

Resources for Further Research

Small Group University by Brad Lewis

Living in the Spirit by George O. Wood

Want More by Tim Enlow

<https://chialpha.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Holy-Spirit-Teacher-and-Student-Notes.pdf>

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-8-study-holy-spirit>

http://tpe.ag.org/Articles2006/4803_Supernatural.cfm

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Topics-Index/Holy-Spirit-Baptism-Frequently-Asked-Questions> -- The Assemblies of God: FAQ on the Holy Spirit Baptism

<https://ag.org/Beliefs/Topics-Index/Baptism-in-the-Holy-Spirit> -- Assemblies of God position paper on Baptism of the Holy Spirit

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/61bcc5_6ab7c363ccdc4db4836c8f449dcca39.pdf -- Chi Alpha Discipleship on Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

<https://chialpha.com/resources/you-got-the-holy-spirit/> --A weekly e-mail subscription with information about Holy Spirit baptism and how we can respond to it.

Sermons:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GjkYV6p72gI>

Holy Spirit
Week 1: Who Is the Holy Spirit?

Goal of this Lesson: Whether the Holy Spirit is a new topic or the people in your group are familiar with it, it is immeasurably important to continue aligning our ideas about God with scripture. This lesson will pull information directly from scripture to cover the facts about the Holy Spirit and His role in our life.

Introduction: Welcome everyone. Explain the purpose for this unit of study, and go over the plan for and what people can expect to come away with after this lesson.

This week's lesson will be more facts with the following week being more discussion question based and the last week being a response time. If you have any questions regarding this topic, please write them down and be sure to ask them at our next life group.

Open in prayer.

Possible Discussion Questions: When you think of the Holy Spirit, what is the first thought that comes to mind? (Share as a group)

There are many different images that come to mind when talking about the Holy Spirit. Many times, we know and understand little about the person of the Holy Spirit. Luckily, through what God has provided in Scripture, we can have a greater understanding of Who the Holy Spirit is. Talk about the importance of approaching this topic (and all others regarding God) with humility.

*There will be a lot of Scripture. The underlined references are highly suggested, but you do not have to read all of the passages in this lesson.

Who is the Holy Spirit?

- A. The Holy Spirit is the 3rd person of the Holy Trinity—many times, the forgotten person of the Trinity.
 - a. The Holy Spirit is a who, not a what (or an it).
 - b. The masculine pronoun “he” is used to describe the Holy Spirit – John 16:13-14.
 - c. He is not a synonym for the power of God; He is a person with power and abilities. He is the bearer of freedom (2 Corinthians 3:17).
 - d. Scripture provides us with the personality of the Holy Spirit (all throughout the Bible – these are just samples of places where we see these characteristics). The Holy Spirit:
 - Loves us (Romans 15:30)
 - Teaches all truth (John 14:26)
 - Bears witness for God (John 15:26; Romans 8:16)
 - Intercedes by praying for us (Romans 8:26, 27)
 - Searches and knows God exhaustively (1 Corinthians 2:10, 11)

- Is willing to distribute gifts (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- Forbids/doesn't allow certain activities for our good (Acts 16:6-7)
- Speaks (Acts 8:29, 10:19, 20, 13:2) – red letters!
- Convicts the world of sin (John 16:8-10)
- Evaluates and approves courses of action (Acts 15:28)
- Is grieved by sin (Ephesians 4:30)
- Unifies the Church way beyond what the culture/world says things should be like (Ephesians 4:1-3; 1 Corinthians 12:13)

B. The Holy Spirit is fully God.

a. He has the same characteristics as the other persons of the Trinity. The Holy Spirit is:

- Eternal (Hebrews 9:14)
- Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10)
- Omniscient (1 Corinthians 2:10-13)
- Holy (Ephesians 4:30, 31)
- Loving (Romans 5:5)

b. Peter *directly* equates the Holy Spirit to God. This is powerful and a HUGE deal because it shows us that the Spirit is just as important as God the Father and His Son, Jesus.

- Acts 5:3-4 – Ananias and Sapphira stole from the Church. Peter asks, “Why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit? ... You have not lied to men, but to God.” One and the same.
- The Holy Spirit is personal because He is lied to in this story (You cannot lie to a table or electricity because it is not a person) The Holy Spirit is on the same level as the Son and the Father. He is just as fully God as Jesus and the Father. The Holy Spirit is not inferior.

