

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

The purpose of this booklet is to explain who the Holy Spirit is and His function in our lives. In addition, it will show how you can receive the Holy Spirit and what the manifestations of His presence are.

Jesus said, "And I say unto you, ask, and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if ye ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask?" (Luke 11:9 – 13)

Jesus also said, *"If a man love me, he will keep my words; and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."* (John 14:23) (See John 14:20-21.)

When we receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior, Jesus and the Father come into us. However, the Holy Spirit does not come in fullness into our new spirit at that point. Nevertheless, note that the Father will give the Holy Spirit to whoever asks to receive Him. Luke 11:13

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God. He is part of the Godhead, which consists of Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

The Function of the Holy Spirit in Our Lives

- He will teach us and give us understanding about God's word, calling to remembrance what the Lord has told us (John 14:26 and I John 2:27).
- He is the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth (John 14:16-17) sent by the Father into this world at Pentecost.
- He gives power and boldness to witness for Jesus Christ. (Acts 1:8)

- He convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and that Satan is judged and defeated. (John 16:8-11)
- He gives glory and praise to Jesus and reveals the things of God to us. (John 16:13-15, I Corinthians 2:9-16)
- He gives gifts for the ministry of the church. (I Corinthians 12:1-11)
- He creates faith in us as we hear God's word. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, our praise life will increase.
- He gives us the power to have the abundant life that Jesus provides for us.

He Shall Baptize You With the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is not in us at the moment we receive Jesus, nor does He come into us when we are baptized. Do not be alarmed if you have been taught otherwise. We will look at God's word to see when he comes into our lives and learn how we can receive Him.

Jesus said “... *but wait for the promise of the Father, which you have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*” (Acts 1:4-5)

The disciples had been baptized in Jesus' name. They confessed Jesus as their Lord and believed that He was risen from the dead. They were saved. They were to wait for the promise of the Father (the Holy Spirit) to be sent to them. They did not yet have the Holy Spirit.

John the Baptist said of Jesus, “*I indeed baptize you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost...*” (Mark 1:8)

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came into the world and fell upon the disciples who were waiting to receive Him according to Jesus' instructions and promise. We do not need to wait now because the Holy Spirit is already in the world and is available to all who desire to receive Him.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all of one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and

began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."
(Acts 2:1-4)

This is what God's word says happened when they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke in other tongues.

Philip and the Early Church

"Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them; and many taken with palsies, and that were lame were healed. And there was great joy in that city.... But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women."
(Acts 8:5-8, 12)

Philip came, and he preached the word of God. The people received it, confessed Jesus as their Lord and believed in their hearts that Jesus was risen from the dead. They were saved and born again. They were baptized in water, being buried with Christ in baptism. (Romans 6:3-4)

"Repent, 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."
(Acts 2:38)

It doesn't say that you receive the Holy Spirit at baptism, as many of us have been taught. The word of God does not say that the Holy Spirit comes into us when we are baptized but that we *will* receive the Holy Spirit.

The people at Samaria were saved -- born again. They had received Jesus into their lives, confessed Jesus as Lord, and they were baptized, believing on the Lord Jesus Christ. However, they were not filled with the Holy Spirit at that point. (Note this carefully.)

"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, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them:

only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:14-17)

The apostles prayed for these people to receive the Holy Spirit. Apparently He does not fill us at our baptism, as he had not filled these people even though they were saved and baptized in the name of Jesus. If they had received the Holy Spirit at baptism, the disciples would not have made a point to go there, laying hands on them and praying over them to receive Him.

Ask and Receive

"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 who ask Him?" (Luke 11:13)

We need to receive the Holy Spirit in the same way that we received Jesus as our Lord and Savior. We ask the Father to fill us with the Holy Spirit, that we might:

- have the indwelling power of the Lord living in us,
- have power to witness,
- lay hands on the sick and they would recover,
- cast out devils in Jesus' name,
- speak in other tongues. (Mark 16:15-18)

We need to be filled with the Holy Spirit to do these things and to fulfill the mission which Jesus Christ has given us to spread His word. We need to *ask* the Father to fill us with the Holy Spirit before we will be filled.

