

# Strengthening the Stakes – ‘Holy Spirit’

I began last November with this series entitled ‘Deeper’ intending to create a hunger for more of God and desire within the church to raise the spiritual temperature.

During this time we have made use of two metaphors - the well and the tent. I spoke about how we need to open up the blocked wells and dig some new ones; and with regard to the tent about extending, stretching, lengthening and strengthening.

We are at the end of this series, however not at the end of this as an emphasis. We will be continuing to promote and encourage ‘*deeper*’ within the life of the Church here at Millbrook.

## ***Our Helper and Friend the Holy Spirit***

I am personally convinced that our greatest aid in the pursuit of God is the Holy Spirit. He has been given to us to teach us and lead us into the deep things of God.

Paul writes in his wonderful letter to the Ephesian Church that they should be ‘*continually filled with the Holy Spirit*’ (5:18 – 19). This implies that you have been filled and are now continuing to refill and replenish.

So for the benefit of those who may be wondering what this ‘*fullness in the Spirit*’ is all about, or maybe those who have a desire to live in this fullness of the Spirit let me talk this morning about the ‘***Baptism in the Holy Spirit***’

### ***1. What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?***

- (a) It is a separate and subsequent experience to salvation - ‘... *since you believed*’ (Acts 8:12 & 17; 9:6 & 17)
- (b) It is an infilling and an overflowing of the Holy Spirit - ‘... *rivers of living water*’ (Acts 2:4, John 7:37-39)
- (c) It is a divine equipping for service - ‘... *clothed with power*’ (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8)
- (d) It is a Gift from God - ‘... *the Gift of the Holy Spirit*’ (Luke 11:11-13, Acts 2:38; 10:45; 11:17).

### ***2. How can you receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?***

- (1) Recognise that the Gift has already been given. (Acts 2:16ff ... this is that)
- (2) Use the laying on of Hands as a moment to release your faith. (Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6).
- (3) Expect to speak in Tongues. (Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4). If you read Acts 2:4 it says: “...*they were all filled...and began to speak ...as the Spirit was giving them ability...*” NOTE: The Holy Spirit supplied the ability and the anointing, but the disciples supplied the will and the action, as they “began to speak.”
- (4) Get yourself ready - begin to pray & praise. Be positive in your posture!