



**FAITH**

**ESSENTIALS**

## **FAITH ESSENTIALS**

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# FAITH

# ESSENTIALS

Welcome to this six week journey of Knowing Jesus. There are a few essential things we highly recommend that will help you get established well as a Christian. These include;

## 1. GET A BIBLE

The Bible is Gods instruction manual for life. God wants to talk to you and guide you every day through His Word. Start reading in the New Testament. Write down any questions you have as you read and ask your leader next time you meet up.

## 2. TALK TO GOD EVERY DAY

Talking to God is called prayer. God loves us so much and wants to be close to us, listening to our prayers. Tell God how you feel, thanks Him for all the good in your life and ask Him for help in areas you need help in.

## 3. ATTEND A GROUP REGULARLY

God doesn't want us to be a Christian on our own. It is important to meet regularly with other Christians – where we can receive encouragement and support, learn about being a Christian and getting to know God. Be committed to your group, to the leader and to the others in your group. Build strong friendships with these people. They will all help you grow in your relationship with God.

## 4. COME ON AN ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

These weekend retreats are a powerful place to learn about God, discover more about yourself, find freedom and make valuable friendships with others in the church.

# FAITH ESSENTIALS

## SESSION 1: WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN?

**Key Scripture:** For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. **(John 3.16 NLT)**

The term *Christian* was first used to describe people who had chosen to become followers of Jesus. It means to *belong to Christ* and to live as a *little Christ*.

In this session we will look at:

- » The PROBLEM that keeps us separated from God.
- » The SOLUTION that God initiated to make possible a relationship with Him.
- » The CHOICES we need to make in response to what God has done for us.

### THE PROBLEM

God made us to live in relationship with Him. However, there is a problem. There is 'something' that gets in the way of us being able to have this relationship.

#### **Romans 3:23**

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**What does the word *sin* mean?**

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#### **Romans 6:23**

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**What does the word *death* mean?**

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The consequence of sin is that it keeps us separated from God. So, what can we do? Everyone sins and deserves to be punished for it. There is no human way for sin to be dealt with. There is no human way we can therefore reach God. Does this mean we are to be forever separated from God and die for our sin?

### THE SOLUTION

Without God's involvement we would have been unable to solve this problem. We needed God to provide a solution and He came to our rescue. Our part is that we need to choose His solution.

## What is God's solution?

**Romans 5:8** But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

## Why did Jesus die?

**John 1:29** The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! (NIV)

## How did he take away the sins of the world?

**1 Peter 2:24** "He himself bore our sins" in his body on the cross, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness; "by his wounds you have been healed." (NIV)

**Jesus is God's solution.** Mark 10:45 tells us that Jesus gave His life as a ransom for us. By His death He paid the ransom price for us so that we could go free.

We deserve to die because of our sin but instead Jesus came and died in our place. We can have our sins forgiven and enter into a relationship with God. The choice is ours.

## THE CHOICE

**John 14:6**

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Jesus claimed to be THE ONLY way to God. We try to bridge the gap between us and God by good works and religion, but it is Jesus who has made it possible for us to be in relationship with God. It is now up to us to accept Him and let Him have an effect on our lives.

## What are the steps to entering into a relationship with God?

**Repent (1 John 1:9)** If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. (NIV)

To 'repent' means to turn away from our sin and turn towards Jesus our saviour.

Have you repented? Have you turned away from your past sins and turned to Jesus?

**Believe and confess Jesus (Romans 10:9, 10, 13)** If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart, that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved." (NIV)

Do you believe in Jesus? Do you believe He came to earth as God's son to die on your

behalf for your sins on the cross?

Do you believe he rose three days later overcoming sin and death?

Have you called upon Him to be saved from your sins?

**Receive Jesus (John 1:12)** Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God.

Have you received Jesus' forgiveness and love? Have you received Him as your Lord?

What does that make you?

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## **THE RESULT**

According to these Scriptures what happens when you become a Christian?

### **2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

### **Psalm 103:12 (NLT)**

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### **Romans 8:1 (NLT)**

So now there is no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus.

