

You Got The Power

As we continue our series on what we believe, let's examine the 10th and 11th of the 22 tenets in the Foursquare Declaration of Faith. **10. Baptism of the Holy Spirit: We believe that the baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers believers to exalt Jesus, to live lives of holiness, and to be witnesses of God's saving grace. (Acts 1:5, 8; 2:4); 11. The Spirit Filled Life. We believe that it is the will of God that believers walk in the Spirit daily and He gives us the grace to do so. (Ephesians 5:18)**

The Bible offers much more than a list of "dos" and "don'ts". With the following two major commands given in Ephesians 5, God also promises His power to help us fulfil them!

1. Don't Be Unfruitful

Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them (v.11); Let no one deceive you with empty words (v.6a); And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit. (v.18)

The works of darkness are always empty. There is no substance to darkness; it is merely the absence of light. God promises to fill our lives with abundant life (John 10:10) and the fullness of his Spirit (Ephesians 3:19; 4:13), but the kingdom of darkness offers only a diversion from life and a whole lot of emptiness.

2. Do Be Filled With God's Spirit

Be filled with the Spirit. (v. 18b)

a. Full-hearted Worship

Addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father. (v.19,20a)

b. Faith-full Marriages

Let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband. (v.33)

c. Fully Functional Families

Honor your father and mother (this is the first commandment with a promise), that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (v.2-4)

d. Fullfilling Work

Obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man. (v.5-7)

e. Full Protection

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. (v.10,11)

f. Full-on evangelism

Praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints, and also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel. (v.18,19)

God did not give us His Holy Spirit so we could become more powerful, more celebrated, or more prosperous financially. The presence and power of God's Spirit is available to us to worship Him more fully, live our lives more holy (wholly), and to reach others more boldly.

The Baptism With The Holy Spirit

(adapted from The Ambassador Series by John and Sonja Decker)

The Holy Spirit was promised by Jesus.

Jesus Christ baptizes His followers with the Holy Spirit. Water baptism demonstrates our obedience to follow Christ. The Holy Spirit baptism gives us the power to do the things He asks us to do (Luke 3:15-16; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5; 1:8).

The Holy Spirit comes upon all obedient followers of Christ.

He will empower us to be effective witnesses. As Counselor, He gives us guidance. As the Spirit of Truth, He brings God's truth. He will never leave us alone. He will always be with believers (John 14:15-18).

The Holy Spirit does things for us (John 14:12-14; 25-26; 16:5-15): teaches us all things; brings all things to our remembrance; convicts the world of sin; convinces the world that a new life is possible; convinces the world that Satan is condemned; guides us into all truth; speaks to us about things to come; will always glorify Christ; gives us power to do the kind of ministry that Jesus says we can do.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit

The purpose of the Holy Spirit baptism is to be "clothed" with more power from heaven to be an effective witness for Jesus Christ. We received the Holy Spirit "in" us when we first believed, repented, and received Jesus Christ as Lord of our life. At that time, we were "born again" by the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is in addition to and separate from the initial new birth experience. The baptism in the Holy Spirit occurs when the Holy Spirit comes "upon" a believer who asks Jesus Christ for this Gift of the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8).

Jesus Christ gives the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit baptism was modeled by Jesus (Matthew 3:16) and then promised to us through Him (Mark 1:8). The Holy Spirit was WITH us, drawing us to Jesus Christ (John 6:44). The Holy Spirit comes WITHIN us upon receiving Jesus Christ (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit comes UPON us, when we ask Jesus Christ for the gift (Acts 2:1-4; 8:15-17; 10:44-47; 19:5-6).

Jesus Christ gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask:

For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:10-13

We receive many gifts with the Gift of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). One of the gifts, the ability to speak in tongues, is immediately available to any believer earnestly desiring this gift (Mark 16:17). After asking Jesus for The Gift of the Holy Spirit, we immediately respond in faith by speaking new words of thanksgiving to Him in a language we have not learned. As a personal confirmation that we have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, we are then enabled to pray and praise the Heavenly Father in a heavenly language.

Biblical reasons for speaking in tongues:

We all are encouraged to speak in tongues and prophesy (1 Corinthians 14:5); It edifies or "builds up" our inner spirit (1 Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20); It allows the Holy Spirit to pray through us according to the will of God (Romans 8:26-27); It allows us to enter the realm of the supernatural (1 Corinthians 14:14-15); It allows us to hear words of instruction from the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:6, 26).