

## How do we receive the Spirit 10/2/08

How as Christians do we receive the Holy Spirit? This question is vital as we don't just want to talk about the Spirit, but experience Him in all his fullness in our community.

In the Gospels we see a ragged group of disciples that had to be spoon fed by Jesus about what it was about. Then in Acts and we see a completely different group of people. What happened? They were - transformed with power - it happened as a result of what Jesus said in Acts 1:8 *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*

### 1. Jesus - "he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit"

John introduced Jesus with the words *"he will baptise you with the Holy Spirit"* (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3: 16; John 1: 33). It was his understanding of who Jesus was.

Jesus told his disciples that in order for the Spirit to come he had to die, be raised and glorified in heaven.

John 7:38-39 *"If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." 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.*

### 2. Examples of Christians being baptised with the Holy Spirit

**Peter proclaims after Pentecost:** Acts 2: 38-39 *"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."*

**In Samaria they receive the Spirit** after believing and being baptised in water. Acts 8 15- 17 *When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

**Paul receives the Spirit** three days after being converted on the Damascus Road: Acts 9:17 *placing his hands on Saul, he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

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**Those in Cornelius's house receive the Spirit** while Peter shares the gospel Acts 10: 44 *while Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message.*

**In Ephesus they receive the Spirit** after being baptised by Paul Acts 19: 5-6 *on hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.*

### 3. Conclusions from these examples about receiving the Spirit

**It was not automatic** - In three of the four examples they receive after being converted. It can happen at conversion it happened this way at Cornelius's house. But to say that becoming a Christian you automatically receive it is not a true bible picture.

**It is not a gradual thing.** It was a definitive event that happened and they were sure it happened!

**You don't have to wait for it.** This is not in the bible apart from the day of Pentecost - This event was unique as Jesus said wait until I am glorified as he hadn't been until that point.

**Speaking in tongues is often associated with being filled with the Spirit** It's not an exclusive thing but seems to have happened quite often.

**It's not about you being good enough to receive** Galatians 3: 5 *Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?*

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**It's really about you hearing about it; seeing the truth and that stimulating your faith to receive.**

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The cross makes you worthy then you receive - the promise is to everyone. John 7 is now up to date so it now applies to us!

**Who is qualified to receive?** - The only qualification is to believe and be thirsty. It's a wonderful gift ready for you to have.

Just as you received conversion does the bible teach is it any harder to receive the Holy Spirit? Luke 11: 13 *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!"*

The promise for everyone who is called - are you a called Christian so you have a promise. Jesus will baptise you in the Holy Spirit.