## **SUMMARY**

- » What was our problem?
- » Who was the solution?
- » What does it mean to repent?
- » What is the Result?
- » How do you know you are a Christian?

## **PRAY**

Heavenly Father, I realise I have sinned and broken relationship with you. I thank you that you loved me and chose to send your son Jesus to die for my sins on the cross so that I may have a relationship with you. I repent of my sin and turn to you. You are my leader and Lord. I receive your forgiveness and love.

**Amen**

## FAITH ESSENTIALS

### SESSION 2: HOW DO I READ THE BIBLE?

“All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

#### 2 Timothy 3:16 - 17

The Bible is an **essential tool** for your ongoing Christian growth.

The Bible is the Word of God. It was written by various people who were called by God and inspired by Him to write it. To be inspired means that God was with each of them as they wrote and guided them in what to write.

The Bible was written over a period of 1800 years by over 40 people. It is divided into two sections – **The Old Testament and the New Testament**. The Old Testament covers the time from the creation of the world to about 400 years before Jesus was born. It was originally written in the Hebrew language.

The New Testament covers the life of Jesus and the beginning of the church to about 70AD. It was originally written in the Greek language.

The Bible comes in many different **translations**. A translation is where the original text, which was in Hebrew or Greek, is translated into a different language. We have many translations of the Bible into English such as The King James Version (KJV), New International Version (NIV), New Living Translation (NLT) and many others.

Paraphrases of the Bible have also been written. This is not an exact translation from the original text but rather written for its overall meaning in a way that today's readers can better identify with. Examples are the Message Bible & the Living Bible.

The Bible is one of the most critically analysed books ever written. It's reliability and accuracy have been proven time and time again.

What does **Psalms 19:7** tell us?

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#### Why should we read the Bible?

The Bible is God's handbook for life. He knows the best way for us to live. It is in the Bible that He shows us how to live in such a way to experience the fullness of life. God caused the Bible to be written so that we would know Him better and know His plans for our lives.

## Why is the Bible described as a 'light'?

God will speak to you as you read the Bible by drawing particular verses to your attention which will provide answers or encouragement or that will challenge you about things in your life. As you read the Bible you will find that it is 'spiritual food' that will strengthen and encourage you.

**Matthew 4:4 (NLT)** Jesus told him, "No! The Scriptures say, 'People do not love by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

## How do you read the Bible?

- » There are various ways to read the Bible. You need to find the best way for you.
- » It is a good idea to start with one of the Gospels in the New Testament – Matthew, Mark, Luke or John. These books tell you about the life of Jesus.
- » There are many Bible Study helps that can be purchased from a Christian Bookshop, such as Every Day with Jesus, which is a popular booklet that helps you work your way through the Bible.
- » There are great Bible studies on the App: YouVersion Bible which can be used on your smart phone, or Tablet. (Take a look at one with your leader.)

## As you read the Bible the following things are important:

- » Make sure you have a modern translation of the Bible that you can **understand**.
- » Find a quiet place where you can **concentrate** and won't be distracted.
- » Before you read, **pray** and ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what you are reading.
- » You will find certain things will stand out for you. Pay special attention to them. Having a highlighter ready could be useful and a **notebook** you can write down these things that stand out. God may be wanting to talk to you about these things or wanting to teach you something.
- » **Ask yourself** as you read 'What is God saying to me here?' 'How does this apply to my life?' Note also that to correctly understand some passages in the Bible we need to consider the culture of that day and ask ourselves 'What was God saying to the people then? What is He saying to me now?'
- » The Bible is a big book. Be patient in getting to know it. It will take time, but as you read it each day, you will become more familiar with it.
- » It is a good idea to read the Bible out loud because faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17)



## When do you read the Bible?

If you look at the example of Jesus during his life on earth he had a habit of spending time with his Father during what parts of his day? See **Mark 1:35; Matthew 14:23**

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A good way to choose when to spend time with God is to ask the following question: 'What is the time of my day when I can give my best attention to receiving His word?'

