Spirit Baptism

Water Baptism

Believing

RIVERSIDECHURCH

Understanding Believing & Baptisms

Baptisms Workshop Resources

Learn more about our foundational beliefs.

Contents

Part One: Believing

Part Two: Water Baptism

Part Three: Spirit Baptism

Our hope for you...

It is our hope that through these resources you will grow in understanding and in your relationship with Christ.

Believing

What is Believing?

Following are excerpts of New Testament Greek definitions from widely respected Bible references. Note: the word “believe,” is a verb: an action word! It comes from the same root word as “faith,” a noun. Believing is an essential basis for eternal life in Christ; makes baptism more than just getting wet, and is the absolute pre-requisite for the Spirit’s supernatural empowerment and manifestations.

Without Believing...

- Praying is limited (Mark 11:24).
- Baptism is ineffective (Mark 16:16).
- Salvation is unobtainable (John 8:24).
- Miracles are halted (Matthew 13:58).
- It is impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6).

If You Can Believe...

John the Apostle said you would be given power to become the sons of God if you received Christ through believing in His name (John 1:12). It is God’s commandment that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ (1 John 3:23) and whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God (1 John 5:1).

WHAT DOES BIBLE SAY?

John the Baptist’s Testimony:
“He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

The Bible refers to Christ’s followers as “Believers.”
(Acts 5:14 & 1 Timothy 4:12)

The reason John the Apostle said he wrote his Gospel: “...These [signs] are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.” (John 20:31)

“...Believing, you rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory...” (1 Peter 1:8)

What Jesus Said About Believing

Jesus' words spoken to Nicodemus, a Pharisee (Jewish religious leader), one night after Christ explained to him about being "born again": "Whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He that believes on Him is not condemned: but he that believes not is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." (John 3:15-18)

The Lord's words spoken to Jews who were desiring to kill Him because they thought He had broken the Sabbath by healing a lame man and because Jesus had said God was His Father, making Himself equal with God: "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes in Him who sent Me, has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." (John 5:24)

The Master's words spoken to the multitude which followed Him after seeing His signs and wonders and partaking of the miraculous provision of loaves and fishes: "And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst... And this is the will of Him who sent me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day. Most assuredly, I say to you, He who believes in Me has everlasting life. I am the bread of life." (John 6:35, 40 & 47-48)

Christ's words spoken to the crowd on the last great day of a Jewish feast. Jesus cried out and said: "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:38-39)

Our Savior's words spoken to contentious Jews who were plotting to murder Him because He spoke of God as His Father: "I am from above...I am not of this world...Therefore I said to you that you shall die in your sins; for if you believe not that I am He, you will die in your sins."...Then said Jesus to those Jews who believed in Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:23-24 & 31-32)

Jesus' words spoken to Martha just before He raised her brother, Lazarus, from the dead: "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die..." (John 11:25-26)

The hour had come for Jesus to be crucified. He implored people to walk in the light. "Many chief rulers believed on Him, but because of the Pharisees, did not confess Him. For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God. It was then that Jesus cried out and said, "He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me. And he who sees Me sees Him who sent me. I have come as a light into the world, that whoever believes in Me should not abide in darkness...For I have not spoken on My own authority; but the Father who sent Me gave a command, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that His command is everlasting life." (John 12:44-48 & 49-50)

Christ explaining who He was and one benefit of believing: "Believe Me that I am in the Father and the Father in Me, or believe Me for the sake of the works themselves. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do because I go to My Father." (John 14:11-12)

PAUL THE APOSTLE: BENEFITS OF BELIEVING	
Saves	Acts 16:30-34, Romans 10:6-15, 1 Corinthians 1:21
Allows Spirit Baptism	Acts 19:1-6
Brings Righteousness	Romans 3:21-26; 4:3, 20-25
Fills with Joy and Peace	Romans 15:13
Justifies	Galatians 2:16
Grants Great Power	Ephesians 1:13-20
Resurrects	1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

Keep on Believing

Obtain eternal life!
Everlasting life is available to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God who was crucified for our sins, buried, and resurrected. Faith in Him begins an exciting journey of obedience to Jesus as Lord. Your new life will be blessed as you continue to believe in, and follow Him, into more and more truth.

