

Receiving The Holy Spirit Yirmeyah Tan, 10 November 2025

Shalom.

Today our topic is "**Receiving The Holy Spirit**". We will see what scripture has to say about this most important subject. Refer to **Mat 3:11-12** –

Mat 3:11 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:***

Mat 3:12 *Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but **he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.***

Then turn to **Act 1:4-5** –

Act 1:4 *And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.*

Act 1:5 *For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.***

And then **Act 1:8** –

Act 1:8 *But **ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:** and ye shall be **witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem,** and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Let's look at what happened at the first Shavuot or Pentecost in the upper room where the disciples who are faithful to Yeshua were assembled. Refer to **Act 2:1-4** –

I. **What Happened At The First Shavuot [Pentecost] – The Upper Room**

Act 2:1 *And when **the day of Pentecost was fully come,** they were all with one accord in one place.*

Act 2:2 *And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.*

Act 2:3 *And there appeared unto them **cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.***

Act 2:4 *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

This event was the fulfilment of prophecy, first by John the Baptist and then by Yeshua just before His ascension into Heaven. John the Baptist told us in Mat 3:11-12 that the baptism he was providing was a baptism of water and a baptism of repentance. He said that Yeshua will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The question is what is this baptism of the Holy Spirit? Is it also a baptism of fire? Now, on the day of Pentecost, cloven tongues of fire appeared sitting upon each one of the disciples in the upper room. 'Cloven tongues of fire'

mean they look like fire but are not actually fire because they didn't burn them. Is this what might be described as a baptism of fire? I do not believe so. I believe it was just a symbol of the Holy Spirit coming upon the disciples. John explained in Mat 3:12 that Yeshua will thoroughly purge His floor and gather His wheat into the garner but will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. In other words, there are 2 choices: be baptized with the Holy Spirit or one day be baptized with the fire of the Holy Spirit, that is the burning fire of Hell by the Holy Spirit.

The 120 disciples began speaking in tongues and the people wondered what was happening to them. They thought they were drunk, but Peter rose up and said that this was the pouring the Holy Spirit that Joel had prophesied. Everyone who heard the disciples speaking in tongues actually heard them speaking in their own languages.

The consequence of the outpouring was the conviction by the Holy Spirit of the first 3,000 converts in **Act 2:38-41** –

II. The First 3000

Act 2:38 *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

Act 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

Act 2:40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.

Act 2:41 Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

Verse 38 says 'to repent be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit'. The AOG [Pentecostal] churches believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a second experience, subsequent to conversion. In fact, some people do not receive the Holy Spirit at baptism.

Let us look at an incident in **Act 8:14-23** –

III. Laying on of Hands

Act 8:14 *Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:*

Act 8:15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Act 8:16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Act 8:17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

Act 8:18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Act 8:19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Act 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Act 8:21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Act 8:22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Act 8:23 For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.

What is interesting in this Samaritan example is that, there were people who were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus but apparently, they had not yet received the Holy Spirit. Hence, Peter and John went down, laid hands on them and the people received the Holy Spirit. We are not told what happened when they laid hands on them, but some manifestation must have taken place because Simon the Sorcerer was watching all this. He saw the power that came from the laying on of hands and he wanted to buy this power and got rebuked by Peter for his intention. What was the power that was demonstrated? We know from our experience when we lay hands on people to receive the Holy Spirit - 1] most people will fall under the power of the Holy Spirit; 2] they can also break out in tongues or they can start prophesying. We look at the issue of tongues associated with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Look at **Act 10:44-48**: the conversion of Cornelius.