## Apply

Make the decision to read your Bible every day. Prioritising Gods Word comes out of a hunger to know God more. Choose to incorporate reading the Word of God into your daily routine and making it a habit in your daily life.

## Pray

Lord, I thank you for your Word that helps me to know you and your ways. Help me to prioritise your word in my life. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## FAITH ESSENTIALS

### SESSION 3: HOW DO I PRAY?

Being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus. **Philippians 1:6**

You have made a decision to follow Jesus so now you need to get to know Him. Prayer is an important key in getting to know God. Prayer, put simply, is just talking to God. How do you get to know someone? You spend time with them and talk with them. How do you get to know God? By spending time with Him, and talking to Him.

#### Why should we pray?

- » It builds our relationship with God. We get to know God as we spend time with Him.
  - » Prayer works. **James 5:16b**
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God does not want us to be anxious about anything.

#### **Philippians 4: 6 – 7 NLT**

‘Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. 7 Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus.’

What is the antidote to anxiety according to this verse?

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- » If we take time to be quiet before God, then we are giving Him an opportunity to speak to us. God speaks to us in our spirit. This is not usually with an audible voice but rather through thoughts that come to us. These thoughts need to agree with what the Bible says.

#### What does the Bible say about prayer?

##### **1 Thessalonians 5:17**

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**Matthew 6:5 – 6 NIV** “When you pray, don’t be like the hypocrites who love to pray publicly on street corners and in the synagogues where everyone can see them. I tell you the truth, that is all the reward they will ever get. <sup>6</sup> But when you pray, go away by yourself, shut the door behind you, and pray to your Father in private. Then your Father, who sees everything, will reward you.

## **James 1:6 – 7**

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We can be sure God will hear & respond to our prayers. Sometimes God answers us immediately, sometimes we have to wait and other times God will say no to what we ask for because it is not in our best interests. Remember that God sees the big picture, the overall plan, but we only see part of it.

## **How do we pray?**

The disciples had seen Jesus praying on many occasions and wanted to know how they could pray. They asked Jesus to teach them how to pray. This was Jesus’ response;

### **Matthew 6:9 – 13 (NIV)**

<sup>9</sup> “This, then, is how you should pray:

“Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, <sup>10</sup> your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. <sup>11</sup> Give us today our daily bread.

<sup>12</sup> And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

<sup>13</sup> And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from the evil one.”

<sup>14</sup> For if you forgive other people when they sin against you, your heavenly Father will also forgive you. <sup>15</sup> But if you do not forgive others their sins, your Father will not forgive your sins.

### **We can use this prayer as a guide when we pray.**

Verse 9a: Who should we pray to?

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Verse 9b: What is the first thing we should do?

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» We need to praise God regardless of how we are feeling. What can we praise God for? See Psalm 103:3 & 100:5 for some ideas.

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It is also important to thank God when He answers our prayers.

Verse 10: What should we pray for next?

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Verse 11: What is our instruction here?

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We can also include in our prayer time a time to pray for **other people**. What things could we pray about?

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Verse 12: It is important to ask God to **forgive us** for the wrong things we have done.

**Romans 3:23** explains why; “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,” (NIV)

Verse 14-15: Why do we need to forgive others?

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Verse 13: What are we encouraged to pray for?

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## Apply

Make a decision today that you are going to talk to God every day. It is also important to set aside time each day when you can be by yourself and pray. Remember that prayer is simply talking to God. You can talk to Him all day. You don't have to use long complicated words; just talk to God as if you were talking to a friend.

## Pray

Lord, I thank you that I can talk to you every day as a friend speaks with a friend. I thank you that enjoy it when I speak to you. Help me to forgive those I need to forgive. Give me your love for those you have put in my life. Use me Lord to be a blessing to others. Amen.

## FAITH ESSENTIALS

### SESSION 4: WHY WATER BAPTISM?

Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; The old has gone and the new has come. **2 Corinthians 5:17**

The word *baptism* comes from the Greek word *baptizo* which means to wash or plunge in water. For example when a blacksmith is working on an item he will plunge it into water to cool it. This is known as baptising.

