

How do I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit? (Acts 2:38, 39)

You need to do a number of things in order to receive this blessing. First, you need to be born again. The person who is going to be filled with the Spirit must have the indwelling Spirit and must belong to Jesus (Rom. 8:9).

The second thing you have to do is ask. The Bible says if we ask for the Holy Spirit, that prayer will be answered (Luke 11:8).

The third thing you have to do is surrender. The apostle Paul made this need clear in the Book of Romans when he said, "Present your bodies as living sacrifice" (Rom. 12:1).

Fourth, you must be willing to obey the Spirit. God does not give this power to someone and then say, "You can take the part you like and leave the part you do not like." If you want to be immersed in the Holy Spirit, you need to be prepared to obey the Spirit (Acts 5:32).

Fifth, you need to believe, the apostle Paul said, "Did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?" (Gal. 3:2). The answer, obviously, is faith. You have to believe that if you ask, you will receive.

Finally, you have to exercise what God has given you. Having asked, having received, having been willing to obey, and having believed, you need to respond in a biblical fashion.

The Bible says those baptized with the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost "began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4). This means they spoke the words that the Spirit gave them. The Holy Spirit gave the words, but the apostles and disciples voluntarily responded. There was action based on faith, not merely passive acceptance of the blessing. That is the way it is with God. God is offering the baptism in the Holy Spirit to people who need only to reach out and take it and then enjoy the blessing.