

20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

TOOLS FOR MENTORING

by Joy Schroeder



Baptism with the Holy Spirit



Run life's race unencumbered.

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The Trinity

Who is the Holy Spirit?

To answer that question, here is a short explanation of the nature of God as a Trinity.

God is a Trinity. He is **one** God in respect to His being and unity. He consists of **three** co-equal, co-eternal Persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. The three Persons are each distinct and, at the same time, so integrated in nature and relationship that they are one God. This is difficult to comprehend, but it is not contradictory. If you could understand everything about the nature and essence of God, then you would have created a god in your image—a god not worthy of worship and awe.

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.

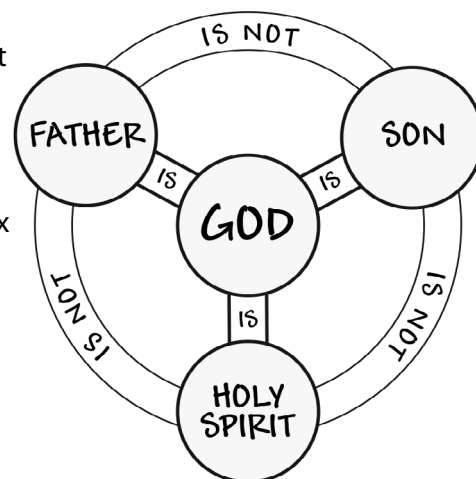
Deuteronomy 6:4 (emphasis added)

The word translated **one** is the same word used to describe **one** flesh in marriage (Genesis 2:24). The word indicates a compound unity.

St. Patrick, the 5th century missionary to Ireland, illustrated the Trinity with the shamrock or clover leaf. It is not three leaves, but one composite leaf consisting of three distinct lobes, each composed of leaf material. One God, three distinct Persons, each of Whom is fully divine.

Some use math to attempt an illustration. Rather than adding $1 + 1 + 1 = 3$, which would indicate three gods, multiply $1 \times 1 \times 1 = 1$. One God in three Persons.

Early Christians used the following diagram to explain the Trinity. The Father is God, the Son is God, and Holy Spirit is God. Each is a distinct Person. The Father is not the Son; the Son is not the Holy Spirit; the Holy Spirit is not the Father.



We see examples in the New Testament of the three Persons of God mentioned together.

God in three Persons was manifested at Jesus' baptism. *As soon as **Jesus** was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven [**Father**] said, "**This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased.**"* *Matthew 3:16-17* (emphasis added)

In baptism, believers identify themselves with the Trinity. *Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the **Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit**, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."* *Matthew 28:19-20* (emphasis added)

God in three Persons interacts with believers: [Peter writes to those] *who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of **God the Father**, through the sanctifying work of the **Spirit**, to be obedient to **Jesus Christ** and sprinkled with his blood... 1 Peter 1:1-2* (emphases added) (See also John 14:16-17; Ephesians 2:18; 3:14-17; 5:18-20; 1 Thessalonians 1:3-5; 2 Thessalonians 2:13-17; 1 John 4:13-15.)

The three Persons participate in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit (discussed in this module): *Exalted to the right hand of God, he [**Jesus**] has received from the **Father** the promised **Holy Spirit** and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2:33* (emphases added)

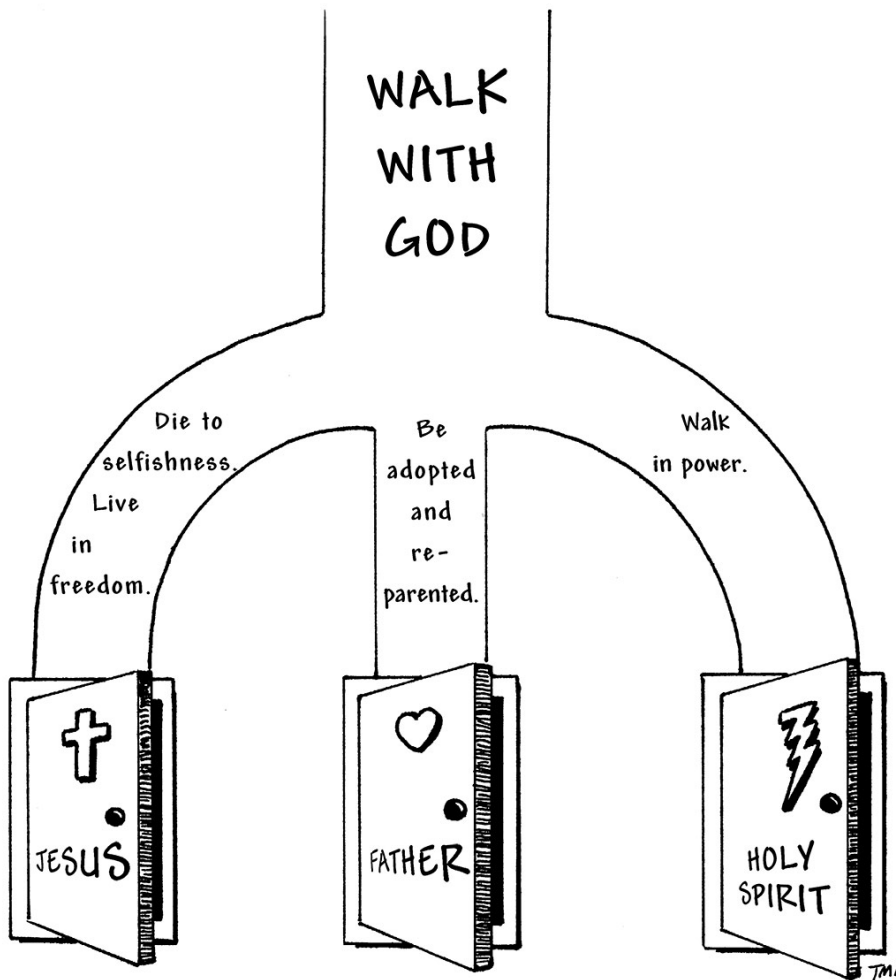
The universe contains many examples of plurality within unity. Light is one beam with a multi-colored spectrum. Water can, at a certain temperature, be present simultaneously in its three forms: solid, liquid, and gas. "Perhaps a better illustration is the universe itself, being made up of space, time, and matter. Space with length, breadth, height; time with future, past, present; matter with energy, motion, phenomena" (Gumbel 15).

For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20

The fact that God is a Trinity has implications for Christian community. God is love because He is a community of relationship within Himself. Through Jesus' atonement, we are invited into fellowship with God who is a fellowship. The Trinity is the basis for Christians relating to one another in love and unity within our distinctiveness. Then we experience fully the spiritual reality of God living in us and the miracle of us in Him, the welcoming Trinity. *God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in him. 1 John 4:16*

Experience All Three Persons of God

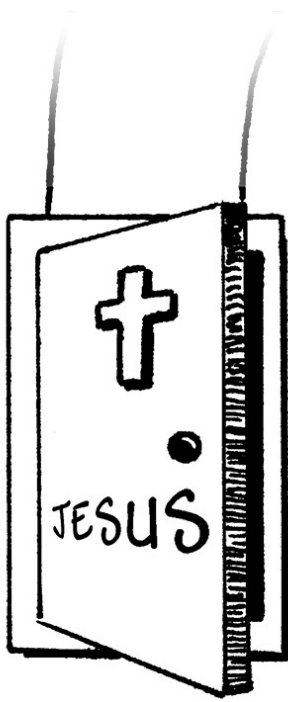
Below is a simple drawing illustrating how you can experience all three Persons of the one God. Notice that the path from each Person of the Trinity feeds into the path of walking with God; all three are each God and God consists of all three. Therefore, as you walk with God, your experiences with each Person of the Trinity intermingle with one another.



Experience God the Son: Jesus Christ

You enter into relationship with God through repenting and entering the door of Jesus' atonement for your sins. Jesus said, ***"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture."*** John 10:9 (emphasis added)

The path beyond that door is picking up your cross daily, dying to selfishness, and walking in the joy of resurrection liberty. ***Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me." Luke 9:23*** (emphasis added)



Experience God the Father

You can experience a deeper revelation of your place as an adopted child of God the Father. You can enter the door by forgiving those who have wronged you and receiving the healing love of the Father. ***For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins. Matthew 6:14-15***

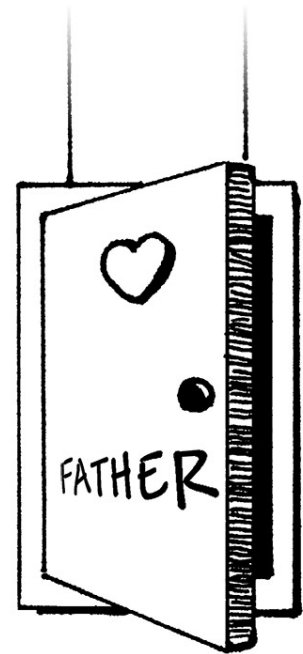
The path beyond this door is the process of being re-parented by a perfect Father and discovering His trustworthy character. ***The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ,... Romans 8:15-17*** (emphases added)

By the way, notice in the above passage how the Holy Spirit, the Father, and Jesus interact with you as an adopted child in God's family.

