

## Immersed in the Holy Spirit (*Ruach Ha-Kodesh*)

<sup>4</sup> Now while staying with them, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father promised—which, He said, “you heard from Me.” <sup>5</sup> For John immersed with water, but you will be immersed in the *Ruach ha-Kodesh* not many days from now.” (Acts 1:4-5)

On the day of *Shavuot* the *Ruach* immersed them along with other disciples (120 in total, see Acts 1:15) as *Yeshua* had promised in Acts 1:4-5. Peter confirmed this later the same day: “<sup>38</sup> Peter said to them, “Repent, and let each of you be immersed in the name of Messiah *Yeshua* for the removal of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the *Ruach ha-Kodesh*. <sup>39</sup> For the promise is for you and your children, and for all who are far away—as many as *Adonai* our God calls to Himself.” (Acts 2:38-39)

When a Believer accepts *Yeshua* as his Savior and is born again, the Spirit of God indwells their lives (“Create in me a clean heart, O God (*Elohim*); and renew (*chadash*) a right spirit (*ruach*) within me” *Psalms* 51:10). Evidently people do not receive the immersion of the Holy Spirit at the same time, except in exceptional circumstances. A parallel situation is depicted in Scripture in *John* 20:22: “<sup>22</sup> And after He said this, He breathed on them. And He said to them, ‘Receive the *Ruach ha-Kodesh*!’” *Yeshua* had already died and resurrected and it is obvious that the eleven were saved/born-again at this time. However, the text makes it clear that it was some seven weeks later (at *Shavuot*), when the full measure or the immersion of the *Ruach* would be given to them. Note that in the natural God breathed upon Adam, and he became a living soul; and *Yeshua* breathed on the disciples and they also became alive (in fact, some teach that this was the born-again experience for them). “<sup>49</sup> And behold, I am sending the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high” (*Luke* 24:29).

A type, shadow and prophecy of this event is found in *2 Chronicles* 5:11-12. Here one 120 priests (*kohanim*) had assembled in the temple and were sanctified, awaiting His presence. They were all of one mind and accord, and they were praising God (*cf. Acts*. 2:1-2). Then, the cloud of God filled the house with such a manifestation (the *shekinah*) that the priests were not able to minister (*cf. Acts* 2:15).

In *John* we read: “<sup>38</sup> Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture says, ‘out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.’” <sup>39</sup> Now He said this about the *Ruach*, whom those who trusted in Him were going to receive; for the *Ruach* was not yet given, since *Yeshua* was not yet glorified” (*John* 7:38, 39). Here we see that the immersion of the Holy Spirit could not be given until *Yeshua* was glorified or ascended to the Father. The fact is that *Yeshua* could not give this or any other gift until He had become the High Priest (*Kohen Gadol*) at the right hand of the Father: “<sup>3</sup> For every *kohen gadol* is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, so it is necessary for this One also to have something to offer. <sup>4</sup> Now if He were on earth, He would not be a *kohen* at all, since there are those who offer the gifts according to the Torah” (*Hebrews* 8:3,4). This is confirmed by Peter: “<sup>33</sup> Therefore, being exalted to the right hand of God and receiving from the Father the promise of the *Ruach ha-Kodesh*, He poured out this—what you now see and hear” (*Acts* 2:33).

There is much controversy in the Believing Community as to whether this experience was reserved for the early Messianic Believers and is not for our day nor is still available for men to receive today. We cannot confuse being filled in the Spirit (*Acts* 1:5 being immersed in the Spirit) with being indwelt by the Spirit (receiving the Gift of the Spirit in *Acts* 2:38). If we do not see a clear cut and definite difference between these two we can never have an intelligent grasp of what being immersed in the Spirit means. R.A. Laidlaw in “*The Gift and the Fullness of the Spirit*” on pp. 257 of *Living In His Presence* said it best:

- In A.D. 56, according to *Acts* 6, the Ephesian Believers had received salvation and the Gift of the Spirit; but then, eight years later, writing from a prison in Rome, Paul tells them to “be filled (*be immersed*) with the Spirit” (*Eph.* 5:18b). If these two were the same event, why would Paul write it as a command to them?
- The Gift of the Spirit comes at conversion (*Acts* 2:38); being filled with the Spirit (immersion) comes at consecration (*Ro.* 6:13). These may be close together or years apart.

