

Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Receiving Power from on High)

Jerry E. Smith, Ed.D.

Introduction

“Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness” (2 Peter 1:3-4). Grace and peace are yours in abundance, multiplied unto you, through the knowledge of God. Everything you need pertaining to life and godliness has been given unto you through your faith in Jesus. But you will only be able to receive those benefits of which you have knowledge. Knowledge of what has been accomplished in your behalf by the Father, Son and Holy Spirit is a prerequisite to receiving what has been accomplished. God said through the prophet, Hosea, “My people are destroyed from lack of knowledge” (Hosea 4:6). If you desire to receive the grace, peace and provision, which Jesus has earned for you, you must have knowledge of what He has earned. Everything you need to lead a successful life and, everything you need to be the godly person He has ordained you to be, have been provided through the atoning sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. It has been done. Your responsibility is to learn what has been done in your behalf and receive it into your experience by faith.

I believe the Holy Spirit baptism is the second most important gift available to mankind. The new birth, of course, is the most important. God arranged them well: Be born-again and receive the Holy Spirit baptism. As you study these pages, you will come to know that this gift is available to you through Christ. You will learn why you, as a Christian, need the baptism of the Holy Spirit. And, you will learn how to receive this gift. Christ Jesus ascended to the Father and made this great gift available to you. You can experience this wonderful gift as you act upon His word. [Please be aware that the terms Holy Spirit and Holy Ghost are synonymous. The variation is the result of which bible translation is used].

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Baptism in the Holy Spirit

Hundreds of years prior to the birth of Christ and the subsequent outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost, the prophet Joel uttered these words: “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out My Spirit (Joel 2:28-29). In John 7:37-39 Jesus said, “If any man thirst let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.” “But this spoke He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.” Jesus, as well as Joel, was speaking of a future, post-resurrection time when believers in Christ would have an experience with the Holy Spirit that would result in an overflowing or gushing forth from their innermost being (belly) a river of living water.

Jesus continues to speak of the Holy Spirit when He says, “And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He shall abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth whom the world (*unbelievers*) cannot receive... the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you” (John 14:16-17, 26). Even after His resurrection Jesus continues admonishing His disciples to wait for the promised baptism with the Holy Ghost and power. “And behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). “And (*Jesus*), being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father...for John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be

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baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me” (Acts 1:4-8).

The promise of the Father and the Son was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost when they (*men and women disciples, believers in Christ*) were all with one accord in one place. And they were all filled (to overflow, inundated, whelmed, saturated) with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:1-4). Shortly thereafter Peter confirms that this event is a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:17-18). He also went on to say that future believers could have this experience: Peter said unto them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:38-39).

You are likely to think, “Doesn't every believer in Christ have the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit?” The answer is yes. As the Apostle Paul said, “Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God...” “If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ (*God*), he is not His” (1 Cor. 6:19, Rom. 8:9) The baptism of the Holy Spirit is having the indwelling Holy Spirit fill you to overflowing, to gush forth from your inner being. “He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water. This Jesus spoke concerning the Spirit...” (John 7:38-39)

Throughout the book of Acts the pattern is the same: accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Jewish believers were astonished when they discovered that God poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost on the Gentiles (*non-Jewish believers*). “For they heard them speak with

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tongues and magnify God..." (Acts 10:45-46). In Acts 19:1-6, Paul asked some Ephesian disciples if they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed. They said "no" but, "When Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues and prophesied."

You may know Saul's salvation story. On the road to Damascus he had a "power encounter" with Jesus and surrendered to Him (Acts 9:3-6). Subsequently, Ananias laid hands upon him that he might see and be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:4-18). Saul became the Apostle Paul who later told the Corinthian church, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than you all..." (1 Cor 14:18). Jesus himself said, "And these signs shall follow them that believe...They shall speak with new tongues..." (Mark 16:17). The word translated "tongues" is the Greek word "glossa" (Strong's Concordance #1100) which means a tongue or language not naturally acquired. It is the same word used throughout the book of Acts in reference to speaking in or with tongues. When the scripture refers to "other tongues", it is speaking of a language given spontaneously and miraculously by the Holy Spirit of God. It is not referring to a foreign language learned through natural instruction and study.

