

THE PROMISES OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

The Prophet Joel prophesied it, Joel 2:28-32 and Peter the Apostle proclaimed it, Acts 2:14-21. *"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. "* Jesus promised it, Mark 16:17,18 *"And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

It was Jesus' intention that after His ascension into heaven we would be enabled to carry on His work in His strength. For God said in, Zechariah 4:6 *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit," says the LORD Almighty."*

THE HOLY SPIRIT; A GIFT PROMISED

Acts 2:38,39 *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."* God wants each believer to be filled with His Holy Spirit, this is a gift to all who repent from their lives of sin, and a deposit of what is to come.

2 Cor 1:21-22 says *"Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come."*

THE RESULTS OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

The Apostle Peter; who had earlier denied Jesus when he was put on the spot, after receiving the promised Baptism of the Holy Spirit, stood and preached boldly to the same people he had feared a few days earlier. Acts 2:14-36. God will empower you by the Holy Spirit to be His bold witnesses wherever He leads you. Look again at the promises in paragraph 1. Mark 16:17,18.

God wants to enrich your prayer life through the gift of tongues. Rom 8:26-27 *"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will."*

THE EXAMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Before Jesus began His earthly ministry of signs and wonders, He was empowered by the Holy Spirit. John 1:32-33 *Then John gave this testimony: "I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on Him. I would not have known Him, except that the one who sent me to baptise with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptise with the Holy Spirit.'* We have seen how Peter was empowered by the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts. There are many other examples throughout this book. Acts 3:2-8; 5:1-10; 8:26-39; 9:33-35; 9:36-40; plus many more.

THE EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

The scriptures show that speaking in tongues was a common experience amongst those filled with the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself declared that believers would speak in new tongues (Mark 16:17). The pattern in the early church shows the fulfilment of Jesus' words. All of the following spoke in tongues when they received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit: the Apostles and disciples on the day of Pentecost Acts 2:4-11; Cornelius and his household Acts 10:44-48; and the Ephesian disciples Acts 19:1-6.

THE PURPOSE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1 Corinthians 14 will show us what the Apostle Paul taught regarding speaking in tongues.

- Verse 1. Paul says we should eagerly desire the spiritual gifts.
- Verse 2. When we speak in tongues we speak to God.
- Verse 4. We edify ourselves or build ourselves up when we speak in tongues.
- Verse 5. Paul said "I would like everyone one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church can be edified." Paul is talking here about Church gatherings and he wants to make sure that what is proclaimed out loud is able to be understood, so that listeners can benefit.
- Verses 14&15 "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind."
- Verse 22. "Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers." This can be the case when a message in a tongue is recognised and understood by people of another culture. Acts 2:4-11.
- Verse 39. Lastly he said. "Do not forbid speaking in tongues."

It is obvious that Paul considered speaking in tongues very important.

Jesus Christ said he would dwell in us if we open our lives to him. **Rev 3:20.**

When the Holy Spirit comes on us we are clothed with His power. **Luke 24:49....**

After we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit we are more able to be a powerful soldier for Jesus. **Acts 1:8.** Speaking in tongues is a part of the equipment of our personal prayer life. It is up to us to develop it and use it, like any other gift given to us. Speaking in tongues is a prayer language given to every believer to personally benefit from, and it can also be inspired speech recognized and understood by people of other cultures to whom God wishes to communicate truth in a Christian gathering. On the day of Pentecost, both purposes of speaking in tongues were evident.

Write out and memorise Luke 11:13.

1. Does every believer receive the Holy Spirit? Romans 8:9 and John 3:5-6
2. Who is the Baptism of the Holy Spirit for? Mark 16:17, Acts 5:32, John 14:15-18.
3. Does it include us today? Acts 2:38-9.
4. What works can we do when we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:8
5. What are three things the Holy Spirit does when He comes to us? John 14:26; 16:13.
6. How does the Holy Spirit help us to pray? Romans 8:26, 27.
7. What other benefit is there to being filled with the Holy Spirit? 1 Corinthians 14:4
8. How should we pray when we pray in tongues? 1 Corinthians 14:14-16.
9. Who understands what is prayed when we pray in tongues? 1 Corinthians 14:2.
10. After reading 1 Corinthians chapter 14, discuss with your mentor the different types of directions Paul gives for speaking in tongues in our personal prayer life, and in a church gathering.
11. Ask your mentor to share with you their testimony of when they were baptised in the Holy Spirit.
12. What should we do to prepare for our receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Acts 1:1-8; 2:1.

13.What was most commonly done to administer the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts?

Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6.

11.Do you believe that God wants you to be filled with His Holy Spirit?

Matthew 7:9-11. *"Which of you, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"*

12.Do you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

If yes, ask a Spirit filled believer to pray with you.

Write any questions or comments about any area of interest you would like to discuss here.

We have an enemy, Satan. He will always try to steal the gifts from you that God has given you! When doubt comes, resist the devil and he will flee from you. James 4:7.