

Getting Baptized Is Way Important Too!

As you can see in Hebrews 6:2 the Bible talks about baptisms [plural]. There are three distinct baptisms that God wants you to know about and experience.

1. The Baptism Into Christ's Body

If you just repented of your sins and said that suggested prayer turning your life over to Jesus, you were baptized into His worldwide Church. This baptism by the Holy Spirit into the Family of God, the Body of Christ, is synonymous with your salvation experience.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; we have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (1 Corinthians 12:13).

The candidate for this baptism is the one repenting of sin and expressing faith as they receive the Lord Jesus Christ into their heart. The Baptizer is the Holy Spirit, and the medium in this particular baptism that you are immersed into is literally the Body of Christ. Relationship to the Spirit is demonstrated with three Greek prepositions. First comes the **para** experience with the Spirit and the purpose of this is the Spirit dwelling **{with} a person to convict them of sin** and to **point to Jesus Christ** as the Answer to all their problems. Para means: along side, friends, near, nigh, vicinity, with (see John 14:17). But then comes this baptism which is the **en** experience with the Spirit, bringing regeneration. The purpose of this baptism into the Body—the en experience—is so the Spirit will be **dwelling {in} you**. And it's to **conform you** into the **image of Jesus Christ**. His presence within your life is to help you make those changes. (see John 14:16,17 & 20). When all this transpires, the Holy Spirit indwells you.

"But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you" (Romans 8:11).

The reason the Holy Spirit lives in you is to give you God's resurrection life and presence. You are baptized into the Body for the purpose that you can find your place of ministry among the other members in a sound local church.

2. The Full Immersion Water Baptism

The candidate for water baptism is the born again believer (who has chosen to surrender to Christ, not an infant who has not volitionally chosen to surrender). This baptism symbolizes Christ's death, burial and resurrection and as you experience this baptism, you are beginning a qualitatively different life in submission to Christ's Lordship.

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19).

Death and burial are represented when the Christian is lowered backwards and then dunked totally under the water. Then resurrection is represented when that Christian is pulled up again out of their watery grave.

"I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me, and delivered Himself up for me" (Galatians 2:20).

The biblical medium into which you are baptized is that of water (H₂O), regardless of how church traditions vary on this one. In the original Greek the word is Baptizo and it actually means: "to immerse." The Bible says that when our Lord was baptized He came "up out of" the water, so again we need to get back to the Bible pattern here in order to get the Bible-blessings and results. This is highly symbolic and it illustrates the washing of regeneration.

"He saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 3:5,6).

Water Baptism is an outward picture of an inward reality. God commands this baptism, so you need to experience it as soon as possible. All New Testament Christians consider baptizing by immersion in water to be a vital part of their profession of faith. This doesn't save anyone, but this baptism has always been a part of the normal induction into Christ's Church, where new believers took a public stand, making confession of their faith. In Bible times, no Christian omitted this first witnessing-step of obedience.

"And He commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:48).

3. The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

Jesus' first apostles taught that this baptism was a separate baptism from both; water baptism and the baptism into the Body of Christ, as you just read about.

When you're baptized into the Body you're made ready for life in heaven, but when you're baptized in the Holy Spirit you're made ready for life on earth. It's the Holy Spirit who introduces you to Jesus Christ when you are saved and now Jesus introduces you to the Holy Spirit and you receive His dynamic power! The candidate for this baptism is any born again believer. Some Christians experience this baptism before they are water baptized (see Acts 10:44-48), but not the majority. Jesus is the Baptizer and the Holy Spirit Himself is the baptismal medium this time. This baptism is the **epi** experience with the Spirit. The purpose of the Holy Spirit coming in this way **{upon, in, over you—filling to overflowing}** is for yoke-breaking anointing and power to flow from your witnessing life, as you clearly tell the world God's Good News—that Jesus is alive from the dead. (Acts 1:8; 2:3). It's for witnessing of Jesus' saving love, by word and walk. Jesus floods your being with His agape love when you receive this baptism. And He expects you to walk-out this love practically, daily appropriating it by faith and expressing it to everyone you come in contact with (as the Spirit leads) for the rest of your life here on earth. Eleven of Christ's original apostles experienced this threefold relationship with the Holy Spirit.

