



HIGHER GROUND  
CALVARY CHAPEL

# SCHOOL OF MINISTRY

THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

Class 02

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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Last week we learned who the Holy Spirit is: The 3<sup>rd</sup> Person of the Godhead, known as the Trinity; How we came to know about Him, and His role in the Godhead.

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Tonight we are going to discuss a concept commonly called "The Baptism of the Holy Spirit"

There are several terms associated with this baptism of the Holy Spirit

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We read in the Bible about the Spirit coming *upon* a person or people

We read of the *filling* of the Holy Spirit

We read of individuals being *full* of the Holy Spirit

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We also read about the “laying on of hands” to be filled with the Spirit.

We read of the Spirit being *in* a person, also called the “indwelling” of the Holy Spirit.

And, finally, we also read of being baptized with the Holy Spirit.

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We will look at each one of these in this lesson

There are many misconceptions about the “baptism of the Holy Spirit”; what it means, what happens when one receives this baptism and how often one should receive this baptism.

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We are actually baptized *with* the Holy Spirit  
This is different than the filling of the Holy Spirit  
It is not the Spirit coming upon us

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Only followers of Jesus Christ, true and born again believers, can receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit and be filled with the Holy Spirit  
The Holy Spirit and His power cannot be worked for or bought.

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Acts 8 tells us of a man named Simon, who had been a sorcerer and thought that he could purchase this power.

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<sup>9</sup>“But there was a certain man called Simon, who previously practiced sorcery in the city and astonished the people of Samaria, claiming that he was someone great, <sup>10</sup> to whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, “This man is the great power of God.”

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<sup>11</sup> And they heeded him because he had astonished them with his sorceries for a long time. <sup>12</sup> But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

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<sup>13</sup> Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.”  
We have to remember that this was a new teaching from Jesus

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The people in the various regions had not heard much of what Jesus had taught, but only knew of what John the Baptist had taught. Philip had brought the teaching of the gospel of Jesus.

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Many demons came out of those whom they possessed. Many people were being healed, specifically those who had been paralyzed. This was an incredible time for the people in Samaria and had to be an amazing sight to see, especial for a magician!

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The disciples heard of what was happening in Samaria so they sent Peter and John there. When they arrived, they prayed that the people would receive the Holy Spirit.

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Verse 16-17 “For as yet He (Holy Spirit) had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

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The word, *received*, means "to accept favorably, or receive to oneself."  
As in receiving a gift. It implies to be something that is permanent.  
No regifting here.

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It's something you keep and becomes cherished like an heirloom  
To receive the Holy Spirit is to be baptized with the Holy Spirit

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Acts 8:18-19 “And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Spirit was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup> saying, ‘Give me this power also, that anyone on whom I lay hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

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I just don't think Simon understood all that was taking place and certainly didn't understand the work or the power of the Holy Spirit. In his ignorance he asks to purchase this power.

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I think Peter's response is pretty harsh, but he certainly gets the point across vv. 20-24 – “But Peter said to him, ‘Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money!’”

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<sup>21</sup> You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. <sup>22</sup> Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you.

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<sup>23</sup> For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.'

<sup>24</sup> Then Simon answered and said, 'Pray to the Lord for me, that none of the things which you have spoken may come upon me.'"

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I believe Simon's heart was in the right place, he just needed some guidance and he didn't know how to pray.

This is why we hear pastors and evangelical preachers lead those who have made a decision to follow Jesus in prayer.

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They don't know how to pray and don't know what to say. That was a long explanation that the Holy Spirit or His power cannot be purchased or even worked for. But, I believe it is important for all believers to not only know, but know where this story is in the Bible.

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Now, let's shift gears for a few minutes and talk about the "laying on of hands." We just read how Peter and John laid hands on the Samaritan believers to receive the Holy Spirit. We read of this action taking place only a few times

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In the Old Testament, the laying on of hands was typically done for blessings or curses. In Genesis 48 we read about Israel (Jacob) blessing Joseph's sons

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Back in that time the laying on of hands for a blessing had great significance.

The right hand was placed on the one whom would either receive the greatest inheritance or who would be greater among the others, particularly with brothers.

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Israel was old and had very poor vision.

Joseph brought his sons, Manasseh (the oldest) and Ephraim (the youngest) to his father.

Joseph placed his two sons strategically beside his father to be blessed

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However, Israel crossed his arms and placed his right hand on Ephraim's head and his left hand on Manasseh's head.

Even though he couldn't see, the LORD gave him a discerning heart to know which was to receive the greater blessing

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Laying on of the hands was also done for the transferring of sins.

