



Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Dr Cecil Stewart OBE

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Do you desire to experience the power of the Holy Spirit in your life today?

Many people are afraid of the Holy Spirit and others don't realise the need for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Are there times in your life when you feel a lack of guidance as you face important decisions?

If so, I have wonderful news for you that can change your life forever.



As a teenager I longed for more power in my life to be a witness and win the lost and then I heard about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and went along to a meeting with other young people where there was teaching about receiving the Holy Spirit.

I went forward in response to an appeal but on the first night I felt nothing. A friend told me 'you may never receive the Holy Spirit'. This caused me to have a desire stronger than ever to receive so I fasted and prayed the next day and went back to the meeting the following night.

Again, as I responded to the appeal I went forward, everything was totally different. It was as if someone had switched on a divine

electricity flow. I felt the current from the top of my head through my whole being and my hands were charged with power.

Joy sprang up in my spirit and old burdens and bondages melted away as I spoke in new tongues as the Spirit gave me utterance. It was like a deluge of anointing flowing through me until I was saturated and could no longer stand on my feet. I continued to drink in the power for some hours there in the meeting and later I had to be carried out totally drunk with the new wine of the Holy Spirit. This continued upon me for several days as I spoke in tongues even while I drove the tractor on the farm.

Ever since then the desire to win the lost has grown stronger and that is why we have had a passion to travel to so many nations and win multitudes to the Lord by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to every believer and I would exhort you to develop an appetite to receive by studying the following scriptures which will create faith in your heart:

Acts 1:4-5 says 'And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, you have heard from Me; for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be



baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now”.

Then in **Acts 1:8** Jesus said ‘But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth’.

In **Acts 2:39** we have the promise which says ‘For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call’.

Baptism means to be immersed and saturated. Think of what this experience would do for our young people today who search for life in drugs and alcohol, and even in the occult.

Those who suffer with anxiety, depression and suicidal tendencies would be set free and transformed into young people on fire for God who become part of the solution to our world instead of being part of the problem. When the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost false accusations were made by onlookers. Some said 'these men are full of new wine'.

In **Acts 2:14-18** it says 'But Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and said



to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel: ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy’.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers us to fulfil the call of God on our lives and be living witnesses. John the Baptist said



in **Matthew 3:11** 'Jesus shall baptise you with the Holy Spirit and fire'.

Paul asked believers in **Acts 19:2** 'have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed? They replied 'We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit'. Then he said 'John indeed baptised you 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 baptised 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.

The reason many believers have not received is that they have never heard. It has been kept a secret which is a great mistake and so there needs to be a strong emphasis today so believers can develop faith to be filled.

The Promise

Our faith must always be based on the word of God.

Jesus said in **John 14:16-17** 'And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; Whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him: but you know Him, for He dwells with you, and shall be in you.'



So the more we meditate on these and other promises the more our hunger will grow for the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

The Purpose

The Holy Spirit is given to empower us and guide us into all truth, so we can be effective witnesses to carry out the work of the Lord on the earth today.

All 4 writers of the gospels mentioned the baptism of the Holy Spirit – see **Mark 1:8**, **Matthew 3:11**, **Luke 3:16**, **John 1:33** and Paul said in **1 Corinthians 14:4** that we are edified through the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues.



Power

Acts 4:33 says 'And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.

We have heard a lot of preaching and teaching which is good but we need a greater manifestation of power. Paul said in **1 Corinthians 2:4** 'And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power'.

Be further encouraged through meditating on **Acts 8:14-17**, **Acts 10:44-46** and **Ephesians 5:18-19**.

‘Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.’ **Acts 8:14-15**

‘While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak



with tongues and magnify God.' **Acts 10:44-46**

'And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord'
Ephesians 5:18-19

The Holy Spirit is a person. He guides, He protects, He shows us things to come, He comforts, He reveals Jesus. He is One called alongside to help.

1 Thessalonians 5:19 says 'do not quench the Holy Spirit'.

Ephesians 4:30 says 'do not grieve the Holy Spirit'.

So we can see how vitally important it is to acknowledge and receive the Holy Spirit in our lives today. To ignore the Holy Spirit is to grieve Him and we do ourselves a great disservice through refusing to mention the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit.

May we all turn our attention, now more than ever, on the promise, the purpose and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives today.

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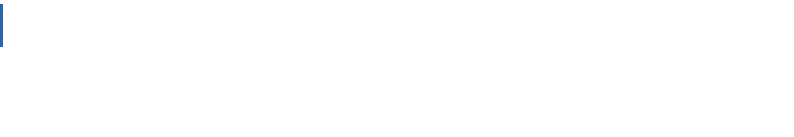
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