"...and hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out within our hearts through the Holy Spirit who was given to us" (Romans 5:5).

Three is the number of perfection. Jesus Christ told us to, "Be perfect." Therefore, take these three steps toward God (with these three baptisms) and maintain a perfect heart before the Lord. We see the three types of baptism as helpful aids toward godly maturity. We see these indications in the account of Saul's conversion (Acts 9:1-19) and in the salvation that visited the Gentiles who were at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48). Prayerfully and meditatively pour over these scriptures and God will give you much needed insight into these baptisms.

The Holy Spirit is the **one inlet of spiritual power** in the life of the believer. And there are **five outlets of power** from a believer's life:

1. **Your holy life [including attitude and deeds]**
2. **Your sound communication (words)**
3. **Your selfless service (helping others practically)**
4. **Your proper giving of money (directed by the Spirit for world evangelization)**
5. **Your prayers of faith (trusting God through Christ)**

a. This dunamis Holy Spirit power is demonstrated in **outward manifestations** in the employment of the nine gifts of the Spirit.

b. This power is also manifested in the **inward life** of the believer through nine expressions of the fruit of the Spirit.

"He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

You will still need to confess and repent of sins regularly, appropriating God's forgiveness when you commit them. You will also need to be regularly refilled with the Spirit by asking in faith. Though the Holy Spirit indwells all Christians, not all remain filled.

Our prime example, Jesus Christ, was filled with and empowered by the Holy Spirit to glorify the Father and for ministry. So how much more do you need to be? Though He was sinless and righteous, Jesus wanted to access the Father's dynamite ability to witness of His divine love! Jesus wanted to help others and save more people. Jesus' effective ministry on earth did not even begin until after the Holy Spirit came to Him and the symbolic appearance of this came in the form of a gentle dove [see Luke 3].

"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him" (Acts 10:38).

Jesus personally brought the Father's light into the lives of those desperately needing God's Message and miracles. He healed the sick, and all that were oppressed by the devil when they were willing to believe on Him. He constantly performed these miracles motivated by the love of God, because He was anointed by the Holy Spirit of God. We can share in His anointing when we become members of His Body, the Church.

Christ's Disciples, The Apostles, Needed To Be Baptized In The Spirit.

With their own best interests in mind, Jesus commanded His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit came upon them. This was after the cross, and after their regeneration when Jesus breathed on them commanding, **"Receive ye the Holy Ghost"** (John 20:22). So, they already had the Holy Spirit from believing, and now they were going to be baptized in the Holy Spirit—immersed from head to toe with the Spirit of God and revival fire. How exciting! And the disciples were given no major ministry assignments to accomplish until they were endued with this power from on high. In fact, they were pretty flaky until this happened.

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

The Early Christian Church Needed This Equipping Baptism

During the birth of the Church, on that Jewish festival of Pentecost in Jerusalem, those who obeyed Jesus were filled with the Holy Spirit and tremendous revival broke out there.

Later on there was an outpouring in Samaria. The believers who lived in Samaria were baptized in water in the Name of Jesus. Then Peter and John laid hands on these believers and they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Believers at Cornelius' house (all of whom were Gentiles), listened to Peter preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ when suddenly the Holy Spirit was poured out upon them, as well. They were baptized with the Holy Spirit and they all began to speak with other tongues! In the book of Acts we see two main Holy Spirit Baptisms:

- 1. In Acts 2 involving the Jews,**
- 2. In Acts 10:44-46 involving the Gentiles.**

And both groups still contended with sin (in Leviticus 23 we see two loaves with leaven).