Be water-baptized!
After repenting, all believers should be immersed in water in the name of Jesus Christ… just as believers did in the Bible. (Mark 16:16-20; Acts 2:38; Romans 6:3-11; 1 Peter 3:20-21)

Be Spirit-baptized!
Jesus promised His followers they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-8). It is a blessing from God to enable believers to live the Christian life in its fullness; walk in the power of God; be Christ's witnesses; exhibit the fruit of His presence and do Christ's supernatural works. After Paul the Apostle asked the disciples of John the Baptist, "Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?," they received it… and spoke with other tongues (Acts 19:1-6). This exciting and empowering experience given to believers in the Bible (Acts 2:4; 10:44-11:18) is still given to believers today!

Thayer's Greek Lexicon
Believe: to think to be true; to be persuaded of; to place confidence in. Of the credence given to God's messengers and their words; a conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah—conjoined with obedience to Christ.

Strong's Greek Dictionary
Believe: to entrust (especially one's spiritual well-being to Christ), believe, commit.

Believers throughout the centuries and all over the world acknowledge God's word as revealing Jesus as the Son of God; King of Kings, and Lord of Lords. By the grace of God, all faithful believers look forward to enjoying eternal life through their Lord, Jesus Christ.

Water Baptism

Baptism is...

A Spiritual Burial and Resurrection

Paul said, “Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined Him in His death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives. Since we have been united with Him in His death, we will also be raised to life as He was.” (Romans 6:3-5 NLT)

A Spiritual Wardrobe

“And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have put on Christ, like putting on new clothes…” (Galatians 3:27 NLT)

A Spiritual Circumcision

“When you came to Christ, you were ‘circumcised,’ but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature. For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized.” (Colossians 2:11-12 NLT)

A Spiritual Picture

“God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood. And that water is a picture of baptism, which now saves you, not by removing dirt from your body, but as a response to God from a clean conscience. It is effective because of the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” (1 Peter 3:20-21 NLT)

The definition of baptism from Strong’s Concordance Greek Dictionary: “baptidzo” literally means “to make whelmed.” That is, to cover wholly with a fluid—dip. From a word, “to submerse.”

“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved..” (Mark 16:16)

Why Get Baptized?

John the Baptist Baptized People
John's baptism was from Heaven (Matthew 21:25). John the Baptist preached, "…people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven." (Luke 3:3)

Jesus Got Baptized by John
Jesus said, "It should be done, for we must carry out all that God requires." (Matthew 3:13-15) Note: The Father was pleased when His Son was baptized. We do not want to be like the Pharisees who, "rejected God's plan for them, for they had refused John's baptism." (Luke 7:29)

Jesus' Disciples Baptized People
Before His death, burial & resurrection, "Jesus…was baptizing and making more disciples than John (Though Jesus didn't baptize them—His disciples did)." (John 4:1-2)

Jesus Commanded Baptism
After He died, was buried, and rose again, Jesus said, "Go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit." (Matthew 28:19) He also said, "Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved..." (Mark 16:16)

Peter Commanded Repentant Believers to be Baptized
"Peter replied...Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins." (Acts 2:38)

Philip Baptized Samaritans Who Believed
"But now the [Samaritan] people [mixed blood Jews/Gentiles] believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 8:12-14)

Paul Baptized New Believers
Lydia (Acts 16:15) and the Philippian Jailer were baptized after they believed. "Even at that hour of the night, the jailer…and everyone in his household were immediately baptized." (Acts 16:31-34)

Peter Commanded Gentile Believers to be Baptized After Being Spirit-Filled
"The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles, too. For they heard them speaking in other tongues and praising God. Then Peter asked, "Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?" So he gave orders for them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ..." (Acts 10:45-48)

When and How are We to be Baptized?

WHEN? After Believing in Jesus and Repenting of Sin

When the Ethiopian Eunuch wanted to be baptized after believing in Christ's death, burial and resurrection, Philip told him, "If you believe with all your heart you may…" (Acts 8:37) After Paul preached, this was the result: "…And many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized." (Acts 18:8)

Repentance is changing our mind and turning from sin to God. "Peter replied, 'Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.'" (Acts 2:38)

HOW? By Being Immersed in Water and In Jesus Name

For example, Philip baptized the Ethiopian Eunuch by immersing him. "As they rode along, they came to some water, and the Eunuch said, 'Look! There's some water! Why can't I be baptized?' He ordered the carriage to stop, and they went down into the water, and Philip baptized him." (Acts 8:34-36)

The Lord's name is spoken when being baptized. For example, when Paul was baptized by Ananias: "What are you waiting for? Get up and be baptized. Have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16) Also, when meeting John the Baptist's disciples, "Paul said, 'John's baptism called for repentance from sin. But John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus.' As soon as they heard this, they were baptized [again!] In the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 19:4-5)

Insight

Christ's command in Matthew 28:19 was to baptize Believers in the "name" of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit = the singular name of "Jesus Christ." This is as practiced by the Apostles throughout the Book of Acts.