C. The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament vs The New Testament

a. Still the same being, He did not change *who* He is.

b. In the OT, He filled individuals for various kinds of service, and in some cases, this filling is explicitly seen as temporary.

- For instance, with the life of Saul, the Spirit comes upon Saul in 1 Samuel 10:9 but after He disobeyed God, the Spirit departed from him in 1 Samuel 16:14). David recognized this after his sin of adultery (& murder) with Bathsheba when he recorded this prayer in Psalm 51:11— “Do not reject me! Do not take your Holy Spirit away from me.”
- In the OT era, the filling of the Spirit was temporary.

c. In the NT, the baptism of the Spirit is a permanent act of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

- In the OT, this was temporary, but now in the NT, what we are living in right now, this indwelling is not temporary.

- We can be assured that the Holy Spirit will not be taken from us (Ephesians 1:13-14).

D. 4 Common Symbols of the Holy Spirit in Scripture

- Scripture provides us with 4 common symbols that refer to the Holy Spirit: dove, fire, wind and water. Each symbol communicates something different about the Holy Spirit.

- When looking at a symbol, we must be careful to make sure the context is identifying the symbol with the Holy Spirit. For example, the Holy Spirit in Matthew 3:16 is identified with a dove, but it would be an interpretive mistake to see the Holy Spirit as a dove in Genesis 8:8 when Noah sends out a dove to see if the flood waters had receded.

1) Dove

- The dove is probably the most recognizable symbols of the Holy Spirit-which appeared at Jesus' baptism (Matthew 3:1; Mark 1:10; Luke 3:22; John 1:32)
- The dove as a symbol of the Holy Spirit communicates beauty, gentleness, and peace.

2) Fire

- Fire can communicate the Lord's presence (Exodus 3:2), purification (1 Peter 1:7) or judgment (Leviticus 10:2; Hebrews 12:29) depending on the context.
- The most explicit passage that shows the Holy Spirit as fire is in Acts 2 on the Day of Pentecost (which we will talk more about next week!)
- In a similar analogy, Paul commands the Thessalonians, "Do not quench the Spirit" (1 Thessalonians 5:19). Disobedience to the Spirit is like throwing water on a fire.

3) Wind

- The image of wind communicates that the Holy Spirit is powerful, invisible, immaterial and sovereignly blows where He intends.
- This symbol can be found in Acts 2:4-on the Day of Pentecost- and in John 3:8 where John compares the blowing of the wind to those born of the Spirit.

4) Water

- The water of the Holy Spirit is needed for spiritual life, just as physical water is needed for physical life.
- Jesus makes this connection in John 7:37-39 when He said: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me, and let the one who believes in me drink. Just as the scripture says, 'From within him will flow rivers of living water.'" (Now he said this about the Spirit, whom those who

believed in him were going to receive, for the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified)”

Possible Discussion Questions:

Knowing a little bit more about the Holy Spirit, how does that impact your view of God? How about on the Trinity?

What is something that you learned today that you didn't know previously in regards to the Holy Spirit?

How should the indwelling Holy Spirit affect our daily lives?

Closing/Response: Review the main points for the day, and address the potential concerns of your group in going over what might be new information. Consider how your group might continue studying this information throughout the week. Do you all commit to listening to the same sermon before next week? Will you all read a specific passage?

Pray!

Holy Spirit

Week 2: The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Goal of this Lesson: The purpose of this lesson is to explain a significant belief of our Christian walk—we can receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon us (Acts 1:8).

You do not need to cover all of this information in the hour. Pick what you think is most pertinent to your group, but as a leader, you need to be familiar with all of this information so that you can reference it if it arises in discussions.

Introduction: Welcome everyone. Review last week and the purpose of this study. Go over what to expect for this lesson, and address any challenges or responses from the previous week.

Open in prayer.

We want to present to you, not our opinions or perspective of our experiences, but a Biblically based view and to allow you to have more tools to investigate this on your own.

Summarize Acts 2 (Day of Pentecost) and what happens. You might want to read it all together.

What is the primary purpose for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Read Acts 1:8, Luke 24:49.

The primary purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is having power to be a witness.