Paul asked the Ephesian believers *"Have ye received the Holy Spirit 'since' (kiv) ye believed?"* (or *when you believed* in the nasb & niv Bibles). The Greek will support either since or when and either way both words support another or subsequent experience with the Holy Spirit. But did Paul notice they were lacking love, fervency, fiery zeal, joy, enthusiasm—that powerful dynamic? Was there a deadness about them? (Acts 19:2). Maybe you feel like you're lacking the fullness of the Spirit?

So, twenty years after the birth of the Church, Paul laid his hands on the *believers* who lived at Ephesus after they received the teaching of the Holy Spirit:

"He said to them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' So they said to him, 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.' And he said to them, 'Into what then were you baptized?' So they said, 'Into John's baptism.' Then Paul said, 'John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.' When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on

them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied" (Acts 19:2-6).

Now Is When You Need Him

At salvation, the Holy Spirit in your life is your Well of Living Water. Jesus said this:

"But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life" (John 4:14).

Later Jesus spoke of more refreshing, **"If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.' But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified" (John 7:37-39).**

A well can meet a personal need, like Jesus does for you when you are saved. You need to keep it cleaned out of course. But rivers satisfy more than personal needs—they rejuvenate the dying masses just like the Baptism in the Spirit is intended to do.

And the Holy Spirit really wants to be a river for you and through you, A RIVER OF LIVING WATER in your innermost being flowing out to a thirsty, dying world. The Holy Spirit wants to fully refresh you spiritually and refresh all those He calls you to minister to. How? From the inside out!

Now, do you have to be baptized in the Holy Spirit? No, you get to be! You aren't "less righteous" if you aren't baptized in the Holy Spirit; neither are you "more righteous" if you are. God wants you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit because the lost, the last and the least are on His mind. Just as God empowered His Son, He wants to empower you spiritually to influence the unsaved toward Christ Jesus. I reiterate, you were already given the Holy Spirit when you were born again. Now you just have to receive His baptism the same way you received that experience of regeneration—by faith. By doing so, you bless the Lord and receive His fullness into every area of your life, into every part of your person. Biblically it is clear that the will of God for you is to experience all three baptisms, but it's up to you to receive! No one should ever coerce you into them.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is God's supernatural miracle to flood you with more of Himself. It's for the release of His character as you apply His Word, it's for the release of His resurrection power as you build up the brethren, it's for the release of His passionate boldness in witnessing His way!

"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16).

John the Baptist and Jesus Himself prophesied about receiving this baptism of the Holy Spirit:

"John answered and said to them all, 'As for me, I baptize you with water, but He who is mightier than I is coming and I am not fit to untie the thong of His sandals; He Himself will baptize you in the Holy Spirit and fire'" (Luke 3:16).

"...but you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses..." (Acts 1:8).

RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY!

Believe God's Word and you can receive this baptism with ease. The prophet Joel prophesied about this taking place in the last days:

"And it will come about after this that I will pour out My Spirit on all mankind; And your sons and daughters will prophecy, your old men will dream dreams, Your young men will see visions. And even on the male and female servants I will pour out My Spirit in those days" (Joel 2:28,29).

One thing you must realize about this baptism is that, like salvation, it's a free gift that God has for you. God always wants to give you His best, just like He did when He gave you His Son.

You must be convinced of His love for you and reach out to receive His Spirit just like the disciples of old, the early Church, and just as Jesus Christ did in the river Jordan. If you are now a member of His same Body, then God will withhold no good thing from you:

"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?" (Luke 11:13).

God doesn't play favorites – He is no respecter of persons at all when it comes to His gifts. Many feel that they must become "good enough" to receive them, but the truth of the matter is that it is quite the contrary. The devil wants you to strive, wait real long and work to get good enough on your own, but God wants you to run to Him just as you are and simply trust. God knows all about your situation and He is the only one who can change you. Proverbs 13:15 says, "... **the way of the unfaithful is hard.**" But the Christian life isn't hard at all, it's impossible! Jesus, through His Spirit, is the only one who can empower you to live this life, because He is the only One who has already truly lived it.