Experience God the Holy Spirit

You experience God the Holy Spirit coming into your life when you accept Jesus' atonement for your sins and become His follower. The Holy Spirit lives in you because you belong to Christ. ***You, however, are not in the realm of the flesh but are in the realm of the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ. Romans 8:9***

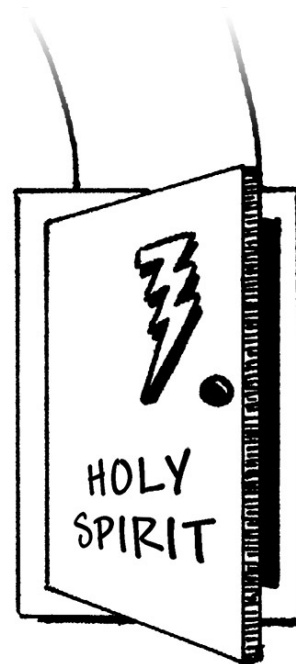
In addition to this, you can experience the power of the Holy Spirit by entering the door of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The path beyond this door is more passion for



Jesus, a deeper connection with the Father, and walking in the Holy Spirit's power every day. You have increased access to His supernatural gifts.

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a **message of wisdom**, to another a **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by that one Spirit, to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues**. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (emphases added)*

This module is about the baptism with the Holy Spirit.



The Promise of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

Please read the following passages. They record the promise of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Read Luke 3:16.

Read John 7:37-39.

What did Jesus mean by the “rivers of living water”? (verse 39)

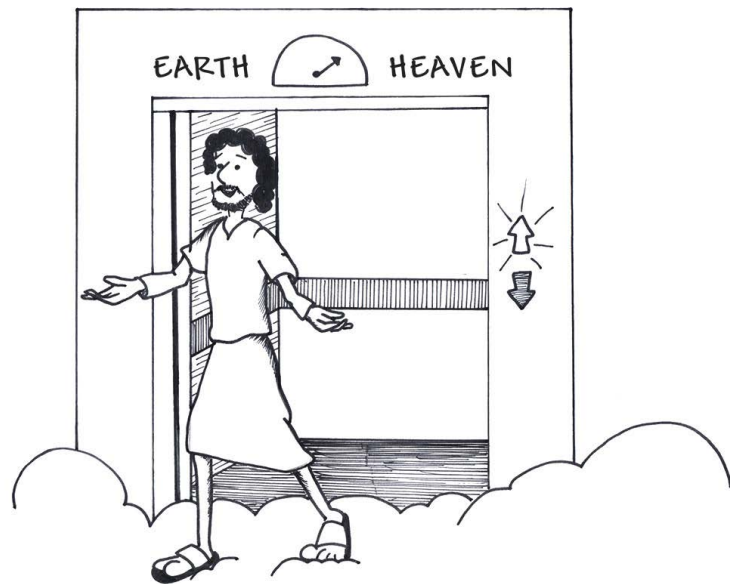
When would the Spirit be “given”?

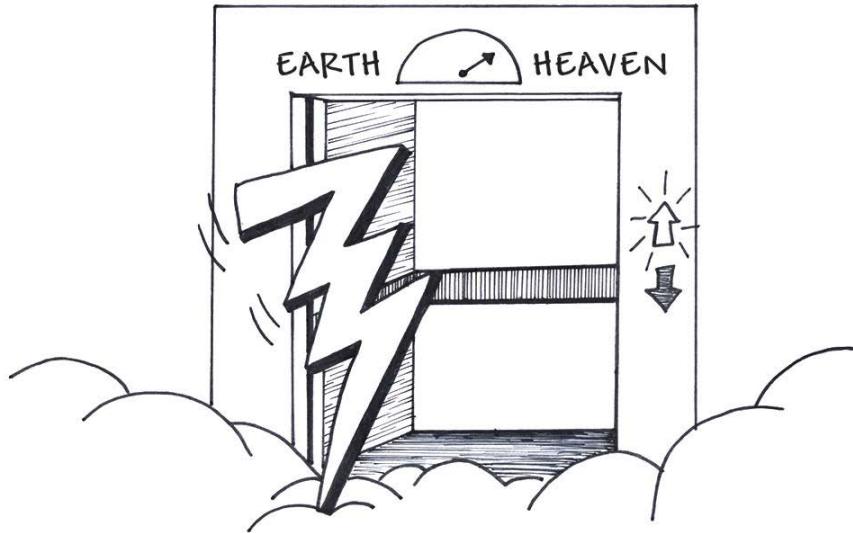
Jesus was glorified, or exalted, when He ascended back to heaven. These passages state that the Holy Spirit would be “given” in a special way **after** Jesus ascended.

Read John 14:26 and John 16:7. What words in each verse indicate a promise?

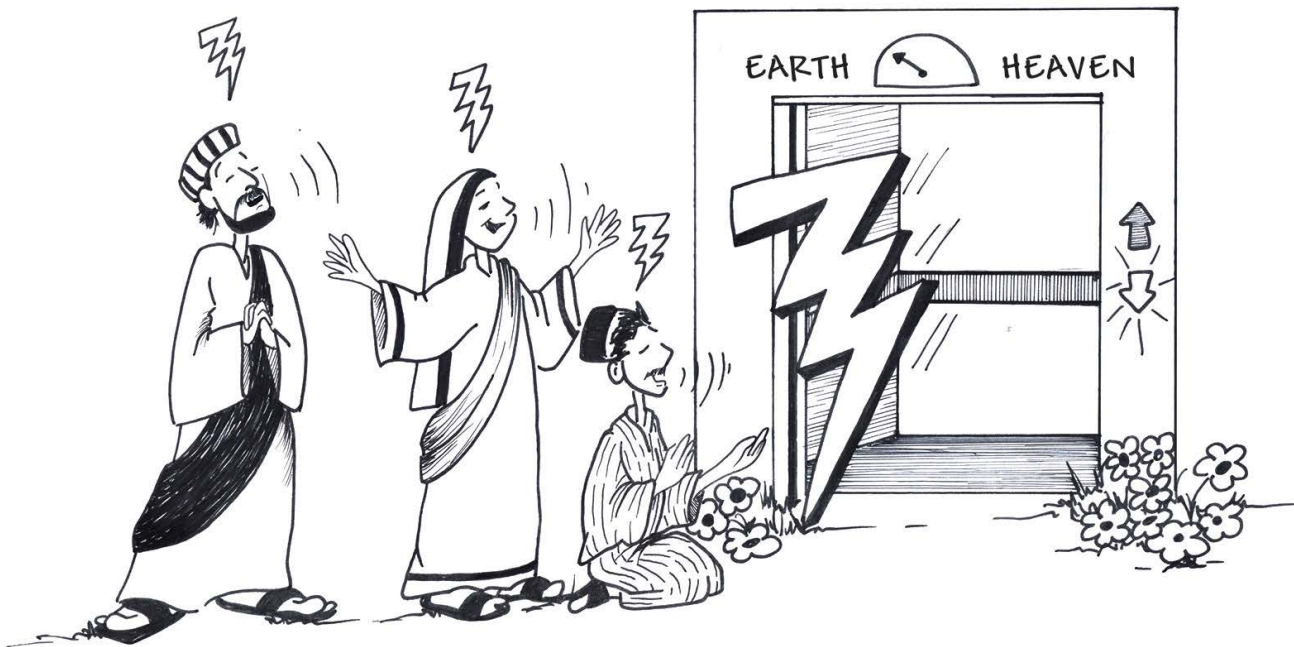
After the resurrection, Jesus reminded His disciples of John's declaration (Luke 3:16) and instructed them to **wait for the gift My Father promised, which you heard Me speak about. Acts 1:4**

Read about this conversation in Acts 1:3-5, 8-9.





"I am going to send you what my Father has promised..." Luke 24:49



"...but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49

In verses 4-5, what words does Jesus use to describe the gift His Father promised?

According to verse 8, what would the baptism with the Holy Spirit give the disciples (and you)?

