

A person wearing a red jacket and blue pants stands on a mossy, rocky outcrop on the left side of the frame, looking towards a massive, powerful waterfall that cascades down a cliff face. The water is white and turbulent, creating a large mist or spray at the base. The background is a clear blue sky. The image is framed by blue, torn-paper-like borders at the top and bottom.

THE INFILLING OF THE  
**HOLY SPIRIT**

BAYLESS CONLEY



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# THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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Bayless Conley



answers *with*  
BAYLESS CONLEY

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## A WORD BEFORE WE BEGIN

One of the greatest gifts God has given to His Church is the gift of the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this little book is to serve as a guide for those hungering for a deeper relationship with Christ through what the Scriptures refer to as the infilling or baptism of the Holy Spirit.

It is not intended to answer every question about the Holy Spirit and His different expressions in the life of the believer. My goal is to guide you into a deeper understanding of what the Scriptures teach us regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

## THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

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My prayer is that God would use this booklet to help you as you seek to live a truly Spirit-filled life.

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## ARE YOU THIRSTY?

The understanding of the infilling of the Holy Spirit begins with a question, “Are you spiritually thirsty?”

If you yearn for a deeper relationship with the Lord... if you sense a lack of power in your life... then you will begin to understand why the Lord has given us His Holy Spirit.

The following words, spoken by our Lord in John 7:37–39, begin to reveal His plan for meeting the spiritual thirst we have deep in our hearts,

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

God knew we had a thirst that could only be quenched one way. Through His Holy Spirit. Consider with me several truths that Jesus’ words convey.

First, notice that the invitation is to “anyone” who thirsts. So, what Jesus is offering is not just for some elite group, it is all inclusive. If you thirst spiritually and desire a deeper relationship with Christ, then His offering is for you!

Second, if you are to have your spiritual thirst quenched (and receive this



blessing), you must come to Jesus. He is the only one who can meet this need.

Third, notice that verse 38 says, “He who believes in me....” and verse 39 says, “But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive.” Believing in Christ is a prerequisite to having this experience of rivers of living water flowing out from you.

Fourth, it is clear that when Jesus talks about having rivers of living water flowing out from you, He is referring specifically to an experience with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the only way the spiritual thirst you have will ultimately be quenched.

Fifth and finally, the gift of the Holy Spirit would only be available for believers once Jesus had paid for our sins, was raised from the dead, and was glorified. The Holy Spirit would be His gift to His children after He had departed this earth.

So we begin to understand that the infilling of the Holy Spirit is God's way to quench our spiritual thirst. And as we are filled with His Spirit, He not only quenches that thirst, He gives us something else... spiritual power.

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# POWER

Earlier in the book of John, we find Jesus conversing with a woman at a well in Sychar (John 4:5–14). In this passage He referred to the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation as being like a spring or a well of water springing up in us into everlasting life.

Jesus was teaching us that the work of the Holy Spirit in salvation is like a well that can sustain life as the water is drawn from it. But water that is drawn from a well does not produce power.

In the passage from John 7 previously mentioned, you will notice that Jesus

refers to a different work of the Holy Spirit. In this passage He states that there will be rivers of living water flowing out from us.

Rivers move things and change things. Rivers bring life to the landscape around them. Rivers produce power.

Jesus knew we would need the power of the Holy Spirit. That's why, in Acts 1:4–8, He gave an important command to His disciples just before He left this earth,

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.”

Jesus told His disciples not to leave Jerusalem until they had received or been baptized with the Holy Spirit. Why? Because, when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they would receive power.

Notice that this coming of the Holy Spirit is after the resurrection. These believing disciples were commanded by Jesus to wait for this gift of the Holy Spirit before they engaged in the all-important business of being witnesses to their own countrymen and to a waiting world.

After the disciples were filled with the Spirit in the upper room on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the power of God became immediately evident. It was displayed in Peter's preaching and it was exhibited in the miraculous signs and healings that occurred.

As we read through the book of Acts, we see the sick being healed, demons being cast out, and the name of Jesus being glorified. It is somewhat encapsulated in

Acts 4:31 and 33, “and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit” .... “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection....”

Today, you and I can experience that same power through the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Let’s take a look at how we can be filled with the Spirit.

