

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because God is supernatural, transcending the natural realm, we cannot truly come to know Him and understand Him unless we move into the realm of the spirit. We can only truly worship God in the spirit because He is a spirit (**John 4:24**). For some inexplicable reason the Lord has chosen us, puny and weak earthen vessels, to manifest His glory and power on the earth. It is not that He could not do it Himself, or have His holy angels sent to accomplish whatever mission He needed done. The Lord simply delights in sharing His glory with His creation, and using us as partners to achieve His pre-ordained divine plans. Therefore it behooves us to learn and understand His ways, kingdom and how He desires to reveal His power and glory through us.

In **1 Corinthians 4:20** Paul said: *“the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in power.”* The Holy Spirit is the inner power that God gives us to help us to live in this world, while we are pilgrims here. None of us is worthy to have the Spirit of God living in us in this manner, but we must understand that it is by the righteousness of Christ that we are accepted by God. Our focus must always be who He is in us, and not who we are in our own strength, ability and intellect. No one deserves this gift from God or has ever done anything to earn it. For it is only by grace, through faith that we receive it (**Ephesians 2:8-9**).

If our goal is to become like Jesus, then we must look beyond our own weaknesses and inabilities, and rise above the terrestrial so we can enjoy the celestial. We must move into the invisible, eternal realm to be able to flow and operate in the realm of the supernatural (**2 Corinthians 4:18**). Our intimate relationship with the Lord is directly proportional to the amount of the power of His Spirit that will flow through us. But the door that we must all go through to step into the invisible, supernatural realm of God’s kingdom is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Through the Holy Spirit, God pours His love into our hearts (**Romans 5:5**). This love is not like any human love we have ever experienced or felt. This love transcends the human and elevates us into the divine. As we are filled with this liquid love, it begins to transform us and manifest God’s love through us to others (**1 John 4:7-13**). This is the kind of love that loves the unlovable, the undeserving and those that hate you and spitefully use you. When you have this kind of love, you are able to forgive anyone, anything they may have done unto you. Let’s take a look at this wonderful experience and how you can receive it in your Christian life.

A. What Is The Baptism Of The Holy Spirit?

This is a topic that causes much confusion and contention in the body of Christ. I thank the Lord that He allowed me to have the glorious experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit the same night that I was baptized in water in a Pentecostal Church twenty four years ago. However, I noticed through the years that not all believers had that same experience. I saw many that although they had repented and been baptized in water, had not been able to speak with tongues. These believers had a genuine

conversion, loved the Lord, lived godly lives, yet in spite of their tears, fasts and continuous repentance, they were not able to speak with tongues.

The doctrine of the church to which I belonged believed that if a believer did not speak in tongues, he had not received the Holy Spirit, and therefore had not been born again. It took me several years of God dealing with me, revealing His word to me to be able to understand how wrong they were. Every one that has been born again has the Holy Spirit dwelling inside. *“If a man has not the spirit of Christ, he is none of His” (Romans 8:9)*. Other groups also have doctrinal errors although maybe not as extreme. Many Christians believe that there is nothing more after accepting Jesus as their Lord and Savior and being baptized in water, which is not true. *Many believe that the baptism of the Spirit, spiritual gifts, signs and wonders, apostles and prophets are not for today*. Some even attribute speaking in tongues to the devil, which is a very dangerous accusation, since they are in danger of committing the unpardonable sin and can be punished severely (*Mathew 12:31-32, Mark 3:28-30, 1 Timothy 1:13, Hebrews 10:26*).

There is a difference between having the Spirit and being baptized in the Spirit. When someone is saved by believing with the heart and confessing with his mouth that Jesus died for his sins, he receives the incorruptible seed of God’s Spirit in his innermost being (*1 Peter 1:23*). That person can then be filled with the Spirit that is already dwelling inside him if he believes and receives with faith (*John 7:37-39*). Even in the life of our Lord Jesus Christ, He did not do any mighty works until He was baptized with the Holy Spirit at the river Jordan (*Mathew 3:16-17*). Although Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, it was necessary for Him to be empowered by the Spirit. The early church disciples also were commanded by the Lord to wait in the upper room until they were filled with power from on high (*Luke 24:49*).

On the day of Pentecost in *Acts 2*, the apostles received a double experience. First they received the Holy Spirit Jesus sent from heaven, and at the same time they were baptized in the Spirit to be able to do the work of the ministry that Jesus had commanded them. As a result, they spoke in tongues and had many other powerful manifestations of the Spirit. Three thousand were added to the Church that same day, but the Bible does not say if they were all filled with the Spirit.

