

they spoke was “the tongues of men,” though still supernatural in origin because they, being Galileans, spoke in the unknown languages of the devout Jews from every nation who had gathered there for the Feast of Pentecost. The Jews marveled at this, because they heard these disciples declare God’s glory in their own native tongues. This was a sign to these Jewish unbelievers that the prophecy of Isaiah had been fulfilled (Isa 28:11, 12). The Jews supposed, however, that the disciples were drunk until Peter preached to them.

Today, God still uses believers to speak in foreign tongues unknown to them in order to witness to people when they are unfamiliar with their dialect.

So the apostle Paul spoke of the “tongues of men and the tongues of angels” (1Cor 13:1). Both are available as a result of the Holy Spirit baptism—the power from on high that Jesus commanded us to receive! (Luk 24:49/ Acts 1:4, 5,8)

### How to receive the Holy Spirit baptism

Read over the scriptures here to build your faith, because faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Rom 10:17).

Believe that God desires for you to receive the Holy Spirit, or else He would not have commanded it.

Make sure to confess any known sin, for God will not dwell in an unclean vessel (body). God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all (1John 1:5). He says He gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32). Confess your sins, trusting God to forgive you, and He (through the person of the Holy Spirit) will come and dwell inside you to help you overcome sin and be led by Him in all things.

Ask God for the Holy Spirit baptism (Luk 11:9-13), expecting to receive what you ask for!

Begin to lift your voice in faith, uttering the first sound that comes out without trying to analyze it or think about it. (Keep in mind that Satan will try telling you this is only your own mind making up words. He works hard to prevent people from receiving the Holy Spirit baptism, because he knows it is God’s supernatural power dwelling inside of them, and it defeats his own supernatural power!) Keep speaking in sounds (tongues of angels) until it flows like rivers of living water (John 7:38, 39). You should have a whole prayer language rather than just a few words over and over.

If you are not comfortable receiving the baptism on your own, you may ask someone whom you know has the Holy Spirit baptism to assist you in receiving it by laying hands on you and praying in tongues (Acts 8:14-17/19:6/2Ti 1:6,7)

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, tell people about it! Also, remember to pray (and/or sing) in your new heavenly prayer language every day, to build up your faith, keep you centered on spiritual things, and pray effectively for yourself and others.

## Have You Received The Holy Spirit Since You Believed?

When Jesus resurrected from the grave, he issued commandments to his disciples before going to Heaven to be with God. One command he gave them was that they were not to depart from Jerusalem until they received the baptism of the Holy Ghost:

**Act 1:4 KJV** And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.

**Act 1:5** For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.

Although previously he had breathed on them and told them to receive the Holy Ghost, (John 20:22) this breathing did not constitute the Holy Spirit baptism, but rather, a spiritual regeneration (born-again/rebirth) of their spirits. Just as the wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23), so that all who have sinned have died spiritually, so Jesus breathed on them (breathed new spiritual life into them as God did when He breathed life into Adam and he became a living soul). We know that when Jesus breathed on them and told them “receive ye the Holy Ghost,” he was not indicating the baptism here, because later on in Acts 1 he told these same disciples to *wait* for the baptism of the Holy Ghost!

So Jesus issued the command for his disciples to be Holy Ghost baptized, and this command still holds true for us today. He wants us to be filled with the power from on high, so that we can be effective witnesses for God:

**Act 1:8** But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Even the Lord Jesus himself, in order to fulfill all righteousness, was baptized in the Holy Ghost before beginning his miraculous ministry here on earth (John 1:33/Mat 3:13-16).

As a result of this baptism, he operated in the nine gifts of the Spirit listed in 1Corinthians:

**1Co 12:8** For to one is given by the Spirit *the word of wisdom*; to another *the word of knowledge* by the same Spirit;  
**1Co 12:9** To another *faith* by the same Spirit; to another *the gifts of healing* by the same Spirit;  
**1Co 12:10** To another *the working of miracles*; to another *prophecy*; to another *discerning of spirits*; to another *divers kinds of tongues*; to another *the interpretation of tongues*.

