

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and Laying on of Hands

In water baptism the person is immersed and buried in water as a sign of death to the old life and beginning of a new life. In the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the believer is filled, but this time it is from above by Jesus Himself who baptizes, filling, overflowing and surrounding a person with the Holy Spirit. In water baptism we are baptized into Jesus. In the baptism of the Holy Spirit we are baptized into the Holy Spirit.

Speaking about the baptism of Jesus, when He was baptized in water, He was at the same time baptized with the Holy Spirit. We see from the Scripture that His baptism was prophesied: ***Isaiah 11:2*** says that the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, ***“2 And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;”*** (*Isaiah 11:2 KJV*) In the Old Testament many prophets and others had been anointed by the Spirit of God for a time. This verse ***Isaiah 11:2*** shows that the Spirit will not come and go from Jesus but stay with him. ***Isaiah 42:1*** says, ***“Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.”*** Jesus at his baptism the Spirit of God descended in the form of a dove fulfilling the above prophecies, ***“16 And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him:”*** (*Matthew 3:16 KJV*) Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit after His water baptism, ***“And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”*** (*Luke 4:1 KJV*) And in verse 14 continues that Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit. ***“14 And Jesus returned in the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of him through all the region round about.”*** (*Luke 1:14 KJV*) Jesus’ actions showed the supernatural infilling that He had from the God the Father: In ***John 10:38*** Jesus said to His disciples, to believe in the miracles that He was doing, that they may know and understand that the Father was in Him, and He in the Father, ***“38 But if I do, though ye believe not me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in me, and I in him.”*** (*John 10:38 KJV*)

Jesus commanded His disciples to wait for the infilling of the Holy Spirit. When Jesus prepared to leave the earth after His resurrection, He told his disciples to wait for the power from on high meaning the baptism by the Holy Spirit to be His witnesses, ***“4 And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*** (*Acts 1:4-5, 8 KJV*)

This gift of the Holy Spirit baptism had also been promised to believers in the Old Testament in the book of Joel, ***“28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.”*** (*Joel 2:28-29 KJV*)

Jesus is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit. John told his followers that Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit and with fire, ***“16 John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:”*** (*Luke 3:16 KJV*) Notice that whereas the Holy Spirit comes upon Jesus as a dove, He will come upon believers as fire. Jesus was perfect and did not need the burning, cleansing power of the Holy Spirit as we do.

The Holy Spirit is only for born again believers. In ***Acts 19*** Paul asked the believers in Ephesus whether they had received the Holy Spirit baptism yet. ***“1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.”*** (*Acts 19:1-2 KJV*) After baptizing them in water, He laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit filled them, ***“5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”*** (*Acts 19:5-6 KJV*)

In ***Acts 11*** Peter spoke that he went to Cornelius’ house, a Gentile, not a Jew, and as he preached in that house the Holy Spirit came on them as He had on the Jews as he testified the following: ***“15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. 16 Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. 17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?”*** (*Acts 11:15=17 KJV*)

The Holy Spirit is given to those who ask. ***John 14:12-17*** says we may ask whatsoever in Jesus’ name, ***“12 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father. 13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. 15 If ye love me, keep my commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.”*** (*John 14:12-17 KJV*)

Luke 11:13 encourages us to ask God the Father to receive the Holy Spirit, ***“13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”*** (*Luke 11:13 KJV*)

How and when people baptized in the Holy Spirit? This can be in many ways.

1. Sometimes the Holy Spirit just fell or was poured out. In ***Acts 10:44-47*** the Spirit was poured out while Peter was speaking. ***“44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.***

Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?” (Acts 10:44-47 KJV)

2. On Pentecost the Holy Spirit came on the disciples as a sound like the blowing of a violent wind, came from Heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting, and tongues like as of fire sat upon each of them, ***“1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4 KJV)***

3. Sometimes people were filled with the Holy Spirit as others laid hands on them and prayed: In ***Acts 8:14-17*** Peter and John placed their hands on the believer of Samaria and they received the Holy Spirit, ***“14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 8:14-17 KJV)***

4. Sometimes the Holy Spirit baptism occurred before baptism in water. In ***Acts 10:44*** Peter saw that they had already received the Holy Spirit and therefore should be baptized also in water, ***“44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? 48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.” (Acts 10:44-48 KJV)***

5. Sometimes the Holy Spirit baptism occurred after baptism in water. ***Acts 19:5-6*** Paul first baptized them in water, then placed his hands on them and the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied, ***“5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” (Acts 19:5-6 KJV)***

