of the Holy Spirit, you are to speak out the words the Holy Spirit gives you in faith. You can be confident that the words are coming from God and you aren't just making them up or getting them from the devil. The Bible says in Luke 11:11, "Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he?" The next verses tell us that if a natural father wouldn't give his son a counterfeit, how much more we can trust God to give us the Holy Spirit when we ask Him, and not a substitute.

Being filled with the Holy Spirit isn't a once and for all thing. We are to stay filled with the Spirit. We can do this by spending time in God's presence worshipping Him. As often as possible, we should pray and sing in tongues, as well as in English. That will enable us to remain filled with God's Spirit. Ephesians 6:18 says, "And pray in the Spirit (tongues) (see I Corinthians 14:14) on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests..." The more you use your new language, the more it will develop and expand.

The devil will try to influence your thoughts to talk you out of this experience, because it is so powerful against him and his kingdom. Because of this, you must resort to the Bible and what it says about the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues rather than your thoughts and emotions. Jesus always dealt with Satan by "it is written." Study the scriptures on the subject so you can deal confidently with Satan's schemes to steal from you.

If you haven't yet been filled with the Holy Spirit, here are the things you must do to receive this experience:

1. Be a born-again child of God.
2. Ask the Father in Jesus' name to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
3. Believe you receive when you ask and begin to speak your new language in faith as God gives it to you.

If you have already received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues, congratulations! Be confident it is from God and expect a supernatural ministry and lifestyle to follow you! If you haven't received yet, but would like to, here is a prayer for you to pray to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Enjoy your new Spirit-filled walk as a partner with Jesus Christ in His ministry!

Repeat this prayer:

Father,

I come to you in faith, as your child. I believe Jesus Christ died in my place for my sins and arose from the dead. I have received Him as my Savior and Lord. I ask you now to fill me to overflowing with your Holy Spirit. I believe I'm going to be able to speak in a new language which you give me. I thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

Scriptural References:

1. Acts 1:8, Ephesians 5:18
2. John 14:17
3. Acts 8:14-20
4. 1 Corinthians 12:13
5. 1 John 5:1
6. 11 Corinthians 5:17
7. Romans 8:26,27
8. 1 Corinthians 14:32, Acts 2:4
9. 1 Corinthians 14:15, Ephesians 5:19, Colossians 3:16



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THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT





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The baptism with the Holy Spirit is an experience for every child of God. Jesus spoke of the importance of being baptized with (filled with or covered with) the Holy Spirit to His early disciples in Acts 1:4—5. "And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, which, He said, you heard of from me. For John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

The purpose of the Holy Spirit (God the Holy Spirit) filling our Lives is to give us 'power' to be effective witnesses for Jesus Christ. That new power is seen in the early church's success to reach people for Jesus Christ. The baptism with the Holy Spirit empowers you supernaturally with God's ability. It is the doorway to a supernatural ministry. Without a ministry of power, you will be ineffective in the world as a witness.

In order to receive this experience, you must first of all be a born-again Christian. Every born-again Christian can be filled with the Holy Spirit as a free gift. It isn't on the basis of your maturity or good works.

Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is different from being born of the Spirit. We are born of the Spirit by His transforming work in us at the new birth. That is when we are born of or from God. The work of the Holy Spirit is to give us a new spirit on the inside. Then, at the baptism

with the Holy Spirit, our new spirit is filled with God the Holy Spirit.

After we are born-again, all we have to do to be baptized with the Holy Spirit is "ask." Luke 11:13 says, "If you then being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?"

WHY SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES?

Everyone who is baptized with the Holy Spirit has the ability to speak in a new language which they've never learned. Acts 2:4 says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

With the limited knowledge in our human minds, we don't always know how to pray properly. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in a new tongue, we receive the help of the Holy Spirit to pray. When we pray in tongues, we are using the language of our spirit to speak to God. We pray perfectly according to the will of God as the Holy Spirit directs the words. We don't necessarily understand what we are saying and neither do those around us. I Corinthians 14:14 from the Amplified Bible says, "For if I pray in an (unknown tongue, my spirit (by the holy spirit within me) prays, but my mind is unproductive – bears no fruit and helps nobody." We can see it is a language given by and understood by only God unless there is an interpreter. I Corinthians 14:2 says, "For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries." Not only is praying in another tongue a perfect prayer; when we pray in tongues it charges up our spirits. It can be compared to the effect a

battery charger has on a battery. I Corinthians 14:4 says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself..." Jude 20 says, "But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit." The Holy Spirit speaks through Paul in I Corinthians 14:5 and says, "Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues..."

In the Corinthians church there were public abuses of speaking in tongues. The people would disrupt the teaching by speaking out loud in tongues. The answer to that is found in I Corinthians 14:28: "But if there is no interpreter, let him keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God." Notice He didn't say not to speak in tongues, but simply to control the use of the gift. I Corinthians 14:39 says, "...and do not forbid to speak in tongues."

It is hard to imagine living a victorious Christian life without the added dimension of praying in a supernatural language. A supernatural prayer language isn't just helpful, it is essential!

As you seek for this new dimension, it is important that you not just seek for a gift. Rather we are to seek for God the Holy Spirit to completely fill our beings with His life, power, and presence. The ability to speak in tongues is just a by-product of a dynamic new lifestyle. The Holy Spirit comes into our spirit and fills us to overflowing with His being. Our motive for that experience should be a desire for a closer, more intimate relationship with the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, as well as a desire for the power and ability of God to make us effective witnesses.

In Acts 2:4, we see that the Holy Spirit gave the words but the people did the speaking. As the Holy Spirit puts His new words into your spirit, you use your vocal