

*the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his,”*  
Romans 8:9b.

The ministry of the Holy Spirit after salvation is that of filling, which is repeated many times in the life of the believer. Ephesians 5:18 says *“and be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but be filled with the Spirit.”* God is commanding us to be yielded to God’s Spirit, so that He can fill us. Filling is the control the Spirit gains in our lives by our yielding to Him, which empowers us to do God’s will and service (Acts 4:31). Just like wine fills (controls and empowers) a person, so God controls and empowers those who yield to Him. The Holy Spirit has several other ministries to the believer that continue throughout life: He **intercedes** (Romans 8:26-27), **comforts** (John 14:16-17), **guides** Romans 8:14, **teaches** (John 16:12-15), **anoints** (I John 2:27), and **gives assurance** of one’s union with Christ (Romans 8:14). Thank God for the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

*“For by one Spirit  
we are all baptized  
into one body....”*

*1 Corinthians 12:13a*



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# THE BIBLICAL TEACHING OF

*Spirit  
Baptism*



Keith Ekberg

## What is Spirit Baptism?

This question has been asked countless times since the first century church. The lack of Bible understanding of this subject has caused great confusion. The goal of this study is to show what the Bible teaches about Spirit Baptism, not men's opinions of it.

Let us first look at the word *baptize*, which means to immerse or submerge. When you immerse or submerge an object in water or a certain liquid, you **place** that object completely into the liquid. In I Corinthians 12:13 we read, "*For by one Spirit are we **all** baptized into one body.*" That is, by one Holy Spirit, each and every believer has been baptized or placed into the body of Christ. It is the Spirit of God that forms the spiritual body made up of many different members into one body, the body of Christ—the church (I Corinthians 12:12). This one baptism is seen in Ephesians 4:5, "*There is one Lord, (then) one faith*" (in this one Lord), and "*one (Spirit) baptism,*" that places us into the body of this one Lord, by faith. Notice that Spirit Baptism occurs once, not many times. Colossians 2:12 states, "*Buried with Him (Christ) in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with Him through the **faith** of the operation (or working) of God, who hath raised Him from the dead.*"

We who have called on Christ to save us from our sins, and have willingly turned from all our sin to Christ alone, are identified with Christ's death, burial, and resurrection. For in God's eyes we have died, been buried and have been risen with Christ by Spirit Baptism. This identification with Christ came **through**, or by the means of, our **faith** in this work that God has done—the raising of Christ from the dead. According to Romans 6:3-4, "*Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized unto his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father even so we also should walk in newness of life.*"

Spirit Baptism places or joins the believing sinner to Christ Himself. This separates the believer from his old life style (sins and habits) and brings about a deadness to sin, because sin is no longer his master. We are united with our new Master, and alive unto the victorious resurrected Christ. Every believing sinner is Spirit Baptized (I Corinthians 12:13) at the moment he believes in Jesus Christ (John 3:16), and therefore placed into the body of Christ, by **faith alone**. Water baptism only pictures or shows that I have already been united to Christ by Spirit Baptism.

There are five ministries that the Holy Spirit ministers in the salvation of souls.

1. The Holy Spirit brings **conviction** to the sinner (John 16:8-11). He convinces them of their sinfulness and need of a Savior. The next four ministries happen the moment a sinner believes in Christ and are not repeated.
2. When one believes on Christ, the Spirit **regenerates** him. That is, by means of the Word of God, the Holy Spirit gives to the one believing, new life or a new nature from God (Titus 3:5, II Peter 1:4).
3. The Holy Spirit also comes and **indwells** the believer (I Corinthians 6:19).
4. The Holy Spirit **baptizes** the one believing in Christ (I Corinthians 12:13), uniting the believer with Christ.
5. The Holy Spirit **seals** the believer (Ephesians 1:13). That is, the Holy Spirit indwells him, and acts as a seal, or mark or ownership.

When we are saved we do not merely experience regeneration and then later look for Spirit Baptism (which some call the second blessing), for it is at salvation that we receive regeneration, indwelling Spirit Baptism, and the sealing of the Spirit. "*Now if any man have not*