What happened after He said these things to His disciples? (verse 9)

When He finished speaking, Jesus ascended to heaven. He would send the gift of the Holy Spirit after He was glorified (John 7:39).

John 20:20-22 records that after the resurrection, Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit to dwell within them during the time between His ascension and the promised gift of the Holy Spirit and power. Therefore, even though Jesus was returning to heaven, they would never be without the presence of God in one of the members of the Trinity.

Read John 20:20-22.

The disciples now had the Holy Spirit within them. Yet as you already read, Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem for something else: for the baptism with the Holy Spirit that would give them power. ***“...I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49 “...in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:5***

The apostle John, writing from a post-Pentecost perspective, says that the Holy Spirit will be “given” “later” after Jesus is “glorified” (John 7:37-39). Jesus would be glorified, or exalted, when He ascended back to heaven. ***“And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began.” John 17:5***

We know that Jesus had not yet ascended to His Father through a conversation that took place just before He breathed the Holy Spirit on His disciples. ***Jesus said*** [to Mary, after the resurrection], ***“Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’” John 20:17***

What Jesus breathed on them was a different experience with the Holy Spirit than what they would later receive in Jerusalem.

The Promise Fulfilled

Here are the passages in Acts that tell about the baptism with the Holy Spirit. You will observe that speaking in tongues, or languages, was the normal indication of the baptism with the Holy Spirit in New Testament times, from the first occurrence to the outpouring on a Gentile household. The Holy Spirit enabled them to speak in languages they had never learned. The Bible calls this “speaking in tongues.” The same experience is available to believers in the 21st century.

Please read the following passages.

Read Acts 2:1-4.

Read Acts 2:5-13.

What did the crowd see and hear that drew them and caused them to ask questions?

The disciples spoke in languages known to their hearers but unknown (as in unlearned) by them. As Peter explained in the next passage, it was a supernatural evidence of the prophesied outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 2:14-21.

Up until the day that the disciples first experienced the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit only came upon certain people for a limited time, for special reasons (see note below). The disciples realized that the event on Pentecost opened the door to a new era. Now, the Holy Spirit could be poured out on anyone who believed in Jesus. Everyone who followed Jesus could have access to this power that was once reserved for a few.

Read Acts 2:32-39.

Notice in verse 33 that Jesus was exalted, or glorified, and then He “poured out” the promised Holy Spirit from the Father, just as He said He would (John 7:38-39; 14:26; 16:7).

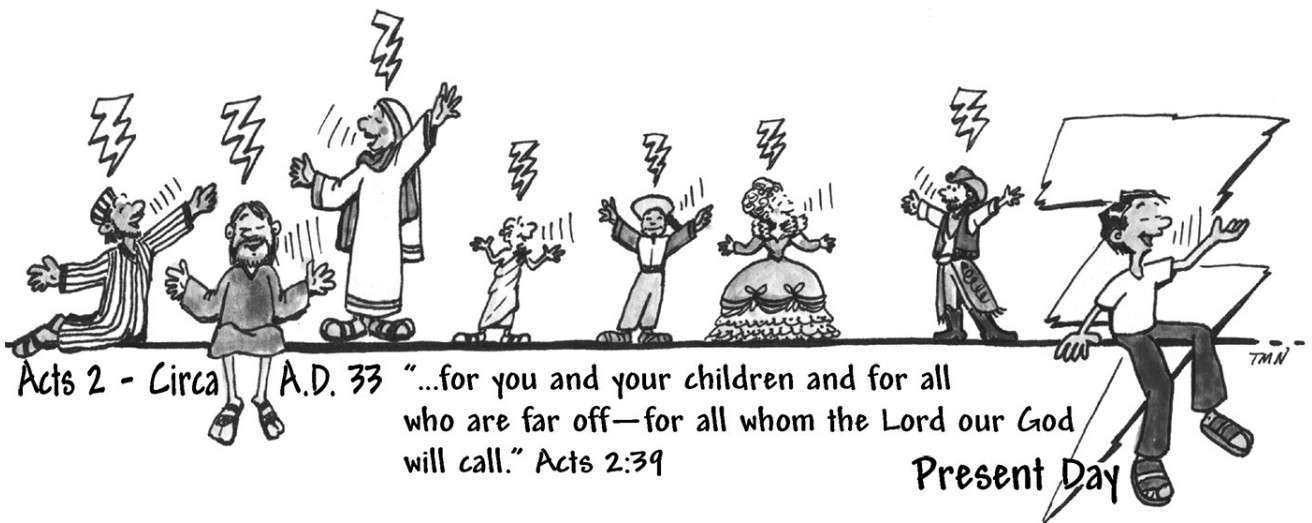
In verse 38, Peter proclaims that the promised gift of the Holy Spirit (which the crowd has “seen and heard” in verse 33) can also be theirs if they repent.

Who else is included in the promise of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? (verse 39)

The baptism with the Holy Spirit was not only for the first-century believers; it did not end when they died. It was also intended for their children (the next generation) and



Note: In Luke 1:15, 41, 67, the Holy Spirit comes upon John the Baptist, Elizabeth, and Zechariah. In Luke 2:25, He comes upon Simeon. The Old Testament contains many more examples of special anointings by the Holy Spirit.



for future generations—for all **...who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call (Acts 2:39)**. If you are a believer, the Lord has called you. You are included in the promise. You can experience the promised baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Read Acts 8:13-24.

The new believers in Samaria had the Holy Spirit living in them, as all believers do. Peter and John made a special trip to Samaria to pray for the believers to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The apostles insisted on the importance of being baptized with the Holy Spirit, just as Jesus did.

We know that onlookers observed something remarkable because when the Holy Spirit came upon the Samaritans, Simon, a new convert, wanted to buy the gift! Peter soundly rebuked him.

Read Acts 9:10-20.

Saul (later called Paul) was healed, filled with the Holy Spirit, and, at some point, spoke in tongues. (***I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 1 Corinthians 14:18***)

Read Acts 10:1-2, 44-46, and 11:15-17. (The whole story is in Acts 10:1-11:17.)

According to Acts 10:45-46, how did the Jewish believers recognize that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles?

Peter later described the incident to the Jerusalem believers saying, ***"...the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning"* (Acts 11:15)**. What words did he use in Acts 11:16 to further identify what happened?

When the “gift” of the Holy Spirit came upon the Gentiles and they spoke in tongues, the apostles recognized that they had been “baptized with the Holy Spirit”—using the words Jesus used.

Read Acts 19:1-7.

The Ephesian disciples were believers. Paul made sure they received the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

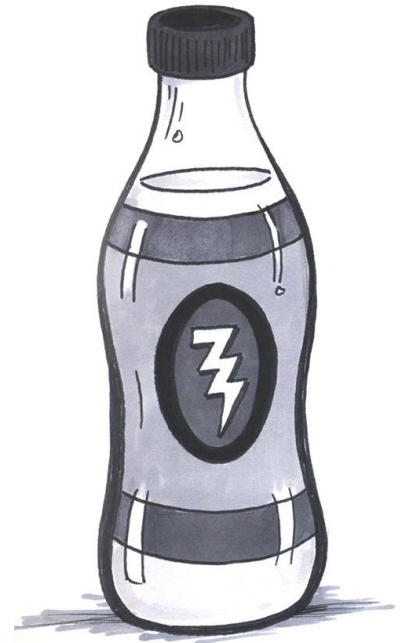
The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is for You

All believers have the Holy Spirit within them. When you receive Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live within you just as Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples.

Now, just as Jesus instructed His disciples, He wants you to ask for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit within you will be released as rivers of living water flowing from your life, empowering you in greater measure for a thirsty world.

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. John 7:38-39

Just as Jesus’ disciples experienced, the baptism with the Holy Spirit will give you greater access to His supernatural gifts (described later) to confirm your testimony: miracles, speaking in tongues, prophesying, healing, and so on. You will experience a greater awareness of the spiritual realm, an increased desire for prayer and the Bible, more love for the unlovable, more inner joy, increased boldness, a deeper, more passionate connection with Jesus, and/or a greater willingness to sacrifice for the gospel message.



Jesus insisted on the importance of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus did not want His first disciples, or you, to try to do His work without the Holy Spirit's power. As a believer, you are one of those ...***who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call (Acts 2:39)***. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is for **you, too**.