"For as yet he (the Holy Spirit) was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus." (Acts 8:16) They were baptized, but they had not received the power of the Holy Spirit. This is why many believers do not experience victory in their Christian walk. They are saved, but they have no power in their lives because they do not yet have the Holy Spirit.

"Then laid they their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:17)

Speaking in Tongues Is Evidence

It doesn't say here that the people received their prayer language or tongue when they received the Holy Spirit. However, in the writings of the early church fathers, it is apparent that they *did* speak in other tongues after they were filled. When they received the Holy Spirit, they also received a tongue and the boldness to witness.

"And when Simon saw that through the laying on of the apostle's hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered to them money, saying, give me also this power, that on whosoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost." (Acts 8:18-19)

There had to have been some visible evidence that Simon saw or heard to testify that these people had received the Holy Spirit when the apostles laid hands on them. The evidence was that these people spoke in other tongues. The Holy Spirit came on them after hands were laid on them, and they spoke in tongues. The Holy Spirit did not come on them when they were baptized.

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. They answered Peter, can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then they asked them to stay for a few days." (Acts 10:44-48)

When the people at Cornelius' house were filled with the Holy Spirit, they all spoke in other tongues, magnifying God. Note again that the infilling of the Holy Spirit did not come when these people were baptized. In this case, the infilling came after they had received the Word and *before* they were baptized. The Jews now knew that the Holy Spirit and life in Jesus was for the Gentiles also.

"And it came to pass that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain

disciples, he said to them, have ye received the Holy Ghost since you believed? And they said unto him, we have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied." (Acts 19:1-6)

Paul recognized that these people believed and were saved. However, he asked them, *"Have you received the Holy Spirit yet since you believed?"* They replied, *"We have not even heard if there be a Holy Spirit."* Many people today have heard about the Holy Spirit or know about Him, but they do not know how He comes or His purpose and operation in the believer's life. They have heard about salvation. They know they are saved on the basis of God's word in Jesus Christ. However, they have not heard about God's abundance that is provided in the Holy Spirit. Such was the case at Ephesus.

The people were baptized in Jesus' name. Paul then laid hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. They received and spoke in other tongues.

"And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him (Saul) said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight and be filled with the Holy Ghost,' And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose and was baptized." (Acts 9:17-18)

Paul was empowered for his ministry from the Lord as he received the Holy Spirit. We all have a ministry from the Lord; however, we will not have power to carry out that ministry unless we are filled with Holy Spirit.

"I thank my God that I speak with tongues more than you all." (I Corinthians 14:18)

Paul said that as he had been filled with the Holy Spirit when Ananias laid hands on him, and he *did* speak in other tongues. Speaking in other tongues comes to everyone who receives the Holy Spirit.

What Happens When We Pray in the Holy Spirit

- *"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: For no man understandeth him: however in the spirit he speaketh mysteries." (I Corinthians 14:2)*
- *"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding (mind) is unfruitful." (I Corinthians 14:14)*
- *"For if I pray in an (unknown) tongue, my spirit (by the Holy Spirit within me) prays, but my mind is unproductive -- bears no fruit and helps nobody." (I Corinthians 14:14 Amplified Bible)*
- *"He that speaks in an unknown tongue edifieth himself;..." (I Corinthians 14-4)*
- *"Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26-27)*
- *"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit." (Jude 20)*

After we have received the infilling of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit now lives within us. When we pray in a tongue, we are praying directly to God from our new spirit by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. Since our mind (which produces doubt, fear, worry, etc.,) is being bypassed, we are praying in perfect praise and perfect prayer to our Father from our new spirit which is also incorruptible. (I Peter 1:23)

When we are in situations where we may not know how to pray, the Holy Spirit will intercede in our behalf as we pray in the spirit or tongue. Since the Holy Spirit cannot groan, it is we who are groaning as the Holy Spirit prompts our new spirit, and we speak or groan what is given by Him

according to the will of God for us. That is how *"All things then work together for good to them that love the Lord and are called according to His purpose."* (Romans 8:28)

As we speak in tongues, God says we are edified and we improve ourselves. We build up our most holy faith. Our praise life with God comes alive! Praying in tongues has been compared to putting a charge in a battery. It keeps us "charged up" in the Holy Spirit. When the time comes for the power of God to flow in our lives, the power will be there.

