

Dig Deeper

Welcome to Encounter 2010! We are excited that at the start of the year you have chosen to study the scriptures. We want you to get the maximum benefit out of your investment. Therefore, we want to encourage you at the beginning to **share what you learn with somebody else**. You do not have to be an expert. You do not have to have all the answers, but if you really want to grow this year, it starts with that one simple decision: share what you learn with somebody else. This is the year for you to “dig deeper.”

Each week, we will prepare this GPS (Grow, Pray, Serve) guide to help you “dig deeper.” It is designed for you to use with a small group (5 or 6 people) and takes no more than an hour to share.

Lesson Summary: Spirit Baptism

Key Question: *Is the Holy Spirit the primary agent of the baptism, is He Himself the baptism, or is He the means by which believers are baptized?*

1. THE _____ OF SPIRIT BAPTISM
(1 Corinthians 12:13, 2 Corinthians 5:17, Matthew 3:11)

- a. The _____ of the Spirit is our initiation into the Body of Christ.
- b. The _____ of the Spirit is the Spirit taking up permanent residence in our lives.
- c. The _____ of the Holy Spirit is His control and empowerment in our lives.

2. THE _____ OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is:

a. _____
(Ephesians 4:4-5, Colossians 2:10)

b. _____
(Romans 8:9, 1 Corinthians 3, Galatians 3:27)

3. THE _____ OF SPIRIT BAPTISM

a. A New _____
(John 3, John 7:37)

b. A New _____
(Romans 6:1-5, John 10:28)

c. A New _____
(1 Corinthians 12:13, Ephesians 4:3, Acts 8, Acts 19:1-6, Acts 10:44-45, Acts 11:15-17, Galatians 2:11-21)

d. A New _____
(1 Corinthians 12)

e. A New _____
(2 Corinthians 5:17)

BAPTISM AND SPEAKING IN TONGUES

(Acts 2:1-4; 8:14-17; 10:44-46; 19:1-6, 1 Corinthians 12:30, Colossians 1:28, Numbers 11:16-17, Joel 2:28, Galatians 3:27-28, Romans 10:9-10, Acts 15:7-11)

Group Prayer: Gracious God, we thank you for the privilege of gathering in your name. We will never be the same and we thank you in advance. In the name of Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Icebreaker: What has been the biggest change in your life over the past year?

Group Discussion: Our baptism by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ has merited for us some incredible benefits. Here are 4 ways we can measure how real the Spirit's baptism is in our daily experience:

1. Since the Spirit has given you a new identity, people who knew you before you became a Christian ought to see some differences. Imagine you have just met a friend from the old days. Share with your group some of the new things (attitudes, habits, etc.) you hope people would see in you.
2. Since the Spirit has given you new abilities in the form of spiritual gifts, you should be seeing some results of that as you put your gifts to work in the body. Share with your group some ways you are using your spiritual gift(s) in Christ's service. If your list is short, ask the group to pray that God will help you to make better use of the gifts He has entrusted to you.
3. Since the Spirit has given His people a new unity—we are to treat each other in love. What can we do now to express our love and compassion for each other? For the church? For the community? For the world?
4. Since the Spirit has baptized us into the body of Christ, we need to be in fellowship with other believers. Pause now to pray as a group and thank God for participation in a church where the Word of God is taught and Christ is honored.

Challenge: think about these four issues: identity, ability, unity and fellowship and ask God what steps you should take to demonstrate the presence of God in your life, use the abilities God has given you, reconcile with persons that may be estranged and fellowship with others in the family of faith.

Group Takeway: The Holy Spirit is now living inside us. We have power to live life now in the right way.