Atonement for the sins of the Israelites was done through a scapegoat.

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Leviticus 1:3-4

'If his offering is a burnt sacrifice of the herd, let him offer a male without blemish; he shall offer it of his own free will at the door of the tabernacle of meeting before the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Then he shall put his hand on the head of the burnt offering, and it will be accepted on his behalf to make atonement for him.

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Leviticus 16:20-22 "And when he has made an end of atoning for the Holy Place, the tabernacle of meeting, and the altar, he shall bring the live goat.

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21 Aaron shall lay both his hands on the head of the live goat, confess over it all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions, concerning all their sins, putting them on the head of the goat, and shall send it away into the wilderness by the hand of a suitable man.

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22 The goat shall bear on itself all their iniquities to an uninhabited land; and he shall release the goat in the wilderness.

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We also read of times when a hand of a servant or son was placed under the thigh of the master or father. This wasn't something that was weird. It was usually done when making an oath, swearing to do something for the person.

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We see this in Genesis 24 when Abraham tells his oldest servant to go and find a wife for his son, Isaac.

Verse 2 “Please, put your hand under my thigh,<sup>3</sup> and I will make you swear by the Lord, the God of heaven and

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the God of the earth, that you will not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I dwell;<sup>4</sup> but you shall go to my country and to my family, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”

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There is another occasion in the Old Testament that the laying on of hands is used, and actually commanded by God.

Numbers 27:18-21

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God tells Moses to lay hands on Joshua as a transfer of Moses' authority as the leader of the Israelites.

“And the Lord said to Moses: ‘Take Joshua the son of Nun with you, a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him;

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19 set him before Eleazar the priest and before all the congregation, and inaugurate him in their sight. <sup>20</sup> And you shall give some of your authority to him, that all the congregation of the children of Israel may be obedient.”

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The laying on of hands is much different in the New Testament.

As we read earlier in Acts 8, the laying on of hands was done for the purpose of receiving the Holy Spirit

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Jesus often laid hands on people when He healed them. However, many people were healed without His touch, and even without Him being near them.

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And, of course, we see the laying on of hands to receive the Holy Spirit, to be filled with the Holy Spirit and to receive spiritual gifts. Paul tells Timothy (1 Tim 4:14)

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“Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership.”

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So, the question may arise; Is it necessary to lay hands on someone to receive or be filled with the Holy Spirit?  
No, it is not.  
Is this practice still done today?  
Yes, it is

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There are certain men and women in specific kinds of churches that insist that the laying on of hands is required to even accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior; to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and to receive Spiritual Gifts.

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My Bible, and hopefully yours, does not teach this.  
However, God gives a command through Paul that we are to be filled with the Holy Spirit.  
Remember, this is different than the indwelling of the Spirit.

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We can be filled with the Holy Spirit without anyone touching us.

So why do we lay hands on people when we pray for them?

Probably because Jesus and the disciples did it.

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It also creates a human connection

“Studies show that touch increases oxytocin, can facilitate increased well-being, and communication”  
([biblestudytools.com](http://biblestudytools.com))

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We also lay hands on the sick and anoint them with oil, which the Bible teaches as well.

There is no healing power in the oil, but it is symbolic of the Holy Spirit.

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I won't get into all of the reasons for anointing. We often associate the laying on of hands and anointing with oil together, especially when praying for the sick and when elders, deacons and pastors are appointed.

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That pretty much covers the laying on of hands.

Let's continue now with the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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We just finished learning about some of the cults a couple of weeks ago. Knowing what takes place in Acts 8 will benefit all of us when we are talking to someone that is involved in a cult

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Baptism with the Holy Spirit is only in the New Testament and only occurred after Jesus ascended to heaven. Up to that point, the Holy Spirit could only come upon a person or fill a person.

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We read this in several places in the Old Testament  
We also read of men in the Old Testament being *filled* with the Spirit of God, who is the same as the Holy Spirit

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Sometimes we will see the Spirit referred to as the Holy Ghost, Holy Spirit of God, the Spirit of God, the Spirit and wind, or "*like a wind*". They are all the same person

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The Hebrew word for spirit is *rûah* (pronounced roo'-akh) and it's primary meaning is: wind, breath, mind, spirit. Whenever we see *rûah* used with God (*Elohim*) it is always the Holy Spirit, the third person of the trinity.

