

BAPTISM

There are actually two of them.

Baptism in Water

Baptism in water is an outward expression of an inward change that has happened in a person's life. The new believer is simply dunked under water and then promptly raised out of the water. It is symbolic of the death, burial, and resurrection from the dead of Jesus Christ and our own death and burial of the Christless life and resurrection to a new Christ centered life. This can be done in a church baptism service. Jesus commanded that we be baptized when we have believed in and surrendered our lives to Jesus Christ. He said, "All authority has been given to me in Heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them all I have commanded you..." (Matthew 28:18-20)

Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Where does this term come from? John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to tie, He (Jesus) shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." (Matthew 3:11)

You can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit at any time after receiving Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Jesus said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be my witnesses...unto the uttermost parts of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

Referring to the followers of Christ in the first century the Bible says:

"And all were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." (Acts 2:4)

and "for they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God." (Acts 10:46)

and "When they heard this they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied." (Acts 19:5)

You can receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit (or Holy Ghost) now:

1. Turn from sin. Confess and forsake any involvement in the occult or any other abomination to God. (see Exodus 20:3-17 and Deuteronomy 28 in the Bible).
2. Ask Jesus Christ to baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
3. Invite the Holy Spirit to come in.
4. As you let the breath out, begin speaking with your own lips and tongue the sounds that God gives you. It may sound like baby talk at first. Now use your new spiritual language often. The Bible says in 1 Corinthians 14:4, "He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself ("builds yourself up"). Speaking in tongues builds you up so that you can believe Gods victory in your life over any circumstances.