

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit, part 2 of 2—

Baptism Basics

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Here are some basics to praying with or leading in a Holy Spirit altar service with children:

1. Be Positive!

God wants to fill every child to overflowing. Jesus is still in the business of touching and blessing the children. I am convinced that God desires to do more in the lives of children than we can even imagine.

2. God is Willing

Encourage children to ask God for this according to Luke 11:13. If earthly fathers know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask? God is looking for boys and girls that will step beyond wishing and ask.

3. Praise Out Loud

Once they have asked God for His baptism in the Spirit, encourage the children to praise and glorify out loud. In 25 years of praying with children, I have never witnessed a child receiving this gift without first praising God out loud in his own native tongue. Psalm 51:15 says, "O Lord, open my lips and my mouth will declare your praise." Psalm 8:2 says, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise because of your enemies, to silence the foe and the avenger."

4. Be Ready

Praise God in English and He will give you a prayer language at

just the right time. There is no magic formula for receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. God is not to be boxed in at the altars. I've found that He is really good at filling a child to overflowing at the time when that child—body, soul, and spirit—is ready.



5. Ask, Don't Tell

Never tell a child that he has received. Ask him what God is doing. Ask him if he is speaking in tongues. If the answer is yes, encourage him to continue. Too many children have left the altars thinking that they received because an adult heard them crying or laughing in God's presence. Anyone who has been filled to overflowing with the Spirit can tell you. They will know they have been filled.

6. He Who Asks, Receives

Remind children that according to Luke 11:13 those who ask will receive. God will not allow a fake or counterfeit in his altar service. He will give children a prayer language. That prayer language may not sound like any they have heard nearby. God is so big that He can give each child his own tongue.

7. Speak Out in Faith

Encourage children to speak out by faith when the Holy Spirit even gives them a partial word to say. Often times a child will receive a word or two, say the word and immediately wonder if this is it. I tell kids to speak out whatever God is giving them and believe that He is going to help them speak out.

8. Keep It Up

When you hear that a child has received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, encourage him to pray in tongues. Let him know that he can start or stop praying at any time. Let every child who has been filled know that this is a prayer language to be used every day.

9. It Can Happen Anytime

Children leaving the altar without having received should be encouraged to walk by faith, knowing that they will be baptized to overflowing any minute. I have done this many times with great success and awesome testi-

monies. One girl pushed the button on the elevator and she and all of her friends were baptized in the Spirit and began speaking in tongues. Another boy told me that he was walking to the bathroom and just began praising God. Before he knew it, he was speaking in a heavenly language. A girl

in one camp prayed every night. It wasn't until she was at home with her mom and dad that God allowed her to pray in tongues. As a result, Mom and Dad were both baptized in the Spirit as the girl laid hands on them.

It is important in any altar service to let God be God. Do not attempt to force a move of God or raise the spiritual level of the altar time by your own strength. Jesus is the Lord of the altar time. Let the children come to Him.

Questions For Further Study—

1. Who should be in charge of the altar time?

2. For each of the following “basics” in leading a child to the baptism in the Holy Spirit, write down something that you can do or say during altar time to encourage a child to receive the baptism.
 - 1) Be Positive

 - 2) God is Willing

 - 3) Praise Out Loud

 - 4) Be Ready

 - 5) Ask, Don't Tell

 - 6) He Who Asks, Receives

 - 7) Speak Out in Faith

 - 8) Keep It Up

 - 9) It Can Happen Anytime