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Genesis 1:2 [the] *rûah* [of] *elohim* moved upon the face of the waters  
Exodus 31:3: I have filled him with *rûah* *elohim* [the Spirit of God]  
Genesis 6:7 *rûah* is the "breath of life"

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Remember that *elohim* is the plural of God, *eloah* and refers to the triune Godhead  
In Numbers 5:14 we see *rûah* used in a different form, the spirit of jealousy.

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This is when God was speaking to Moses concerning a wife going astray and has sexual relations with another man but is not found out, that a spirit of jealousy will come upon the husband.

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You can read this for yourself to find out what God says about it and what happens to the wife.

The first incident of the Spirit coming upon a person is in Numbers 11 when God told Moses to gather 70 elders.

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**Numbers 11:24-30**

19 more times in the NKJV Old Testament

The last time we see the Holy Spirit coming upon a person, or people is Acts 19:16 when Paul met 12 of John the Baptist's disciples.

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They said they had not heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.

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There are only 2 other times in the New Testament that the Holy Spirit came upon someone, and that was Jesus, recorded in Matthew 3 and Luke 3

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I find the story in Acts 19 very interesting. As I said, these were apparently 12 disciples of John the Baptist, not Jesus. They may have been traveling around, and at this point were in Ephesus, doing the same work as John the Baptist,

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and yet it seems they had not heard about the works or gospel of Jesus.

You know, they didn't have TV, phones or social media back then.

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When Paul talked to them, we are told that they were "baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus."

Then Paul laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came upon them.

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It seems that they were only familiar with John's teaching and had not *believed* in Jesus at this point so they could not have received the Holy Spirit.

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Some of you may be asking,  
what about the Day of  
Pentecost?

We will get to that.

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When the Holy Spirit, or the  
Spirit of God came *upon*  
someone, it was temporary.

He would empower the person  
or people to do a specific task  
until the task was completed.

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For instance, in Numbers  
11:25, the Spirit of God rested  
upon the 70 elders, they  
prophesied only one time, and  
never again

In Judges 14 and 15 the Spirit  
of the Lord comes upon  
Samson 3 times.

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Judges 14:16 & 19; 15:14  
If the Spirit of God came upon a person and remained forever, then He wouldn't need to come again and again.  
We also read in the Old Testament of "the filling" of the Holy Spirit

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The Hebrew word for "filling" is *mālā'* (pronounced maw-law' or maw-lay').  
It is a first person singular verb, and means to fill; to satisfy; to fulfill, accomplish, complete; to confirm

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We read this story last week  
In Exodus 31:2-3 and 35:30-31  
God called "Bezalel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah."  
<sup>3</sup>And I have **filled** him with the Spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, in knowledge, and in all *manner of* workmanship..."

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This is the only time in the Old Testament that God fills a person with His Spirit.

He tells Moses in Exodus 28:3 that He is going to do this

This has the same implication as the Spirit being upon someone.

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It is not a permanent filling.

It means, to fill, to be satisfied or to confirm.

It is for a time as such until God is finished doing the work in an individual.

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In this case, Bezalel was filled (with the Spirit of God) in these gifts – wisdom, understanding, knowledge and all manner of workmanship.

When the tabernacle was completed, he returned to his normal duties.

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Now let's look at the term, "full of the Spirit of God"

We find this phrase only twice in the Old Testament and that is speaking of Joshua and the prophet, Micah

Joshua 34:9

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"Now Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him; so the children of Israel heeded him, and did as the Lord had commanded Moses."

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Micah 3:8 "But truly I am full of power by the spirit of the LORD, and of judgment, and of might, to declare unto Jacob his transgression, and to Israel his sin."

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The Hebrew word for “full” is also *mālā’* but has a slightly different meaning:

1. to be full
  - a. fullness, abundance (participle)
  - b. to be full, be accomplished, be ended
2. to consecrate, fill the hand

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Here, the prophet, Micah, is saying that by the Spirit of the LORD (*rûah Jehovah*) he is empowered with judgment and might, he is consecrated and has abundance of power to accomplish the task set before him;

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that is to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin.

Unlike the word, *upon*, the filling or fullness of the Spirit can be either temporary or permanent.

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However, it seems that a permanent filling is specific to a particular gift.

For Joshua, I believe he was full of the spirit of wisdom until he died.

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For Micah the prophet, he was filled with the power of the Spirit, empowering with judgment and might, until he had made the declaration to “Jacob of his transgression and Israel his sin” (who were both the same person)

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There is no “Baptism of/with the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Now let’s look at these words in the New Testament

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We already looked at Acts 19 where Paul laid hands on the 12 disciples of John the Baptist and the Spirit came upon them.