As Christians we baptise people as a public declaration of their faith in Jesus Christ. We fully immerse people in water to baptise them.

In this session we will examine baptism and the reason we need to be baptised.

#### A Command

**Matthew 28:19 – 20** we read the last command of Jesus;

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” NIV

The followers of Jesus took His command seriously. As soon as they had been baptised in the Holy Spirit they started sharing their faith. Acts 2 records the first sermon preached in the early church. Peter, one of the disciples, got up and spoke to the crowd and told them all about Jesus and how they had crucified Him. The crowd was cut to the heart and asked Peter and the other disciples: ‘What should we do?’

**Read Acts 2:38 – 41 to see what happened.**

» What was the first thing Peter told the people to do? (v38)

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» After repenting what were they to do?

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This is why we refer to water baptism as believer’s baptism. They believed first and were then baptised to declare publicly that they had become followers of Jesus Christ.

» How many people does this verse command to be baptised? (v38)

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» How soon after becoming Christians were they baptised? (v41)

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## Jesus and Baptism

Was Jesus baptised in water? Read Mark 1:9 – 11

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Jesus set the example for us to follow. Jesus chose baptism as the outward act by which we show the world that we have become a Christian.

## The Meaning of Baptism

When we come to faith in Jesus as our Lord and Saviour, this is what the Bible says has happened to us on the inside:

**2 Corinthians 5:17 (NIV)** Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!

**Galatians 2:20 (NIV)** I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Baptism is an outward sign of what happened to us inwardly when we believed. It is symbolic of being ‘born again’. The Bible teaches that in baptism we have been buried with Jesus & raised with Him.

**Colossians 2:12 (NRSV)** “... when you were buried with Him in baptism, you were also raised with Him through faith in the power of God, who raised Him from the dead.”

**Romans 6:3 – 4 (NLT)** “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.”

Going under the water symbolises that your sins are forgiven and that your old way of living is dead and buried. Coming up out of the water symbolises the new life you have in Jesus.

Baptism is a symbol of what happened when we repented of our sins, and believed Jesus died so we could be forgiven, and was resurrected guaranteeing our resurrection. Baptism itself doesn't wash away sin.

**1 John 1:9 (NIV)** If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

## **Conclusion**

The Bible clearly teaches that after we have been born again we need to be baptised in water. By being baptised in water we are following the command of Jesus and making a public declaration of what Jesus has done for us. We are declaring that we love Jesus and we are going to live our lives for Him.

## **Apply**

If you are prepared to take this next step in your walk with God please talk to us about it. Imagine Nations Church holds water baptisms on a regular basis – usually during a Sunday evening service. It is an opportunity for you to declare your faith in Christ to all those you would invite to join you for the occasion.

## **Pray**

Heavenly Father, I thank you for sending Jesus to show us what you are like. Jesus shows us your will and gave us the example of being water baptised. Give me your courage to publicly declare you as my Lord and saviour. Amen

## FAITH ESSENTIALS

### SESSION 5: HOW DO I DO LIFE WITH OTHERS?

Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

**Romans 12:10**

Relationships are the most important things in our lives. God has a lot to say about our relationship firstly with Him and then with each other.

What does it mean to *honour* a person?

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The most important relationship is with our Creator. The greatest commandment God gave us is to love the Lord our God with all our heart, soul and mind and to love our neighbour as ourselves (Matthew 22:36 – 40). God designed us to do life together. He has placed us in physical families and He has designed us to be in a spiritual family. In this session we will discuss family relationships – both natural family and church family – and other relationships.

#### Family Relationships – Husband/Wife/Children

The most important human relationships that we have are with our families. God designed the family. He designed it to be a place of love and security where children can be raised and nurtured. The devil loves to attack the family unit.

As we look at each scripture, consider the following:

- » How should we treat each other?
- » How can we show honour in these relationships?

**Matthew 19:5–6 (NLT)**

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In light of the above Scripture, why is sex outside marriage wrong?