The disciples of Jesus and we among them are baptized in the Holy Spirit so that we might be full of power to witness. In ***Luke 24:49*** Jesus told His disciples to stay in the city until they have been clothed with power from on high, ***“49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:49 KJV)***

The most common first sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is that those who are baptized with the Holy Spirit speak in tongues. This is a language they have not learned but can speak supernaturally. Sometimes it is a human language and sometimes an angelic language. ***Acts 10:46*** says that when they were baptized they were heard speaking in tongues and magnified

God, ***“44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,” (Acts 10:44-46 KJV)*** On the day of Pentecost they all began to speak in tongues, ***“4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4 KJV)***

Other things can also happen at the hands of those who are baptized with the Holy Spirit, like sick people recover, and miracles happen. ***Mark 16*** promises that many signs will follow those who believe as we read. ***“17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:17-18 KJV)***

Believers should believe and expect to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. When Paul met the Ephesians who had not received the Holy Spirit, he encouraged them to believe they could by asking them if they received the Holy Spirit when they believed: ***“1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” (Acts 19:1-6 KJV)***

The promise of the baptism with the Holy Spirit was given by Jesus Christ Himself, ***“5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” (Acts 1:5 KJV)***

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is only the beginning. It is a continuing thing. ***Ephesians 5:18*** says that we are to be filled with the Spirit, ***“18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;” (Ephesians 5:18 KJV)*** Jesus said that those who would believe in Him out of them springs of living water shall flow, ***“37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” (John 7:37-38 KJV)***

What is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

A. It is a gateway to the supernatural. We become aware, to a greater measure, of the spiritual realm and see God moving supernaturally.

B. The Holy Spirit baptism empowers us to witness unto the uttermost part of the earth as we read, ***“8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye***

shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (Acts 1:8 KJV)

C. The Holy Spirit baptism enables us to pray. We begin to pray when the Holy Spirit wants us to pray in the Spirit at all times, ***“18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;” (Ephesians 6:18 KJV)***

Now we are going to speak about the laying on of hands. Laying on hands is an act in which a person places his hands upon the body of another person, with some definite spiritual purpose. Usually at the same time there is a prayer or prophecy. It is not the physical act that is important but the spiritual meaning behind it.

We have examples from the Old Testament about the laying on of the hands as the following:

1. Jacob laid his hands on his grandsons from Joseph to bless them and to make them his in order to bless Joseph with the double portion, as we read here, ***“5 And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine. 14 And Israel stretched out his right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's head, who was the younger, and his left hand upon Manasseh's head, guiding his hands wittingly; for Manasseh was the firstborn. 15 And he blessed Joseph, and said, God, before whom my fathers Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God which fed me all my life long unto this day, 16 The Angel which redeemed me from all evil, bless the lads; and let my name be named on them, and the name of my fathers Abraham and Isaac; and let them grow into a multitude in the midst of the earth. 21 And Israel said unto Joseph, Behold, I die: but God shall be with you, and bring you again unto the land of your fathers. 22 Moreover I have given to thee one portion above thy brethren, which I took out of the hand of the Amorite with my sword and with my bow.” (Genesis 48:5, 14-16, 21-22 KJV)***

2. Moses laid hands on Joshua as God commanded to be filled with the Spirit of wisdom and in order to honor him before the congregation so they will be obedient to him, ***“18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him; 19 And set him before Eleazar the priest, and before all the congregation; and give him a charge in their sight. 20 And thou shalt put some of thine honour upon him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.” (Numbers 27:18-20 KJV) “9 And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom; for Moses had laid his hands upon him: and the children of Israel hearkened unto him, and did as the LORD commanded Moses.” (Deuteronomy 34:9 KJV)***

We have also examples from the New Testament about the laying on of hands as the following:

1. In ***Mark 6*** Jesus laid hands for the purpose of healing the sick people, ***“5 And he could there do no mighty work, save that he laid his hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them.” (Mark 6:5 KJV)***

2. In ***Luke 4*** shows two purposes for laying on hands to heal the sick and to cast out demons, ***“40 Now when the sun was setting, all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them. 41 And devils also came out of many, crying out, and saying, Thou art Christ the Son of God. And he rebuking them suffered them not to speak: for they knew that he was Christ. ” (Luke 4:40-41 KJV)***

