



Power Connection

Jimmy Evans

Focus It is impossible to fulfill God's will for our lives without the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power.

Fun What is your favorite summer memory from childhood, and why is it special?

Review Key Scriptures: Hebrews 6:1–3; Acts 1:4–8, 19:1–6; Galatians 5:22–23

1. The Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit is not an impersonal force; the Holy Spirit is God. In Genesis the Holy Spirit was present at creation hovering over the waters (Genesis 1:2). The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are one yet three working together. When we pray for the Spirit of God to come into our lives, we are praying for the Holy Spirit to come.

2. We are born of the Spirit at salvation.

When we ask Jesus to come into our hearts, we are born again, and our spirits that were dead because of sin are regenerated. At the moment of salvation, you receive the Holy Spirit, however, you are not *baptized* in the Holy Spirit.

3. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is separate from salvation.

Salvation is about Jesus and where we will spend eternity. Baptism of the Holy Spirit is about living our lives for Jesus while we are here on earth. You can be saved and on your way to heaven but powerless to live for Jesus if you haven't been baptized in the Holy Spirit. A biblical example of this is when Jesus commanded saved disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they received power from on high so they could be His witnesses.

4. We need the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power.

Everything Jesus did through His earthly ministry was through the power of the Holy Spirit. We receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit through purity, humility, and putting faith in God's grace. We must first repent of our sins and humbly admit that we need the Holy Spirit's power in our lives. Ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, and receive the Holy Spirit by faith.

Group Dynamics Idea Prayer brings comfort and community. Make prayer a priority in your small group, and pray regularly for everyone on your group roster.

Discuss

1. Why do some people feel uncomfortable when talking about the Holy Spirit? Have you ever felt cautious about discussing the Holy Spirit?
2. What has been your understanding of the Holy Spirit's identity and role in your Christian walk?
3. Read Acts 1:8. Why did Jesus command His disciples to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them?
4. How would you assess your relationship with the Holy Spirit?
5. What do you think it looks like to receive power from the Holy Spirit? How does being baptized in the Holy Spirit help us live for Jesus?
6. Have you experienced a time when the Holy Spirit empowered you in a specific way or area of your life?
7. If you haven't already, take time to pray and ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, and receive the Holy Spirit by faith.

Take Home As we conclude, remember:

- The Holy Spirit is God.
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit is separate from salvation.
- We need the power of the Holy Spirit to live for Jesus.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for giving us the baptism of the Holy Spirit so we can be empowered to live for Jesus. Thank You for giving us the fruit of the Spirit so we can be light in a dark world. Thank You for blessing us when we come to You in prayer! Thank You for the gift of salvation and the gift of Your Holy Spirit. Help us walk humbly in Your ways. In Jesus' name, Amen.

New Leader Tip As Groups start again, now is the time to invite people to join your group! Many people are seeking connection through friendship, and small groups are the best way to support each other and build community. Encourage everyone in your group to invite one new person.