IV. Evidence: Tongues

Act 10:44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

*Act 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that **on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.***

*Act 10:46 **For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.** Then answered Peter,*

Act 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

Act 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

The significance of this incident is that this is the first occasion that salvation came to the Gentiles- Cornelius and his household. He had the vision, sent for Peter and Peter came. There are 2 important things – 1] they received the Holy Spirit without having been baptized; 2] there was clear evidence that they received the Holy Spirit because they broke out in tongues. However, please note we are not told what kind of tongues that they were speaking. Were they tongues like other languages or tongues of angels? Paul also referred to the two possibilities, but we are not given any evidence. By the way, this incident is only one of two in the Acts of the Apostles where, after the Holy Spirit came upon people, they spoke in tongues. The question is: can we be dogmatic that the evidence of receiving the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues, which the Pentecostals insist upon.

Nevertheless, the manifestation of tongues is a fulfilment of what Isaiah wrote in **Isa 28:11** –

*Isa 28:11 For with **stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.***

Note: unique manifestations of The Holy Spirit.

The next question is: what other evidence do we have when the Holy Spirit is received or comes upon people? Look at **1Ki 19:9-13** –

V. Evidence: Wind, Fire, Earthquake & Small Voice

1Ki 19:9 And he came thither unto a cave, and lodged there; and, behold, the word of the LORD came to him, and he said unto him, What doest thou here, Elijah?

1Ki 19:10 And he said, I have been very jealous for the LORD God of hosts: for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword; and I, even I only, am left; and they seek my life, to take it away.

1Ki 19:11 And he said, Go forth, and stand upon the mount before the LORD. And, behold, the LORD passed by, and a great and strong wind rent the mountains, and brake in pieces the rocks before the LORD; **but the LORD was not in the wind: and after the wind an earthquake; but the LORD was not in the earthquake:**

1Ki 19:12 **And after the earthquake a fire; but the LORD was not in the fire: and after the fire a still small voice.**

1Ki 19:13 And it was so, when Elijah heard it, that he wrapped his face in his mantle, and went out, and stood in the entering in of the cave. And, behold, there came a voice unto him, and said, What doest thou here, Elijah?

This is a very interesting passage. Very often we look for dramatic signs of the presence of the Holy Spirit, but we should be looking for the still small voice. One day I will give you a video on hearing the voice of Yahweh and the Holy Spirit. How to hear? Why is it necessary to hear His voice? Now, we have seen the manifestation of tongues and the manifestation of the still small voice. What about the other evidence about prophecy, visions and dreams?

Let's look at **Num 12:5-8** –

VI. Evidence: Prophecy, Visions, Dreams

Num 12:5 And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam: and they both came forth.

Num 12:6 And he said, Hear now my words: **If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream.**

Num 12:7 **My servant Moses is not so,** who is faithful in all mine house.

Num 12:8 **With him will I speak mouth to mouth,** even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

These verses tell us that, another way the Holy Spirit speaks to us, is through word of prophecy, visions and dreams, The Book of Job and many other passages in scriptures confirm this. Refer to **Job 33:14-18** –

Job 33:14 For God speaketh once, yea twice, yet man perceiveth it not.

Job 33:15 **In a dream, in a vision of the night,** when deep sleep falleth upon men, in slumberings upon the bed;

Job 33:16 Then he openeth the ears of men, and sealeth their instruction,

Job 33:17 That he may withdraw man from his purpose, and hide pride from man.

Job 33:18 He keepeth back his soul from the pit, and his life from perishing by the sword.

We can expect Yahweh to speak to us via the Holy Spirit in a dream, in a vision of the night. Look at the prophecy by **Joe 2:28-29** that Peter quoted on the day of Pentecost.

Joe 2:28 *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:*

Joe 2:29 *And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

Note:

1. before Pentecost YAHWEH spoke to the prophets through visions and dreams but Joel prophesied that the Spirit will come upon all flesh in the last days to prophesy dream dreams and see visions.
2. Peter quoted Joel on the Day of Pentecost as partial fulfilment of this prophecy.

I believe that the fullest fulfilment of this prophecy will be in Israel. I believe it will be at Armageddon or shortly thereafter.