Christ's Baptism

Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, baptized sinless Jesus. The Lord insisted, over John's objections, that he should be baptized, "to fulfill all righteousness." If we want to follow Jesus, we should also follow Him in being water-baptized.

Your Water Baptism

When you take on the Lord's name in baptism, you not only identify wih him, but His people. It is your faith and obedience that makes baptism effective. Getting wet without faith doesn't take away sin. Experience the joy of sins washed away!

Your death, burial and resurrection!

Three Aspects of Water Baptism

1. Going down into the water = Death
2. Being under the water = Burial
3. Coming up out of the water = Resurrection

"Or have you forgotten that when we were joined with Christ Jesus in baptism, we joined him in his death? For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives." (Romans 6:3-4)

Make the Decision Today!

Take the next step and be water baptized and have your sins washed away by calling on the name of the Lord! Know you are joining with Christfollowers all around the world in making this decision.

Scan to sign up now
riversidechurchtx.com/baptism

Spirit Baptism

Prophesied For All, Promised To All

The first few verses of the Bible tell us that before the creation of the earth, the Spirit of God was, “moving.” Throughout ancient times Scriptures declare that the Spirit of the Lord: guided His children, anointed craftsmen, empowered His servants and spoke through the mouths of His prophets.

The Spirit of God was in Jesus Christ without measure. (John 3:34) Best of all: Jehovah of the Old Testament, who was gloriously residing in Jesus of the New Testament, promised to pour out His Holy Spirit upon all flesh in the last days—the very times in which we now live: “And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh...” (Joel 2:28)

John the Baptist introduced his cousin, Jesus, as the Savior and Spirit-Baptizer: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world...He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire...” (John 1:29 & Luke 3:16)

Jesus said the Holy Spirit would: enable us to be born again (John 3:5); be given after His resurrection; reprove the world of sin, as well as lead and guide us into all truth. (John 16:7-8 + 13)

As promised by Jesus (Acts 1:4-8), God poured out His power-enduing Spirit shortly after Christ’s death, burial, resurrection and ascension. In Acts 2, Peter declared this miraculous infilling of the Spirit (accompanied by supernatural tongues of fire and speech) was not only what was promised by the Prophet Joel and the Lord Jesus...but was available to all people for all time:

“…The promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call...” (Acts 2:38-39)

“You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” (Acts 1:8)

Walking in the Spirit (Gifts, Fruit, Prayer)

Gifts of the Spirit

Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is a gift. After receiving this gift, other spiritual gifts may be given to you. They are given by the Spirit to build up other Believers and are to bring growth and unity in the Church. See the table below for a summarized list of spiritual gifts...

Gifts of the Spirit	Romans 12	1 Cor 12	Eph 4
Apostleship		X	X
Prophecy	X	X	X
Evangelism			X
Pastoring			X
Teaching	X	X	X
Exhortation	X		
Word of Knowledge		X	
Word of Wisdom		X	
Discerning of Spirits		X	
Leadership	X		
Administration			X
Service		X	X
Helps		X	X
Mercy		X	
Giving		X	
Healing		X	
Faith		X	
Working Miracles		X	
Speaking in Tongues		X	
Interpreting Tongues		X	
Hospitality	X		

Fruit of the Spirit

In Galatians 5:22-23, Paul lists the characteristics that are evident in the lives of Christians who live and walk in the Spirit. The Fruit of the Spirit include:

- Love
- Joy
- Peace
- Patience
- Kindness
- Goodness
- Faithfulness
- Gentleness
- Self-control

PAUL'S "SPIRIT" COMMENTARY

"...As many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God." (Romans 8:1)

"...Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God...?" (1 Corinthians 6:19)

"If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:25)

"...Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise..." (Ephesians 1:13)

Prayer in the Spirit

Sometimes we are at a loss for words and we do not know what to pray for as we should. If we are sensitive to the Spirit at these times, we will pray with groanings which cannot be uttered and intercede according to the will of God. (Romans 8:26-27)

Also, our human spirit can pray with the Holy Spirit (with unknown tongues) to edify ourselves. (I Corinthians 14:14-15) Ephesians 6:18 says we are to pray always, with all kinds of prayer "...in the Spirit." Jude says we should build ourselves up on our most holy faith, "... praying in the Holy Spirit." (Jude 20)

Be Filled and Re-filled with the Spirit

Paul exhorts Christians (who have already received the Spirit) to "...be filled with the Spirit…" (Ephesians 5:18).