Speaking with tongues is not the only evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. As Joel said, there shall be prophecy, visions and dreams accompanying the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. Additionally, there are many other ministries of the Spirit within the believer. However, speaking in other tongues appears to be the commonly observed initial "physical, natural, observable" evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

In regard to whether the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues is for today, consider the following. In Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33, John the Baptist refers to Jesus as the one who will baptize you with the

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Holy Ghost. Has Jesus quit baptizing His disciples with the Holy Ghost? Hebrews 13:8 says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today and forever." If Jesus ever baptized anyone with the Holy Ghost, He must still be doing it. Jesus said, "These signs shall follow them that believe... they shall speak with new tongues." Was He only speaking to those disciples who were physically in His presence that day? I think not. I think He was speaking to them, to us and to our posterity who believe in Him as their Savior and Lord... "for the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).

Have you been called to a saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you born-again? If so, you have been regenerated by the power of the Holy Spirit and He indwells you. However, He is waiting to gush forth from your innermost being as a river of living water, one of whose streams is a flow of other tongues, as He gives you the words to speak (Titus 3:4-7, Acts 2:4, Romans 8:9).

Why You Should Be Baptized in the Holy Spirit

As we have already mentioned, Jesus instructed His disciples to tarry until they were endued (*clothed*) with power from on high (Luke 24:49). He said, "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me..." (Acts 1:8). After being filled with the Holy Ghost, Peter, who had recently denied Christ three times, stood up, lifted his voice and preached the gospel to the multitude. When they heard his words, they were convicted in their hearts and asked, "What shall we do?" Then Peter said unto them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:39). The Holy Spirit baptism empowered Peter, the former denier of Christ, to stand up and preach a heart piercing sermon to thousands of listeners. Peter remained

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a Holy Spirit empowered witness for the rest of his life.

In Acts 4:29-33 we find the believers praying, “Grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus. In John 14:12, Jesus said, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto the Father.” As you read the context of this scripture, it is evident that Jesus makes this statement because He will send the Holy Spirit after His passion and ascension. “For He (*the Holy Spirit*) dwells with you and shall be in you (John 14:17). And when they had prayed, the place was shaken... and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spoke the word of God with boldness... And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus and great grace was upon them all.”

It is quite obvious as one studies the New Testament that the infilling or baptism with the Holy Spirit is an empowering experience enabling a Christian to be a more effective witness. It would be difficult indeed to effectively perform the great commission (Mark 16:15-20) without the empowerment, anointing and gifting that comes through the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “You need to be filled with Him.” Paul said, “Be filled with the Spirit.” (Eph. 5:18) If you want to do the acts of Acts you need to be filled with the Holy Spirit of Acts! You need to be baptized with Holy Spirit power in order to be a bolder, better equipped witness for Christ...to do the words and works of Jesus.

The Baptism with the Holy Spirit Is a Good Gift from God

Jesus said, “If ye then being evil know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask

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him" (Luke 11:13). James, the brother of Jesus, said: "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above and cometh down from the Father of lights..." (James 1:17). From these passages it must be concluded that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a good gift which we may receive. Since the ability to speak in tongues is one sign of the Holy Spirit baptism, it also must be a good gift. Paul confirmed this conclusion when he said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (1 Cor. 14:18).

Benefits of Speaking/Praying in Tongues

Both Paul and Luke mentioned several desirable outcomes of speaking in tongues. Consider these: "For one who speaks in an unknown tongue speaks not to men but to God...because in the Holy Spirit he utters secret truths and hidden things not obvious to the understanding" (1 Cor. 14:2 Amp). I believe John was referring to the anointing of the Holy Spirit when he said, "But the anointing which you have received of him abides in you... as the same anointing teaches you all things and is truth" (1 John 2:27). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth and He reveals the mysteries of God to us. I believe this revelation process is increased when we pray in tongues. The Holy Spirit is the decoder of the word and the revealer of the things of God. "Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth; for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you things to come" (John 16:13). After all, Jesus said the mysteries of God were hidden for us, not from us (Mt. 13:11). Do you want to know the secret truths and hidden things of God which are not obvious to the understanding? Would you like insight into things to come? If so, be filled with the Spirit who inspired the scriptures and begin to pray in tongues (2 Tim. 3:16, 2 Peter 1:20-21).