Preparing to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

- Do you want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and see more of His power operating in your life?
- Have you committed your life to Jesus to follow Him fully? Is there any area of your life that you are knowingly withholding from God's rule or direction? Will you relinquish that area to God now?
- Are you willfully disobeying Him in some area? This doesn't mean you have to be perfect to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Rather, if you need to turn from something (repent) and ask Jesus to forgive you, don't put it off. Do it now.
- Have you repented of and renounced any occult activities or recreational drug use? Sometimes these activities hinder people from receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit.
- Have you had any teaching against speaking in tongues? What was it? Are you willing to renounce it in light of the Scriptures you have studied? Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39 The people who taught you these things were, in most cases, sincere and seeking to follow God.
- You can reject their teaching on this matter while continuing to value their other instruction and godly influence in your Christian walk.
- Have you forgiven those who have wronged you, especially people that may have contributed to a negative experience regarding the Holy Spirit?
- Do you wonder if you are good enough or worthy to receive it? The baptism with the Holy Spirit is not given on the basis of your merit; it is a gift your loving heavenly Father wants to give you. If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? Romans 8:31-32
- Are there sins you feel guilty about? Confess them to Jesus and receive His forgiveness. His blood covers them.
- Do you believe that the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is for you, just as it was for the believers in Acts?

Information about Speaking in Tongues

The purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for greater power to do God's work. Just like what happened to the Christians in Acts, God will enable you to speak in tongues, a supernatural language you could not learn by human effort.

Speaking in tongues is an important and useful gift, especially in prayer as you speak to God the things He wants prayed into reality. Praying what God wants prayed is more important than understanding with your mind what you are praying. ***For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:2*** (For more information, see [“Speaking in Tongues” on page 25.](#))

Receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

This section can also guide you when you pray for others seeking the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a gift to you from the Father. Ask Him for it with confidence; He wants you to have it! You will not get a counterfeit or something fearful because your heavenly Father only gives good gifts. You can trust Him.

“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” Luke 11:11-13

Have a friend who has experienced the baptism with the Holy Spirit place a hand on your shoulder and pray for you as you talk to God. Sometimes it is easier if you are in a quiet atmosphere, without a loud or confusing crowd around you.

Pray these things out loud:

Tell God that you yield all of yourself to Him.

Tell Him you want and need more of His power to witness boldly and use the supernatural gifts.

Ask the Lord to baptize you with the Holy Spirit.

...how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13



Note to prayer partner: If more than one person is praying for someone, have just one of you do the teaching or encouraging. When you pray in tongues, do so quietly so he or she can focus on Jesus and not be distracted.

“I am going to send you what my Father promised... you [will be] clothed with power from on high.” Luke 24:49

You **can** receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Trust the Holy Spirit’s ability to give you this spiritual language. Thank Him when He does!

Here’s what might happen to let you know God is enabling you to speak in tongues.

- You might hear syllables in your mind, or you might see words in your mind as if they were written on a whiteboard.
- Your mouth might feel like it is gently filling.
- You might feel something welling up from within you.
- You may not experience any of these things, because the Holy Spirit works uniquely with each person.

When you ask the Lord to baptize you with the Holy Spirit, receive it **by faith**. You can thank and praise Him in your native language at first. Then, open your mouth and continue speaking to Him in words from the Holy Spirit, maybe a few words at first and then more will come. This action is taking a step of faith, like Peter did when he stepped out of the boat to walk on the water (Matthew 14:22-32). Just like Peter, you will do something you’ve never done before—something supernatural. For you,

stepping out of the boat is yielding your voice and mouth to God, speaking out loud a word (not in your own language), and trusting Him to give more words. Peter stepped out of the boat depending on Jesus to enable him to miraculously walk on water. You will step out of the boat by speaking out, depending on Him to enable you to speak a supernatural language.



Note to prayer partner: After the prayer time, contact your friend in a few days to ask how he or she is doing with the new prayer language, what changes he or she has experienced, and if there are any questions.

When you begin to speak in tongues, you and your friend praying for you may want to praise God together in tongues. If you receive only a few words in tongues, use whatever part of your new language God has given you. More will come in the future. Pray in tongues every day.

Satan might try to tell you that you are just making up the words when you speak in tongues. Don’t listen. If you were making it up, you would be thinking hard to create the words.

If you do not speak in tongues right away, do not get discouraged. You are closer now than you’ve ever been. When you have another opportunity, pray again with someone asking for more of the Holy Spirit’s filling, and He will enable you to pray in tongues. It will happen. Sometimes it comes right away. Sometimes it takes a while. Either way, don’t let Satan—or your own doubts—discourage you. It may be helpful to review



the questions in [“Preparing to Receive the Baptism with the Holy Spirit”](#) on page 16 for possible hindrances the Lord might bring to mind. Keep earnestly seeking. Your heavenly Father wants you experience the fullness of the Spirit with praying in tongues.



Note to prayer partner: Be available to pray again.

When you receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit, learn how to walk in the supernatural every day: listen to the audios or sign up for free weekly emails by Dick Schroeder at www.yougottheholyspirit.com.

Keep Being Filled with the Holy Spirit

The baptism with the Holy Spirit opens the door for walking in His power every day. The more often you yield to the Holy Spirit to fill you, the more you will see the supernatural gifts operate through your life. Pray often, and have others pray for you, to be filled more and more. Ephesians 5:18 says **...be filled with the Spirit**. “Be filled,” as used in this passage, means to keep being filled. The baptism of the Spirit is not just a one-time filling with the Spirit; it opens the door for continuously being filled for increasing spiritual effectiveness.

The believers in Acts, who were already baptized with the Holy Spirit, prayed for an increase of the Holy Spirit’s operation through their lives. If they needed more of the Holy Spirit’s power, so do you.

Please read Acts 4:29-31. (You can read the whole story in Acts 3 and 4.)

The authorities threatened the believers if they continued to testify about Jesus. In response, what two things did the believers pray for?

What happened?

Please make this prayer your own, asking the Lord to reveal His power and love through you.

“Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable [me] to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” Acts 4:29-30

No one has all of the Holy Spirit that is available; there is always more of God! You can ask Him to fill you any time—at work, home, or school. Just like the believers in Acts, you are simply a delivery person for the Holy Spirit. Listen attentively for when He wants you to deliver a supernatural gift, a biblical truth, or an act of compassion. Step out in obedience and trust Jesus for the results. Every time you obey the Holy Spirit’s prompting, you give Him more room to fill you.



When Jesus was on earth, He could do His works in only one geographical place at a time. However, because He went to the Father and sent the Holy Spirit, the first-century believers—and you—were “clothed with power” (Luke 24:49) to do Jesus’ works in multiple locations simultaneously. Now you are one of millions of Holy Spirit-empowered believers (His “body”) doing the works Jesus did, all over the globe. Could this be what Jesus meant when He said, ***“Very truly I tell you, whoever believes in me will do the works I have been doing, and they will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.”***—His works done in greater scope? (John 14:12 emphasis added)

Until Jesus returns, keep seeking more of the Holy Spirit’s power to do His “greater things” in your part of the world.

Some Common Questions

We will discuss three questions in this section. Is speaking in tongues for believers today? Is speaking in tongues available to any believer? Is the “promise” or “gift” referring to the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

If these are not your questions at the moment, you may want to skip this section for now and go right to [“How to Use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit” on page 24.](#)

Is Speaking in Tongues For Believers Today?

Some people say that tongues (and the miraculous) have passed away and are no longer to be used today. Their proof text is, *Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears... Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12*

They believe that the “completeness” in this passage has come and that it is the Bible, so tongues have ceased. However, the text itself contains the answer. Verse 12 says, *Now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.* When is “then”? When will you see face-to-face and know everything fully? It will be when Jesus returns. That is when “completeness comes.” “Then” we will all be whole, so there will be no more need for miracles or healing. We will see Jesus face-to-face and communicate perfectly with Him, so there will be no more need for tongues or prophecy. Speaking in tongues exists today because we need it, just as we need the rest of the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as miracles and healing. When Jesus returns, there will be no more need for the supernatural gifts.

21

Is Speaking in Tongues Available to Any Believer?

Some people say speaking in tongues is not for everyone. Their proof text is, *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 1 Corinthians 12:29-30* The obvious answer is no. Therefore, some argue that they don’t speak in tongues because it is not their gift. This is a misunderstanding about the two main functions of tongues described in the New Testament.

One function, **speaking in tongues as God's message to people**, must in fact be accompanied by the gift of interpretation. Both gifts are coupled together in the above passage and intended, as are all the other gifts listed, for ministry to people. The second function, **speaking in tongues in prayer or praise to God**, accompanies the baptism with the Holy Spirit as described in Acts; it is available to everyone. Not everyone will manifest the gift of tongues for the public meeting, but everyone can pray in tongues when they receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Is the “Promise” or “Gift” Referring to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

We have discussed that the first-century believers, already indwelt by the Holy Spirit, were baptized with the Holy Spirit subsequent to their conversions. The baptism with the Holy Spirit empowered the disciples with supernatural demonstrations such as speaking in tongues, healing, expelling evil spirits, and so on. We have also discussed that today, as in the first-century church, the Holy Spirit indwells every believer, and the same empowering baptism with the Holy Spirit is available to them as a second experience.

