

EMPOWERED
Choosing to Live by the Power of the Holy Spirit

Lesson 2:
“The Power of the Baptism and Filling with the Holy Spirit”

Introduction

☐ Read Acts 1:8; Ephesians 5:18

Jesus wants to baptize and fill you with the person and power of the Holy Spirit to make you an effective witness for Him to everyone, everywhere. Just before Jesus was taken up into heaven, He told His disciples two very important things. The first was to “go...and make disciples of all nations. (☐ Read Matthew 28:19.) The second was that they were to wait in Jerusalem until they were “clothed” and “covered” with the power of the Holy Spirit.

In essence Jesus was saying, “until you’re baptized and filled with Holy Spirit, don’t go! After you’re baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, don’t stay!” So, let’s learn what it means to truly be *appointed* and *anointed* by Jesus our Lord through the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

The Person of Holy Spirit Baptism and Filling: Jesus

Yes, Jesus is the One who baptizes and fills you with the person and power of the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said the Savior who was coming after him was the Anointed One who would anoint, baptize and fill with the Holy Spirit. (☐ Read Mark 1:8.) He is our King and he desires to empower us to be ambassadors for His kingdom wherever we go. (☐ Read 2 Corinthians 5:20.)

The Purpose of Holy Spirit Baptism and Filling: Authority and Power

When Jesus was still on earth He appointed, anointed and sent out His disciples. They were to go *declaring* the gospel of the kingdom and *demonstrating* its power by His Holy Spirit. He gave them both the legal authority to speak and act in His name, as well as the dynamic power to defeat the devil and to deliver people from his hellish influence and impact. And so it is with us today. We need King Jesus to powerfully anoint us to go forth and advance the kingdom of God over the forces of hell and into the hearts of people. Jesus told His disciples that they would receive explosive power to go and be witnesses for Him in the earth. (☐ Read Luke 9:1-6; 10:1-9; Acts 1:8.)

The Process of Holy Spirit Baptism and Filling: Asking and Receiving in Passionate Faith

As stated earlier, Jesus had instructed His followers to wait until they received the power of the Holy Spirit they needed. One hundred and twenty obedient followers assembled in an upper

room of a house in Jerusalem. For ten days they worshiped, prayed, fellowshiped and waited for what Jesus had promised them. They believed what He had said to them. They loved Him passionately and desired to have everything they needed to remain close to Him and share Him with others. They expected to receive the empowering and filling of the Holy Spirit because they trusted Him and took Him at His word. God rewarded their passionate faith when, on the Day of Pentecost, the power and filling of the Holy Spirit came. They experienced the sound of a powerful wind. Tongues of fire appeared over each person's head. They spoke in languages they had never learned and poured out into the streets with powerful preaching that drew 3,000 people to Christ. All of this was the work of the Holy Spirit. (□ Read Acts 1 and 2.)

We, too, will receive the baptism and filling with the Holy Spirit when we ask in passionate faith. If we earnestly desire to be anointed by Jesus, our King, He will pour out His Spirit into our lives. If we ask Him for the Holy Spirit, He will not deny us. (□ Read Luke 11:13.) The following are some of the results in the lives of the disciples being baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit. These will be evident in our lives, as well, when we allow God's Spirit to baptize and fill us.

- The release of passionate faith
- Prayerful expectation
- Full place given to the Holy Spirit
- The baptism and filling with the Holy Spirit
- Supernatural manifestations
- Powerful witness for Christ
- Significant spiritual fruitfulness

The Proofs of Holy Spirit Baptism and Filling: Proclamation and Power

After we are baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, we need to stay filled by giving ourselves to prayer, worship, growing in the Word and ministering to others. (□ Read Ephesians 5:18-20.) We also should help others experience the baptism and filling with the Holy Spirit and encourage them in daily Spirit-filled living. We can confidently expect these signs in our lives when we are baptized and filled with His Spirit:

- *An anointing with dynamic power.* (□ Read Acts 4:1-6.) Jesus told His disciples that they would be "endued with power from on high." (□ Read Luke 24:49.) To be "endued" means to be "clothed" or "covered." So, one of the proofs of being baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit is that we are anointed with the power of Jesus Christ to do the works of Jesus. We, too, are called and equipped to heal the sick, hear God's voice and follow His direction. We are also anointed to cast out demons and defeat the schemes of the devil. Powerless Christianity will produce very little to advance Christ's kingdom and fulfill Christ's Great Commission. But people who know Jesus intimately and are anointed by him powerfully will be used to truly "proclaim liberty to the captives." (□ Read Luke 4:18-19.)