Although Jesus received the Holy Spirit baptism at the same time that he was water baptized, this is not always the case for believers, though it can happen this way. Some people have no knowledge of the Holy Spirit baptism, as Paul the apostle discovered:

**Act 19:1** And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

**Act 19:2** He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost

since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

**Act 19:3** And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

**Act 19:4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

**Act 19:5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Act 19:6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Another time, as Peter was preaching the message of salvation to the Gentiles God had led him to, they were baptized with the Holy Ghost before even being water baptized:

**Act 10:44** While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

**Act 10:45** And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

**Act 10:46** For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

**Act 10:47** Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

**Act 10:48** And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

But why should we receive the Holy Spirit baptism?

\*Jesus said the Holy Spirit would teach us all truth (John 14:26/16:13/1John 2:20;27)

\*The Holy Spirit will help us to pray to God for ourselves and others by giving us a heavenly prayer language (Rom 8:26/1Cor 14:2, 14, 15)

\*When we pray in this new unknown language, which Paul called the tongues of angels (1Cor 13:1), we will build up/edify ourselves in our spirits. (1Cor 14:4/Jude 1:20).

\*We will be effective witnesses for God as the Spirit brings all things Jesus has said to our remembrance (John 14:26/). And we will be led by the Spirit about where to go and what to say (Acts 8:29/16:6/Luk 12:11,12)

\*We will learn to hear directly from God! (Acts 8:29/11:9/23:11/10:19,20)

\*We will operate in the supernatural gifts of the Spirit as he wills (1Cor 12:4-31).

\*We will have power to overcome sin (Rom 8:1-14/Isa 59:19)

\*We will be led by God in our spiritual walk of faith, experiencing the true rest of ceasing from our own works, and letting God be in control (Heb 4:1-10/Isa 28:11,12/Zec 4:6).

Jesus told his disciples that the Spirit was *with* them, but later would be *IN* them, signifying this new covenant blessing would be available because of his atoning death on the cross. Though the Old Testament Jew sometimes had a providential outpouring of God's Spirit, they could not have the Holy Spirit living *INSIDE* them because they still had sin in their conscience (the blood of bulls and goats didn't take away the sin from the conscience, but only temporarily covered it (Heb 10:4/9:13, 14).

So when Jesus died and removed the sin from the born-again believer's conscience, he then was made a clean vessel, thus allowing God the Spirit (the third person of the trinity) to dwell inside him.

The prophet Isaiah foretold of the spiritual rest believers would receive as a result of the Holy Spirit baptism evidenced by speaking in tongues:

**Isa 28:11** For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.

**Isa 28:12** To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.

The prophet Joel also foretold of the Holy Spirit baptism, and the supernatural gifts it would bring:

**Joe 2:28** And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:

**Joe 2:29** And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

This Holy Spirit outpouring (or baptism) is always evidenced by speaking in tongues (Isaiah 28:11/Acts 2:4/Acts 10:46/Acts 19:6).

Some people confuse the GIFT of tongues, which is one of the nine spiritual gifts given by the Holy Spirit, with the HEAVENLY PRAYER LANGUAGE of tongues. They are actually two separate experiences.

The GIFT of tongues is a message coming down *from God* to His people, and will be followed by an interpretation by either the one who gave the message or to another, so that all who hear can be edified. The message in tongues will be either a revelation, or knowledge, or a prophecy, or doctrine (1Cor 14:6). It is used to teach, exhort and encourage the Body of believers, and can only be operated in when the Spirit wills it rather than all of the time (1Cor 12:11). Paul explained to the church at Corinth that people should either be led by the Spirit to speak in tongues (i.e. operate in the GIFT of tongues with interpretation), or else keep silent in the church and pray to themselves and to God in their heavenly prayer language. Prophecy was more edifying in church, unless one interpreted the tongues! (1 Corinthians 14:1-28)

The HEAVENLY PRAYER LANGUAGE of tongues is a message (prayer) coming *from the believer* (through the Holy Spirit's intercession) and going up to God. It is a result of the Spirit searching the hearts and praying a perfect prayer to God concerning our infirmities (weaknesses, limitations), for we don't always know what we should pray for as we ought when our understanding of the situation is limited (Rom 8:26, 27). This heavenly prayer language, which Paul referred to as the "language of angels," also edifies us as it puts us directly in tune with the spiritual rather than the natural.

On the day of Pentecost, when the disciples were baptized in the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues about the wonderful works of God, the language