



empowered



Discipleship Series  
Study Guide #10

## BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT A DISTINCT EXPERIENCE

*"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."*

**Note:** Over the centuries, there have been differing perspectives regarding the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the manifested evidence of the experience. We will give room by gracing liberty for differing of interpretations, while maintaining respect and unity. In this study, we will not focus nor spend time discussing the manifestation of tongues. We will discuss tongues very soon! **This study will solely focus on the purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit;** empowerment not just for personal spiritual growth, but to boldly represent Jesus in everyday life. This power enables believers to speak with boldness and clarity, demonstrate God's love and truth, move in spiritual gifts as needed (1 Corinthians 12 - we'll talk more about this in the coming weeks), and to endure opposition and challenges with strength. It's not just about a spontaneous, charismatic, or emotional moment...it's about being activated and equipped to live and speak the Gospel effectively, starting where you are ("Jerusalem") and reaching outward ("to the ends of the earth").

### Baptism of Water, Holy Spirit and Fire | Matthew 3:11

"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."

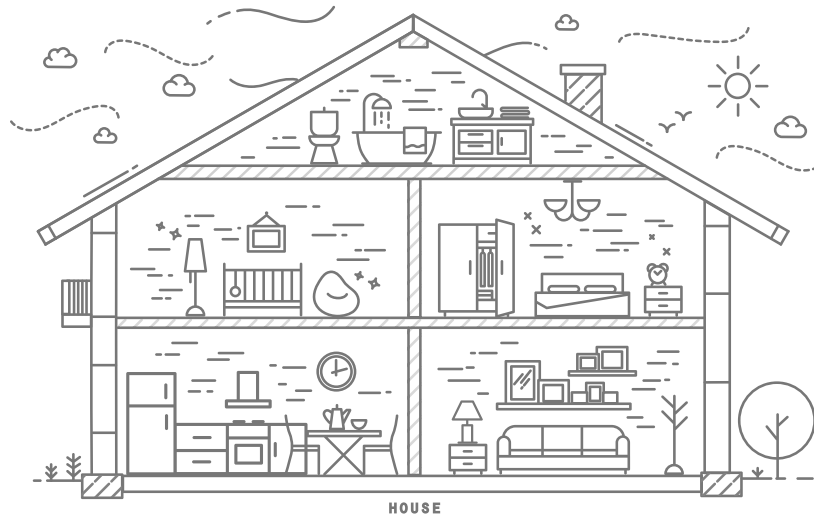
### Jesus Explains the Purpose of Power | Acts 1:4-8

4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." 6 Then they gathered around him and asked him, "Lord, are you at this time going to restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

### Activated to Witness | Acts 2:1-4

1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

# REFERENCE GUIDE



## **Indwelling at Salvation = The Holy Spirit Moves In**

- The moment you accept Jesus, the Holy Spirit moves into your house (your heart).
- He doesn't just visit...He becomes a resident.
- It's a permanent relationship.

### Scripture Reference:

- "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you..." (1 Corinthians 6:19)
- "Having believed, you were marked... with the Holy Spirit." (Ephesians 1:13)

## **Being Filled (full surrender to His leading) = You Hand Him the Keys**

- Being filled means you give Him full access to your house.
- Instead of keeping Him in the guest room, you say:
  - "Here are the keys. Take the kitchen, living room, the closet, our junk drawers...everything. Have your way!"
- He starts to clean, rearrange, and lead.
- This isn't a one-time thing, you keep inviting Him to take over daily.

### Scripture Reference:

- "Be filled with the Spirit." (Ephesians 5:18)
- "They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." (Acts 4:31)

## **Baptism in the Holy Spirit = The house gets supercharged and lit up**

- Baptism in the Spirit is like your house getting hooked up to high-voltage power for the first time.
- Suddenly, the lights come on, the stove works, and you're ready to throw open the doors and invite the neighborhood in.
- It's power for service, for witnessing, and for operating in spiritual gifts.