Being filled with the Spirit is not only a one-time event, but...as it was for early Christians in Acts 4:31...a recurring blessing in the life of praying believers.

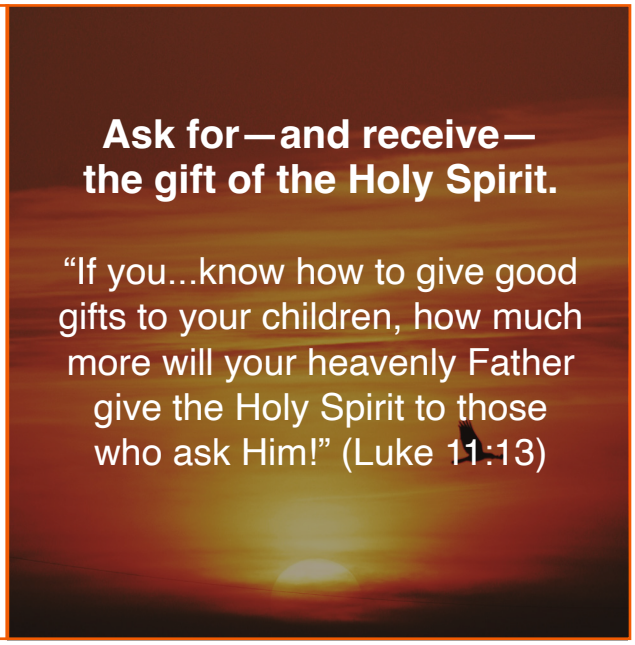
The following table shares scriptural ways believers may receive the fullness of God's Spirit—initially and continually.

Ten Keys to Being Spirit-Filled	
1. Know it's God's will.	John 7:38-39
2. Repent & be baptized.	Acts 2:38-39
3. Obey God's Word.	Acts 5:32
4. Ask God for the Spirit.	Luke 11:9-13
5. Pray believing to receive.	Mark 11:24
6. Allow laying on of hands.	Acts 19:1-6
7. Praise the Lord.	Luke 24:44-49
8. Receive it by faith.	Galatians 3:2
9. Expect the Spirit to fall upon you.	Acts 10:44-48
10. Speak the words given by God.	Acts 2:4

The Holy Spirit at Christ's Baptism

At Jesus' water baptism, He "prefigured" our water baptism—as well as our Spirit baptism.

About the Spirit, He later said: "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7:38-39)



Seven Symbols of the Spirit

1. Fire		I [John the Baptist] indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me [Jesus] is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. (Matthew 3:11 NKVJ)
2. Dove		It came to pass in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately, coming up from the water, He saw the heavens parting and the Spirit descending upon Him like a dove. (Mark 1:9-10 NKVJ)
3. Oil		"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me [Jesus], Because He has anointed Me [as with oil] To preach the gospel to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, To proclaim liberty to the captives And recovery of sight to the blind, To set at liberty those who are oppressed; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord." (Luke 4:18-19 NKVJ)
4. Water		"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me [Jesus] and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive…" (John 7:37-39 NKVJ)
5. Wind		When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting…And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. (Acts 2:1-2,4 NKVJ)
6. Rain		Peter…raised his voice and said to them…let this be known to you, and heed my words. For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel [Joel 2:28-29] 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,That I will pour out [like the latter rainy season] of My Spirit on all flesh…' (Acts 2:16-17 NKVJ)
7. Seal		In Him [Christ] you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession [His believers], to the praise of His glory. (Ephesians 1:13-14 NKVJ)

The Holy Spirit wants to dwell in you! Invite Him to fill you with God's presence by praying a prayer similar to this: "Father, I'm asking You for the gift of the Holy Spirit. Please come upon me and fill me." According to His promises, our Lord will say "Yes!" GOD WILL…

1. Refine you with purifying **fire.**
2. Descend upon you like a gentle **dove.**
3. Anoint you with heavenly **oil.**
4. Soak you with living **water.**
5. Breathe mighty **wind** into your life.
6. Pour abundant **rain** upon on you.
7. **Seal** you with a heavenly hope.

“Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

Scan to download a free digital copy of this booklet.