



## Beyond the Sermon

A Sermon Application Guide

Title: Unlocking the Supernatural

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

### Message Theme

Spirit Filled Living

### Prayer Focus

*"Father, thank you for your love that grows and perfects me. Thank you that I lack no good thing, and that you give so generously of yourself. You are good, and I praise you for it. Help me see the way you see, think the way you think, and for that to change the way I live, bringing me more in line with your plan and purpose for my life. Amen."*

### Key Truths

Part of Jesus' present-day ministry is baptizing us in the Holy Spirit. Many Christians think, "If only I were alive when Jesus was here," or "If Jesus were still around, then He could do exactly what needs to be done," without realizing that Jesus Himself said, "It is better for you that I go to the Father." Jesus returned to the Father so that He could send the Holy Spirit to give us power to do even greater works than He had done. To think that Jesus should just come back and take care of everything completely misses His mission. It keeps us apathetic toward others and leaves the Holy Spirit on the table and inactive in our lives. The Spirit is promised by God to all and is here to live within us, guide, comfort, empower, and make God's fatherhood real to us!

When Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit," they did indeed receive the Holy Spirit. He wouldn't have done so if there was a chance of it failing. It's the same with us. God has promised the Holy Spirit, Jesus sent Him, and scripture says how generously God gives His Holy Spirit to those who ask. You will receive Him too! However, there is a difference between receiving something and living like it's yours, making use of it. The word "receive" in scripture means "to lay hold of" as if in intentional pursuit of something. We need the Spirit in order to be witnesses, or representatives, of Christ. The whole purpose of promising the Spirit was so that, in Christ, we would engage with the free gift of the Spirit and live as empowered and established sons and daughters of our Father God, laying hold of the life to us and through us that we were designed for.

Jesus said, "He who believes and is baptized will be saved." Much of our Christian thought of "being saved" is focused on getting to Heaven one day, but Jesus' definition of being saved is experiencing, even while we're alive, the wholeness and healing that is freely received through Him. Saved is "sozo" in Greek, and means to

be made whole, to do well, to be healed, and cured. In Hebrew, the word saved is literally Jesus's name. In effect, to be saved is to be "Jesus'd" and that doesn't require us to physically die. Jesus is life, and when we are baptized into Him and receive His Spirit, the old us is gone. He remains, establishing and empowering us to live as He lives and walk as He walks, representing Him well!

Which one truth do you already have evidence of in your life today? Ask the Lord for new ways to see even more of it for you and others around you. Write your answers here:

Which one truth is the most challenging or least existing in your life today? Why do you think this is? Ask the Lord if there are any beliefs or barriers that are keeping you from believing that particular truth. Write it down here:

## **Practical Application**

A daily practice for engaging with the truth of this message is simple: live from the Spirit rather than toward Him. Instead of striving to "get closer to God," recognize that He has already given Himself fully to you through His Spirit. Each morning, take some time to breathe deeply, be aware of, and receive that freely given Spirit—just as Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive."

Let that breath remind you that God is not distant, waiting for you to reach Him. He has already come near, filling you, empowering you, and establishing you as His representative. As you go about your day, intentionally lay hold of His presence in every situation. When facing a challenge, pause and ask: "Holy Spirit, how do You want to move in this?" When facing something good, pause and say, "I recognize your favor here." When encountering others, remember that His Spirit in you is meant to comfort, guide, and empower—not just for yourself but for those around you.

Throughout the day, whenever you feel disconnected or discouraged, remind yourself: "I have been made new and I am filled with the Holy Spirit. The old me is gone. Then, act accordingly—representing Christ well in your words, thoughts, and actions, walking not as someone lacking power but as one already filled with the life of Christ.