### Scripture Reference:

- "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." (Acts 1:8)
- "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues..." (Acts 2:4)

# BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## A DISTINCT EXPERIENCE

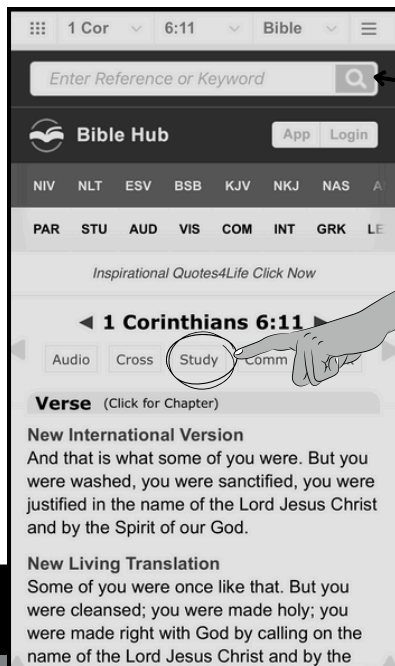
**Observe Matthew 3:11...** *"I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."*

- **\*I baptize you with water for repentance.**
  - John the Baptist's baptism was a symbolic act of purification and a public declaration of repentance. In Jewish tradition, water was often used for ceremonial cleansing, and John's baptism signified a turning away from sin and a preparation for the coming Messiah. This act was not for salvation but a preparatory step, emphasizing the need for a change of heart and mind. The use of water here connects to various Old Testament purification rites, such as those found in Leviticus.
- **\*He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire**
  - This phrase contrasts John's baptism with the transformative work of Jesus. The baptism with the Holy Spirit signifies the new covenant and the indwelling presence of God in believers, as prophesied in Joel 2:28-29 and fulfilled at Pentecost (Acts 2). The mention of "fire" can symbolize purification, judgment, or the empowering presence of God. Fire often represents God's holiness and refining process, as seen in Malachi 3:2-3. This dual baptism indicates both the purifying and empowering aspects of the Holy Spirit's work in the life of a believer.
  - **Read Matthew 28:18-20**
    - **\*Water Baptism** is a public declaration of faith and an initiation into the Christian community. It symbolizes purification and the believer's identification with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus (Romans 6:3-4). The practice of baptism has roots in Jewish purification rituals but is given new meaning in the context of the New Covenant.

\*Source: BibleHub.com Study Bible



## ONLINE RESOURCE ACTIVITIES



### Observe Acts 1:8

- Go to BibleHub.com and do a search for Acts 1:8 in the "Enter Reference or Keyword" box and then click on the magnifying glass.
- Once it loads, click on the button titled "Study"
  - Read the **Study Bible** section.

### Observe Acts 2:1

- Go to BibleHub.com and do the same for Acts 2:1.



## LET'S INTERPRET...

- What do you believe all of these verses mean?
- What is God speaking to you personally through this study?
- Read a trusted commentary and compare to your interpretation.



### CONCORDANCE ACTIVITY

Look up the following words:

- ☐ Promise: Greek: (epangelia) Strong's G1860
- ☐ Wait: Greek: (perimeno) Strong's G4037
- ☐ Filled: Greek: (pimplemi) Strong's G4130
- ☐ Receive: Greek: (lambano) Strong's G2983
- ☐ Power: Greek: (dunamis) Strong's G1411
- ☐ Baptize: Greek (baptizō) Strong's 907

# NOW, LET'S READ THE AFTER-SUMMARY TOGETHER

When Jesus spoke to His disciples in Acts 1:4–8, He told them not to leave Jerusalem until they had received what the Father had promised, the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He wasn't sending them out into the world unprepared. Instead, He promised that they would receive power when the Holy Spirit came upon them. This power wasn't for show, it was to enable them to live boldly and be effective witnesses of Jesus, from their immediate surroundings all the way to the ends of the earth. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit wasn't just a spiritual upgrade; it was God's way of equipping them to bring light into dark places.

The moment we believe in Jesus and are saved, the Holy Spirit moves in. This is what we call the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. He becomes a permanent resident in our lives...God with us, in us. Think of it like the Holy Spirit moving into your house. But like any relationship, just because someone lives in your house doesn't mean they're running the place. Being filled with the Spirit is what happens when we give Him the keys, He has full access to rearrange the furniture, clean the junk drawers, and lead the household. It's something we need to keep doing daily: yielding, listening, and following His lead.

But the baptism of the Holy Spirit is something more. It's when your house gets connected to a new source of power. The breaker flips, the wiring in the walls electrify, lights turn on, and everything in you becomes activated for a greater purpose. According to Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist said Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit and fire. This isn't just for personal transformation; it's for missional activation. In Acts 2:1–4, when the Spirit came upon the believers at Pentecost, it wasn't just a feel-good moment but it launched the early church into action, speaking in languages only known to the witnesses. That same Spirit-filled power is available to us today to live out our faith with clarity, compassion, and courage.