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The only other time the Spirit came upon someone was Jesus, recorded in Matthew 3:16 and Luke 3:22  
Matthew 3:16 “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water;

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and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him.”

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Luke 3:22 And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, "You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased."

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This tells us something about Jesus.

We have probably all heard that Jesus was 100% man and 100% God.

I believe this is true, to a point. He was still God in the flesh, the form of an earthly man.

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God incarnate

You have also probably heard that Jesus "veiled His deity."

Nowhere in the Bible, the New Testament are we told that Jesus veiled His deity.

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Paul tells us in **Philippians 2:5-10** that Jesus took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men:

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“And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”

Some people interpret this as Jesus laying aside His deity in order to become a human being.

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There are other passages that reflect His deity and that He was (is and always will be) God.

In Philippians 2:7, the KJV says that “Jesus made himself of no reputation”

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“of no reputation” is a phrase that the Hebrew has one word for, *kenoō* (ken-ō'-ō), which means, “to empty, make empty.”  
Jesus emptied Himself of His glory

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He gave up His heavenly position and His glory, but not His deity.

So, why then did the Holy Spirit come upon Him like a dove?

Good question!

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In my studying, I have found various answers to this question, all of which make sense, but didn't satisfy my curiosity.

Some say that since Jesus was born in the flesh He did not have the Holy Spirit.

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I disagree because when He was 12 years old He was in the synagogue teaching from the scriptures.

Remember his parents lost him for 3 days and when they found Him and questioned where He was,

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He said, "I am about my Father's business."

He had the knowledge of the scriptures and as a boy without the Holy Spirit he would not have such knowledge.

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He was God and gave the writers of the Law and Prophets the ability to write and the words to write by the Holy Spirit.

So I believe He already had the Holy Spirit in Him,

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just as John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit when he was in the womb.

However, we see in Luke 4 that Jesus is *filled* with the Holy Spirit.

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Verse 1: “Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,” KJV has “being full of the Holy Ghost”

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Jesus grew up like all other children

In Luke 2:40 we read, “And the Child grew and became strong in spirit, filled with wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.”

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There is no definitive answer to why the Holy Spirit came upon Him or why He was “filled” with the Spirit on only one occasion.

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I believe the Holy Spirit descending upon Him as a dove is a reference to His promise later of the Helper that was to come.  
This is when His ministry began.

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For those who witnessed this spectacular event and followed Him and listened to His teachings, they would understand later what He was talking about.

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He told the disciples before He ascended to preach the gospel and baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. He promised the Holy Spirit as a Helper to them and to all who would believe in the future.

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The only thing Jesus was not able to do, or at least we don't read of Him ever doing, was to be in multiple places at the same time. He was not *omnipresent* He was all knowing (*omniscient*)

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and all powerful (*omnipotent*) by the power of the Holy Spirit. It was the Holy Spirit that took Him to the wilderness, when Satan tempted Him. He was able to disappear when the Jews tried to arrest Him a couple of times.

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Let's go now to Acts 2:1-4

### The Day of Pentecost

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

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<sup>3</sup> Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

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In the New Testament we see the word, *filled*, used only 4 times.

The Greek word for "filled" is *plēroō* (pronounced play-ro'-o or play-raw'-o) and means:

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- A. To make full, to fill up, i.e. to fill to the full;
- B. To render full, i.e. to complete to fill to the top: so that nothing shall be wanting to full measure, fill to the brim;
- C. To carry into effect, bring to realization, realize

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- 1. to fulfill, i.e. to cause God's will (as made known in the law) to be obeyed as it should be, and God's promises (given through the prophets) to receive fulfillment

*(Blueletterbible.org Luke 2:40  
Lexicon :: Strong's G4137)*

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The Greek word for Spirit is *pneuma* and, like the Hebrew word *rûah* it means breath; a movement of air; wind. It has 5 different Biblical uses:

- the third person of the triune God, the Holy Spirit
- the human spirit, soul

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- a spirit; a higher spirit than man, but lower than God; evil spirit, demon
- the efficient source of any power, affection, emotion, desire, etc.
- a movement of air (a gentle blast); the wind; breath of nostrils or mouth

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Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:18 to “be filled with the Spirit” and not be “drunk with wine, wherein is excess.”

Paul writes to the church in Colossae (Colossians 1:9) encouraging them and saying that they (Paul and those who were with him) unceasingly pray for them,

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and desire them to be filled with knowledge of God’s will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding.

The word, spiritual, is *pneumatikos*, from the word *pneuma* and when used in association with God,

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it means: belonging to the Divine Spirit; of God the Holy Spirit; one who is filled with and governed by the Spirit of God.