Paul spoke in tongues more than them all and the Holy Spirit revealed two-thirds

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of the New Testament to him! The Gospel, which was proclaimed and made known by me, Paul, is not man's gospel... "For indeed I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it; it came to me through a direct revelation given by Jesus Christ, the Messiah" (Gal. 1:11-12 Amp). Who communicated this revelation of the gospel from Jesus to Paul? I believe it was the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth, revealing the words of the Son who is the truth. Paul tells Timothy that all scripture is given by inspiration of God and it is profitable (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Who accomplished the inspiration? Peter says, men of old scribed the scriptures as they were moved upon by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:21). "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God" (1 Cor. 2:12). Praying in tongues opens the door to greater revelation from our Heavenly Father. The Holy Spirit is our communication link with the Father (Acts 2:18).

As we progress through 1 Cor. 14, we find other benefits of speaking in tongues. "He who speaks in a strange tongue edifies and improves himself..." (1 Cor. 14:14 Amp). This is confirmed in Jude 20 (Amp), "But you, beloved, build yourselves up (founded) on your most holy faith - make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher - praying in the Holy Spirit." When you are weak in faith, when adversity and discouragement have caused you to despair, pray in tongues. Pray in the Holy Ghost. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will He speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing.." (Isaiah 28:11-12, 1 Cor. 14:30). As you pray with stammering lips and another tongue, you will enter into the Lord's rest; refreshed and re-vitalized. You are edified, built up spiritually, as you pray in tongues.

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit (by the Holy Spirit within me) prays..." (1 Cor. 14:14 Amp). What does my spirit by the enablement of the Holy

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Spirit pray? “...The Spirit intercedes and pleads (before God) in behalf of the saints (that's you and I) according to and in harmony with God's will” (Rom. 8:27 Amp). To get a more accurate picture of how the Holy Spirit helps us in our weaknesses and infirmities, we need to consider Rom. 8:26-28 (Amp): “So too the (Holy) Spirit comes to our aid and bears us up in our weakness; for we do not know what prayer to offer nor how to offer it worthily as we ought, but the Spirit Himself goes to meet our supplication and pleads in our behalf with unspeakable yearnings and groanings too deep for utterance.” As the Holy Spirit prays through us, in what one author calls words which cannot be articulated in normal speech, verse 28 tells us the outcome. “We are assured and know that (God being a partner in their labor) all things work together and are fitting into a plan for good to those who love God and are called according to His design and purpose.”

As you pray in tongues, the Holy Spirit through your spirit prays the perfect will of God regarding the weakness or infirmity (area of need). It is not uncommon to be faced with a situation (weakness, infirmity regarding yourself or someone else) for which you know not what to pray. What to do? Pray in tongues. “For if I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prays...” [*beyond what my mind comprehends*] (1 Cor. 14:14). You are assured by God's word that your spirit by the enablement of the Holy Spirit prays the will of God regarding the issue at hand. Furthermore, you can rest in the fact that He will work everything together for good and bring the best possible result. Can you think of a better reason to pray in tongues? When you pray in tongues, you pray according to the will of God. His will is always a good will! In the midst of difficult situations, you can be like the Apostle Paul who said, “So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak (in human strength), then am I truly strong – able, powerful in divine strength” (2 Cor. 12:10 Amp).

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[Note: It is not my intent to imply that the only Holy Spirit directed prayer is prayer in tongues. But, Holy Spirit directed prayer certainly includes praying in tongues. Paul said, “...I will pray with the spirit (*tongues*) and I will pray with the understanding (*learned language*) also” (1 Cor. 14:15).

“Else when you shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupies the room of the unlearned say Amen at your giving of thanks, seeing he understands not what you say? For you truly give thanks well, but the other is not edified” (1 Cor. 14:16-17). Paul is saying one gives thanks well when he blesses with the spirit. The NIV rendering of these scriptures says, “If you are praising God with your spirit, you may be giving thanks well enough but the other man is not edified.” In other words, when I pray in the Spirit (in tongues) I am blessing, praising, and thanking God. However, someone in my presence will not understand what I am saying unless the Holy Spirit gives the interpretation of the tongue. Hence, Paul exhorted believers to avoid speaking in tongues in public situations unless there was someone present who could interpret the tongue.