- *The release of spiritual language.* (☐ Read Acts 2:4; 10:44-47; 19:6.) Another resource available to Spirit-filled believers is a spiritual language given by the Holy Spirit. Spiritual language or “tongues” is given for personal edification, expanded prayer beyond our human ability, expanded praise and worship, and a divine message that edifies the church and is a sign to unbelievers. (☐ Read 1 Corinthians 14.)
- *Increased courage and boldness.* Another sign of the Spirit’s fullness is a supernatural confidence to face whatever challenges, threats or hardships that come our way. Peter and John were threatened by religious leaders for preaching in Jesus’ name. Their companions prayed for them and they were filled with holy boldness. They continued preaching and ministering to others in the power of the Holy Spirit. (☐ Read Acts 4:1-31.)
- *Evangelistic passion.* After Saul of Tarsus was saved, baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, he preached the gospel with a passion to see Jesus exalted and people come to faith in Him. (☐ Read Acts 9:17-22.) People who are truly baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit will win the lost with passion and zeal.
- *The release and overflow of praise, worship and thanksgiving.* When someone is truly baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit, they will sing and shout for joy in the Lord. A “river” of gratitude and praise will flow freely from the hearts of those who are led by the Holy Spirit to declare the grace and greatness of God the Father, and Jesus Christ, His Son. (☐ Read Ephesians 5:18-20.)

The Progress of Holy Spirit Baptism and Filling: Receiving Daily, Fresh Fillings

As Spirit-filled believers we are called to one baptism, then daily and seasonal fresh, new and deeper fillings. The Holy Spirit is always wanting to increase our spiritual capacity to face new challenges and to lay hold of new levels of impact and effectiveness. (☐ Read Acts 4.) As we seek to be filled with the Holy Spirit freshly and daily and are open to the Spirit increasing our spiritual capacity in every new season of life and ministry, we can expect spiritual growth in grace, goodness and greatness as an ongoing work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

MEMORIZE: *And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.* (Ephesians 5:18)

Use the following lines to write out the scripture to help you commit it to memory.

KEY TRUTH: Jesus wants to fill you with the person and power of the Holy Spirit to make you an effective witness for Him in the world.

YOUR RESPONSE:

This is how you can choose to live by the power of the Holy Spirit as you apply the truths from this lesson to your life.

- Every day ask the Holy Spirit for a fresh filling for your life.
- Walk and work in and by the Holy Spirit's power in every encounter of every day.
- Lead others to be baptized and filled with the Holy Spirit and to be led and empowered by Him daily.

WRITTEN RESPONSE: Lesson Review

Review each section from the lesson on the previous pages to fill in each blank below. This will reinforce the truths from this lesson in your life.

1. Jesus wants to _____ and _____ you with the _____ and _____ of the Holy Spirit to make you an _____ witness for Him to _____.
2. Yes, _____ is the _____ who _____ and _____ you with the _____ and _____ of the Holy Spirit.
3. We need King Jesus to _____ us to go forth and _____ the _____ of God over the _____ of hell and into the _____ of people.
4. If we _____ desire to be _____ by Jesus, our King, He will _____ out His Spirit into _____.
5. As Spirit-filled _____ we are called to one _____, then _____ and _____ fresh, new and _____.

WRITTEN RESPONSE: Life Reflection

Using the journaling section on the pages at the end of this lesson, write in your own words your responses to the following questions.

1. What have you learned and what has impacted you personally from this lesson?
2. In reading the scripture references in this lesson, what are you sensing and seeing the Holy Spirit highlighting and revealing to you that will enable you to better follow Jesus?
3. As a disciple and follower of Jesus, what steps of loving obedience do you need to take to see what you have learned in this lesson become ongoing practices and patterns in your life?