Too often, people associate the baptism of the Holy Spirit only with emotional expressions or spiritual gifts like speaking in tongues. While those manifestations can be real and valuable, the true core purpose is not the manifestation...it's the mission. The baptism empowers you to love people boldly, live with supernatural resilience, speak truth with grace, and endure hardship without quitting. It's the fuel that keeps you moving when faith gets hard and the light that draws others when the world gets dark.

This baptism is not a badge of honor or something to compare with others. It's a gift from Jesus, meant to equip everyday people to live out their calling with supernatural strength. Whether you're on campus, at your job, in your family, with your friends, or in your community, the power of the Holy Spirit enables you to be a living witness of who Jesus is...not just in words, but in how you carry yourself, love others, and step into hard places with courage.

As we explore this in the weeks ahead, let's remember: the goal isn't hype, but depth. We want to become people who not only house the Spirit, but who live with the lights on, empowered, equipped, and ready to share Jesus with a world that so desperately needs Him. If you've never experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, don't be afraid of it...desire it. It's not about earning something or being super spiritual; it's about receiving the gift Jesus promised to all believers so that you can walk in power, purpose, and love. Begin praying for it. Ask God to fill you, empower you, and prepare your heart to receive more of Him. And if you've already experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit, don't treat it as a one-time event, but keep seeking God for a fresh infilling. Just like you charge your phone daily, we need a constant connection to His Spirit to stay strong, alert, and full of life. Let's be a community of believers who hunger for more of God...not just for ourselves, but so the world around us can encounter Him too.





## APPLICATION QUESTIONS

**Applying Matthew 3:11** – *“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”*

### **Fire as Refinement & Purification**

- What areas of your life do you sense God wanting to purify or refine through His Spirit?
  - Are there thoughts, habits, attitudes, or relationships that need to be surrendered to the refining fire of God?
- How do you respond when God brings fire not for punishment, but for transformation?
  - Do you resist it, fear it, or embrace it as part of spiritual growth?
- Are you willing to allow the Holy Spirit not only to empower you but to refine you?
  - How does the idea of fire relate to your current season? Do you sense it’s cleansing, burning away pride, or igniting passion?