In *Acts 4:31* it says that the apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit. If salvation and being filled with the Spirit is the same thing, then the apostles were saved again for a second time in *Acts 4*. In *1 Corinthians 12:13* Paul said: *“For we were baptized by one same spirit into the Body”*. This scripture tells us clearly that the way to enter into the Body of Christ (the church) is through the Holy Spirit in the new birth experience. *The baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in new tongues is different to the new birth experience. Speaking in tongues has to do with the infilling of the Holy Spirit. Paul said: “We all have been baptized into one Body and made to drink of one spirit (1 Corinthians 12:13)*.

When someone who is saved, in thirsty and opens up to the Holy Spirit drinking from Him, he is filled or possessed with the Spirit of God that already lives within him (*John 7:37-39, Galatians 4:6-7*). Thousands of believers have a misunderstanding of what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is and spend years praying for God to give them this experience. They do not know that the Holy Spirit is

already inside them and they only have to desire and allow the Spirit to fill and baptize them.

B. Who Can Be Filled With The Holy Spirit?

Although the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues are not a requirement to be saved, the will of God is that everyone be filled with His Spirit (*Ephesians 5:18*). It is so important that the last words of Jesus before He went up to heaven were about this theme (*Acts 1:4-9*). The apostle Peter full of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost confirmed it (*Acts 2:38*). That's how the early apostolic church started and continued afterward as well (*Acts 2:42*).

In these last days, the Lord is taking the church to its primitive roots, the apostolic foundation, to the doctrines the spiritual fathers established in the church. To be filled with the Holy Spirit is a right and a privilege for every believer. They received the Holy Spirit in Samaria (*Acts 8:14-20*), in Caesarea (*Acts 10:44-48*) and in Ephesus (*Acts 19:1-7*). Without a doubt, everyone that believed on the Lord Jesus Christ in the early Apostolic Church was baptized in water by immersion and filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. This promised experience is for everyone today, for whomsoever the Lord shall call (*Acts 2:39*).

C. The Evidence

When we read the Bible, it is evident that every time someone received the Holy Spirit there was evidence, an external sign that could not be denied. No one ever received the baptism of the Holy Spirit in secret, without someone who is near finding out. In Jerusalem a group of Jews saw it and heard it (*Acts 8:18*), and in Caesarea, the ones that were with Peter heard it too (*Acts 10:46*).

What was it that the people saw and heard? When the Spirit fell the first time in the upper room, there was wind, fire and tongues. But the other manifestations that took place after this initial outpouring did not come with fire nor wind, but only tongues were heard as the Spirit gave them to speak (*Acts 11:15*). In the city of Ephesus Paul asked the people if they had received the Holy Spirit after they had believed. When they said no, Paul laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. Paul did not ask them again if they had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit because he heard them himself speaking in tongues and praising God in angelic tongues (*Acts 19:1-7*).

The evidence is that when a believer receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he speaks in tongues as a sign that he has received it. It is not the only sign, but it is the most prevalent one throughout the Bible that a believer has been baptized in the Spirit. However, there are many Christians that have never been baptized in the Spirit and have never spoken in tongues (*1 Corinthians 12:30*).

Why tongues? The tongue can be used to bless or curse. It is the only member of our body that can corrupt the whole body. It is untamable, full of poison and evil (*James 3:8*). Man can control a horse with bit and bridle and can guide a ship with a rudder; however he cannot tame the tongue. Jesus mentioned tongues as one of the signs that would follow believers (*Mark 16:17*). When the Holy Spirit enters and

fills the heart of a person, God reclaims possession of a person's tongue (*Isaiah 28:11*). He wants to possess our hearts, minds, bodies, desires and our tongues. *Some people want to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but do not want to speak in tongues.* Paul says in the Bible that he wished everyone spoke in tongues, and that he spoke in tongues more than they did; and told them not to forbid speaking in tongues (*1 Corinthians 14:5, 18, 39*).

D. How Do You Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit?

Let's take a look at some important steps to receive this wonderful experience of the baptism of the Spirit.

1. *There Must Be Genuine Repentance (Acts 2:38)*

Repentance is to turn 180 degrees from the direction where we were heading and start walking to God, allowing Him to be the Lord of our lives. The moment you sincerely repent, God will forgive you immediately and you will feel as though a great weight has been lifted from your soul. Now you can talk to God and ask Him to feel you with His Holy Spirit, which you may receive right there and then, but there is second necessary step.

