

## THE POWER OF GOD

### STUDY NO. 1

One of the greatest mysteries of our God is the **Trinity**: *God is only one, but at the same time He's three; God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.*

We can't explain this, but each one of the three persons **is** God and the three are **one**.

Each person of the Trinity has its purpose and specific attributes.

- The Father is the one that distributes care, protection and discipline. He is the Provider and so we direct our prayers to Him. (**John 14:13**)
- The Son is the Author of our salvation, our Lord and our entrance to the Father. (**John 14:6**)
- The Holy Spirit is the Helper, our Comforter (**John 14:16**), our Guide (**John 16:13, Romans 8:14**), Teacher (**John 14:26**) and the one that executes the work of the Trinity.

The first contact we have with the Holy Spirit takes place just before we accept Jesus into our lives because he \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 16:7-8**). We wouldn't be able to recognise our own deprivation unless the Comforter brings light to this reality.

But the real inauguration of the relation with the Holy Spirit is the moment of our conversion. According to **John 3:5-6**, the Holy Spirit makes us \_\_\_\_\_

According to **John 13:10**, and **Luke 10:20**, were the disciples already children of God before Jesus went back to Heaven? How did you reach this conclusion?

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According to **John 20:22**, did the disciples receive the Holy Spirit at this point? How did you reach this conclusion?

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Based on **Luke 10:1, 17**, were the disciples already servants of the Lord? Were they already in the Kingdom of God before Jesus went back to Heaven? Did they succeed with their ministry? How did you reach this conclusion?

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Even in His last moments on Earth, Jesus Christ delegated a special mission to the disciples:

**Acts 1:3-9**

<sup>3</sup>After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. <sup>4</sup>On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. <sup>5</sup>For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. <sup>6</sup>Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?"<sup>7</sup> He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. <sup>8</sup>But 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."<sup>9</sup> After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

With regard to this passage, which are the first two things the disciples had to do and why?

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In your opinion, were the disciples able to live as Christians and serve God beyond their natural means? Did they need more of God? What do you base your opinion on?

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Our brothers were obedient and something else happened because of this. Read in **Acts 1:12-14; 2:1-13**.

This particular experience is what Jesus was referring to when He spoke of *being baptised in the Holy Spirit*. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is a special operation of the Spirit that starts the work with power in our lives. It's a submergence of the power of God, in such a way that operates with total freedom, power, and strength.

What is the purpose of such a special experience?

- Gives us the strength to fight for our \_\_\_\_\_. In other words, in the perfect state of Holiness (without sin). (**2 Thessalonians 2:13**)
- Gives us the courage to \_\_\_\_\_. (**Acts 2:14, 23**)
- It gives us \_\_\_\_\_ in the difficult moments when we are asked to testify to Jesus. (**Mark 13:11**)
- It will \_\_\_\_\_ (**John 16:13**). This operation of the Holy Spirit helps to interpret the Bible. In other words, the Holy Spirit helps us understand Scriptures when we have difficulty in understanding it. "And the letter can kill, but the Spirit gives life" (**2 Corinthians 3:6**). The Spirit speaks to us in ways that our natural intelligence cannot understand. Through prophecy, feelings that we sense in our hearts, dreams, visions, etc.
- Produces \_\_\_\_\_ that help the unbelievers to believe and build His church. (**1 Corinthians 2:4, Romans 15:19, Hebrews 2:4**)

Some people deny this experience, arguing that the Holy Spirit happened only once. But Acts, the account of the different thing that happened in the church at the beginning, mentions on several occasions that the Comforter baptised the believers.

- **Acts 2:4** *"All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*
- **Acts 2:38** *"Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit"*
- **Acts 4:31** *"After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly."*
- **Acts 8: 15-17** *"When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."*
- **Acts 9:17** *"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*
- **Acts 10:44** *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message."*
- **Acts 19: 6** *"When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied."*

Throughout history, Christians have continued to experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit, even though the church went through periods of time when they lost this precious blessing because of fears and wrong interpretation of the scriptures.

According to **Acts 2:4, 10:46, 19:6**, what phenomena accompany being baptised in the Spirit?

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To speak in tongues is to express ourselves in a language we don't understand. Generally speaking, this is evidence that we have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. **Acts 2: 38-40** *" Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your child and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

Who is the baptism in the Holy Spirit for? (Tick appropriately)

- For people who are holy
- For everyone who have been saved by Jesus Christ
- For those who have attained a special spiritual level.
- For Christians who God chose to be baptised.

**Ephesians 5:18** *"Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."* To be filled with the Holy Spirit is: (Tick appropriately)

- An option
- An order
- A condition without which we are not saved

Now that we know a bit more about the baptism in the Holy Spirit we have the following question to answer. How do we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

1. We need to be a child of God.
2. To have faith (**Hebrews 11:6**)
3. We need to ask. (**Luke 11: 13**)
4. Receive without fear.

On many occasions it is necessary for ministers to pray for us by the laying on of hands. Generally, after this experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit, the *gifts* of the Holy Spirit start to be manifested. God has many gifts for us, starting with the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, but these spiritual gifts give us power and capability to do something supernatural.

**1 Corinthians 12:7-10** talks about 9 types of gifts. Write the appropriate gift next to its description/ definition below.

Gift	Description/ Definition
	The ability to realise and know what is going on in that very moment. For example: <i>"Someone is thinking this right now"</i> . ( <b>2 Kings 6:9-12, Acts 9:11</b> )
	The ability to communicate a specific message from God. For example: "God is saying.."
	Being able to share a revelation from God in the correct form and right time. For example: God brings a word at a moment but the word is not shared until a better and more appropriate time comes. Biblical examples: The flood, Joseph's dreams, the Exodus.
	The ability to heal in a supernatural way on behalf of God. For example: Laying hands on a blind person and that person then receive their sight.
	The ability to see the inner qualities of a person. For example: being able to tell if what a person is saying is truth or false (if they are lying).
	The ability to speak different tongues, both earthly and celestial, even if you don't understand what you are saying.
	The ability to understand/ interpret both earthly and human tongues under the influence of the Holy Spirit. For example: Someone will start speaking in tongues and the other will be able to translate it.
	Having the power to perform different types of miracles. For example: praying for the weather and then it begins to change. Biblical examples: Jesus walked on water, Joshua stopped the sun; Jesus turned water to wine.
	Having sufficient faith to believe and miraculous things occurring as a result of that faith. Biblical examples: Daniel in the lion's den, Jesus calming the storm.

These gifts have the objective of blessing and building the church. A gift is a capability that will help us to exercise our ministry, the service that we give to God through our lives. The Spirit gives to each one, as He wills (**1 Corinthians 12:11**). All the gifts are good and for building up (**Romans 12, 1 Corinthians 12**). Nevertheless the Bible counsels us to desire these gifts.

As we can see, the resources that God gives us are abundant. He hasn't left us without provisions in this world. He has given us tools to be able to confront each situation. Therefore, we shouldn't be unwise; we should take everything God wants to give us.