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## SAVED Then FILLED

First, it's critically important to understand that the Holy Spirit was not sent to indwell people until it was possible to be born again. Consider the words of Jesus from John 14:16–17,

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

Jesus said that the world cannot receive the Holy Spirit. The term the world refers to unsaved people—those who have not yet received Christ.

There is, however, something that the world can receive. There is a gift that God has made available to the world. Jesus tells us in John 3:16,

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

The world can accept Christ and receive the gift of salvation. Then, once a person has been saved, they are a candidate to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Even Jesus' own disciples waited for this precious gift before they ventured out to preach the Gospel to lost humanity.



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## PENTECOST AND BEYOND

Directly after Jesus ascended into heaven, we find the disciples returning to Jerusalem where they were staying. As they are gathered in an upper room praying, suddenly the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out.

Acts 2:1–4 records this amazing event,

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them

divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Approximately ten years later, we find Peter preaching to a house full of Gentiles who had placed their faith in Jesus. This story is recorded in Acts 10:44–46,

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Then approximately another ten years later, we find believers still being filled with the Holy Spirit. This time it is through the ministry of the apostle Paul as recorded in Acts 19:1–7,

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?”

So they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” And he said to them, “Into what then were you baptized?” So they said, “Into John’s baptism.”

Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Now the men were about twelve in all.

Over and over again, we see the pattern. Once men and women come to faith in Jesus Christ, they then receive the filling of the Holy Spirit. And through the Holy Spirit the power of God is manifested in their lives.

But if you look carefully, there is one thing that is common to every experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

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## ONE THING IN COMMON

The one thing that each of the events has in common is that when the people were filled with the Holy Spirit, they spoke with other tongues. While it is not the only evidence of the infilling of the Spirit, it certainly is one evidence of this gracious gift from God.

Speaking in other tongues has been referred to by many as the initial physical evidence of the Spirit's indwelling. And it is in no way minor or insignificant in its importance. The apostle Paul himself told the Corinthian church that he spoke with tongues more than them all, and he thanked God for it (1 Corinthians 14:18)!

Unfortunately, there has been a great lack of knowledge regarding speaking in tongues. So let's take a look at what the Scripture says about the purpose of tongues, how to receive this gift, and then the critical role you play in receiving and exercising this gift.

### 1. THE PURPOSE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Following are some of the reasons for and benefits of speaking in tongues, along with the Scripture reference for each of these points.

A) When you speak in tongues, you are speaking to God and there is definite benefit in that! First Corinthians 14:2 tells us,

For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.

B) You are being edified and strengthened spiritually when you speak in tongues.

First Corinthians 14:4 says,

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

C) Speaking in tongues is an expression of your spirit to God. In 1 Corinthians 14:14 we are told,

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.

D) Even though you may not understand what you are praying in tongues, there are times when God may reveal the interpretation of what you have been praying in tongues, giving you an understanding of what you have been prompted to pray. First Corinthians 14:13–15 explains it this way,

Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

E) You can give thanks to God through speaking or singing in tongues, as 1 Corinthians 14:15–17 tells us,

What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say “Amen” at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.



F) Speaking in tongues can bring spiritual refreshing. Both 1 Corinthians 14:21 and Isaiah 28:11–12 provide us this insight,

In the law it is written: “With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; and yet, for all that, they will not hear Me,” says the Lord.

For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, to whom He said, “This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,” and, “This is the refreshing”; yet they would not hear.

G) Speaking in tongues can be a sign to unbelievers, as 1 Corinthians 14:22 says,

Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe.

H) When you don't know what to pray for as you should, the Holy Spirit can help you to pray according to the will of God. Romans 8:26–27 says,

Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

## 2. HOW TO RECEIVE THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

From the verses we have looked at throughout this book, it's obvious that the infilling of the Spirit can occur several different ways.

For example, in Acts 10 we saw that the Spirit fell on the household of

Cornelius... on all those who heard the Word. In the same way today, the Holy Spirit may just “fall” upon someone who is seeking.

We also see the Holy Spirit suddenly coming upon the disciples on the Day of Pentecost as they were in the upper room praying. This occurrence was somewhat unique in that it was the Holy Spirit’s first entrance into the earth to indwell people after the resurrection. Up to this point it had been what Jesus declared to His disciples in John 14:17, “He dwells with you and will be in you.”

