

wanted to stone her to death. They asked Jesus what they should do and he said, '*he who is without sin should cast the first stone*'. (John 8:7). They all left, throwing no stones. This is a good example.

A gift of knowledge is given when facts about a situation are given by the Holy Spirit. Once Jesus was speaking to a woman he had never met before. He told her that she had 5 previous husbands. This was information supernaturally given which helped change her life. (John 4:7)

The gift of faith is given when you know something is going to happen. It removes fear and concern for a situation.

The gift of healing is given to enable supernatural healing of mind, body, soul, and spirit.

The gift of miracles is given when things need to happen. The most common examples are the supernatural provision of food and finance.

Sometimes we need a gift to be able to tell if an evil spirit is at work. This is an important subject which requires teaching but a young believer does have authority over evil spirits and can command them to go.

The gift of interpretation of tongues is important because a tongue given in a meeting tends to release faith for what God is saying. The tongue focuses the interpreters attention.

The gifts of the Spirit are powerful gifts and you need wisdom on how to use them. For example you may need to discern the timing of a prophetic word.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a total infilling of the Holy Spirit which enables the believer to move in the power of God. God is supernatural, we can not fully know Him unless we move into the realm of His Spirit.

When we are 'born again' we receive the Holy Spirit. The disciples received the Holy Spirit soon after Jesus was resurrected.

*He breathed on them and said, **receive the Holy Spirit.***
John 20:22

At this point they were *united* with the Holy Spirit. They were 'born again' but they had not been baptised in the Holy Spirit.

Later Jesus commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the Father's promise. He said that, in not many days, they would be **baptised in the Holy Spirit**. (Acts 1:5) This happened on the day of Pentecost which is described in Acts 2.

How to be baptised in the Holy Spirit

Understand that the baptism is a good gift. Jesus said:

If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" **Luke 11:13**

John 7:37 is an important scripture for the baptism, Jesus said

"If anyone is thirsty, he should come to Me and drink! The one who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, will have streams

*of living water flow from deep within him.” He said this about the Spirit. **John 7:37***

Firstly the believer must be 'thirsty' – must want to be filled with the Spirit. There are many things that might stop us. Is there any barrier which needs to be removed? Secondly the believer must come to Jesus and pray for the experience. Some believers find it helpful to have hands laid on them by those that already have the gift. Some receive in a place of worship others alone at home. A new heavenly language called tongues is received.

Tongues is a spiritual language inspired by the Holy Spirit where our normal voice is used, but the conscious mind plays no part, except the will to speak it.

Trust the Holy Spirit with a child-like trust and start to speak words that are not a language you know. They may be simple one syllable words to start with. Say the words that He is giving you. Jesus said:

*the mouth speaks from the **overflow** of the heart. **Luke 6:45***

In yielding your tongue you no longer seek to understand intellectually what God asks of you. You unreservedly hand over control of your tongue and allow God to build you up with a new spiritual language. The yielding of your tongue to the Spirit marks the climax of surrender and complete obedience. It is by this you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Yielding your tongue is especially important in view of **James 3:8** *No man can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.*

Tongues are given to build us up: *He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself. **1 Cor 14:4***. Once you have received the gift you should speak in tongues every day. When you first receive it can be an emotional experience. Later when there is no emotion it becomes a discipline which needs to be exercised.

*For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no-one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. **1 Cor 14:2***

Only God can understand your heavenly language. It can be understood by humans if someone has a gift of interpretation. Sometimes people are given a human tongue so they are able to speak a language they have not learnt, as on the day of Pentecost.

The Gifts of the Holy Spirit

Once you have received the Baptism in the Spirit you should eagerly desire other gifts of the Holy Spirit.. These are outlined in 1 Cor 12 and are important for enabling you to be an effective witness for Jesus.

The gift of prophecy is the ability to speak out in your natural language what God is saying. This could be a warning for the future, words of correction, or of comfort, anything that the Spirit is saying.

*For prophecy never had its origin in the human will, but prophets, though human, spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit. **2 Peter 1:21***

The gift of wisdom is typically given when we face a difficult situation. A woman was caught in adultery and the Jews