

Receiving the Holy Spirit

- I. **All relationship with God starts and continues with receiving and believing (John 1:10-13).**
 - A. By faith in Jesus we receive the right to become children of God and are born of the Spirit (John 3:5-8).
 - 1. We receive righteousness from God (Romans 8:9-10).
 - 2. We receive supernatural life in our spirit (Romans 8:10).
 - 3. We receive eternal life (Romans 8:11).
 - B. Our relationship with God continues by responding to God's Spirit. In fact, we are able to continue to receive impartations of the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18, Example of the first disciples).
 - 1. On Resurrection Day—"Receive the Holy Spirit..." (John 20:19-23).
 - 2. On the Day of Pentecost (50 days later), the same disciples received the Spirit with power (Acts 1:4-8; 2:1-7). We celebrate this day as the birth of the church.
 - 3. At a later date, we see the same disciples filled again with the Holy Spirit (Acts 4:7-8, 23, 29-31).
- II. **The major underlying theme of Acts is receiving the Holy Spirit who leads and empowers**
 - A. Six major stories in Acts help us to understand what it means to be baptized with the Holy Spirit as we review the stories of people taking their first steps in Christ (Acts 2; 4; 8; 9; 10; and 19).
 - B. In these stories Luke uses six synonymous terms to describe receiving the Holy Spirit: "baptism with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5; 11:16), "The Holy Spirit came on them" (Acts 1:8; 8:16; 19:6), "gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38; 8:20; 10:45), "Holy Spirit poured out" (Acts 2:17; 10:45); "receive the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38; 8:15, 17; 10:47), "filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:4; 9:17).
 - C. The earliest believers received an empowering experience with the Holy Spirit that happened at or near the time of conversion, or even at a later time.
 - 1. Example of Phillip and the Samaritans (Acts 8:12-19)
 - 2. The example of the House of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48)
- III. **An important question in every believer's life is, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed" (Acts 19:1-7)?**
 - A. In Acts 19:2, the question was not about salvation, which is also received through the activity of the Holy Spirit (John 3:6-8). It was a question of receiving more from God.
 - B. Four characteristics of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit
 - 1. Distinct
 - 2. Repeatable—Today we often refer to repeated encounters with the Holy Spirit as "being filled with the Holy Spirit."
 - 3. Phenomena (Acts 2:11-17; 10:44-48)
 - 4. Change (Acts 2:38-41; 3:6-10)