How to Receive

Personally, I had many questions concerning the Holy Spirit and tongues. I had always been taught that when I was baptized, I received the Holy Spirit. However, as I meditated in God's word, I found that Jesus said to ask the Father to be filled with the Holy Spirit. (Luke 11:13) So in obedience to God's word, I asked the Father to fill me. I was filled with the Holy Spirit on the basis of God's word and promise (Luke 11:13) -- *"Ask and you shall receive"* (Luke 11:9) -- *"What things soever you desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."* (Mark 11:24). I knew that I was filled with the Holy Spirit. Even so, I did not know, nor was I taught at that time, that I would speak in tongues. Consequently, I did not speak in tongues. It was not that I could not, but I did not know that God had already given me the new tongue when I received the Holy Spirit.

I had my tongue or prayer language the moment I received, but I didn't know how to release it. No one told me to open my mouth and speak it out. I was sitting around with my mouth closed, waiting for the heavens to open up, and "zappo," I could speak in other tongues, as God's word said I would do.

I believed for a long time that since God had not given a tongue or prayer language to me (not true, but that is what I thought in my ignorance), I believed God thought I didn't need it.

I was moving in spiritual pride and ignorance until one day I started being prompted from within for a deeper communion with God in praise. I began to search the word of God and seek out people who were really praising God. I looked where the victory and power of God were moving.

I thought that the Holy Spirit would just take control of my tongue and speak in my prayer language, but the Holy Spirit will not do it for me! I learned that it is my tongue that gives the utterance by the prompting of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:4)

Many wonderful, sincere believers in Jesus Christ also believe incorrectly that the tongue or prayer language is not for every believer who has received and been filled with the Holy Spirit. I used to believe this in my ignorance. Some do not even believe tongues and the gifts of the Spirit are for today. Is the resurrection for today? If Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever -- if His word will not pass away -- then the same promises and working of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament are working today as they were then. We cannot believe some parts of God's word and not others. God's workings in the Holy Spirit have not changed for His church, nor will they be done away with until Christ's return.

Prayer Language vs. Ministry Office Gift

I was overjoyed for those who had received their tongue, but I believed it was not for all. I would quote, *"And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondly prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all teachers? Are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?"* (I Corinthians 12:28-30)

It is true that not all of us will minister to the body of Christ through these gifts. How we will minister is up to the Holy Spirit. However, the Lord showed me that there is a difference between these ministry office gifts and the tongue or prayer language which comes to all believers when they are filled with the Holy Spirit. How so? The tongue or prayer language only benefits the person using it, not the church. (I Corinthians 14:4) The ministry gift of tongues with interpretation benefits everyone.

One day as I was meditating upon the gifts of the Spirit, the Lord also revealed this to me: *"For to one is given by the Spirit a word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; ..."* (I Corinthians 12:8-9). I ask the Lord, "What does this have to do with

whether you have given me a tongue or not?" The Lord showed me that He had given to me and all believers a measure of faith to receive Jesus and be saved. (Romans 12:3) We all have to have faith to be saved and to please God. (Ephesians 2:8-9, Hebrews 11:6) But yet I read that the Holy Spirit had given faith to some. (I Corinthians 12:9) This gift of faith is a special outpouring above and beyond the faith which all of us have, in order that a ministry work of God might be accomplished. I then understood.

In the same way, God had given the tongue or prayer language to me and all believers who have received the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, it is not the ministering gift of tongues mentioned in I Corinthians 12:28-30 which not all believers are given by the Holy Spirit. In Acts, all who received the Holy Spirit spoke in other tongues. I was freed to believe that God had also given me a new tongue when I received the Holy Spirit (as occurred in the book of Acts). Since that time, I have also found (in obedience to God's word) that every born again person we lay hands on to receive the Holy Spirit also has received the new tongue to magnify and praise God and to build up his most holy faith. (Jude 20)

Praying in tongues (or the Holy Spirit) ignites the faith which we have been given by God on the basis of His word. Praying in tongues does not give us more faith, but it sparks our faith in God's word as we praise God. As we meditate in God's word and pray in tongues, God strengthens us for the battle and gives us His victory.