3. In ***Matthew 19*** Jesus laid his hands on children to bless them, ***“13 Then were there brought unto him little children, that he should put his hands on them, and pray: and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven. 15 And he laid his hands on them, and departed thence.” (Matthew 19:13-15 KJV)***

4. In ***Mark 16*** we read that the apostles were also commissioned to lay hands on sick people in order to be healed and recovered from sicknesses, ***“18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.” (Mark 16:18 KJV)***

5. ***Acts 5:12*** says that many signs and wonders were done among the people by the hands of the apostles. ***“12 And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people; (and they were all with one accord in Solomon's porch.” (Acts 5:12 KJV)***

6. In the book of Acts people had hands laid on them to receive the Holy Spirit baptism, ***“14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 8:14-17 KJV) “17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 9:17 KJV) “6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.” (Acts 19:6 KJV)***

7. In the book of Acts people had hands laid on them to be appointed as deacons and ministers to be set apart for specific works, ***“1 And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration. 2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables. 3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business. 4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word. 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, and Philip, and Prochorus, and Nicanor, and Timon, and Parmenas, and Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch: 6 Whom they set before the apostles: and when they had prayed, they laid their hands on them.” (Acts 6:1-6 KJV) “1 Now there were in the church***

that was at Antioch certain prophets and teachers; as Barnabas, and Simeon that was called Niger, and Lucius of Cyrene, and Manaen, which had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. 2 As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Ghost said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them. 3 And when they had fasted and prayed, and laid their hands on them, they sent them away. 4 So they, being sent forth by the Holy Ghost, departed unto Seleucia; and from thence they sailed to Cyprus.” (Acts 13:1-4 KJV)

My dear and beloved: Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If not, are you actively praying and seeking for the baptism? Have hands laid on you and receive a ministry after that? ** Praying and seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit and laying on of hands is the way how to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. * Living in holiness, doing and following God’s will, and to be always in prayers seeking God to receive the Holy Spirit baptism and to be open and accept and receive the laying on of hands are the way that you would be able to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.*

Let us pray ...

My prayer: Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the cross for my sins to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that taught me about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the laying on of hands. Lord thank you for your good plan and your will that you have in my life. Lord thank you for all the material and the spiritual blessings that I had received from you. Lord thank you for all the corrections, the rebukes and the admonishments we received in this message.

Come now to God and repent and renounce all your sins. Repent of your pride and your lack of humility. Repent of your lack of faith and your doubts. Repent of doing your own will and plan and not the will nor the plan of God. Repent of your laziness, anger, fights, envy, jealousy, drinking, telling lies, and the rest of the works of the flesh. Repent of your lack of reading God’s Word and your lack of prayers. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and to suffer for Christ. Lord I repent forgive me the following sins

Lord I kneel down at your feet, renouncing all my sins, my old life and all my plans, willing to follow you and to do your will in full. Lord fill me with the Holy Spirit and use me to serve you. Lord give me the Spiritual gifts to go and evangelize, making new disciples, preaching your words, laying on hands, healing the sick, driving out demons, and reaching new places with the Gospel of Jesus. Lord guide me, protect me and deliver me from the evil one. Lord provide my needs to continue to serve you.

Lord bless our Brothers and Sisters who surrendered their plans and will to you and committed their lives to serve you. Lord fill them and baptize them with the Holy Spirit and give them the Spiritual gifts that they need to serve you.

Those who are not yet received the Holy Spirit baptism we ask you to come forward so that we can lay hands on you and pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. (Lay hands on and pray for those who are coming forward for prayer to receive the Holy Spirit baptism.)

Lord as we lay hands on our Brethren and our Sisters we ask you to pour out your Holy Spirit on them and baptize them with your Holy Spirit to speak in tongues and to give them the Spiritual gifts that they need to serve you, gift of faith, gift of healing, interpretation of tongues, message of wisdom, message of knowledge, gift of evangelism, teaching, exhorting, pasturing, prophesying, administration, serving, ministering, giving and showing mercy, in Jesus name Amen.

Lord bless us as your church and help us to continue to persevere to preach your Word and to declare your will to the people. Lord continue to lead us to lay hands on the sick to be healed, to drive out demons and to lay hands and pray that people may receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord we commit ourselves to continue to evangelize and spread your Word. Lord enable us to go and make new disciples and to baptize them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Lord lead us and help us to train new workers to serve you to plant new Bible studies and new congregations for the church. Lord we pray for more people to be water baptized and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Lord take the message and spread it to reach the people who need your Word. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, ‘Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.’ Lord bless us, enlarge our territory let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

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