Ask Jesus For This Holy Spirit Empowering

Jesus taught that God would give the Holy Spirit to those who would simply ask. That's not much different from asking Jesus to come be your Savior is it? In John 14:17 Jesus calls Him the Spirit of truth, "**whom the world can not receive, because it does not behold Him or know Him.**" Now, to get born again you had to behold the Lamb, Jesus Christ. Perhaps in your upbringing they didn't teach you too much about the Holy Spirit, but they certainly must have told you how wonderful Jesus Christ is. Then you started learning about the Holy Spirit, because you simultaneously received Him when you received Jesus as Savior. Now you only need to ask Jesus for His distinct Spirit Baptism, so go for it.

Sing Praises To Jesus, Your Life Is About To Change

Do you earnestly desire the gift of tongues? Then relax in Christ, don't strain or beg. As you ask and worship, expect the Lord to give you a new language of praise to Jesus—just like He gave to the disciples in Acts 2:4:

"And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance."

As Jesus gave to them, they with their tongues, "**began to speak**," just as you by faith must open your mouth and begin to speak. Then as you speak, trust that these new words are directly from the Holy Spirit within you who literally gives you the utterance. Remember, for anyone to speak in a foreign language they must stop speaking in their mother tongue to launch out. And no matter how your reasoning processes go, or how hard the devil tries to convince you that it was only you, keep on praising the Lord in your new language!

Believe You've Received

The Father gives good gifts, and He will never give you a counterfeit. Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the simplicity of a child. Yes, receive this gift with confidence, just like you received salvation by faith. If your heavenly language does not flow out to God immediately, do not doubt that you have received the baptism. God deals with us individually, because we are all very unique. Keep praising and thanking God just the same.

There are two ways that God imparts the Baptism of the Holy Spirit:

1. By His sovereign outpouring (Acts 2:1-4; 10:44-48). Many times Jesus will simply baptize His people anywhere, at any time as they ask and focus on Him. Other times, they may not even ask, and boom, they are speaking in beautiful tongues, because of someone's fervent prayer for them. Jesus is the greatest giver, and He loves to give people His precious Holy Spirit in special ways fit just for that certain person.
2. By the ministry of laying on of hands. Many times Christians may have another born again, Spirit filled Christian lay hands on them to receive the baptism and this is totally biblical, as well (Acts 8:14-19).

I want you to notice these rhetorical questions that Paul asks in 1 Corinthians 12:30 *"Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?"* Now, any time we have a rhetorical question presented in the Greek which is asked in the negative, the answer is always in the negative—no! In our culture, it would be like asking your misbehaving child in the store if he would like a spanking. The answer is obviously no. The fact is that not all Christians speak in tongues. Is this gift available for all to receive by faith? Perhaps, I don't know. The Bible doesn't say. It's likely for a Christian to have more than one gift, but not all of the gifts. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is definitely for all!

You Will Have Evidence Of Your Infilling

Many young Christians have asked me, "What is **'the evidence'** of the Spirit baptism?" Here's what I tell them:

1. Again **agape love** is a primary evidence—for the fruit of the Spirit is love. And this corresponds with 1 Corinthians 13.
2. Having **power to witness** is another primary evidence [Acts 1:8].

You can **witness without loving**, but you **can't love without witnessing**. The two go together. Whatever you do without the underlying motive, and only motive, being love is SIN.

- 1.) In Acts 10 they saw Gentiles **speaking in tongues** as "an evidence."
- 2.) In Acts 19 they saw them **speaking in tongues and prophesying** as "evidences."
- 3.) Paul initially received a **healing** the day he was filled [scales fell off].

Out of all **seven occurrences** in Acts where believers were baptized in the Spirit—**four times** they clearly spoke in tongues and **three times** the Bible remains silent.

On the day of Pentecost, the evidence of this Holy Spirit Baptism was seen in the Apostle Peter's boldness to preach the Gospel and 3,000 sinners were transformed into new creatures in Christ. The believers also heard sounds of rushing wind, saw tongues of fire rest on their heads, and they spoke in tongues, praising God [Acts 2:1-4]. That mighty Holy Spirit-overflow came up with joy from their inner man, gushing out with real love and power!