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What effect could it have on the family unit?

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**Here is what God says about the family Roles;**

**Husbands (Ephesians 5:25):** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her



**Wives (Ephesians 5:33):** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**Children (Ephesians 6:1 – 3):** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honour your father and mother’– which is the first commandment with a promise – ‘so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.

**Parents (Proverbs 22:6):** Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

**Discuss** one way you could improve a family relationship this week.

## Church

As a Christian we now belong to a new family – the church family. In the Scriptures God gives us guidelines for harmonious relationships within the church.

**Hebrews 10:25 (NLT)** And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.

**Galatians 6:10 (NLT)** Therefore, whenever we have the opportunity, we should do good to everyone—especially to those in the family of faith.

At INChurch we emphasize doing life together by meeting weekly in small groups called **Connect Groups**. We recognise that the Sunday Worship Services are too large for close supportive relationships to take place, so we also need small groups. In these Connect Groups we care for one another, listen to one another, pray for one another and learn from the Word of God together.

## Workplace

**Ephesians 6:5-9 (NLT)** <sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. <sup>6</sup> Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart.<sup>7</sup> Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. <sup>8</sup> Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

<sup>9</sup> Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don’t threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.

**Discuss** how this applies to your life.

## Friendships

**1 Corinthians 15.33**

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## Proverbs 13.20

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**Discuss** how this applies to your life.

### Other Biblical Strategies for Enhancing All Your Relationships:

**Ephesians 4:15 – 16 (NLT)** Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. He makes the whole body fit together perfectly. As each part does its own special work, it helps the other parts grow, so that the whole body is healthy and growing and full of love.

*Strategy:*

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**James 1:19 – 20 (NLT)** Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. Human anger does not produce the righteousness God desires.

*Strategy:*

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**Hebrews 12:14 – 15 (NLT)** Work at living in peace with everyone, and work at living a holy life, for those who are not holy will not see the Lord. Look after each other so that none of you fails to receive the grace of God. Watch out that no poisonous root of bitterness grows up to trouble you, corrupting many.

*Strategy:*

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**Romans 15: 2 (NLT)** We should help others do what is right and build them up in the Lord.

*Strategy:*

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### Conclusion

At INChurch we emphasize the importance of doing life together. We want to see your family relationships strengthened and functioning for the glory of God; we want to see you in a small group (a Connect Group) for support, encouragement and the opportunity to grow. In the Connect Group your gifts and abilities can develop and grow so that you in turn can be a blessing to others.

### Apply

In which area could God help you to strengthen your relationships? What strategy can you practise this week?

## FAITH ESSENTIALS

### SESSION 6: WHAT IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth. **Acts 1:8 (NIV)**

#### Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third person of what is called the Trinity. The Trinity is the name for the three persons of God – God the Father, God the Son (Jesus) and God the Holy Spirit.

**Matthew 28:19 (NLT)** “Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptising them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.”

The Holy Spirit is a person, not just a force. What did the Holy Spirit do in **Acts 13:2 (NLT)**?

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#### The Role of the person of the Holy Spirit

» **Help:** The Holy Spirit was sent to earth to live in Christians after Jesus went back to heaven. The disciples had Jesus with them while He was on earth but He could only be in one place at a time. We have the Holy Spirit within us and He can be living in all Christians at the same time.

“Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.”

**John 16:7 (NLT)**

» **Teaching & Reminding:** “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” **(John 14:26 NIV)**

» **Conviction:** “And when He comes, He will convict the world of its sin, and of God’s righteousness, and of the coming judgment.” **John 16:8 (NLT)**

Conviction is an awareness of my sin so that I may repent and be free. The enemy tries to condemn us which makes us feel depressed, despair, guilt and shame.

» **Guarantee:** “And now you Gentiles have also heard the truth, the Good News that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving

you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago. The Spirit is God's guarantee that He will give us the inheritance He promised and that He has purchased us to be His own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify Him." **Ephesians 1:13 – 14 (NLT)**

### What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

In **Luke 24:49** Jesus told his disciples to stay in Jerusalem until they had been clothed with power from on high. So the disciples stayed in Jerusalem and prayed together constantly.