I believe that this initial coming of the Spirit had the sign of the tongues of fire resting upon each of them to indicate that the same Spirit that guided Israel in the wilderness as a pillar of fire by night was now coming to indwell each of them. Under the old covenant it was an outward guidance for a nation by God’s presence with them. Now it would be inward

guidance for the individual believer by God's presence within them.

We also observe from the Scripture we looked at earlier that the Holy Spirit was received through the laying on of hands. For example, in Acts 19 the apostle Paul laid hands on the disciples in Ephesus in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

We also see this taking place in the story of Philip's fruitful ministry in the city of Samaria. In this case multitudes believed and were baptized in water and when the church at Jerusalem heard about all that was happening, they sent Peter and John to them at which time they laid their hands on these new believers so they would receive the infilling of the Spirit.

Acts 8:14–17 records that for us,

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when

they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit can also be received simply through a child of God asking to be filled with the Spirit. Jesus spoke very specifically about this in Luke 11:9–13:

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your

children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”

If we ask to be filled with the Holy Spirit, we can be assured that the Father will answer our request and give us the Holy Spirit.

Jesus made it clear that we need not worry about getting a “wrong” spirit when we ask. Serpents and scorpions were used by Jesus in the previous chapter of Luke to describe evil spirits (Luke 10:19). Here, in Luke 11:13, He guarantees us that we will receive what we ask for and not a counterfeit.

The Father is ready to give the Holy Spirit to any child of God who humbly asks.

### 3. YOUR ROLE IN RECEIVING THE HOLY SPIRIT AND SPEAKING IN TONGUES

One of the most important things to understand when it comes to being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is that the believer is the one doing the speaking. Some seem to have the idea that the Holy Spirit will somehow speak through them totally independent of their will. The Holy Spirit is involved certainly, influencing and helping the believer to speak in what some call a heavenly language. But speaking in tongues is by no means some type of a Holy Spirit possession where the person involved has no choice or part in the matter.

A good example of the important role each believer plays is found in Acts 2:4, where the Scripture declares “they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”

Notice that the Holy Spirit gave them utterance, but they did the speaking. The Twentieth Century New Testament says,

“the Spirit prompted their utterances.”  
Weymouth’s translation puts it this way:  
“the Spirit gave them words to utter.”

The disciples uttered the words that the Spirit gave them to speak, but it was the disciples who did the speaking, not the Holy Spirit.

Then we find in Acts 10:46 this helpful statement, “For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God” (emphasis mine). Again, it is clear, the people did the speaking.

The same thing is stated regarding the believers who were filled in Ephesus. Acts 19:6 states it this way, “...the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues” (emphasis mine).

Once you ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit or when hands are laid on you to receive the Holy Spirit, you must believe that God has granted your request. The next thing you must do is open your



mouth and begin to make a sound. The Holy Spirit will begin to influence your vocal organs or “prompt your utterance.”

No one can speak with their mouth closed. If a person refuses to open their mouth, the Holy Spirit will not do it for them. This is precisely where some people have run into a barrier, not realizing the barrier was them! They assumed the Spirit would just sort of take over and they would just be a spectator instead of an active participant.

Throughout Scripture the Holy Spirit and His influence are symbolized by the latter rain. With that in mind, consider this verse from Job 29:23,

“And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the latter rain.” (KJV)

Open your mouth and yield your tongue to the influence of the Holy Spirit. He will give you words to utter, but you

must speak! Cease speaking in your known language (because just like no one can speak with their mouth closed, no one can speak two languages at the same time), and begin to articulate the words the Holy Spirit is giving you at that moment.

And don't worry if only a few words come to begin with. Be faithful to use what God gives you and more is likely to come. God's universal principle of "faithful over a few things, ruler over many" (Matthew 25:23) has been the experience of many when it comes to their being baptized in the Spirit and speaking in tongues.

Today, I pray that you would open your heart and receive this marvelous gift from God that will bring a new dimension of power into your life and bring you into an even closer relationship with our blessed Savior, Jesus.

