



Receiving the Holy Spirit

Focus There are three baptisms every believer needs to experience.

Open What is a good book you can recommend to the group?

Read There are three baptisms every disciple of Christ needs to experience:

1. The Holy Spirit baptizes us in Jesus. This takes place when we believe and are saved. The Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us, and we become a new person (1 Corinthians 12:13).

2. The disciple baptizes us in water. This is water baptism, where the old person is cut off. Even Jesus was baptized in water (Luke 3:21, Matthew 28:19).

3. Jesus baptizes us *in* or *with* the Holy Spirit. This is when we are filled to overflowing with the Holy Spirit and receive power to walk in our new life in Christ. It does not automatically happen when we are saved; it is a separate baptism. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is mentioned in each of the four gospels (Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33).

These three baptisms are intended for *all* believers and are mentioned many times in Scripture (Acts 2:37–39, Acts 8:12–17, Acts 19:1–6, 1 John 5:7–8, 1 Corinthians 10:1–2). Even the order of worship in Moses' tabernacle followed the pattern of the three baptisms: before you could enter into God's presence, you had to be cleansed of your sins (salvation), be washed with water (water baptism), then anointed with oil (baptism in the Holy Spirit).

Talk

1. Briefly tell about when you were baptized in water. What was significant to you about the experience?
2. How did this message shed new light on your understanding of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
3. Read Acts 1:4–5 and Acts 2:38. How is the Holy Spirit a gift in our lives? How does He help us?
4. Read 1 Corinthians 12:7–11. The Holy Spirit is a gift, and He also gives us gifts to help us grow and encourage each other. Have you ever seen the use of these spiritual gifts? Which ones? Tell about your experience.
5. Read Galatians 5:22–23. How are the fruits of the Spirit different from the gifts of the Holy Spirit? Why do you think they are called fruits instead of gifts?

Live

Have you experienced all three baptisms? If not, talk to a trusted friend or mentor about taking the next step toward salvation, water baptism or receiving the Holy Spirit. If yes, thank God by writing out a list of the many ways He has blessed your life.

Pray

Lord, I thank You that no matter where I am in my journey with You, You always want to give me more of Your Holy Spirit. Please fill me to overflowing again today so I can have power to live a life that honors You.