

# Being Continuously Filled with the Holy Spirit

(Study Guide)

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## A. Scripturally There are Two New Birth / "Born again" Baptisms

*"Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."* Hebrews 6:1-2

1. "Baptism," or "Baptized," a simple transliteration of the Greek word *Baptizo*
  - a. Critical fact in understanding both water and spirit baptism
  - b. Not a translation, which would yield a word like "Dip, plunge, submerge, or immerse"
2. **Example:** John came baptizing with water and introduced Jesus as the One who would baptize, or immerse, believers in the Holy Spirit.
  - a. Matthew 3:11
  - b. Mark 1:8
  - c. Luke 3:16
  - d. John 1:33
  - e. Acts 1:4-5
3. Manifestation of God's Spirit scripturally
  - a. Old Covenant: God's Spirit rested upon individuals from time to time to empower them for certain tasks
  - b. Glorious New Covenant hope and promise: The Spirit would be poured out universally and would remain in the midst of God's people.
  - c. The New Covenant is so much greater than the Old Covenant (II Corinthians 3:7-11)
    - i. The Spirit no longer simply rests upon or with God's people
    - ii. The Spirit now lives in God's people (John 7:38,39; John 14:16)
4. "When God baptizes you in the Holy Ghost, He gives you the biggest gift that heaven or earth ever possessed. He gives you Himself. He joins you by one Spirit to Himself forever." (John G. Lake comment)

## B. How We Receive the Holy Spirit

1. At our new birth, the Holy Spirit comes to live in our spirit as a real Person.
  - a. New birth: **More than being forgiven**
  - b. **Emphasis:** We are born into a new reality of connectedness with the Spirit
  - c. **The uncreated life of God dwelling in us** is the core reality of the new birth (Romans 8:9,10)
2. **Key elements to the new birth:** If any of these elements are missing, it means an individual may be technically “Saved” but has not yet experienced the complete new birth:

*“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 2:38*

- a. Repentance
  - b. Faith
  - c. Water baptism
  - d. Baptism in the Holy Spirit
3. The reception of the Holy Spirit may accompany initial faith in Christ (e.g., Acts 2:38; 10:44) but may also be delayed in time and space (e.g., Acts 2:4; 8:17; 19:5)
4. The four elements of the new birth need not necessarily follow a specific sequence
  - a. In some cases baptism in water precedes the reception of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38; 8:17; 19:5)
  - b. In other cases, baptism in the Spirit precedes baptism in water (Acts 10:47,48)

## C. Evidence of Baptism in the Holy Spirit

1. Baptism in the Spirit:
  - a. Immersive, invasive, and evidential
  - b. An experiential and observable reality in the life of the believer
2. Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is an experiential reality
  - a. We don’t have to doubt whether or not we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit

- b. The apostles on the Day of Pentecost knew that they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit—not by faith alone, but by experience.
- 3. Being filled with the Spirit is not simply an internal, hidden reality that cannot be observed. There are external manifestations:
  - a. In the fruit
  - b. In the gifts
  - c. In the wisdom of the Spirit
- 4. A cursory study of the Bible suggests it is impossible to be full of the Holy Spirit and not manifest His presence in some external, visible manner. (John 7:38,39; 15:5)
- 5. Gifts of the Spirit:
  - a. Described as the manifestations of the Spirit in the life of the believer
  - b. The specific ways in which Jesus expresses His life through us (I Corinthians 12:7)
  - c. Biblically, it appears that fullness of the Spirit is often evidenced by the operation of the gifts of the Spirit in a believer's life
    - i. Old Testament (Numbers 11:25; Judges 14:6; Ezekiel 11:5; Daniel 5:14)
    - ii. Throughout the ministry of Jesus (Acts 10:38; Luke 4:18)
    - iii. In the New Testament ministry of the apostles (Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 6:10; 7:55; 15:19; 19:6)

#### **D. We Need to Be Filled More Than Once**

- 1. The apostles were filled with the Spirit over and over again. It was not a “Once for all” experience (e.g. Acts 4:8,31)
- 2. We need and should continually seek fresh fillings of the Holy Spirit throughout our lives, as modeled by the early Church.
- 3. Paul tells the Church at Ephesus that it is the Lord’s will for them to “Go on being filled” with the Holy Spirit.
- 4. The Bible teaches that being filled with the Spirit is not a “Once for all” experience:

*“Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord is. 18 And do not be drunk with wine [natural excess], in which is dissipation; but be filled [lit. go on being filled] with the Spirit.” (Ephesians 5:17,18)*

## **E. Staying Full of the Spirit**

1. New Testament pattern: Prayer precedes fresh fillings of the Holy Spirit.  
(Acts 1:14; 2:1-4; 4:31; 13:2)
  - a. Jesus taught that the Father would give us the Spirit in response to our requests (Luke 11:13)
  - b. Praying “In the Spirit” is particularly highlighted by the Scripture as a means to access a greater measure of the Holy Spirit in our lives (I Corinthians 12:4,5; Ephesians 5:18,19)
2. We make room for the Holy Spirit’s presence through prayer and fasting
3. We also make room in our lives for more of His Presence by separating ourselves (literally making ourselves holy) from the things of the world that defile, dull, and deplete our spirits.
  - a. Holiness does not earn us more of God’s Spirit
  - b. The Spirit is a free gift, whose presence we receive purely based on the righteousness of Jesus
  - c. The extent to which we yield control of our mind, will, and emotions to the Holy Spirit is the extent to which we make room for Him. (Romans 7:25; 8:6,9)
4. From A.B. Simpson’s Power from On High: “Born like Him of the Spirit, we too must be baptized of the Spirit and then go forth to live His life and reproduce His work. He has left to us the same power which He possessed. He has bequeathed to the Church the very Holy Ghost that lived and wrought in Him. Let us accept this mighty gift. Let us believe in Him and His all-sufficiency. Let us receive Him and give Him room, and let us go forth to reproduce the life and ministry of Jesus and perpetuate the divine miracles of our holy Christianity through the power of the blessed Comforter.”