Being Empowered

When the people in Acts were filled with the Holy Spirit, they were "on fire." No one could stop their witness of the Lord Jesus from going forward. Even though they were facing persecution for sharing Jesus Christ, their boldness could not be dampened. The fire of the Holy Spirit burned within them. They rejoiced and praised God even while they were being thrown to the lions. They had peace, joy, and love.

They certainly had something going for them. People just do not have such strength in themselves. They had the Holy Spirit -- the Comforter sent from the Father. No matter what situation we are in, God will give us victory to His glory. Others will wonder why you and I are so

excited about Jesus! We can have God's "charger," the Holy Spirit, empowering our lives to victory.

In order to be saved, we need to repent, believe on Jesus (Romans 10:9-10), and be baptized (Acts 2:38). To be empowered by God we need to be filled with the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. That is why the apostles asked the people, "Have you received the Holy Spirit?" God wants to give us His gift, that the power of God and the ministry of God might become evident in us and through us to reach others.

"And he (Jesus) said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name they shall cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues, they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover...And they (disciples) went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word with signs following. Amen." (Mark 16:15-18, 20) In the authority of Jesus' name, these signs will follow all believers. The gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12 will also begin to be in effect in our lives as the Holy Spirit directs.

"But you shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me... unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

We are saved and empowered by the Holy Spirit, not only to receive every blessing from God, but that we also might boldly be about the ministry which the Lord has for each of us. We should share Jesus Christ, his Word, and His meaning for our lives with others.

One time before a meeting, the Lord spoke to me, "My people desire to be like Me. They desire to be loving, kind, joyful, peaceful, forgiving and so on. However, if My people are truly going to be like Me in everything, they must also move in all of the gifts of the Holy Spirit as I did."

The fruit of the Spirit are for holiness of life. They come with being born again in Jesus and doing God's word. The gifts of the Holy Spirit are

for ministry and power in witness, which only come with being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Reasons for Speaking in Tongues

1. The evidence of Holy Spirit's infilling. (Acts 2-4, 10:46)
2. As a continual reminder of Holy Spirit's presence. (John 14:16-17)
3. For spiritual edification through supernatural communication with God (I Corinthians 14:2, 4, 14)
4. To energize our faith. (Jude 20)
5. To pray for what is known or unknown according to God's perfect will. (Romans 8:26-28)
6. To help keep our tongue under control, to keep us free from worldly influence as our spirit prays to God. (I Corinthians 14:2, James 3:1-8)
7. To give thanks well and worship God in Spirit. (I Corinthians 14:15-17, John 4:24)
8. For rest and refreshing. (Isaiah 28:11-12)
9. For spiritual warfare, intercession and to loose other spiritual gifts. (Ephesians 6:18, Romans 8:26-28; I Corinthians 14:2)
10. To heighten sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's leading. (Romans 8:14, 26-28)

PRAYER TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

Father in Jesus' Name,

I confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior.

I believe in my heart Jesus is risen from the dead.

I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God -- I thank you that you have made me a child of God.

I renounce Satan and all his ways.

According to your word and promise, if I ask to receive your Holy Spirit, you will give your Holy Spirit to me, and I will speak in other tongues. (Luke 11:13)

I ask you to give me your Holy Spirit and my new tongue.

I thank you for giving me the Holy Spirit and I thank you that I will now speak in other tongues, praising you.

In Jesus' name, Amen.

Further Instructions

If you prayed to receive, on the basis of God's word and promise, you are now filled with the Holy Spirit and you will now speak in other tongues. Focus your attention on Jesus. Praise Jesus. Open your mouth. Do not speak English or your normal language. Begin to make sounds with your tongue, and the Holy Spirit will begin to form the sounds into the words of your new tongue. It will not be like anything your mind has heard, so don't let your mind make you think it is nonsense. It is a blessing from God. Don't try to form the words in your head because you are not praying with your head but from your new spirit. Focus on Jesus. Praise God! Continue speaking. Continue to use your prayer language daily. It may start gradually but will increase as you use it. Now you are able to worship God in spirit and in truth.