Three Indicators of the Promise's Fulfillment

In describing the forthcoming experience with the Holy Spirit, Jesus used three indicators that would signal the promise's fulfillment. The apostles used the same three indicators to confirm that their experience with the Holy Spirit was indeed the baptism with the Spirit that Jesus promised.

Jesus told the disciples that, **after He returned to heaven**, He would send the Holy Spirit from His Father in a way that would clothe them with supernatural power. He told them that what they heard Him speak about before His crucifixion was the **gift His Father promised**. The promised gift was the **baptism with the Holy Spirit** that John the Baptist predicted nearly three years before. Then, He was “taken up before their eyes,” returning to His glorified and exalted place. (John 7:37-39; 14:26; 16:7; Acts 1:3-5, 8-9)

Below are two groups of Scripture passages for you to compare. The first group contains Jesus' specific promises. The second group of Scriptures contains the apostles' experiences that confirm the promises' fulfillment. In both groups of Scriptures, the three indicators are **color-coded** to aid your comparison.

Look for each of the three indicators in the “Promise” and then find them in the “Fulfillment.”

Described as “Baptized with the Holy Spirit”
Promised gift that would be sent
Sent after Jesus was glorified (exalted)

THE PROMISE:

*...By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been **given**, since Jesus had not yet been **glorified**.* John 7:37-39 (emphases added)

*...**Unless I go away**, the Advocate will not come to you; **but if I go, I will send him to you**.* John 16:7 (emphases added)

*But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the **Father will send in my name**...* John 14:26 (emphasis added)

*“I am going to **send you what my Father has promised**; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”* Luke 24:49 (emphasis added)

*John answered them all, “I baptize you with water... He will **baptize you with the Holy Spirit** and fire.”* Luke 3:16 (emphasis added)

*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. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.”* Acts 1:4-5 (emphases added)

THE FULFILLMENT:

***Exalted** to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father **the promised Holy Spirit** and has poured out what you now see and hear.* Acts 2:33 (emphases added)

*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 children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.”* Acts 2:38-39 (emphasis added)

*The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the **gift of the Holy Spirit** had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Acts 10:45-46 (emphasis added)*

(Peter tells Jewish believers what happened to the Gentiles.) *"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning (Acts 2:4). Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.' So if **God gave them the same gift he gave us** who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" Acts 11:15-17 (emphases added)*

How to Use the Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Jesus said, *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." Acts 1:8*

When the Holy Spirit's power flows through you in supernatural gifts, the gifts strengthen you and other believers, and they confirm your testimony of Jesus' grace.

So Paul and Barnabas spent considerable time there, speaking boldly for the Lord, who confirmed the message of his grace by enabling them to perform signs and wonders. Acts 14:3

God also testified to it [salvation] by signs, wonders and various miracles, and by gifts of the Holy Spirit distributed according to his will. Hebrews 2:4

The Holy Spirit loves to give His gifts; you are simply a delivery person. Just pay attention when the Lord has a gift He wants you to deliver, and step out in obedient faith.

Use the Gifts of the Spirit with Integrity

If people misuse the power of the Spirit, it is not the fault of the Holy Spirit or the gifts. Rather, sometimes people lack integrity in the way they use the gifts. ***Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit.... 1 Corinthians 14:1*** (emphasis added)

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. 1 Corinthians 13:1-2

Therefore, let love govern how you use the Holy Spirit's power and the gifts, and you will use them with integrity.

Use the gifts with patience and kindness.
Use them without envy, boasting, or pride.

Don't be rude or self-seeking when you use them.
Don't use them if you are angry.
Don't keep a record of wrongs or tolerate any other evil in your own life.
Align your private thoughts and actions with truth.

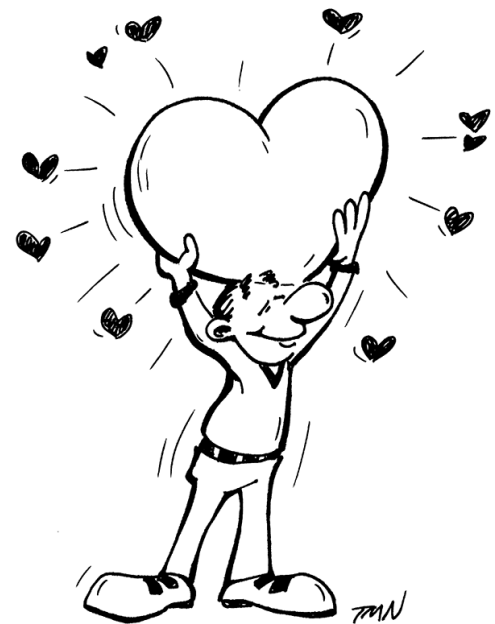
Use the gifts in a way that protects people from needless hurt or humiliation.
Be worthy of trust.
Pray for people with hope and perseverance as you operate in the power of the Spirit. (Adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7)

Speaking in Tongues

In the New Testament, believers use tongues for communication directed to God or to other people.

When you speak in tongues in prayer or praise to God, only He needs to understand it. In addition, you are edified, or strengthened, by praying in tongues.

When you speak a message in tongues for other people, someone must receive the gift of interpretation for those people—and you—to understand the message. When they understand, they can be edified (strengthened). We will discuss speaking a message in tongues and interpretation later (see [“The Vocal Gifts” on page 28](#)).



Therefore, regarding how to use speaking in tongues, ask two questions:

Who needs to understand?
Who is edified?

Tongues Used in Prayer and Praise to God

Speaking in tongues as prayer or praise to God is available to believers when they receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. This was the pattern in the early church.

Acts 2:4 All the disciples were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues **declaring the wonders of God**. (Acts 2:10)

Acts 9:17; 1 Corinthians 14:18 Paul was filled with the Spirit. He spoke in tongues.



Acts 10:44-46 Cornelius's household was baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues.

Acts 19:6 The Holy Spirit filled believers in Ephesus; they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

In the following passage, who needs to understand the communication in

tongues?

For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 1 Corinthians 14:2

Speaking in tongues in this passage is prayer or praise directed to God. You are **praying mysteries to God in the will of God**. You don't understand what you are praying unless God reveals it. You are praying in the spirit, or with a "prayer language." ***For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 1 Corinthians 14:14*** The Holy Spirit gives you the prayers to pray. You tap into God's infinite intellect. You have a greater ability to pray for the things that God wants accomplished. You are no longer limited by your own vocabulary, knowledge, or reasoning about the subject of your prayers.

In the following passage, who is edified?

Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 1 Corinthians 14:4

Speaking in tongues edifies you; it strengthens and builds up your spirit. It increases your sensitivity to when the Holy Spirit wants to use you in prophecy or another supernatural gift that builds up others.

Therefore, pray in tongues every day during your time with God, driving to work, or walking to class. Think of a situation or person while you pray in tongues, expecting the Lord to intervene. As you pray in tongues, offer yourself to be used by the Holy Spirit that day. Pay attention for His leading.

Praying in Tongues with Others

With a friend or in a gathering, people may pray in tongues all together about a subject of common concern. The communication is directed to God; God understands it. Since they all know what the subject is, they do not need to understand each others' prayers.

At some point, in my opinion, praying in tongues should become quieter so that someone can pray in English (or the language everyone understands). Now, the communication is to God **and** to people who need to understand and agree with the prayers. When you "agree" with people's prayers, you add your faith to theirs.



Nine Supernatural Gifts of the Spirit Used to Edify Others

This section is adapted from www.yougottheholyspirit.com by Dick Schroeder

When believers gather together, each person baptized with the Holy Spirit is a potential conduit through whom the Holy Spirit can express His supernatural gifts. **Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given...** These manifestations of the Holy Spirit's power are...**given for the common good**, to edify other people.