2. *You Need to be Baptized in Water*

In repentance you die to a life of sin, and in water baptism you are buried (*see chapter 2*). When you come out of the water, it is symbolic of your resurrection to newness of life and God can then fill you with His Holy Spirit at the moment of baptism, while you are still in the water. God does not always move in the same way. Some receive the Holy Spirit before they are baptized in water, others afterwards (*Acts 10:44-48*). The important thing is to be obedient to His commandment (*Acts 5:32*).

3. *Offer Him Sincere Worship from the Heart*

Worship is not the same as giving thanks to God in prayer. It is something that maybe you are not used to doing, especially if you are a man. Do not be nervous, tense or fearful, it will only make it more difficult to receive the gift from God. Feel relaxed, comfortable, with confidence to receive what the Lord wants to give you. Think about Jesus with His arms stretched towards you. Raise your hands to Him as if you were going to embrace Him, and start to worship Him with expressions like: Alleluia! Glory! *With worship that comes out of your innermost being, not from your mind.*

God loves this kind of worship in spirit and in truth (*John 4:23-24*). After all, is that not what you always have desired; to love God in spirit and in truth, without any

barriers or obstacles; to be in him and him in you, in an inexplicable spiritual ecstasy? (*1 Peter 1:8*).

4. ***Have Faith That He Will Fulfill What He Promised***

God is not going to give you something that is not good, something that can harm you. If men being evil know how to give good gifts to their children, how much more will our heavenly father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him? (*Luke 11:9-13*). Ask with faith, confidence and insistence and you will receive living waters from God. You have already obeyed the Word, done your part, now God will do His part, you only have to receive. Proceed to make contact with God, where you are going to feel His divine presence. A warmth will touch your heart, and possibly you will be surprised when you feel hot tears running down your cheeks, while you speak words of love and gratitude for his forgiveness and great love for you (*John 3:16*).

5. ***Let the Holy Spirit Immerse You***

When you feel the presence of the Lord no dot stop, but continue to worship Him. Warmth will touch your heart. You have to leave the dimension of human thought and cross to the dimension of the Holy Spirit. God's ways are not our ways (*Isaiah 55:9*). Your attitude has to be like that of a child (*Mathew 18:3*), and confide in Him one hundred percent. Like a child believes and obeys, so likewise you start a spiritual transformation. You will find yourself sinking more and more into the ocean of God's love. Your lips will start to shake, and tears will start to run down your cheeks, your voice will intensify. Stretch your hands like a child towards the strong arms of your Heavenly Father. Talking about the baptism of the Spirit Jesus said: *If anyone thirsts, come to me and drink; he that believes in me, as the scripture says, out of his belly shall flow living waters*" (*John 7:37-39*).

6. ***Drink of the Living Water Jesus is Giving you to Drink***

No one can drink with his mouth closed. God says: "Open your mouth and I will fill it." God cannot fill your mouth if it is closed. Some people do not receive the infilling of the Holy Spirit because they close their mouths, or do not open them enough. *Open your mouth with confidence and let the Lord fill it with angelic words that He will put in your heart.* You are thirsty of that living water, receive it. Thirst is one of man's most urgent needs and can be quenched with water or with some other beverage. But the thirst of the soul can only be quenched with the water that proceeds from heaven (*Isaiah 55:1; 44:3; Revelation 21:6, 22:17*).

If you try to quench the thirst of your soul with things of this world, you will realize that your spiritual thirst will not be quenched (*Job 29:23*). You can be surrounded with water, but you will die of thirst unless you open your mouth and drink. In the New Testament, the word spirit also means breath. Breathe deeply this breath of God and you will speak freely the words that He is giving you to speak.

7. ***Give the Control of Your Tongue to the Lord.***

On the day of Pentecost, everyone started to speak in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance (*Acts 2:4*). The same way a teacher shows the students how to say a poem, she does not say the poem, but only shows them what they must say. The same way, the Holy Spirit does not force anyone to speak in tongues, nor does it speak through anyone as if they were phonographs. *What the Spirit does is guide, giving us words or suggesting what we should say. It is not begging or persuading.*

The disciples on the day of Pentecost spoke the words the Spirit suggested to them, but it was them who spoke voluntarily. They did not care how strange the words were going to sound, nor what the people thought; *they just spoke in faith whatever the Spirit gave them to speak.* Not everyone speaks the same when they are filled with the Holy Spirit; some speak in a low voice, others scream, but it always starts with short words of one syllable. While those words are there, say them again and again until He gives you more to say. While you are receiving, He will continue to give you more.