What other evidence can we adduce for the baptism of the Holy Spirit? I would refer to power, healing, boldness, the power to witness, as what Yeshua promised. Look at **Act 3:6-8** –

VII. Evidence: Power, Healing, Boldness, Witnessing

- a. **Dunamis [power] of the Holy Spirit**
- b. **Power to heal**

Act 3:6 *Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.*

Act 3:7 *And he took him by the right hand and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

Act 3:8 *And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God.*

The power to heal but, before the power to heal, the word of the Holy Spirit came to Peter. This 'word of knowledge' is a gift of the Holy Spirit. One day I will put together a video on all the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we can expect to have and to exercise. We have seen the power of the Holy Spirit to heal. Associated with the gifts is boldness.

Look at **Acts 4:29-31** –

- c. **Boldness**

Act 4:29 *And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word,*

Act 4:30 *By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.*

Act 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.*

Remember that, before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the disciples of Yeshua were very timid men & women. They were fearful. Look at the betrayal of Yeshua by Peter. When Yeshua was being whipped, he denied Christ three times. So you can see the transformation of the apostle Peter and the others after the Holy Spirit came upon them. They became fearless in their witnessing. In fact, the word 'witnessing' is translated from the Greek word 'martus' from which we derive the English word 'martyr'. Hence there is boldness, power, fearlessness to witness for Christ even unto death.

d. Fearless witnessing unto death

You would have read of missionaries who went to primitive lands of head-hunters and so on : they risked their life to preach the gospel.

The next question is: how many times can we receive the Holy Spirit after we are baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Lets look at **Act 4:31** –

VIII. Be Ye Filled

Act 4:31 *And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.***

Keep this in view and go to a related passage in **Eph 5:18-21** –

Eph 5:18 *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but **be filled with the Spirit;***
Eph 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;
Eph 5:20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;
Eph 5:21 Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.

V18 suggests to us that, when one is filled with the Holy Spirit, it is like you have drunk wine. You start singing and dancing, glorifying the Lord. Then look at another passage in **Act 6:1-4**

Act 6:1 *And in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplied, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministration.*
Act 6:2 Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables.
*Act 6:3 Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you **seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business.***
Act 6:4 But we will give ourselves continually to prayer, and to the ministry of the word.

This was the first appointment of the seven deacons who had to be men of integrity. They were to be full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom.

People may start out being full of the Holy Spirit but, somehow, the level of the Holy Spirit in them goes down after a period of time. The bible suggests three possible reasons that may cause this to happen. You may have heard about quenching the Holy Spirit. Look at a very short verse in **1Th 5:19** -

IX. Why The Need for Infilling?

a. Quenching the Spirit

1Th 5:19 Quench not the Spirit

The Greek word for “quench” is **sbennumi** and the definition is to extinguish, quench, suppress, stifle. We can stifle the Holy Spirit and we can suppress the Holy Spirit in our lives .

The second one is even more serious: grieving the holy spirit in **Eph 4:30-32** -

b. Grieving The Holy Spirit

Eph 4:30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

Eph 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Eph 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

Grief comes from the Greek word “lupeo” G3076 and the Thayer dictionary defines it as to make sorrowful, sad, cause grief, to offend, to make someone uneasy. Through our sins we can cause the Holy Spirit to be sorrowful and to suffer grief on our behalf when He sees us falling into temptation despite His warnings. When we grieve the Holy Spirit, He will withdraw from us at least for a season.

The third and most serious one is to resist the Holy Spirit. This is to be avoided at all costs. Read what Stephen had to say in **Acts 7:51-53** –

c. Resisting The Holy Spirit

Act 7:51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.

*Act 7:52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers **persecuted?** and they have **slain them** which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:*

*Act 7:53 Who have **received the law by the disposition of angels and have not kept it.***

1. Stubbornness
2. Uncircumcised in heart and ear
3. Persecuted the prophets and killed them
4. Received the Torah but disobeyed

Let us take heed not to quench, grieve or resist the Holy Spirit. He is the one who implements our salvation by transforming us into the image and likeness of Christ.