Reiterate: *The Baptism of the Holy Spirit doesn't make someone better than other people, it just makes you a better, more effective you!*

Are the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit for today?

- a. Acts 2:38-39 (Availability of the Spirit- embrace Jesus and the promise for you.)
- b. Acts 1:4 states that the Holy Spirit is “the gift” promised by the Father. This gift is open to all who repent, are baptized, and receive forgiveness of their sins from Jesus (as we saw in point a.)
- c. The prophet Joel prophesied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in Joel 2:28, 29 which was preached by Peter on the Day of Pentecost. (note the verbiage, God says He “will” pour out His Spirit on all flesh.)

Is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit different from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit received at conversion?

- a. We have to affirm that *every* believer is indwelled by the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion. Scripture doesn't allow us to have a different interpretation.
 - a. What is the difference between baptism and indwelling?
 - i. Baptism is defined as purifying or cleansing spiritually; to initiate; to give a name to. Baptism is a drenching, an overflowing or a saturation.

- ii. Indwelling is defined as being permanently present in (someone’s soul or mind)—the Holy Spirit taking permanent residence and living in the body of the believer (John 14:17).
- b. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is distinct from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, though they are both the works of the same Spirit.
 - i. John 20:19-22—this is when it was recorded that the disciples received the indwelling of the Holy Spirit or were “born again” according to John 3:5
 - ii. The Samaritan believers in Acts 8:14-19 were already believers before they received the Holy Spirit.
 - iii. Paul—Acts 9:17-19 (Ananias calls him brother)
 - iv. Believers in Ephesus—Acts 19:1-7 (Since you believed, or after you believed, have you received?)

So why do some put emphasis on tongues when talking about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

This is a common question! We can find evidence of this in Scripture, in many places in the New Testament where the baptism of the Holy Spirit is happening.

Notice:

Scripture	Speaking in Tongues	Tongues of Fire	Sound of Wind	Praising God	Prophecy
Acts 2:1-4	X	X	X		
Acts 8:14-19	?^				
Acts 9:17-19	?*				
Acts 10:44-46	X			X	
Acts 19:1-7	X				X

?Fire and shaking and wind are strong references back to the giving of the law and when God met with Moses. It was God says “It is me.”

^We see in verse 18 that there was definitely an outward evidence which Simon the Sorcerer wanted to buy.

*The text does not give any description of Paul’s baptism in the Spirit so it is impossible to know exactly what happened, but we do know that Paul did speak in tongues from 1 Corinthians 14:18.

This brings us to see the consistency that there is an outward evidence of the work of the Holy Spirit and tongues is involved. Therefore when we ask God to baptize people in the Holy Spirit, we have the expectation that tongues will be involved as outward evidence of the inward reality.

Should we ask to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Luke 11:9-13 assures us that God will not give us something bad when we ask for Him to give us the Holy Spirit.

What are the conditions to receive this Baptism?

We must be born again—accepting Jesus as our Lord and Savior which includes turning from our own sinful ways and surrendering our will for God’s. We must have a desire to be filled. Since this baptism is often received as an answer to prayer, we should have expectations that it will happen. (Romans 10: 9,10; Acts 2:38, 39)

How to receive?

First realize it is a free gift! There is no lengthy formula, these are just helpful tips!

1. Pursue the *Giver*—pursue Jesus; seek and worship Him (you initiate), confess sin—anything that may be hindering your fellowship with God, and ask Jesus to baptize you.
2. The Holy Spirit will *come upon you*—God initiates. You will sense His Presence in some way and become aware of His Presence in a way that you probably were not aware of Him before. (God initiates). **Note:** this is not like “the Holy Spirit is possessing me.” He will come upon you, but He is a gentleman. He will not take over your mind.
3. Cooperate with the Holy Spirit by *speaking out*—you cooperate. The Holy Spirit doesn’t come and rattle your tongue. When Peter walked on water, Jesus didn’t levitate him out of the boat. Instead, Peter submitted his body and God did the miracle. It is a cooperation between the believer and the Holy Spirit. We do the speaking; God gives the script. Acts says as the Holy Spirit “enabled” them not as the Holy Spirit made or forced them.
 - a. Relax! Don’t get discouraged if it doesn’t happen instantly.
 - b. Speak even if you don’t think it sounds like a language.
Being baptized is not based on your own understanding but on speaking in obedience to the Spirit’s leading.
 - c. Speak even if it is just a few syllables. Cooperate with the Spirit and don’t revert to your native language.
 - d. Trust that what you are getting is from God!