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## A FEW COMMON QUESTIONS

**Q.** Didn't I receive the Holy Spirit when I was saved?

**A.** You were born of the Spirit when you were saved. Being filled with the Spirit is an experience subsequent to salvation. Consider those who believed in Samaria under the ministry of Phillip in Acts 8:14–17,

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them

that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

They had believed and been baptized in the name of Jesus, but they had yet to receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

**Q.** Doesn't the Bible say that we have all been baptized into one Body by the Spirit? If that is so, why should we seek another baptism experience with the Spirit?

**A.** The verse people refer to when they ask this question is 1 Corinthians 12:13, "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free—and have all been made to drink into one Spirit."

There are several different baptisms spoken of in the New Testament. Three of the main ones are: baptism into the Body

of Christ, water baptism, and baptism in the Holy Spirit.

In every baptism three things are necessary: 1) a baptizer (one doing the baptizing); 2) a candidate for baptism (the one getting baptized); and 3) an element into which one is baptized (baptism literally means to be immersed, submerged, or placed into).

In 1 Corinthians 12:13 the baptizer is the Holy Spirit, the candidate is the repentant sinner who is accepting Christ as his Savior, and the element is the Body of Christ. When a person accepts Christ into their heart, the Spirit quite literally places them into the Body of Christ. They become a member of this great spiritual family called the Church or the Body of Christ.

In water baptism the baptizer is the pastor or whoever may be placing the person under the water. The candidate is the person who has accepted Christ and now, in obedience to the Lord's

command, is ready to publicly identify with His death, burial, and resurrection. The element into which he or she is being baptized is water.

In the baptism of the Holy Spirit the baptizer is Jesus, the candidate is the believer who is thirsting for more of God (John 7:37–39), and the element the candidate is to be immersed in is the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist reinforces this truth when he said this of Jesus in Mark 1:8, “I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

**Q.** Doesn't the Bible say or imply that not all can speak in tongues?

**A.** The answer to that question is both yes and no. To understand this truth, certain verses must be looked at in their setting.

For example, in 1 Corinthians 12, the apostle Paul spends a great deal of time talking about individual callings (apostle,

prophet, teacher, helps, etc.) and the spiritual gifts that generally accompany such callings as they operate in the context of the local church assembly.

Specifically, 1 Corinthians 12:28–30 says, “And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, varieties of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Do all have gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?”

The answer to each of the questions in verses 29–30 is obviously “no”. Everyone is not called to function as an apostle, prophet, or teacher in the church. All will not be used to perform miracles and not all have the gifts of healings. In like manner, not all will be used by God in the context of the local assembly to give an utterance in tongues that is to be interpreted.

However, to use verse 30 and imply that it is referring to believers in every context is to take that verse out of its setting and distort its meaning. It is true that not all will be used to speak a tongue that is to be interpreted for the benefit of the church (a tongue spoken by the inspiration of the Spirit directed to men). But the tongues spoken with the baptism of the Holy Spirit are, for the most part, not spoken to men, but to God.

Consider the words of the apostle in 1 Corinthians 14:2, “For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.”

The Scripture makes a distinction between the tongues spoken in an assembly that are to be interpreted for the benefit and edification of the Body and the tongue that is to be spoken to God, which brings personal strength and edification. In fact, 1 Corinthians 14:4 says, “He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself...”



Thank God for the gifts of different kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:10). But just because God may use some to function in this way when the local church assembles, it does not exclude you from being filled with the Holy Spirit and experiencing the personal benefit in worship and prayer expressed through speaking in tongues to God.

**Q.** Wasn't the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues just for the early church? Is it really necessary today?

**A.** To that I would ask: Do we need God's power today? Obviously, yes, as much as we ever have. Jesus said in 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."

When Jesus spoke of this blessing in John, He never put a time limit on it. The

infilling of the Spirit is for thirsty believers in every generation. Part of His great commission as recorded in Mark 16 certainly accentuates the need for believers, both then and now, to be equipped with the mighty baptism in the Spirit. This reality is captured in Mark 16:15–17, “And He said to them, ‘Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues...’”

In connection with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, the apostle Peter said these words: “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call” (Acts 2:38–39).

We are some of those who are “afar off” that God has called. Or as the Rieu translation states it: the promised gift of the Holy Spirit is “to all those in distant times and places.”