Just like children do not speak great words at first, but start by saying simple words like “dada”; it is the same when you start to speak in tongues. You are starting to form words with your lips and tongue. This is the way every person starts to speak naturally and supernaturally, in our own native tongue and also in the tongue of angels (*1 Corinthians 13:1*). Someone helped us, encouraged us, syllable by syllable, word by word, phrase by phrase. Our Heavenly Father is pleased as any human father would be, when you start to say words in the language of the spirit He wants to hear. Can’t you hear His voice encouraging you: *“Speak my child, speak.”*

E. **The Pentecostal Language**

The Holy Spirit will prompt you to express yourself in the following ways:

1. ***Stammering Lips (Isaiah 28:11)***

This happens when your lips and tongue start to shake. If this happens, speak clearly in faith. This is a sign that there is another tongue present. This is where many people stop the Holy Spirit from manifesting, because they insist in speaking in their own language when He is guiding us to speak in His language. You will continue to stammer as long as you persist in speaking in your own native tongue. When you start to babble and stutter, immediately stop trying to speak in your own language and start to speak in the unknown tongue. *You cannot speak two languages at the same time. It is not possible.* When you feel that God is present to baptize you, do not hinder the Lord by repeating words or phrases in your known language.

Sometimes while the Spirit is trying to lead a person to speak in other tongues, because of the blessing the person is experiencing, they start to say: “Glory, glory, glory” never allowing the Holy Spirit to baptize them. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you to baptize you, *do not say anything in your own tongue, but say the words and sounds He is giving you to say.* Do not drown them in your unbelief.

When you feel the words of the Spirit inside of you, you will feel an urge to say them. This may happen when you are praying, reading the Bible or just worshipping the Lord. When you feel the urge to say these words, do not reject them, obey Him and you will speak in tongues. Some people expect the Spirit to do everything, or think these urges are from the flesh. But the flesh will never lead anyone to the baptism of the Holy Spirit (*Galatians 5:17*). The flesh is opposed to tongues. It will tell you that it is you who are inventing the words, or you are just repeating what you heard someone else say. The flesh wants to express itself and cause you to continue to speak in your native tongue, and not in angelic tongues.

2. *Strange Sounds and Words*

The Bible tells us that the Holy Spirit is the one that initiates speaking in tongues. Those sounds and words do not come from your flesh or your imagination, the Holy Spirit is giving them to you. Some people have even seen themselves in dream speaking in tongues, and when they woke up they simply continued speaking in tongues.

When you feel the presence of the Holy Spirit, simply continue the internal impulses and start to speak in tongues without knowing what you will say. It is an act of faith (*Hebrews 11:8*). The key word is to *trust in God*. Without knowing exactly what you will say, you allow God to guide you while you are speaking. Do not doubt; prepare yourself to speak in tongues when God fills you with the Holy Spirit. God is giving you words to say, do it with confidence and faith.

The Holy Spirit has already been given. God does not have anything else to give; it is you who has to receive. Receive it confidently, simply and calmly. Do not be nervous or rigid; do not doubt or resist it, but simply open your mouth and drink the living waters He is giving you. Speak those strange sounds that are coming from your heart, say them again and again and you will start to fill the bubbling sensations starting in the pit of your stomach as you are being filled with His Spirit. Continue to drink and don't stop until you are satisfied.

F. *After Your Pentecost*

This is what you have waited for and desired all your life. Your spirit has united to His. What a joy to know that He has filled you with His presence, and you are now the temple of the Holy Spirit. Thank and worship Him every day for giving you His precious Holy Spirit. Once you have been filled with the Spirit, do not remain there but renew your experience daily by drinking the living waters and letting Him fill you again and again. When the living waters are flowing inside of you, you will start to speak in tongues again. Each refilling can be more glorious than the original baptism.

When the believers are not directed to these new outpourings of the Spirit and to win others to the Lord, gradually they start to dry spiritually. Tell others about the experience you just had with the Lord, and watch how God will use you to touch many lives for His glory. One of the reasons you were baptized with the Spirit is to be a witness for Christ and to win others to the Lord. Your spiritual growth is very

important, and to achieve that spiritual growth you need to pray, fast, read your Bible and attend a local church where you will be taught the word of God and how to live a Christian life.