This is not a prohibition against speaking in tongues. It is a reminder that it is not appropriate to continue speaking in tongues when people who are unlearned about such things are present. Nonetheless, another benefit of speaking or blessing in tongues is that we give thanks well and bring praise to God. The following scriptures confirm this: “We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God” (Acts 2:11). “For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God” (Acts 10:46).

Jesus said, “But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship Him. God is a Spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth” (John 4:23-24). As we just learned, when we worship and praise in

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tongues the Holy Spirit (the Spirit of Truth) speaks through us divine utterances that magnify God and speak of His mighty works. Is this not the essence of worshiping in Spirit and in truth? One way of worshiping the Father in spirit and in truth is praising and worshiping Him in other tongues as the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Truth, gives the utterance. This is another benefit of being baptized with Him and speaking in tongues. Paul said, “I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the understanding also...” (1 Cor. 14:15).

Jesus said, “These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues” (Mark 16:17). Speaking in tongues is sign that Jesus said would follow them that believe. When someone speaks in an unknown tongue as the Holy Spirit gives him the utterance, he is merely doing that which is to accompany a believer in Jesus. Are you a believer in Christ? Then you have opportunity to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and speak with tongues. Speaking in tongues is not a practice which is to be considered weird or strange. It is a positive edifying spiritual activity. As we’ve repeatedly mentioned, Paul said, “I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all. Forbid not to speak with tongues” (1 Cor. 14:18, 39).

What is the outcome of our study of the scriptures regarding the baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues? Let’s review what we’ve learned.

Review

- The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a good gift from God.
- The baptism with the Holy Ghost is an enduement of power from God which enables us to be bolder, more effective, witnesses for Christ.

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- The baptism or infilling of the Holy Spirit is accompanied by the physical evidence or symptom of speaking with other tongues. It is not the only sign of this experience.
- When we speak in tongues, we utter secret truths and hidden things not obvious to our understanding (minds) because the Holy Spirit reveals them to our spirits. In other words, revelation from God is increased as we speak in tongues.
- We edify, build ourselves up spiritually, as we pray in tongues.
- Refreshment, peace, and rest come to us as we pray in tongues.
- The Holy Spirit prays the will of God regarding infirmities, needs, and weaknesses, as we pray in tongues. (Isn't it good to realize your weakness qualifies you for God's help? Jesus referred to the Holy as the Helper.)
- When we bless, praise and worship in tongues we give thanks well. We magnify God and speak of His marvelous works.
- Speaking in tongues is a sign that Jesus said would follow the believer.
- The baptism in the Holy Spirit introduces you to an increased manifestation of the fruit and gifts of the Holy Spirit described in Galatians 5:22-23 and 1 Corinthians 12-14.
- After I was baptized in the Holy Spirit, my desire to study the bible, pray, and witness was dramatically increased. This is a common testimony.

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In view of the preceding benefits, I believe a reasonable Christian would say, "Yes, I want to be baptized in the Holy Spirit." How to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit becomes the next issue.

How to Receive the Holy Spirit Baptism

Being born-again is the absolute prerequisite for being filled (baptized) with the Holy Spirit. Remember Paul's words to the Ephesian believers, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed" (Acts 19:2)? Believing in Jesus, being saved, comes before being filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit. In our ministry experience, my wife and I have observed that unconfessed sin can hinder one's receiving. Especially, the sin of unforgiveness. Jesus said, "Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him..." (Mark 11:25).

We were taught to pray this prayer, "Father, look upon my heart and bring to my conscious awareness any sin of omission or commission in thought, word, or deed that would hinder my receiving the baptism of you Holy Spirit." After having prayed, remain silent for a while. If you hear nothing, press on. If a sin comes to mind; sincerely confess it, repent of it, and ask the Lord to forgive you. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Receive His forgiveness, forgive yourself. Repeat this process for each sin that has come to your consciousness.