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Now that we have studied and understand the words that are associated with the “Baptism of the Holy Spirit,” let’s examine this spiritual event that John said Jesus would do.

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Mark 1:9 (John the Baptist speaking) “I baptized you with water; but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” (NASB)  
Acts 1:4-5 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem,

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but to wait for the Promise of the Father, “which,” *He said*, “you have heard from Me; <sup>5</sup> for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

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Acts 11:16 Peter remembers these words that Jesus spoke, “John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” We know that the word, *baptize*, means to immerse, to submerge.

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We also know that water baptism is not something to be repeated. As followers of Jesus Christ, true believers, there is never a need to be baptized more than once.

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Water baptism is the outward showing of the inward change when we give our lives to Jesus Christ, we only need to do that once and therefore only need to be baptized in water once.

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The moment a person confesses his/her sins, repents and makes the decision to follow Jesus Christ, that person is immediately baptized with the Holy Spirit. The believer is immersed in the Holy Spirit forever!

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They don't have to wait for 9 or 10 days for the Holy Spirit to come, it is immediate. The Holy Spirit will "indwell" in that person's heart and soul.

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God says, through Paul, that when this happens, we are a new creation.

All of the past things are gone and all things pertaining to our spiritual life are new.

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In Ephesians 4 (which we will be getting to in the coming weeks), Paul tells us, “*There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism;*”

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Now, that could mean only one type of baptism, but for the believer, there are two – water and Spirit.

Therefore, I believe he is speaking of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, since he first says “there is one Spirit.”

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Meaning, baptism with the Spirit only takes place once in a believer's life.

In 1 Corinthians 12:13, Paul, speaking of the body of Christ, the church, says, "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body,

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whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit."

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Billy Graham states, "Two things stand out in this verse: first, the baptism with the Spirit is a collective operation of the Spirit of God; second, it includes every believer."

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The fact is that all true believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit, but, sadly, not all believers live a life that reflects this.

All true believers are baptized with the Holy Spirit, but not all believers are filled or controlled by the Holy Spirit.

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This tells us that the Holy Spirit does not force Himself on anyone.

He is there ready to do a work in a believer when that believer is ready to have a work done in and through them.

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The baptism with the Holy Spirit may also be referred to as “the indwelling of the Holy Spirit,” meaning He is in us.

He is always in us.

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Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 16:19 that “your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit resides in each one of us and will not leave us.

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So, what takes place when we are baptized with the Holy Spirit?

I would say that the Holy Spirit works differently in every person.

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Looking back in Acts, the moment those believers received the Holy Spirit, they began speaking in various tongues, or languages. It was the Holy Spirit that did this.

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What they did was the result of them receiving the Holy Spirit and it seems it only happened that one time.

At least we are not told that all of those believers continued speaking in tongues until they died.

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This is called a manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

This does not mean that if you don't speak in tongues, you have not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

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Let me tell you about my experience in a Foursquare church.

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As we get into the gifts of the Spirit next week, we will see that the gifts and their use is a manifestation of the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized with the Holy Spirit, I believe at that very moment we are given at least one spiritual gift.

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1 Corinthians 12:3 tells us that God has given every believer a “measure of faith.” Just the right amount of faith to not only keep us humble, but to do the work He calls us to do.

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This is the first gift we receive because without this gift of faith we would not be able to receive other gifts or obtain spiritual growth.

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“This ‘faith’ is the gift from which all the other gifts flow. Faith is the first gift we receive (for justification), and faith is the gift that brings the other gifts of the Spirit into our lives.”  
(*gotquestions.com*)

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In addition to this gift of faith, God gives each one another gift, or more gifts, for the edification of the church, as Paul states in Ephesians 4.

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It is rare today, especially in this country, for someone to begin evangelizing, healing, speaking in tongues, interpreting tongues, or prophesying immediately upon their conversion.

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I can say that I have never witnessed this.

However, I have heard stories of new converts in impoverished countries doing some amazing works of God upon their conversion, so I know that with God, all things are possible.

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In review, every believer has been baptized with the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit no longer “comes upon” a person because He is living in him/her  
Every believer has been given the gift of faith

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Every believer can be filled with the Holy Spirit to complete a work God has called them to do

Being filled with the Holy Spirit is temporary and often needs to be done daily

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Jesus said, take up your cross daily.

Without the power of the Holy Spirit (being filled with the Spirit) daily, we cannot carry that cross

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## QUESTIONS



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