The Holy Spirit distributes His supernatural gifts as momentary impartations; they come and go as He desires. You do not possess the gift; it does not reside in you. On the contrary, you depend on the Holy Spirit to prompt you to express a gift when and where He chooses (see note below). **All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.** 1 Corinthians 12:7, 11 (emphases added)

Come to a gathering eagerly desiring and asking the Holy Spirit to use you in a gift to encourage and build up someone else. Be attentive for His nudge. Love someone with a gift. **Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy.** 1 Corinthians 14:1

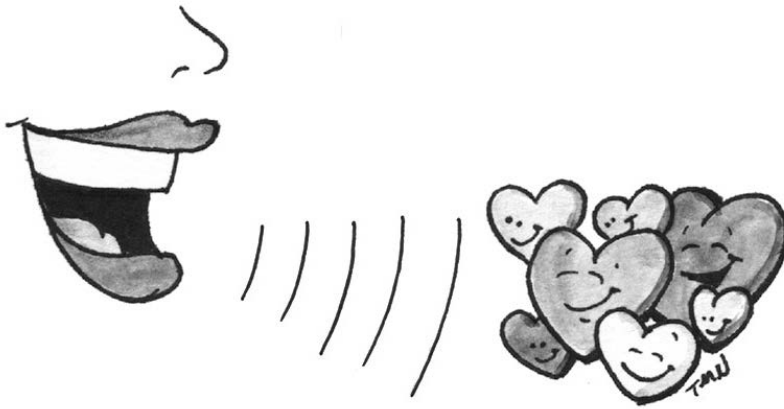
Read 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.



Note: In contrast with supernatural gifts, God gives people "motivational" gifts (e.g. mercy, giving) and "equipping" gifts (e.g. apostle, teacher). These reside within you as part of your temperament and natural strengths. You tend to find joy in serving people in these particular ways.

What are nine supernatural gifts the Holy Spirit gives “for the common good”?

The nine gifts of the Holy Spirit can be divided into three categories: vocal gifts, revelatory gifts, and power gifts.



The Vocal Gifts

God speaks to His people in real time through speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, and prophecy.

TESTS FOR THE VOCAL GIFTS

Since we all are learning to hear God’s voice more clearly, test what you hear in the following ways.

The message:

- Does not violate biblical truth.
- Strengthens, encourages, convicts, warns, instructs, or comforts.
- Confirms an already-established conviction or direction given by God.
- Is substantiated by time. If the message is from God, it will come to pass (Deuteronomy 18:18-22).
- Is given by a natural expression in the context of the speaker’s personality.
- Is given with an attitude of worship, love, and humility.
- Is not given with a harsh, condemning, or critical attitude.
- Is not marked by over-excitement.
- Is delivered under the control of the speaker.

(The last five points from Pratney 290)

TONGUES AND INTERPRETATION

If you speak in tongues in a public meeting so that everyone can hear it, you should pray that God enables you or someone else to interpret it so that other people are edified. If you do not think it is a message for the whole group but rather your “prayer language,” you should quietly speak in tongues to God. In fact, many people in a meeting can intercede or worship very quietly in tongues. They are speaking to God. If you pray or speak in tongues so that everyone can hear it in the gathering, someone needs to be able to interpret it so the others can understand God’s message.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:12-19.

In this passage, who needs to understand the communication in tongues and be edified?

What instructions does Paul give in verses 12-13?

What is the problem in verses 16-17?

Note in verses 18-19 that Paul speaks in tongues privately more than anyone. He builds himself up so he can be more sensitive to the Holy Spirit's gifts when the church gathers. In the gathering, he seeks to prophesy and interpret a message in tongues. He wants to use the vocal gifts to build up believers. Follow Paul's example: Regularly pray and worship privately in tongues, edifying your spirit for greater sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's nudge when you are in a gathering (1 Corinthians 14:4).

// My experience has been that the more I pray in tongues privately, the more I am able to prophesy in the public meeting. There seems to be a direct correlation between the two. The Scripture says: *I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you* [when Paul is alone]. *But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. 1 Corinthians 14:18-19* In order to speak the 'five' words of prophecy in public, I will have prayed the 'ten thousand words' in tongues privately" (Dick Schroeder).

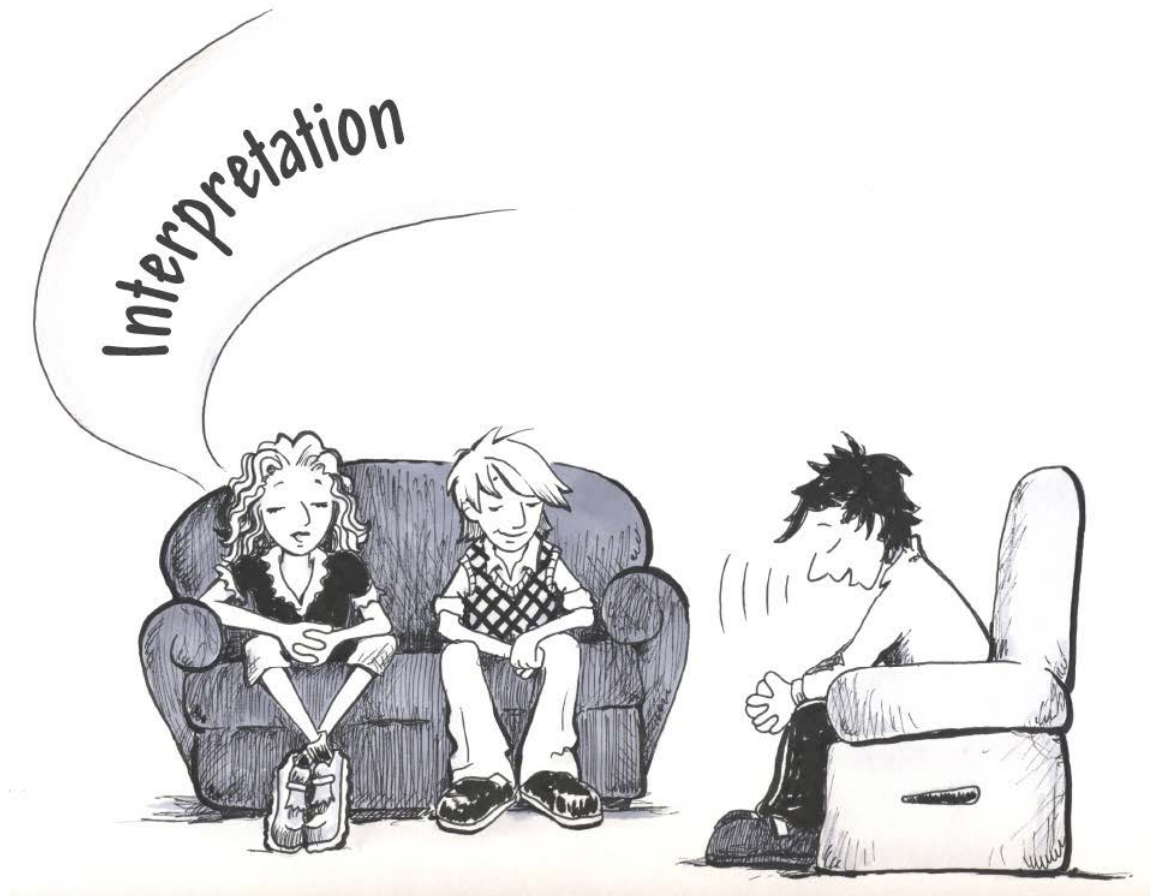


Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-28.

According to this Scripture, when believers gather, what must accompany a message in tongues? Why? (verse 26)

What should happen if someone speaks in a tongue and, after waiting a short time, no one in the group receives the interpretation?

You may not know if someone in the meeting has been given the interpretation of your message in tongues. Someone may be uncertain or unwilling. If you give a message in tongues and, after waiting for a short time, no one interprets it, the meeting should continue.



PROPHECY

The gift of prophecy is a spontaneous message given by the Holy Spirit directed toward an individual or group of people at a particular time. It is not the result of advance preparation of what you want to say. Prophecy, as described in 1 Corinthians 14, originates from supernatural revelation for both the hearers and the one delivering the message. You simply respond to the inner prompting of the Spirit in the present situation.

*But if an unbeliever or an inquirer comes in while everyone is **prophesying**, they are convicted of sin and are brought under judgment by all, **as the secrets of their hearts are laid bare**. So they will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, “**God is really among you!**” 1 Corinthians 14:24-25 (emphases added)*

*Two or three **prophets** should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a **revelation comes to someone** who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. **For you can all prophesy** in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. 1 Corinthians 14:29-31 (emphases added)*

The Lord may put a word or picture in your mind. He may bring a Scripture to your mind. He may give you some encouraging words for someone such as, "Tell Jake I am pleased with him." Each time you step out in faith and give what you have received, you will hear God's voice more clearly.

Read 1 Corinthians 14:1-5

What are three ways prophecy edifies people? (verse 3)

From verse 5, what is Paul's desire for everyone regarding speaking in tongues (privately)?