Always remember, speaking in tongues is "an evidence" not "the evidence" for being filled. Luke tells us in Acts 8:14-19 of the Samaritan Pentecost, and the Bible doesn't explain what the evidence in this location was. We do know that there was certainly something to be seen. How do we know? Well, Simon the magician was present and the Bible says he "saw" what happened and he even wanted to buy the power of the Holy Spirit. Needless to say, he was harshly rebuked! The price was way too high for him. Jesus' blood was the only purchase price for all mankind to enjoy this power. This is where we get the term Simony from which means trying to purchase a position or office in the church.

Yes, when the Apostle Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit the "scales" from his eyes fell off, restoring his sight. Later he told the Christians "I thank God I speak in tongues more than you all." Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14 that he prayed to God in tongues and was edified (strengthened or built up spiritually).

At the Roman Pentecost, the baptism of the Spirit was given by God to the Gentiles who believed on Jesus. This happened while Peter was preaching to them, and suddenly the Holy Spirit came on all who were present. They didn't tarry long, they immediately responded to God by speaking in tongues to exalt the Lord [Acts 10:45,46].

At the Greek Pentecost the Holy Spirit came upon some believers and they began to speak in tongues and prophecy (Acts 19:1-6). It would appear that all who received the Holy Spirit demonstrated supernatural power.

WHY IS THIS SPEAKING IN TONGUES SO GREAT?

It's your privilege to speak in tongues, God won't force you to. However God's Word tells us that he who can control his tongue, can control his whole body.

Man hurts man with his tongue probably more than with any other member of his being, so I could understand God feeling highly motivated to get control of this part first.

"For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well" (James 3:2).

When you yield your tongue to the Holy Spirit you indicate your willingness to yield your whole person to God. And therefore God can make your tongue an instrument to save, heal, strengthen and deliver other people.

As a believer you function on two levels: the spiritual level and the natural level. And I believe that the Body of Christ has five spiritual senses that correspond to our five natural human senses (Psalm 34:8; Rev. 3:22; 2 Corinthians 6:17; Matthew 9:21; 1 Corinthians 12:14-18). And of these five physical sensory members, your tongue is the only one that allows you to audibly express your faith God-ward. Of course we can pray silently, but all Christians need to communicate and praise the Lord utilizing this natural form of communication. The Bible calls this natural level; speaking with **"tongues of men."** Many people feel pretty limited in their personal devotions however, when using only the "tongues of men." It's kind of like when you are learning a second language. It's then that you can then see how restricting and inadequate our earthly languages really are in describing things. God's never boring, but when we flawed Christians pray it's not uncommon for boring repetition to set in. And it is at this point that our Creator wants to free us up with His verbal supply, for an altogether different level of worship altogether: the **"tongues of angels."** We can read about this level in First Corinthians 13:1—it's also called "tongues." This heavenly language gives you a new vocabulary that God understands and it releases new capabilities in the realm of creative expression. You can now communicate with God without the limitations of your natural mind or earthly languages.

"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. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful" (1 Corinthians 14:2,14).

The Holy Spirit in you already understands the Father's thoughts and His ways. Now He wants to communicate to the Father accordingly, and He wants to translate those

thoughts to you. While your natural tongue is controlled by your mind, your “unknown” tongue speaks by the Spirit of God.

You should speak in tongues simply because it is the perfect prayer and it’s one of the evidences of the Holy Spirit living inside of you. This is one effective way for God to build you up, spiritually:

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith; praying in the Holy Spirit...” (Jude 20).

When you pray in the Spirit you pray directly to your heavenly Father, bypassing your understanding. Praying in tongues eliminates selfishness in praying as your words are guided by the unselfish One. You will pray precisely according to His will, and might even pray over matters which you may know nothing about, concerning the whole Body of Christ. Depending on the need of the hour, this is prayer that helps the Church collectively for the common good.

