

## If I could not have this power...

*...I really felt that I did not want to live any longer if I could not have this power for service. (Pg. 77-78)."*

From that day forward D.L. Moody received a fresh anointing in his life and ministry. Where hundreds had come to the Lord, now thousands came. He did not change his preaching, but there was a change in him, **the power of the Holy Spirit had been released in his life!** This wonderful gift of power can be released in your life too! It is so simple! We do not need to complicate it, to make it a difficult journey, or a 12 step program. Jesus tells us plainly what we need to do:

## All we have to do is ask!

*"If you then being evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him" Luke 11:13 (NKJV)*

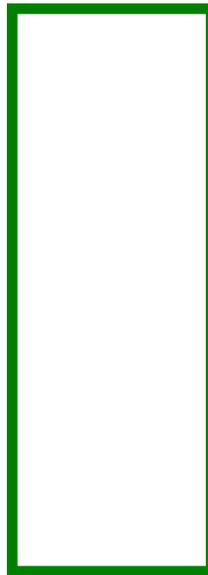
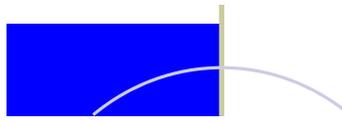
Are you satisfied with just living the "status quo"? If you are hungering for a deeper and more intimate relationship with God, and an abundant and victorious life, then **you need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit!** All you have to do now is simply to ask!

*"Dear Lord, please baptize me in the Holy Spirit and in power. Please release rivers of living water from my heart so that I can grow closer to you and live a victorious life of faith!" In Jesus Name I now receive this baptism of power. Amen!*

## What Can I Expect Now?

If you prayed this prayer in faith you can expect the Holy Spirit to release in your life a **new boldness to witness** for Jesus (Acts 1:8); a **new and deeper dimension of God's love** in your life (Romans 5:5; Ephesians 3:14-21); a **more abundant life** in the Spirit as He begins to cultivate and grow the character of Christ in your life (Galatians 5:22-23); and the ability to worship and pray to God in **a spiritual language** (Acts #2, 8:14-17; 10:44-48; 19:1-7; Romans 8:26).

**God Bless You!**



Your Church Information Here

# The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit

***Our Source Of Power!***



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## We All Need Power To Live The Christian Life!

Would you like more power to successfully live the Christian life? Perhaps you are like me and sometimes find yourself feeling inadequate when you read the teachings of Jesus and the call to live a victorious life of faith.

Don't worry, you are not alone! Jesus was fully aware of the disciples need for a dynamic source of help when He would return to heaven.

Jesus told His disciples in John 14:16-17:

*"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him: but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you." John 14:15-18 (NKJV)*

Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit. Every Christian who accepts the Bible as God's Word believes in the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Yet, many do not understand the place of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.

To better understand this important dynamic we need to establish some foundational affirmations.

1. All Christians who have asked Jesus Christ into their hearts have received the wonderful gift of the indwelling Holy Spirit in their lives. (Read: John 20:19-23; Romans 8:9; Galatians 4:6)
2. Jesus told His disciples that they would receive "power" when they received a special "baptism" with the Holy Spirit in their lives. (Read Acts 1:4-8).

## The Promise Is Still For Today!

3. Peter affirmed that this wonderful provision called the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit" was not a one time event to a chosen few, but was God's wonderful gift to all those who would believe in Jesus Christ!

*"Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

*For 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 (NKJV)*

## Why Is There So Much Misunderstanding About The Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

When you read the above verses in Acts 2:38-39, and the teachings of Jesus, you wonder why there is so much misunderstanding about this wonderful gift from God. The answer is that people confuse the issue of receiving and releasing.

When a person becomes a Christian by placing their faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord, they receive the gift of the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

The disciples were believers, and in John 20:19-23 it tells us that Jesus *"...breathed on them, and said to them, Receive the Holy Spirit."* Yet, after this, He told them to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the "releasing" of the dynamic power of the Holy Spirit in their lives! Acts 1:4-8

One example I find helpful that illustrates this is a soda bottle. When you buy a soda bottle there is a great deal of power in the bottle from the CO2 that has been added to the flavored water. This power is then capped to prevent it from escaping from the bottle.

## There Needs To Be A Releasing Of The Power!

If you shake the bottle you activate the power inside, but nothing happens until you **take off the cap!** Shake a bottle of soda, point it in a given direction, take off the cap, and you have a **jet stream of power!** Listen to the words of Jesus:

*"He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart (innermost being) 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 (NKJV)*

## The problem with baggage.

While it is true that this can happen simultaneously when a person receives Jesus as their personal Savior and Lord, the reality is that most of the time it does not. Why? One reason is because of a lack of knowledge. Another reason is our own personal or religious baggage. In other words, because of our **"Bottle Tops"**! This is not only true today, but it was true in the early church (Read: Acts 19:1-6).

One of my favorite examples of this was the **life and ministry of D.L. Moody**. In the book *"The Life of D.L. Moody"*, the author A.P. Fitt writes:

*"Three women who attended his crusades approached him and told him that they had been praying for him. He said, "Why don't you pray for the people?" "Because you need the power of the Spirit," they said. "I need the power! Why,...I thought I had power. I had the largest congregations in Chicago, and there were many conversions. I was in a sense satisfied...(then the three women) poured out their hearts that I might receive the filling of the Holy Spirit. There came a great hunger into my soul. I did not know what it was. I began to cry as I never did before. The hunger increased...."*