

# Immersed in the Spirit

- According to 1. Thessalonians 5:23 Man consist of Spirit, Soul and Body and this “new birth” that Jesus talked about was a spiritual birth.
  - Our spirit is our power source, and when we got born again our power source got connected to God again.
  - Even though our body and soul is under the corruption of sin, our “power-source” have been born again and boosted by the Holy Spirit, so we now can live a new life – in victory over sin.
- Before we were slaves to sin, but now we have a choice – and this is where the renewing of our mind becomes important.
  - Our flesh needs to be crucified – Gal. 5:24
  - Our mind/soul needs to be renewed – Rom. 12:1-2
  - Our spirit needs to be reborn – Joh 3:3

## Power to live the new life

The New Covenant is about more than just having our sins forgiven. It’s about receiving power to live a new kind of life.

- A power that is stronger than the power of sin, enabling us to live in holiness (1. Joh. 5:4).

## THE TWO BAPTISMS

- When we get baptised in water we burn the bridges to our old life (Rom 6:1-5), and when we get baptised in the Holy Spirit we receive power to live the new life.
- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit was not just to empower us to speak in tongues. It was to enables us to be effective witnesses for Jesus

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere – in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

– Acts 1:8

## It's about more than speaking in tongues

The issue of speaking in tongues has often received the whole focus when we speak about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but there is more to it than just speaking in tongues.

- Speaking in tongues is an important gift God has given us that will greatly boost your prayer-life. But the baptism in the Holy Spirit was to boost more than your prayer-life – it should boost your whole walk with God.
- In Acts we see that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit produced:
  - A new boldness when it came to evangelism (Acts 4:31)
  - A new passion and power in prayer (Acts 4:29-31)
  - Prophetic speech (Acts 19:6)
  - Miraculous healings (Acts 5:15-16)
  - Wisdom (Acts 6:3)
  - Joy (Acts 13:52)
- I do believe that tongues play an important part in stepping in to the supernatural life God has for you – but don't stop with tongues.

## A new relationship available for everyone

As we read through the Old Testament, we see God's prophets speak about this new thing that would happen. We often read these prophecies without understanding how radical the things they were saying sounded to those who listen to them.

*...I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams, and your young men will see visions. In those days I will pour out my Spirit even on servants – men and women alike.*  
– Joel 2:28-29

- Under the old covenant people was used to the Spirit of God coming upon prophets, kings, priests and selected individuals – but God's Spirit being poured out on all people was unheard of.
  - Some commentaries also point out that when Jews had servants in those days, the servants were often gentiles. So this was also a hinting to the fact that God also wanted to save gentiles.

- Joel is stressing the point that this was going to be for everyone and says the result will be that common people will be “prophesying” and having “visions” and old men “dreams”.
  - In other word God would be communicating to everyone the same way he usually communicated to the “special people”.
- We can understand that people had a great expectation on how this new thing God was going to do would be like.

## The baptism

As we enter the New Testament, we see John entering the scene, and now people understood that the time was very close. And John bring new and clearer picture to what God is going to do.

*“I baptize with water those who repent of their sins and turn to God. But someone is coming soon who is greater than I am – so much greater that I’m not worthy even to be his slave and carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.  
– Matthew 3:11*

- We read the word “baptize” and don’t think much more about it, but for the people listening this was radical.
  - In those days the word “baptize” was not a Christian word, but an everyday word meaning to dip something completely under. They would fx. use this word when they coloured cloths. When the white cloth was fully coloured, they would say it had been baptized.
  - In other words, John was saying that Jesus would dip us under in the Holy Spirit and fire, until we had been fully coloured by it – no wonder why people where in expectation.
- The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not only about getting goose bumps, starting to speak in tongs and maybe falling under the power of God – it is God impacting you in such a powerful way that His own colour become your colour.

## The Holy Spirit colouring your life

In Galatians 5:22 we see a list of character traits we often call “The fruit of the Spirit”. These character traits will be the result of the Holy Spirit colouring your life.

*But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!*  
— Galatians 5:22

- Many only want “the gifts of the Spirit”, but they are not so interested in “the fruits of the Spirit”. This is like trying to grow a big tree with no roots — it is destined to fall.
- God wants you to operate in the gifts of the Spirit, because He wants to bring healing and deliverance to suffering people.
  - But God also wants you to be able to stand when the devil is causing a storm, and this is why allowing the Holy Spirit to work on your character is so important.
  - But we don’t need to choose between gift or fruits. God has made both things available to us.