## **Reference Verses**

- Matthew 3:11
- John 20:21-22
- Acts 1:1-5, 8
- Acts 8:12, 14-17
- Acts 18:24-26

- Acts 19:1-7
- Luke 11:9-14
- Mark 16:16
- 1 Corinthians 14:2, 5, 14-15
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23
- Jude 1:20-24
- Isaiah 28:11-12

## Declarations

Life is released when your words are in agreement with God. Intentionally speaking life and biblical truth out loud is extremely powerful. In fact, you have that very life in the power of your tongue. These words below, when spoken out loud, will cause an acceleration of the reality of God's words in your life. We encourage you to speak the following with an expectancy to renew your mind and see God's fullness.

- "I have received the Holy Spirit, and He dwells within me—guiding, empowering, and making God's fatherhood real to me."
- "Jesus has baptized me into His life, and I am made whole, healed, and empowered to walk as He walks."
- "I lay hold of the Spirit today, living not in striving but in the fullness of what God has already given me."
- "I am a representative of Christ, sent to reveal His love, power, and kingdom in every interaction today."

## What's Next?

This guide offers practical steps to apply the powerful truths you've heard about the **Baptism in the Holy Spirit**. It's more than just a theological concept; it's a vital, empowering experience that Jesus commanded for every believer to fulfill their purpose. By engaging with these steps, you can position yourself to receive and walk in this transformative power.

### Step 1: Understand and Desire This Distinct Empowerment

First, clearly distinguish between the Holy Spirit's indwelling at salvation and the distinct Baptism in the Holy Spirit for power. Recognize that while every believer has the Holy Spirit, Jesus commanded a separate infilling for "dunamis"—explosive, supernatural ability—to be His witnesses. This is not optional for effective ministry but an inducement of power designed to enable you to live "all in" for the Kingdom. Cultivate a deep desire for this specific empowerment, acknowledging it as a direct promise from the Father, available for you today, and essential for representing Jesus effectively.

### Step 2: Actively Ask and Expect to Receive the Gift

Since Jesus is the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, and the promise extends to "all who are afar off" (which includes you!), your next step is to actively ask and expect to receive this gift. Understand that it is a gift by grace, not something you earn or by perfect behavior. Simply, sincerely, and boldly ask Jesus to baptize you in the Holy Spirit. Approach this moment with earnest expectation, knowing that God eagerly desires to pour out this power on you, just as He did on the Day of Pentecost and throughout the Book of Acts.

### Step 3: Utilize Spiritual Gifts to Edify and Witness

Upon receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, activate and utilize the spiritual gifts that accompany this infilling, particularly the gift of speaking in tongues. Understand that praying in tongues bypasses the natural mind, allowing your spirit to pray the perfect will of God, building you up spiritually and providing refreshing. As you edify yourself, you are strengthened to be a more effective witness. Step out in boldness, allowing the Holy Spirit to bring revelation (like insight into how to pray for others) and use you to manifest God's supernatural power, contending earnestly for the faith and fulfilling Jesus' command to be His witness to the ends of the earth.

Embracing the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a pivotal step into a life marked by greater power and purpose. If you're seeking this empowering experience or need prayer and support on your journey, our team is here to stand in agreement with you. Please feel free to reach out to us via **WhatsApp** at 1-616-370-2404.

### Scripture References

#### Unlocking the Supernatural

**Matthew 3:11 NKJV** He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

**John 20:21-22 NKJV** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you." And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 1:3-5 NKJV** ...to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God. And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."

**Acts 1:8 NKJV** But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...

**Acts 8:12 NKJV** 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.

**Acts 8:14-16 NKJV** Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

**Acts 8:17 NKJV** Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 18:24-26 NKJV** Now a certain Jew named Apollos, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord, though he knew only the baptism of John. So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

**Acts 19:1-2 NKJV** And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit."

**Acts 19:3-6 NKJV** And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

**1 Corinthians 14:5 KJV** I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

**1 Corinthians 14:14 AMPC** For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive [it bears no fruit and helps nobody].

**1 Corinthians 14:15 NKJV** What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

**1 Corinthians 14:2 NKJV** For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him...

**1 Corinthians 14:4 NKJV** He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.

**Jude 20 NKJV** But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit...

**Isaiah 28:12 NKJV** "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"...

**Matthew 7:11 NKJV** If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!