

What Does It Mean To Receive The Holy Spirit?

Series: Following Jesus: Naturally Supernatural

John 20:21-22 NIV (0918)

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John 20:21-22 ²¹Again Jesus said, *“Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.”* ²²And with that he breathed on them and said, *“Receive the Holy Spirit.”*

I. Understanding & experience

a. A wide range of experience

b. Mainline Christian groups and the Spirit

Karen Siegfried *In the West the Holy Spirit has traditionally been the “Cinderella of Theology”, the God whom no one writes about.*

c. Pentecostalism and Spirit-baptism

Nathan/Wilson *Since that time, Pentecostals and charismatics have understood that sometime after a person comes to saving faith in Christ (conversion, the new birth), he or she should seek to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. The sign of Spirit baptism, in this view, is speaking with other tongues.*

Acts 2:1-4 NIV ¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

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

Christianity Today (October 2006) *Researchers found that many Pentecostals and charismatics attend worship services where speaking in tongues and other signs of the Holy Spirit are evident. But in six of the 10 countries surveyed, at least 40 percent of Pentecostals said they never pray or speak in tongues. (Some claim 60% don't)*

d. Conservative Evangelical view of receiving the Spirit

Romans 8:9 *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.*

e. Empowered Evangelical view of receiving the Spirit

D.L. Moody (1898, prior to Pentecostal) *wrote of a baptism in the Spirit—I had such an experience of his love that I had to ask him to stay his hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different, I didn't present new truths, & yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that experience if you should give me all the world.*

II. Sharing what we come to understand & experience

a. We are under orders to make the Gospel message as accessible as possible to everyone

1 Corinthians 9:22-23 NLT *I try to find common ground with everyone so that I might bring them to Christ. ²³I do all this to spread the Good News, and in doing so I enjoy its blessings.*

b. Some of what this means in the everyday life of the church

1 Corinthians 14:18-19 TM *I'm grateful to God for the gift of praying in tongues that he gives us for praising him, which leads to wonderful intimacies we enjoy with him. I enter into this as much or more than any of you. But when I'm in a church assembled for worship, I'd rather say five words that everyone can understand and learn from than say ten thousand that sound to others like gibberish.*

Ken Wilson *The closer we are to a needy world, the more we feel our desperate need for power to minister in Christ's name.* (Empowered Evangelicals p. 215)