Why is it "greater" to prophesy, or to combine tongues with interpretation, than to speak in tongues publicly without interpretation? (verse 5)

Notice that speaking in tongues becomes a "greater" gift when interpreted.

Gifts can be defined as "greater" when people in a gathering of believers will understand and be edified by the message.

This does not mean some gifts are "greater" than others in a hierarchical sense. The Holy Spirit would not manifest His almighty power with some gift that is less desirable or less important than the others. For example, the apostle Paul recognizes the spiritual power of speaking in tongues. He speaks in tongues privately more than anyone, and he would like every one of you to speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:5).

Read 1 Corinthians 12:27-31.

This list of "parts of Christ's body" occurs in a passage explaining how each member (part) builds up the body. The list includes some of the nine supernatural gifts. The answer to all of Paul's rhetorical questions is, "No. God does not give everyone the same gift when we gather together." All the gifts Paul lists here qualify as "greater." Why? Because they build up Christ's body. ***Now eagerly desire the greater gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:31***

Read 1 Corinthians 14:29-31.

This passage gives further instructions for an orderly meeting so that the vocal gifts edify people. Because none of us hears the Holy Spirit perfectly, we need to deliver the message we have received with humility, open for other believers to "weigh," or check it. (Please refer to the ["Tests for the Vocal Gifts" on page 28.](#))

Paul opens an all-inclusive door by writing ***for you can all prophesy in turn...*** (1 Corinthians

14:31). That means you. Pay attention when the Holy Spirit wants to use you as His mouthpiece to encourage others. Each time you step out with a gift that the Holy Spirit prompts you to use, you'll increase your ability to hear His voice. Don't neglect praying in tongues, and seek the gifts that build up others. ...**try to excel in [gifts] that build up the church. 1 Corinthians 14:12**

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:39-40

The Revelatory Gifts

God enables you to see into the invisible spiritual realm through the message of knowledge, the message of wisdom, and distinguishing between spirits.

MESSAGE OF KNOWLEDGE

Through the message of knowledge, the Holy Spirit puts information into your mind you would not otherwise know. The information is different from the knowledge you gain through human means, because the origin is supernatural. Some describe the experience as a spontaneous sense of "knowing" a piece of information. For example, the Holy Spirit may reveal that a part of someone's body needs healing. Or He may warn you about a person or situation.

Acts 5:1-10 describes how, while accepting financial gifts for the young, thriving church, Peter received supernatural knowledge about Ananias's gift from a land sale. Acts 9:11-12 records how the Holy Spirit told another Ananias where to find Paul. When you are in a gathering, ask the Lord to give you the gift of knowledge. He may drop words or some information into your mind that will increase your and others' faith, because you will "know" what Jesus wants to do.

MESSAGE OF WISDOM

Through the message of wisdom, the Holy Spirit provides revelation concerning His strategy, plan, course of action, or solution to a problem. The message of knowledge reveals "what." The message of wisdom reveals "how." The Holy Spirit may take information and knowledge you already have and put the pieces together to form a plan He inspires. The supernatural wisdom is beyond your natural ability to synthesize facts and come up with a plan.

In Genesis 41:33-40, God gives Joseph the interpretation of Pharaoh's dream along with a strategy to manage seven years of plenty followed by seven years of famine. In 2 Samuel 5:22-25, God reveals a battle plan beyond David's natural strategic abilities to formulate. In Acts 6:8-10, the Holy Spirit gives Stephen supernatural wisdom that confounds the opposition. In Acts 16:6-10, the Holy Spirit supernaturally plans Paul's preaching itinerary.

Don't rely on your own abilities alone. Ask Jesus to open your mind to His strategy, plan, course of action, or solution. Be alert and listening for His wisdom.

DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN SPIRITS

We live in a universe filled with both holy and evil supernatural beings, so it is important to discern which is which. The gift of distinguishing between spirits provides insight into the spiritual realm, in order to determine the source of specific spiritual activity: God or Satan.

In the following Scriptures, the Holy Spirit reveals the source of spiritual power so the disciples know how to respond.

Read Acts 16:16-18.

From what supernatural source does the slave girl predict the future?

Even though some of the girl's information is true (verse 17), she is receiving it from Satan. If people seek information from spiritual sources other than Jesus Christ, they are consulting servants of Satan's realm regardless of how benign it appears. They are opening doors for deception and bondage.

How does the gift of distinguishing between spirits help Paul in this situation? What is the result?

What does Paul say in verse 18 to acknowledge his source of power?

Like Paul, people using a supernatural gift from the Holy Spirit will acknowledge Jesus as their source of power. They will be submitted to Jesus and refuse to seek supernatural interaction or connection with any spiritual source other than Jesus Christ.

Read Acts 13:6-12.

Through the gift of distinguishing between spirits, Paul recognizes the source of Elymas's efforts to influence the proconsul. Through the gift of prophecy, he also speaks the word of the Lord against him. God manifests His power.

How does the proconsul respond to the Holy Spirit's power and ***the teaching about the Lord*** (Acts 13:12)?

Is this from God? Tests to Distinguish the Source of the Spiritual Activity

(For more tests, see Tools for Mentoring "Guidance" module.)

The Holy Spirit is the source of the spiritual activity if:

- It does not violate what the Bible says.
- Jesus Christ is acknowledged as God and worthy of worship. The person (or angel) refuses any acts of worship (e.g. bowing) of him- or herself, of anyone else, or of any other spiritual being.
 - For example, in Acts 14:8-18, Paul and Barnabas refuse to receive worship for a healing.
 - Revelation 19:10 and 22:8-9 describe an angel refusing John's worship, insisting that John worship only God.
- Jesus Christ is the recognized source of the power. The person calls on Jesus and verbally acknowledges Jesus Christ as the source of power. He or she takes no credit for the power.
 - For example, Acts 3-4 records Peter and John's words when a lame man is healed. ***"In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk....Why do you stare at us as if by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? ...By faith in the name of Jesus, this man whom you see and know was made strong...." Acts 3:6, 12, 16***
- No occult or other religions (e.g. eastern religions) are consulted or invoked (called upon). The person does not participate in occult practices or in other religions. He or she does not consult, seek spiritual information, or invoke power from the occult, eastern or other religions, or any other spiritual source.
 - Never seek supernatural information, power, or connection with any source other than Jesus Christ. ***Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who practices divination or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a medium or spiritist or who consults the dead. Deuteronomy 18:10-11***
 - Never participate in the worship practices of any other god(s) or false spiritual realities, even if you don't believe in them. Doing so can bring you under their influence. ***Do not bow down before their gods or worship them or follow their practices.... Exodus 23:24***

As His follower, God has given you authority over the enemy in Jesus' powerful name. The keys are in James 4:7. ***Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.***

- Submit to God by repenting of all known sin, especially:
 - Seeking spiritual information, powers, or connection with any spiritual source other than Jesus.
 - Participating in the worship practices of any non-Christian religions or spiritualism.
 - Sexual sin.
 - Withholding forgiveness from someone who wronged you—instead, forgive them.
- Resist the devil in Jesus' name.

If you participated in these activities, you have opened a door directly into the spiritual realm of Satan. You can confess and renounce (reject) each involvement by praying out loud the following prayer:

Lord Jesus, forgive me for participating in _____ (list them). I repent and turn from them. In Jesus' name, I renounce (reject) these activities and all evil spirits connected with them. I close the door that I opened by my disobedience. I submit myself to Jesus Christ alone. I claim the protection of the blood of Jesus over my life today.

Remove and destroy (Don't pass it on!) everything in your possession that relates to these ungodly supernatural activities (Acts 19:18-20).

The Power Gifts

God demonstrates His supremacy over the natural world and the natural order of things through healing, faith, and miraculous powers.

HEALING

God exerts His supernatural power over sickness and injury through gifts of healing. When Jesus commissioned His disciples, and you, to go everywhere and preach the gospel, He told them: ***And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues... they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.*** Mark 16:15-18

When Jesus had called the Twelve together, he gave them power and authority to drive out all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them out to proclaim the

kingdom of God and to heal the sick... So they set out and went from village to village, proclaiming the good news and healing people everywhere. Luke 9:1-2, 6

After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them..."When you enter a town and are welcomed... Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.'" Luke 10:1, 8-9

In Acts 3 and 4, a well-known lame man was healed in the name of Jesus. The miraculous event created opportunities for Peter and John to proclaim the gospel before onlookers, including religious leaders.

Please read Acts 5:12-16; 8:6-7; 19:11-12; and 28:8-9. What happened in each passage?

Through the power of the Holy Spirit working in obedient disciples, people were healed and delivered of evil spirits that oppressed them. The same power works in you.

