



THE SUNDAY MESSAGE


THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY GHOST

sunday 23 may


Talking through the message during the week helps you turn what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions and scriptures are designed to help you take the next step.

When you hear the term 'baptism of the Holy Spirit' what do you think?

Has it been something that once happened to you or is it something for others, if not, what is it then?

 Look at [Matthew 3:13-17](#) and [Mark 1:9-11](#) – these familiar verses are worth reading and then sitting in silence for 5-10 minutes rereading and waiting for the Spirit speak to your heart.

What two things happened here for Jesus when He was baptised? What was the effect on His life?

 Read [Mark 1:14-15](#) and [Matthew 4:17 & 23](#)

God the Father said “you are my son” – this has more significance than we often realise these days. Think of a perfect family and the love, blessing and rights a son or daughter enjoys. All of us need to know in our heart that we are adopted by the Father and are His sons and daughters. Jesus needed this, so we must also need this.

Jesus did not start doing the job God the Father had for Him until he had been baptised by the Holy Spirit. It is the same for us – God expects us to be baptised in the Spirit to have access to the power of the Spirit to do the things that are in front of our life while on Earth.

Do we get all the power of the Holy Spirit upon our baptism in the Spirit or is it progressive and continuous?

 Read [Acts 1:4-5](#) and [Ephesians 5:18](#) and [Luke 8:46](#)

Jesus said to the disciples to wait a short while for the baptism in the Spirit – look what happened because they waited. Paul says be filled with the Spirit. ‘Fill’ means to put in as much as can be contained and when it is used this way in Ephesians it means it is a continual process because we give out and power goes out from us plus we become bigger spiritually (in our character, fruits, faith and love) so we can contain more power than before.

How do we become continually filled with the Spirit?

 Read [Luke 9:18](#) and [Luke 9:28-36](#) and [John 4:32](#)

Just a selection of Jesus’ life shows: He spent time alone with His Father; the Spirit refreshed Him when He did the Father’s will by talking to the Samaritan women and displaying love and the power of the Spirit and at times He received direct encouragement and ministry on the Mount of Transfiguration.

NEXT STEPS

Here are more specific things you can do this week to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

In Connect Groups or at the special meetings for this Series seek people filled with the Spirit to pray for you to be filled with more of the Presence of the Spirit. We need to desire that this happens in our life.

Take a small risk of faith to do what you think Holy Spirit is asking you to do and expect to enjoy giving out His power and then being refilled with more.

Get alone with God outside your normal devotional times and your busy activities, go somewhere different, and wait for Him to speak to you. Give up something to make the time, it's like fasting. Believe in faith that something happened.

Use these prayer tips to guide your time with God this week to expand your conversations with Him.

Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you with more of His presence.

Ask the Holy Spirit for a revelation to your heart that you are His son or daughter and are loved and that He is pleased with you.

Ask Holy Spirit to increase you capacity to love people and that you will know the love He feels for people in your life.

Read 1 Corinthians 13:4-7 and pause to let this love God has for you become the sort of love we can give to others.

Thank God that He is good and only does good. Thank Him that He answers prayers, that He will help you to hear Him clearly and that He chooses to love in you.