You initiate by pursuing, worshipping, confessing and asking (#1).

God initiates by coming upon you and filling you with His Presence (#2).

You cooperate by speaking (#3).

Everyone's baptism of the Holy Spirit is similar in purpose and the same Spirit, but also unique to a degree for God knows each of us uniquely! He knows the area we really need empowerment for service to be witness. He also knows our personalities. Some may experience the baptism of the Spirit by an extreme encounter and others is sometimes a sweet gentle experience...God knows us!

End with a time of questions and answers. I would highly suggest looking at the resources above. Many of the websites contain questions and answers regarding baptism of the Holy Spirit. You may receive questions like:

1. Is being Baptized in the Spirit a one-time event?
2. I prayed for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and nothing happened, why is that?
3. Why the "gift" of tongues?
4. Can a person receive eternal life without the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Tell your life group that the following week will be a time for response and to receive this Baptism. Encourage your life group to come prepared to receive what the Holy Spirit wants to do and for them to be open and expectant to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Closing/Response: Summarize the purpose of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and how we can ask and pursue it. Think about how you want the people in your group to consider this throughout the week and create a way for them to respond to that.

Pray!

Holy Spirit
Week 3: Response

Goal of this Lesson: For this week's life group, I encourage you, as the life group leaders, to PRAY! Pray for your life group members. Pray for a move of the Spirit as you prepare. Ask God to work and enter this week with an expectation that God will work in everyone present. The goal for this lesson, as every other week as well, is that people grow closer to God than they ever have been before.

Introduction: Welcome everyone. Review the first two weeks through discussion, not lecture.

Explain the plan for the day so that everyone knows what to expect.

Open in prayer.

*I encourage you to put together a playlist of worship songs to play during this week's life group as you all seek and worship God and come expectant for Him to fill you all.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for today, and it is a gift from God that is for all believers.

You may want to go over the section titled "How to Receive" from week 2.

If there are people in your life group who have already received the baptism of the Holy Spirit before, encourage them to still come into this time of worship being expectant to be filled again (Ephesians 5:18). You can even encourage those who have already received this baptism to lay hands on those who want to receive this precious gift.

You can set up for prayer however you want. You can discern what is best for your life group. Many people will receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit through the laying on of hands, so you can start with one person at a time and go from there, or you can pray in a group. Whatever and however the Spirit is telling you to pray, be obedient! Start by asking God for His Baptism in the Spirit and encourage your life group by simply worshipping and glorifying God. Remind your life group that God will not force them to speak in another tongue, they must be vocal in worshipping God and seeking this gift. Encourage them that when the Holy Spirit gives them the words to say, speak them out in faith!

What should your life group do? One source puts it this way:

Ask: They, your life group, needs to ask the Lord to fill them with His Spirit, aloud, in their own language. They need to continue to pray and wait for the Lord to work. While they are waiting, they can praise the Lord in their own words for all He has done for them.

Believe: God has promised to give this gift to those who ask. But we must ask in faith, believing that God will keep His promise. Jesus said, "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours" (Mark 11:24). We must believe that the words we hear in our hearts and minds are put there by the Holy Spirit.

Receive: When we hear the words from the Holy Spirit in our hearts and we are filled with His power, we should not be afraid to speak them out. Sometimes, a new prayer language begins with just a word or two. Whatever words the Holy Spirit puts in your heart, speak them out in faith. This is the first evidence that you have truly been baptized in the Holy Spirit. In ending your time together this week, use this as a time of encouragement. For those who received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of tongues, encourage them to pray in their prayer language EVERY day! For those who may not have received, continue to encourage them that this is still a gift that God has for them and wants them to receive. Encourage them to continue seeking this gift, even on their own time!

Closing/Response: Allow more time for people to continue seeking God if needed. Encourage! Encourage! Encourage! Encourage the people who had life-changing experiences. Encourage the people who did not encounter what they expected. Encourage everyone to keep seeking more of God. He is infinite, and we can never reach an end. We never “arrive,” so keep seeking!

Pray!