- The Gift is the entrance of the Spirit (*John 6:63*); being filled with the Spirit is the exit of the old self (*Col. 3:9*). Obviously, we cannot be full of the Spirit if we are half filled with self.
- The Gift is the birth of the new man (*John 3:5*); being filled is the death of the old man (*Eph. 4:22-23*). The second may never happen, for it is tragically possible to live and die a carnal Believer.
- The Gift is peace with God, the sin question settled (*Ro. 5:1*); being filled is the peace of God garrisoning the heart (*Ro. 8:6*), divine complacency in all circumstances.
- The Gift of the Spirit is sin completely judged; being filled with the Spirit is fellowship completely established. We know the first, thank God. What do we know of the second?
- The Gift of the Spirit is eternal – He abides with us forever (*John 14:16*); being filled is conditional, so we are to "grieve not" and "quench not" (*Eph. 4:30*).
- The Gift of the Spirit comes on taking *Yeshua* as Savior; we are filled on crowning *Messiah* as Lord. The first makes us saints; the second, bond slaves.
- The Gift means the penalty of sin gone; being filled, the power of sin broken (*Acts 1:8*).
- The Gift means deliverance from death; being filled means victorious life.
- The Gift may leave us carnal Believers (*1 Cor. 3:3*); being filled makes us spiritual Believers (*Rom. 8:9*).
- The Gift of the Spirit governs our standing with God; being filled with the Spirit, our state before God. We have a perfect standing, but often we are in an imperfect state.
- The Gift has to do with our union with Him (*1 Cor. 12:13*); being filled with our communion with Him.
- The Gift is constantly the same (*John 14:16*); being filled is continually varying with us (*1 Thes. 5:19*).
- The Gift of the Spirit comes upon repentance and faith (*Acts 20:21*); being filled with the Spirit comes on submission & faith (*Rom. 6:13,19; 12:1*). Neither comes by feelings & faith, or by experience & faith.
- The first commits my soul to God; the second commits my life, myself to God.

### How to Receive the Immersion of the Holy Spirit

1. All involvement with occult activities must be renounced!	
2. "I tell you that unless a person is born again from above..."	John 3:3-7
3. Prophecy foretold	Isa 28:9-12; Joel 2:28
4. <i>Yeshua</i> spoke of two immersions	Mt. 3:11
5. <i>Yeshua</i> told us to worship the Father in this way	Jn. 4:23-24
6. <i>Yeshua</i> said these words would be Spirit and Life to us	Jn. 6:63
7. Will the Father give you something from the devil?	Lk. 11:9-13
8. <i>Yeshua</i> said these signs shall follow believers, not unbelievers (Rev. 21:8)	Mk. 16:17
9. "We should obey God rather than men..."	Acts 5:29 1 Cor. 14:39
10. The Promise spoken of in Acts 2:33, 39	Acts 1:4-5; 11:15
11. Spoke with other tongues – All 120 – including Mary, <i>Yeshua's</i> mother.	Acts 2:4; 19:6
12. On the road to Damascus Paul called <i>Yeshua</i> Lord. Ananias was sent 3 days later to lay hands on Him. Obviously, Paul did not get it all at first.	1 Cor. 12:3, Acts 9:5-6; Romans 10:9-10
13. Samaritans believed & were water immersed. They received the HS later.	Acts 8:12-17 – 2 <sup>nd</sup> exp.
14. This is The Seal of Our Inheritance	Eph. 1:13-14

This is proved to be an experience available today in the fact that it continued past Acts 2: those who believed in Samaria received the HS; Cornelius and his household were immersed with the HS; Paul laid hands on the believers in Ephesus and they were baptized with the HS. It is available in our day – Peter said so on in *Acts 2:39*. Everyone whom God calls, that is, everyone who is born again has the opportunity to receive this promise of the Father – the filling/immersion in the Spirit of God. This can happen to Believers *before, on or after* Water Immersion. It can come upon you while hearing the Word, when the Word is coming forth in the power and the anointing of the HS and the laying on of hands brings receptivity with manifestation of tongues following. It can also happen while lying in bed, driving, walking, in the shower and wherever and whenever you are ready. Satan does not want you to have this power. Don't be destroyed because "you lack knowledge." Therefore, 'Be filled with the Spirit!'