



## Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Before leaving earth, Jesus promised His disciples that they would be baptized in the Spirit when the Holy Spirit came (see Acts 1:4–5). This promise is for believers today as well. Kids like you can be baptized in the Spirit. But first, let's find out what "baptism in the Holy Spirit" means.

### What Baptism in the Holy Spirit Means

Being baptized by the Holy Spirit helps believers to be bold and more powerful as they serve God. To be baptized in the Spirit means to be "filled with the Holy Spirit." The word baptize means to immerse or dip something, usually in water. Baptism in the Spirit means you are dipped in or overflowing with the Spirit. Think of a container filled with clean water. Like the container, the person filled with the Spirit is no longer empty, but has the Holy Spirit living inside. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is like pouring more clean water into the container until it overflows. A person who is baptized in the Spirit becomes flooded with God's presence to the point where others notice. This experience happened to Peter and the other disciples at Pentecost (see Acts 2).

In the book of Acts, the sign that a believer had been baptized in the Spirit was that he or she spoke in a language different from his or her native language. We call this "speaking in tongues." Speaking in tongues involves a language that the speaker has never learned. That person might speak in a language spoken somewhere on earth (for example, Greek, French, or Aramaic) or in a heavenly language.

After the Holy Spirit arrived, Peter and the other disciples began to speak in different languages. Many people present accused them of being drunk. But they were not! They were filled with the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2).

### How to Receive This Gift

The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to those who trust Jesus as their Savior. Here are a few things to keep in mind as you prepare to receive this gift:

- (1) Talk to a parent or another trusted adult about your decision. Don't be afraid to ask questions or talk about any concerns you might have.
- (2) Get right with God. Admit any wrongs you might have done and ask God for forgiveness.
- (3) Ask in faith. Pray and believe that God will honor His promise to baptize you in the Holy Spirit.
- (4) Be prepared. Some physical things may happen, such as stammering lips, tears, and trembling or shaking may accompany this experience. Don't be afraid when this happens. You will speak in other tongues.
- (5) Trust that you will get what you asked for. God promises to give the good gift of the Holy Spirit to those who desire Him with all their heart (see Luke 11:9–13). That means you.