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. James 5:14-15

Your part is to pray for the sick. God's part is to heal. You pray with **faith in God**—not with faith in healing. Pray believing and trusting God to intervene in some way, His way. Sometimes you will see people healed right away, or He will heal after people pray for them several times. Sometimes Jesus intervenes in ways you cannot see. More people are healed when we pray than when we don't.

You can make this your prayer:

"Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." 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 4:30-31

FAITH

The Bible describes at least three kinds of faith: saving faith, growing faith, and the supernatural gift of faith.

Saving faith brings you into a living relationship with the Lord. Growing faith increases in strength each time you obey the Holy Spirit's nudge and the Scriptures. In contrast to these two kinds of faith, the gift of faith provides the ability to believe God will

do more than you could do with your present resources. He empowers you with faith beyond your own ability to believe regarding a specific situation. He gives you supernaturally originated confidence to act.

Read Acts 14:8-10.

What did Paul “see” (message of knowledge) that the Holy Spirit had given the lame man?

The Holy Spirit gave the lame man a **gift of faith** to believe for healing; He gave Paul confidence through **revealed knowledge** of God’s intention; He gave Paul a **gift of healing** to express Christ’s compassion.

Read Acts 27:21-26.

What information (message of knowledge) did Paul supernaturally receive? Observe all the details!

How did the gift of faith help him and the sailors in the dangerous situation?

The rest of chapter 27 records that everything happened just as God told Paul.

MIRACULOUS POWERS

Miracles happen when God temporarily intervenes in the ordinary course of natural laws. God commanded Moses to wave his staff over the Red Sea, and the sea parted (Exodus 14). At that moment, God intervened in the natural laws governing water. What if Moses had reasoned, “What good will it do to wave my staff over the sea to deliver us from the Egyptian army?” Moses partnered with God by obedience, and God did the miracle. Be willing to do whatever the Lord tells you.

Later, in the promised land, God commanded Joshua to march around Jericho’s walls seven times. On the seventh day, the impenetrable walls fell (Joshua 6). What if Joshua had dismissed the divine strategy as nonsense? As with all the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit, in order to see His power manifested through you, God requires obedience—even if the instructions are unusual.

Read Acts 8:26-40.

What was Philip’s response to the angel’s instructions?

Often the Lord will give you just enough information to take your next step. As Philip did, do your part by obeying (whether you “feel” anything or not) and God will do the rest.

At the end of the encounter, how did God suspend the natural laws for Philip?

Read Acts 12:5-14.

What extraordinary, miraculous events occurred as a result of the believers’ prayers for Peter?

In conclusion, God can use anyone in the supernatural gifts who is willing and obedient. You don’t have to be anyone special. It’s not about you; it’s about God’s love and power moving through your life to make a difference in Jesus’ name.

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List of Scriptures

Genesis 41:33-40

Joseph interprets dream of coming famine; Wisdom for economic strategy

Deuteronomy 6:4

The LORD is one

Deuteronomy 18:10-11

Divination, witchcraft, spells, consulting medium or the dead are forbidden

Exodus 14

Parting of the Red Sea

Exodus 23:24

Do not worship other gods or follow practices

Joshua 6

Jericho's walls fall down

2 Samuel 5:22-25

God gives strategic battle plan to David

Matthew 3:16-17

Jesus' baptism with Holy Spirit and Father's voice

Matthew 6:14-15

Forgive and Father will forgive you

Matthew 28:19-20

Make disciples, baptizing in name of Father, Son, Holy Spirit

Mark 16:15-20

Signs follow those who believe

Luke 1:15, 41, 67

Holy Spirit comes on John the Baptist, Elizabeth, Zechariah

Luke 2:25

Holy Spirit comes upon Simeon

Luke 3:16

Jesus will baptize you with Holy Spirit

Luke 9:23

Disciples take up cross and deny self

Luke 11:11-13

Father gives Spirit to those who ask

Luke 24:49

Wait until clothed with power

John 7:37-39

Holy Spirit given after Jesus glorified

John 10:9

Jesus is gate; Whoever enters by Me is saved

John 14:12

Believers will do greater things because Jesus goes to Father

John 14:15

Father give you Advocate, the Spirit of truth

John 14:26

Advocate will teach you

John 15:26-27

Advocate will testify of Me; You also must testify

John 16:7-13

Advocate will come; He will convict world, guide you into truth

John 17:5

"Glorify Me in Your presence"

John 20:17

Jesus tells Mary He has not yet returned to Father

John 20:20-22

Jesus breathes Holy Spirit into disciples

Acts 1:3-9

Jesus said wait for baptism with Holy Spirit

Acts 2:1-21

Disciples filled with Spirit, speak in tongues; Peter explains to crowd

Acts 2:32-39

Jesus exalted and sent promised Holy Spirit for all generations

Acts 3 and 4

Man healed; Peter and John preach; Threatened if continue to preach

Acts 4:29-31

Disciples pray for boldness; Filled with Holy Spirit

Acts 5:1-10

Peter receives supernatural knowledge about Ananias's gift

Acts 5:12-16

Signs, wonders, healing, deliverance, salvations through apostles

Acts 5:32

God gives Holy Spirit to those who obey Him

Acts 6:8-10

Holy Spirit gives Stephen supernatural wisdom

Acts 8:6-7

Healing and deliverance through Philip

Acts 8:13-24

Believers in Samaria receive Holy Spirit; Simon offers to buy ability

Acts 8:26-40

Angel directs Philip to eunuch; Philip taken by Spirit to another city

Acts 9:10-20

Holy Spirit tells Ananias where to find Paul; Paul filled with the Spirit

Acts 10: 1-2, 44-46; 11:15-17

Gentiles baptized with Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues

Acts 12:5-14

Angel delivers Peter from prison

Acts 13:6-7

Elymas the sorcerer blinded; Proconsul believes

Acts 14:3

Holy Spirit confirms Paul and Barnabas's testimony with signs and wonders

Acts 14:8-18

Man has faith to be healed; Paul and Barnabas refuse to receive worship

Acts 16:6-10

Holy Spirit plans Paul's itinerary to Macedonia

Acts 16:16-18

Paul commands demon to leave female slave

Acts 19:1-7

Ephesian believers receive Holy Spirit, speak in tongues

Acts 19:11-12

God healed and delivered people with Paul's handkerchiefs

Acts 27:21-26

Angel tells Paul all will be saved on ship in storm

Acts 28:7-10

Sick on the island are healed

Romans 1:20

God's attributes seen in what He made

Romans 8:9

Spirit lives in you if you belong to Christ

Romans 8:15-17

Spirit brought adoption of sonship; Abba Father

Romans 8:26-27

Spirit helps us pray with groanings

Romans 8:31-32

God did not spare His Son; He will give us all things

1 Corinthians 12:7-11

List of supernatural gifts

1 Corinthians 12:27-31

Do all speak in tongues? Desire greater gifts

1 Corinthians 13

Use gifts with love; Gifts not needed when Jesus returns

1 Corinthians 14:1-5

Desire spiritual gifts; Speak in tongues and prophesy

1 Corinthians 14:12-19

Interpret tongues in gathering; Paul speaks tongues more than all

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

Prophecy reveals secrets of heart; God is among you

1 Corinthians 14:26-33

Rules for tongues and prophecy in meeting

1 Corinthians 14:39-40

Be eager to prophesy; Don't forbid tongues

Ephesians 5:15-20

Be filled with the Spirit, sing, give thanks

Ephesians 6:18

Pray in Spirit for saints

Hebrews 2:4

Signs, wonders, miracles, gifts of the Holy Spirit testify of gospel

James 4:7

Submit to God and resist devil

James 5:14-15

Prayer in faith heals sick

1 Peter 1:1-2

Father, Jesus, and Holy Spirit interact with believers

1 John 4:16

Whoever lives in love lives in God

1 John 5:14-15

If ask according to His will, we have what we ask

Jude 1:20

Build yourselves up; Pray in Holy Spirit

Revelation 19:10; 22:8-9

Angel refuses John's worship

Terms Referring to the Same Experience

Baptized with the Holy Spirit: Acts 1:5

Gift of the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:38; Acts 10:45

Filled with the Holy Spirit: Acts 2:4

Promise: Acts 1:4; Acts 2:39

Clothed with power: Luke 24:49

Holy Spirit came upon them: Acts 19:1-6

The Trinity Interacts with Believers

John 14:16-17

Ephesians 2:18; 3:14-17; 5:18-20

1 Thessalonians 1:3-5

2 Thessalonians 2:13-17

1 John 4:13-15

