

INTRO

- Have you ever had what you believe to be a supernatural experience? Explain.

READ

Matthew 10:7-8; John 20:19-22; Luke 24:46-49
1 Cor 14:2-4; 1 Cor 14:14-15; Luke 11:11-12

REFLECT & RESPOND

The purpose of the outpouring of God's Spirit upon us is to empower us to both proclaim and demonstrate the kingdom of God. We cannot advance the kingdom in our own power. If we truly desire to be used of God in advancing His kingdom, we must be baptized in the Holy Spirit. The pattern we see in the early church of people being saved and then filled with the Holy Spirit is still the pattern for today.

Qu: What excites you about the possibility of receiving a greater fullness of the Holy Spirit in your life? What makes you nervous or apprehensive?

BEING FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

The most common initial evidence of the baptism in the spirit is speaking in tongues. The overarching evidence though is the power of God flowing through one's life. This power is evidenced by boldness and the operation of the nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit (see 1 Cor 12:7-11 for more detail).

Qu: Have you experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit? If not, do you desire it?

Qu: Do any of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit flow through your life?

PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT (TONGUES)

Praying in the spirit is much more than just an initial evidence of the baptism of the Spirit. As Paul was explaining about the gifts of the Spirit to the Corinthians he gave some power insights.

For example, when we pray in tongues we speak from our spirit mysteries to God and in the process build ourselves up. It is a powerful way to strengthen our spirit. We need to be strong in mind **and spirit**. In the Western rational world, the spirit realm is often neglected.

Paul, while he made it clear that speaking out in tongues without interpretation in a church service is out of order, also stated boldly that he "spoke in tongues more than you all!" He understood the power of praying in tongues to God.

People who flow in the gifts of the Spirit, pray in the Spirit regularly.

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the Scripture we see a few different ways that people received the baptism of the Spirit: waiting in prayer; laying on of hands & finally God just pouring out His Spirit on hungry hearts.

FINAL CHALLENGE

Qu: Are you sold out for Christ's mission?

Qu: Is there anything in your life that needs to be made right with God or with others?

Qu: Are you hungering for more of God's Spirit in your life?

Qu: Are you ready to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit or a fresh filling at this time?

PRAY

- Pray for the baptism of the Holy Spirit or a refilling of the Holy Spirit
- Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to break forth in our church
- Pray for any needs present