Now, it's time to proceed! You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit as you ask and receive in faith. "This is the confidence we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of Him" (1 John 5:14-15). Jesus said, "...How much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him" (Luke 11:13). **Always remember, the**

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Lord will baptize (fill) you with His Spirit when you pray for Him to do so. Believe you receive when you pray and you shall have (Mk 11:24).

At the time you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, you receive the ability to speak with tongues as He gives you the words. The Holy Spirit will not force your tongue and mouth to speak. **You must speak** the utterances He brings to your tongue. Because this is a spiritual transaction rather than an intellectual transaction, your mind may question or attempt to quench the utterances. “The carnal mind is enmity against God...” (Rom. 8:6). During this phase of the process it is important to persist in your faith. Say, "Father, I believe that you baptized me with your Spirit when I asked in the name of Jesus. Holy Spirit, give me boldness to speak those utterances (words) you are bringing to my tongue. I thank you and praise you, Lord, for the ability to speak in other tongues as your Spirit gives me the utterance."

Sometimes a person will only sense a couple of strange (to the mind) words. Just speak out what comes and more will be given. Remember you are in control of your mouth and tongue. The Holy Spirit will not force your mouth and tongue to say anything. He will only bring the words from your spirit to your tongue. You must then speak. Remember that “a person who has a message from God has the power to stop himself...” (1 Cor. 14:32 TLB). On the other hand, he who has a message from God, a tongue or prophetic utterance, has the power to speak!

Receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit can be accomplished privately or publicly. Throughout the book of Acts, we find those Christians who have received the Holy Ghost ministering to believers who have not. “Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: who when they were come down,

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prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Ghost... Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:14-17). Paul came to Ephesus and found disciples, believers in Christ. He said to them, “Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed? And they said to him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied (Acts 19:1-6).

Many churches offer to pray with believers who wish to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. It is most appropriate to have a Spirit-filled believer lay hands on you and pray with you to receive the Holy Ghost infilling. This can be done anytime, any place. Each of the gospels tell us that Jesus baptizes with the Spirit (Mt. 3:11, Mk 1:8, Luke 3:16, John 1:33). The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit are the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8, Mal. 3:6). They are not respecters of persons (Acts 10:34). If God, through Jesus, has ever baptized anyone with the Holy Spirit, He will do it today and He will do it for you. “Ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full” (John 16:24).

In review, the baptism with the Holy Spirit can be received as follows:

1. Remember, Jesus is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit and fire. Therefore, you (alone or with other believers) ask Him to baptize (fill) you with His Spirit. Those present may lay hands on you and agree in faith that you are being filled. It may be helpful for them to pray in tongues during this process.
2. Believe you receive when you pray (ask), not after you speak with tongues. Believing precedes speaking. The

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world says, "Seeing is believing". God says, "Believing is seeing" (Mk 11:24).

3. You must choose to speak the utterances the Holy Spirit brings to you. As you speak what you receive, more will be given. Persist in this process regardless of what your mind tells you. "If I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding (*mind*) is unfruitful" (1 Cor. 14:14). The natural mind is sometimes a hindrance to the ministry of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 12:2). To receive from God, we must respond to the word of God in faith.

4. Thank and praise the Lord for baptizing you with His Spirit and enabling you to pray in tongues. The voice of faith is praise and thanksgiving. If you believe that you received the good gift of the Holy Spirit when you asked, then the appropriate response is thanksgiving and praise. "For we walk by faith and not by sight" (2 Cor. 5:7).

If you do not speak in tongues during this process, be not dismayed. Just continue believing that you are baptized in His Spirit. Remember, you received when you prayed in faith. The manifestation of the tongues will come as you praise Him and thank Him for it.

Also, there will be many other symptoms of His baptism. You will have a desire for God's word. The word of God will become alive and applicable to your life (2 Tim. 3:16). You will begin to experience increased revelation knowledge (John 16:13). The fruit of the Spirit will increase in your life. Love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control will be yours in

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greater measure (Gal. 5:22). A desire to function in the gifts of the Spirit will arise within you (1 Cor. 12:4-11). Your desire to witness and carry out the great commission will increase (Mark 16:15-20, Mt. 28:18-20). Your desire to assemble with other believers will intensify (Heb. 10:25). These characteristics are normal for the Spirit-filled believer. I praise the Lord that He has given the gift of His Holy Spirit baptism to you!