

There has been some confusion over the issue of just when does a Christian “receive the Holy Spirit?” This chapter seeks to plainly identify what’s involved for believers; firstly by looking at how Jesus differentiated between the two elements covered below.

As He so often did, Jesus used illustrations from the physical everyday life His listeners were familiar with, to illustrate the two differing aspects He had in mind. He spoke about water and air!

	<u>INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT</u>	<u>BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT</u>
WATER	<p>“water of salvation”</p> <p>John 4 v1-26 Jesus promised the woman at the well that salvation would spring up as a well of water to eternal life</p>	<p>“river of life”</p> <p>John 7 v37-39 Jesus promised that rivers of living water would flow OUT from those who believe in Him</p>
	Regeneration – new life	Empowerment – outgoing courage
	Inward, life-changing effect. Effect is on self.	Outward witness to the Great Commission - to others .
AIR	Breath of new life	Mighty rushing wind!
	Regeneration – new life	Empowerment – beyond previous self-limitations
	John 20 v19-22 the Risen Christ breathed on them, they received the Holy Spirit, and they were born again.	Acts 2 v1-13 After He had ascended to the throne of Heaven, the same people were filled with the Holy Spirit – accompanied by the sound of a mighty rushing WIND and they immediately went public in their witness!

The indwelling of the Holy Spirit for all believers:

Read John 14 v 15 to 31

- How is the Holy Spirit described? v16-17
- Who will send the Holy Spirit? v26
- What will the Holy Spirit do? v 26

Read John 20 v19-v22 – the context here is after the death and resurrection of Jesus.

- What happened?
 (Jesus breathed on them and they received the Holy Spirit – [Greek tense = literally, as He breathed!]).
- Prior to Jesus’ death and resurrection, God’s presence was mainly seen in the Holy of Holies behind a curtain in the Temple. Jesus’ death was the ultimate atonement and the curtain was torn from top to bottom. Now the punishment for sin has been paid, God’s spirit can live in us.

Read 1 Corinthians 3 v16 and 1 Corinthians 6 v19-20. What does this say about Christians?

Read Acts 2 v 38-39. Who receives the Holy Spirit?

Read 2 Corinthians 1 v21-22, 2 Corinthians 5 v5 and Ephesians 1 v13-14. How is the Holy Spirit described in these verses?

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit for all believers:

Read Acts 1 v4-9. These are the same people whom Jesus had already breathed on, they had already received the Holy Spirit, they already had him indwelling as a deposit.

- What different thing is Jesus saying is going to happen regarding the Holy Spirit? (v5)

- What will the baptism of the Holy Spirit give believers? (v8)

Read Acts 2 v1-13. What happened?

Read Acts 10 v44-48 and Acts 19 v1-6. What did the early church see was the external sign of being baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Be encouraged to read through the Book of Acts and you will learn of the many things the early Christians were empowered to do after they were baptized with the Holy Spirit. For example:

- i. Acts 2 v14-41 Peter had the courage to preach to a crowd
- ii. Acts 3 v2-8 Peter and John healed the crippled beggar
- iii. Acts 5 v1-10 Peter was able to discern when Ananias and Sapphira were lying
- iv. Acts 8 v26-39 the Holy Spirit specifically led Philip to share with the Ethiopian
- v. Acts 9 v36-40 Peter raised Tabitha from the dead

Read 1 Corinthians 12 v4-11, 27-31

- What are some of the different expressions, gifts or manifestations of the Holy Spirit?

- What can the Holy Spirit equip believers to do?

- Who gets these gifts?

- Who gives them?

- Why are they given?

Read 1 Corinthians 14. The context here is orderly worship. It seems that in the Corinthian church, church meetings were a bit chaotic – people may have been speaking over the top of one another and trying to show off their “spiritual gifts”. In this chapter Paul insists that whatever is done in a church meeting must contribute to the edification (building up) of the body. In that context, prophecy is more desirable than tongues (unless an interpreter is present) because prophecy is spoken in a language that can be understood by the listeners.

- When we speak in tongues whom do we speak to? V2
- Who is edified (built up) when we speak in tongues?
- What part of us is praying when we speak in tongues? V14
- What does Paul also encourage us to do when our spirit is praying in tongues? V15
- What is Paul thankful for? V18
- What does Paul say should not be forbidden? V39

Luke 11 v 9 to 11 Jesus said *“So I say to you; Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 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 Greek tense here is present-continuous – i.e. “ask and **keep on asking**” is what Jesus told them. Persevere! Don’t give up!

Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit? If yes, ask a Spirit filled believer to pray with you.

Write any questions or comments about any area of interest you would like to discuss here.