

[NEW BELIEVER'S]

Bible Study #4

THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We learned that through the sacrifice of Jesus, God promises us salvation. Now we will see that God has promised to give us power! Let's begin this study by memorizing Acts 1:8:

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.

After His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus did not want His disciples to immediately begin telling others about Him. He gave them specific instructions to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit to come upon them.

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 baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. . . 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.

—Acts 1:4–5, 8

Jesus knew the dynamic power that the Holy Spirit would give them was essential for the task ahead of them, just as it is for us today. In this lesson, you will learn:

- Who the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.
- What the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for.
- How to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Before you start, remember to pray that God's Holy Spirit will help you understand the lesson. Be sure to use your own words when you answer the questions, do not simply copy the verses.

Baptism means "being immersed or dipped into something."

There are several terms in the Bible that refer to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and they all mean the same thing. The disciples were "filled with the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 2:4); they received the "promise of the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 2:33) and the "gift of the Holy Spirit" (see Acts 2:38). The Holy Spirit "fell upon them" (see Acts 11:15), and Jesus sent them "the promise of My Father" (see Luke 24:49).

1. Who does the Bible say the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for?

(Acts 2:38–39) _____

Is this promise for you? _____

Jesus told His disciples that the Spirit had been with them and would soon be in them (see John 14:16–17). Before we are saved, the Holy Spirit is with us, calling us to Jesus. The Holy Spirit comes inside all true believers to teach and guide us. But Jesus went on to tell His disciples in Acts 1:8 that the Spirit would also be on or upon them.

2. What did Jesus tell His disciples they would receive when the Holy Spirit came on them? (Acts 1:8) _____

The Greek word for power is *dunamis*, which gives us our words “dynamite” and “dynamic.” It is also translated strength, ability, authority, and might.

Jesus knows our weaknesses. He knows that we do not have the strength to continually follow Him or do things for Him, so He gives us the power (*dunamis*) of the Holy Spirit that we need. We do not have to do it on our own!

3. Why does the Father strengthen us through the power of His Spirit in our inner being? (Ephesians 3:16–17) _____

4. After the disciples received this power, what would it give them the ability to be? (Acts 1:8) _____

To be a witness means “to testify that something is true.” The disciples went out into the world testifying that Jesus was the Christ, the Son of God, and Savior of the world.

5. When Peter and John were released from jail, they gathered together with other believers and prayed. What did they pray for the Lord to give them? (Acts 4:29) _____

6. The Lord answered Peter and John's prayer almost immediately. What did the Lord do to give them the boldness they asked for? (Acts 4:31) _____

7. When Saul (later his name was changed to Paul) was filled with the Holy Spirit, what did he begin doing right away? (Acts 9:17, 20) _____

The Holy Spirit also gives us spiritual gifts or supernatural abilities to edify (build up faith in or strengthen) ourselves and other believers. The Bible calls believers the "body of Christ." Jesus is the head and each of us is given a gift (or gifts) to help us function as a part of that body.

8. Who decides which spiritual gifts each of us will have in the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 12:18) _____

9. What are some of the gifts that the Spirit gives to different parts of the body? (1 Corinthians 12:8-10) _____

10. What should we desire to do with our spiritual gifts? (1 Corinthians 14:12) _____

11. When all the spiritual gifts are working properly in the body of Christ, what will the body do for itself? (Ephesians 4:16) _____

If you want to learn more about the body of Christ, you can read Romans 12:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 12:1-31.

The Holy Spirit is like an electrical outlet in your house. The power is always there. All you have to do is plug into it. Your faith gives you access to the power

of the Holy Spirit. When you ask for that power, have faith that God will answer your prayer, and you will plug into His power.

The Bible commands us to “be filled with the Holy Spirit” (see Ephesians 5:18). This phrase can also be translated, “be continually being filled with the Holy Spirit.” It is not just a one-time filling. Because we are continually in need of God’s power, we can get refills. We get refills of that power the same way we get the first filling—all we have to do is ask!

If you have not already been filled with the Holy Spirit or if you need a refill of that power, just pray a simple prayer like this: “Father, my power is not enough. Fill me with your Holy Spirit and give me the power I need. In Jesus’ name, amen.”

Write out your memory verse below: _____

Unless otherwise noted, Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, New King James Version, copyright © 1982. Revised 05/27/08