

Receiving the Holy Spirit

The Bible gives **two ways in which believers experience God's Spirit** in their lives.

● #1: BEING BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

What is the Baptism of the Spirit?

For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.
1 Corinthians 12:13 (New American Standard Bible)

- baptized = *baptizo* = "to immerse" or "to dip"
- Being baptized with the Holy Spirit: receiving the Spirit, experiencing His initial work in our lives, and becoming a part of God's family

. . . "Each one of you must turn away from your sins and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ, so that your sins will be forgiven; and you will receive God's gift, the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38 (Good News Translation)

. . . You are controlled by the Spirit if you have the Spirit of God living in you. (And remember that those who do not have the Spirit of Christ living in them are not Christians at all.) ¹¹The Spirit of God . . . lives in you.
Romans 8:9, 11a (New Living Translation, 1996)

. . . for the Holy Spirit came upon you only after you believed the message you heard about Christ. Galatians 3:2b (NLT, 1996)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (New International Version)
- Spirit baptism includes every believer.
- Is the baptism of the Spirit a secondary experience?

" . . . were all baptized . . ." = a completed past action

The Results of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

- ❖ New Life

In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." ⁵Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. John 3:3, 5-6 (NIV)

He saved us, not because of the good things we did, but because of his mercy. He washed away our sins and gave us a new life through the Holy Spirit.
Titus 3:5 (NLT, 1996)

❖ New Identity

God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure. Ephesians 1:5 (NLT, 2004)

❖ New Nature

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! 2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.
Ephesians 5:8a (NIV)

❖ New Power and Ability

Effectiveness in their witness and their ministry (Acts 1:8;
Ephesians 4:8, 11-13)

Greater power for victory over the influence of sin (Romans 6:11-14;
8:13-14; Galatians 2:20; Philippians 3:10)

Power for victory over Satan and demonic forces (2 Corinthians 10:3-4;
Ephesians 1:19-21; 6:10-18; 1 John 4:4)

New Abilities = spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12-14)

If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within. ³⁹(When he said "living water," he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him.
John 7:38-39a (NLT, 1996)

● #2: BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. ¹⁹Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18-20 (NIV)

Observations about the Filling of the Spirit

- It's a command.
- It's for every Christian.
- God does it.
- The Spirit's filling is ongoing.

Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them, "Leaders and elders of our nation . . ." Acts 4:8 (NLT, 1996)

As soon as they were freed, Peter and John found the other believers and told them what the leading priests and elders had said. ³¹After this prayer, the building where they were meeting shook, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. . . . Acts 4:23, 31 (NLT, 1996)

Being filled with the Holy Spirit = a believer is filled with the Spirit when that believer is controlled by the Spirit

I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. Galatians 5:16 (New King James Version)

- The baptism of the Holy Spirit = receiving the Spirit at a point in time
- The filling of the Holy Spirit = yielding to the Spirit on a moment by moment basis
- When a believer is controlled by the Spirit, that believer experiences the power of the Spirit.

I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, . . . Ephesians 3:16 (NIV)

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, . . . Luke 4:1 (NIV)

How Are Believers Filled with the Spirit?

- Confess our sins to God.

So we are lying if we say that we have fellowship with God but go on living in spiritual darkness. We are not living in the truth. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we are only fooling ourselves and refusing to accept the truth. ⁹But if we confess our sins to him, he is faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us from every wrong. 1 John 1:6, 8-9 (NLT, 1996)

- Invite God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.

Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. Revelation 3:20 (NKJV)

- Surrender your will to Jesus.

Then Jesus said to the disciples, "If any of you wants to be my follower, you must put aside your selfish ambition, shoulder your cross, and follow me. Matthew 16:24 (NLT, 1996)

HOW TO KNOW GOD AND RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF HIS SPIRIT

Acknowledge Your Need. "If you are thirsty, come to me."

John 7:37

- Admit that the vacuum inside your life is your need for God.
- Admit that your sin separates you from Him.
It is because of your sins that he doesn't hear you. It is your sins that separate you from God when you try to worship him. Isaiah 59:2 (Good News Translation)

Believe in Jesus. "If you believe in me, come and drink." John 7:38

- Know that Jesus is God.
- Trust that Jesus died for your sins. (Ephesians 2:8)
- Acknowledge that Jesus rose from the grave.

Invite Jesus into Your Life and Receive the Spirit. John 7:39

- Tell Jesus you're sorry for your sins.
- Commit your life to Jesus and invite the Holy Spirit to come into your life.

If you are willing to take these steps, here is a simple prayer:

"Dear God, I believe Jesus Christ is who he claimed to be—Your Son—and that He died in my place to pay for my sins. I ask You, Jesus, to come into my life. I ask You to forgive all the things I've done wrong. Let the Holy Spirit come into my life right now and help me start over and keep going in the right direction. I accept your free gift of salvation. Amen."