**Read Acts 2:1 – 4** to find out what happened to the believers...

This is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit because the believers were **immersed** in or **filled** with the Holy Spirit.

**What is the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8**

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**Who is the baptism of the Holy Spirit for? Acts 2:38 – 39**

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**How do we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Luke 11:9 – 13**

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We need to **ask** God to baptise us in the Holy Spirit, **believe** that He will, then wait to **receive** Him. We can also ask other Christians to pray for us.

### How do I know that I have been baptised in the Holy Spirit?

#### **1. Power to be bold for God and live for Him**

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all Christians. Jesus didn't begin His ministry (his work on earth) until He had been baptised in the Holy Spirit. (**Matthew 3:16**). When we are baptised in the Holy Spirit we are fully immersed in the Holy Spirit and we receive the power and the boldness to tell others about Jesus, to share with them what God has done for us in our lives. We receive the power to live a dynamic life like the one that Jesus led and the "fruit" of Holy Spirit is produced in our lives (see **Galatians 5:22-23**)

## 2. Speaking in Tongues

**Acts 2:4** “And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.”

The gift of tongues is a special prayer language that God gives to us. It is where our spirit prays instead of our mind. That is why we don't usually know what we are praying. When we speak in tongues we may be speaking a language from another country that we have never learned or we may be speaking a heavenly language.

### What are the benefits of speaking in tongues?

**1 Corinthians 14:2**

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**1 Corinthians 14:4**

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### Do you want to receive this gift?

**Luke 11.9-13 (NLT)** <sup>9</sup> “And so I tell you, keep on asking, and you will receive what you ask for. Keep on seeking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened to you.<sup>10</sup> For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And to everyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

<sup>11</sup> “You fathers—if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead?

<sup>12</sup> Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! <sup>13</sup> So if you sinful people 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.”

### Apply

If you haven't been baptised in the Holy Spirit, why don't you ask your group to pray with you now to receive Him.

**Recommended listening: Podcast of Ps Jack's sermon on Pentecost Sunday about the Holy Spirit:**

<https://inchurch.com.au/podcast/2021/5/23/pentecost-sunday-ps-jack-hanes>

# FURTHER READING

## 1. WHAT IS A CHRISTIAN

**Ephesians 2:8-9** Teaches us about the free gift of Gods grace. What is grace?

**John 3:1-7** Teaches us we must be born again. What is 'born again'?

**John 14:1-3** Teaches us to believe in Jesus, Gods son. Where has he prepared a place for us?

## 2. THE BIBLE:

- » **1 Peter 2:2**
- » **John 1:1-5,14**
- » **Psalms 1:1-3**
- » **Ephesians 6: 17**
- » **Hebrews 4:12**
- » **Proverbs 30: 5 – 6**

### **SOAP Bible tool to help you journal:**

- » **S - SCRIPTURE:** Write the Scripture chapter or verse you are looking at.
- » **O - OBSERVE:** Who was it written to? What is stand out to you?
- » **A - APPLY:** What would change in your life if you applied this verse to your situation?
- » **P - PRAY:** Pray about this topic and ask for Gods help to change your heart and life.

## 3. PRAYER

» **Matthew 21:22**

» **Luke 18:1 – 8**

» **John 14:14**

### **Tools:**

A helpful way to remember the main types of prayer is to memorize the following acronym - ACTS:

**Adoration** (includes: praise – for what God has done and worship – for who He is)

**Confession** (confession of sin: which means being sorry = repentance  
Confession of faith: declaring who God is and who you are in God)

**Thanksgiving** (thanking God for answered prayer and for His goodness to you)

**Supplication** (includes intercession - praying for others and for your own needs.

Another Strategy is called **Ripple Prayer**; Just as a pebble thrown into a lake ripples outward, start by praying for yourself (Thanks, confession, forgiveness, needs, then the people that are closest to you, the people you live and work with, your connect, church, community, nation and the nations of the world).





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