**Applying Acts 1:4–8** – *“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you...”*

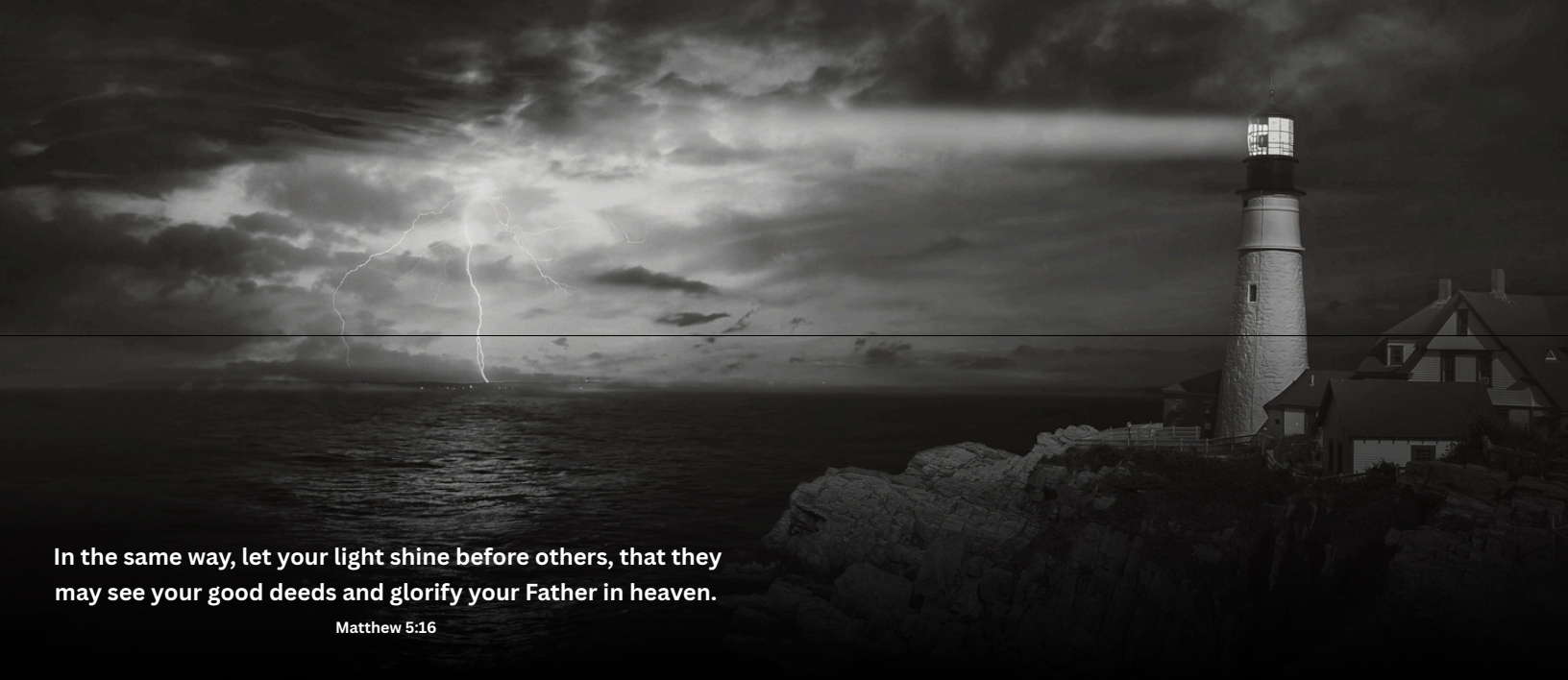
### **Empowerment for Mission**

- Where in your life do you feel powerless or hesitant to be a witness for Jesus?
  - Is it with friends, family, online, or in public spaces?
- How would receiving the power Jesus promised in Acts 1:8 change the way you live, speak, or make decisions?
  - In what area do you most need Holy Spirit power right now?
- What does “Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the ends of the earth” look like in your personal context?
  - Who are the people God is calling you to reach first—your campus, family, coworkers?

**Applying Acts 2:1–4** – *“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...”*

### **Unity, Expectation, Activation**

- Are you waiting on the Holy Spirit with expectation, or are you distracted by life’s noise?
  - How can you create space in your life to listen, wait, and seek more of Him?
- What would it look like for you to be filled again?
  - Not just a past experience, but a current and daily infilling; what would change in your tone, your posture, your courage?
- How can you actively steward the power you’ve already received from the Holy Spirit?
  - Are you using it for boldness, encouragement, service, or do you need to reignite what’s been dormant?

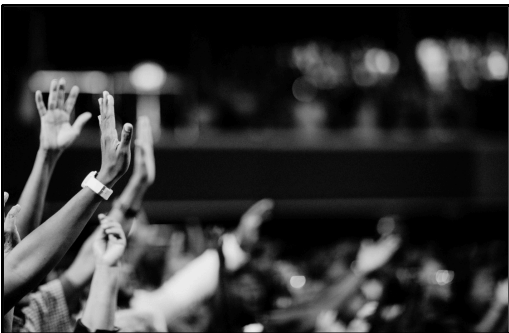


In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Matthew 5:16

## CLOSING PRAYER

Father, thank You for the gift of the Holy Spirit and the promise of power that comes through the baptism You offer us. We come with open hearts, asking not just for a moment of encounter, but for transformation. Lord, refine us with Your holy fire. Burn away anything that dims our light or distracts us from Your purpose. Fill us again and again until we overflow with boldness, love, and clarity. Let Your Spirit ignite fresh passion in us to represent Jesus not just in words but in how we live, serve, and love. May we surrender every room of our hearts to You, giving You full access to lead and shape us into witnesses who carry Your presence with humility and strength. And for those who have never received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, we say we are hungry. We desire the fullness of what You promised. Baptize us, empower us, and mark us with Your power from on high.



In a world growing darker, make us lights that cannot be hidden. Teach us to hear Your voice, to follow Your lead, and to move with courage even when it costs us comfort. Empower us to speak truth with grace, to walk into broken spaces with healing, and to stand firm in love when it's easier to stay silent. May our homes, jobs, and communities be impacted by the Spirit alive within us. We don't want hype...we want holy. We ask for more of You, not for our own elevation, but so the world might know who You are. Use us, Lord, and set us on fire for Your glory. We ask this in the powerful and matchless name of Jesus...amen!

## WHAT'S AHEAD...

### *Homework*

Read 1 Corinthians 14, and be sure to take notes and be prepared to share some insight or ask questions you may have.

### *Next Week*

Many Tongues - One Spirit:  
The Biblical Function of Tongues