“And in the same way the Spirit also helps **our** weakness; for **we** do not know how to pray as **we** should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for **us** with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the **hearts** knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because **He intercedes for the Saints** according to the will of God. And **we** know that God causes all things to work together for good to **those** who love God, to **those** who are called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:26-28, emphasis mine).

Did you notice how God refers to us as plural rather than as singular, in regards to praying in this new language? God wants all Christians to yield that unruly member of the body to Him, in order for His Spirit to take control. Praying, singing, and speaking in tongues with an interpreter is for the corporate welfare of the Body of Christ too. For what purpose is it? So we will be better equipped to glorify God and win others to Jesus. Praying in tongues regularly makes it easier for you to continuously yield your whole self to God!

WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL DO IN YOU

The Holy Spirit will give you spiritual power and authority to witness for Jesus Christ continuously. Acts 1:8 says, **“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.”**

- 1. The Holy Spirit will give you a great desire to worship the Lord, for He glorifies God: *“God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth”* (John 4:24).**
- 2. He manifests power in your prayer life: *“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes***

intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26,27).

3. He helps you through the illumination of old truth, in a progressive, manner to understand the Scriptures: *"Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might know the things freely given to us by God"* (1 Corinthians 2:12).
4. The Holy Spirit will give you spiritual gifts: *"...so that you are not lacking in any gift, awaiting eagerly the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ..."* (1 Corinthians 1:7).
5. He will produce Christ-like qualities within you, and will help you to act like the child of God that the Lord designed you to be. The Holy Spirit wants to be your Source of direction every day. He wants to be your strength, friend and comfort. He wants to fill your life with good things – the abundance that God has for you.

Refill And Live Filled

Your baptism in the Holy Spirit is a one-time event. But your "infilling with His Spirit" is an ongoing habit of life. Being totally filled with the Spirit begins with the Holy Spirit baptism, but you should never stop drinking deeply of the Spirit of the Lord!

Ephesians 5:18 tells you to be filled with the Spirit, and it really means "to ever be filled and stimulated with the Holy Spirit." In other words, *be being filled!* This type of receiving speaks of an on-going habit of life. The subsequent infillings of the Holy Spirit should go on and on and on until we see Jesus Christ face to face. You have a fountain within you. Don't allow sin or a self-centered life style to stop this vital flow. You can be filled daily! Keep being filled with, and keep walking moment by moment in the Spirit! You are on your way to the richest, most fulfilling life you ever had, hand in hand with the Living Lord, Jesus Christ!

Let The Word Of God Speak To You

The Bible is comprised of 66 wonderful books written by some 40 authors from 3 continents (Africa, Asia, and Europe), over a span of some 1600 years. Yes, its divine Author is none other than the Holy Spirit. And where does He now reside? Yep, inside you so He can explain it to you.

"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of

man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit” (2 Peter 1:20,21).

The central theme of the Bible is redemption. You will see through the Bible’s pages a scarlet thread of God’s redemption as He goes to great lengths to show all mankind their eternal solution, Jesus Christ. Christ alone can redeem the depraved sinner.

In every book, in every line, in every verse, God desires to speak to you. As you open your Bible, voice this prayer, **“Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from Your law”** (Psalm 119:18). There’s an old hymn that goes: **“Beyond the sacred page, I seek Thee, Lord.”** You can make that your heart’s cry. Come reverently and expectantly to God as you look at His Word.

“For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edge sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Hebrews 4:12).

As you meditate on Scripture and obey its truths, God promises to crown your life with success.

“This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success” (Joshua 1:8).

A sophisticated Westerner once de-boarded his ship and saw a third world islander sitting down under a palm tree, reading an old worn-out Bible. “Don’t you know that’s an antiquated myth?”, the Westerner laughed. Looking up, the islander calmly smiled and replied, “Sir, some years ago this Book came to my country. If you had arrived before this Book got to me I would be having you for dinner tonight– literally!”

The Bible has influenced more lives and nations throughout history, than all other books put together. Our nation’s morality and ethics stem from the Bible, along with our laws. Not only is the Bible the standard for society and government, it is the standard by which Christians are to follow.