

Two different experiences

- Some say we receive the Holy Spirit when we get saved, and this is true. But the Bible separates salvation from being baptised in the Spirit.
 - This becomes clear if you compare John chapter 20 with Acts 1.

*As he spoke, he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side. They were filled with joy when they saw the Lord! Again he said, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I am sending you." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit."
— John 20:20-22*

*Once when he was eating with them, he commanded them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift he promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."
— Acts 1:4-5*

- So, if He here told them to receive the Holy Spirit, why did he later tell them to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Two experiences in the book of Acts

Also in The Book of Acts we see salvation (or becoming a disciple) and being filled with the Spirit as two different things.

- The first place in the book of Acts we see salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit at two different things is in Acts 2
 - The disciples themselves had been with Jesus for over 3 years, and even after His death and resurrection it says that He "... appeared to the apostles from time to time ..." (Acts 1:3). So we should think that He would have settled the issue of salvation.
 - We have already see that in John 20, He said the them "Receive the Holy Spirit".

- In Peter's sermon to those who came together because of the noise in the first charismatic meeting, Peter said:

Peter replied, "Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

– Acts 2:38

- Here Peter is first talking about repentance, baptism and the forgiveness of sins. Then he ends by saying that when the first things are in place, they will be ready to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- It is also clear that this was not something that was supposed to die out with the first Apostles, for in the next verse Peter says.

This promise is to you, to your children, and to those far away – all who have been called by the Lord our God."

– Acts 2:29

Philip in Samaria

As the Gospel started to spread we see again see salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit at two separate things.

But now the people believed Philip's message of Good News concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ. As a result, many men and women were baptized.

– Acts 8:12

- I would say that it sounds like these people got saved. After all they had believed the message, and many had also gotten baptized. But still a few verses later we read:

When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that the people of Samaria had accepted God's message, they sent Peter and John there. As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new believers to receive the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit.

– Acts 8:14-17

Saul's conversion

When Saul, who later became Paul got saved we see the same thing.

- First he is praying and seeking God because of the vision of Jesus he had – and we should believe that someone who prays to God after having a vision should get saved. **Yet there was more that needed to happen.**

*The Lord said, "Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. **He is praying to me right now.***

– Acts 9:11

*So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight **and be filled with the Holy Spirit.**"*

– Acts 9:17

The believers in Ephesus

When Paul and Apollos reached Ephesus we see that they meet a group of people who the Bible calls "believers"

- ...and that is a good indication that they in fact were believers

*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several **believers.** "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "**we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.**"*

– Acts 19:1-2

*Then **when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them,** and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.*

– Acts 19:6

- So again we see a separation from being saved, because you believe in Jesus, and receiving the promise that Jesus said those who believe would get.
 - The gift of the Holy Spirit was not to become believers, but it was an empowerment that would be given to believers.