

*The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
Sent to Empower*

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Acts 10:38 explains why Jesus never did a miracle until He was baptized. *"how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him."* It was at His baptism that God the Father sent down the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove that came and rested on Jesus after He came up from the water. It is believed by some that He did miracles while He was here because He was God. In *Philippians 2:5-8* in the New Living Translation it says: *"⁵Your attitude should be the same as Christ Jesus had. ⁶Though He was God, He did not demand and cling to His rights as God. ⁷He made Himself nothing; He took the humble position of a slave and appeared in human form. ⁸And in human form He obediently humbled Himself even further by dying a criminal's death on a cross."* Jesus chose to lay down His Godhood while on earth, so He needed the Holy Spirit in Him in order to perform miracles while here. This is the only way He could be a true example for us because we are not God. If Jesus, God the Son, needed the power of the Holy Spirit to live His life on earth, why does the majority of the Church think we can do all we are called to do without the power of the Holy Spirit? If the miracles Jesus did were because He was operating as God, He couldn't have said in *John 14:12*-*'Most assuredly I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do, he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to my Father.* Jesus made it clear He did what He saw His Father do, that's why He told us to do it the way we saw Him do it. He gave us His authority but we also need His power source which is the Holy Spirit. In *Zechariah 4:6* it says *'It not by power nor by might but by My Spirit says the Lord'.*

Jesus is the perfect example of how we as people are to live and operate in this life through the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit living inside of us. We see why He told us His followers the importance of *John 16:7* - *'Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you'.* Jesus knew we needed the Holy Spirit to live victoriously. It is why Jesus can use us so we can experience miracles and see healings today.

Understand that Jesus had to be born of flesh, blood and bone so we could see Him on the same plane that we live on. He had to experience everything that we do so He could show us how to strive and press in to be like Him. He humbled Himself, lowering His standards for us from being the Son of God to being a mere man. It is for this reason, I believe, we have to *desire* the baptism of the Holy Spirit and that it is not just given to us. God wants to know how much we want something and what are we going to do with it. If we ask for it, I'm convinced He will give it to us. When we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and use it to be empowered to bring others to Him, it is my opinion that this is what gives Him the most pleasure in our asking for it. This is why I believe Jesus makes it available to all believers who want to have an empowered, Spirit-led lifestyle.

Ask God to baptize you in His Holy Spirit to be able to be a more bold witness for Him, to learn how to operate in the Gifts of the Spirit to further His Kingdom, to be able to pray in a prayer language, to be able to speak in tongues,. When you pray in tongues, the enemy cannot intercept your request, he doesn't know what you are conversing with God about when you do this. Another benefit is when the Lord speaks to you, you'll know exactly what He is telling or showing you. *John 14:12* says *'Anyone who has faith in Me will do what I have been doing.*