

The Holy Spirit Tongues of Fire



Dean Odle

The Holy Spirit

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Introduction

“And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it set 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 2:3-4

After over 21 years of being in the ministry, studying the Bible and experiencing the gifts of the Spirit, it still amazes me that many in the body of Christ continue to attack the operation of the gift of unknown tongues. It is tragic that many “theologians” try to explain it away, departing from the very laws of Biblical interpretation that they teach. What is even more amazing is that many Pentecostal and Charismatic churches, in an attempt to be “seeker sensitive,” have become ashamed of their roots, especially the gift of tongues. They conveniently forget that Paul said,

“Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not;”

1 Corinthians 14:22a

Many people also overlook the fact that Paul said he spoke with tongues more than all of his peers (1 Corinthians 14:18).

As you read this book I pray that you would be freed from any preconceived ideas that you have about the baptism of the Holy Spirit and that you would discover this powerful gift that God has waiting for you.

Chapter 1

What is the Gift of Tongues?

When I say the gift of tongues or speaking in tongues, I am not talking about studying and learning another known language in the world (i.e. Chinese, French, etc.). This gift is a supernatural utterance given by God's Spirit to speak in a language that one has not learned. Though, at times, the Holy Spirit may cause this gift to manifest through a person in a known language that they have not learned, most of the time it is tongues of angels that only God understands (see 1 Corinthians 13 & 14, Acts 2).

As you will see, God calls the gift of tongues a refreshing and a way that He would speak to His people. It is a childlike way that seems foolish, but God has chosen the foolish things to confound the wise.

For critics, skeptics or those who know nothing about this subject, there are several questions that must be answered to prove the validity and need for this powerful gift from God:

- 1) Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues a Biblical doctrine?
- 2) Is the baptism of the Holy Spirit for believers today?
- 3) What are the benefits of receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit like the believers did in Acts?
- 4) How do I receive and operate in this gift?

Chapter 2

Biblical Doctrine

Without a doubt, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues is taught in the Bible. Before we look at those passages, let us remember that Jesus said...

*“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by **every word** that proceedeth from the mouth of God.”*

Matthew 4:4

*“**All scripture** is given by inspiration of God and is **profitable for doctrine**, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

2 Timothy 3:16-17

*“Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, **rightly dividing the word of truth.**”*

2 Timothy 2:15

As you can see, **every** word that God spoke in the Bible is important. So what exactly is ‘doctrine’ and what did Paul mean by *“rightly dividing the word of truth”*? Unfortunately, the word ‘doctrine’ has become a bad word to some, but it simply means a teaching of a particular subject in the Bible. You see, God decided to scatter pieces of truth about different subjects throughout the Bible. For example, the subject of marriage is not just in one book of the Bible but instead scattered throughout. A Biblical doctrine or teaching on marriage would pull or

“divide” out the passages from each book and compare all of them. You would then look at their context, similarities, differences and applications and piece them all together to obtain a correct doctrine on marriage.

In context with the Great Commission in Mark 16, Jesus said...

*“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 (taking authority over spiritual serpents or demons see Luke 10:17-20) and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover”*

Mark 16:15-17

Notice, Jesus did not say these signs would follow *some* of them that believe. Therefore, according to Jesus, these signs are available to every one. On the day of Pentecost as 120 people waited on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, the Bible says,

*“And they were **all** filled with the Holy Ghost and **began to speak with other tongues** as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Acts 2:4

Notice, it was not just the 12 apostles, but all of them spoke in new tongues.

Now, when this was noised abroad, a multitude came together and Peter rose up and preached a message in an atmosphere that was charged with the presence of God. In his message, he quoted Joel's prophesy about the outpouring of God's Spirit in the last days and he showed them that Jesus the Christ died and rose again according to the scriptures. Then when they asked,

“Men and brethren, what shall we do?” Peter said, *“Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you 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 2:37-39

Years later this happened again when Peter went to Cornelius' house and preached the gospel to all his family and friends (see Acts 10).

*“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.** (And how did they know) For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God”*

Acts 10:44-46

It happened again many years later when Paul went to the city Ephesus. The eloquent teacher Apollos had been in Ephesus prior to Paul and had preached the gospel there *“being instructed in the way of the Lord,”* but *“knowing only the baptism of John.”* (See Acts 18:24-

28). The baptism of John was water baptism, but when Paul arrived he asked another question...

*“And it came to pass while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coast came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, he said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since you believed?**”*

The disciples at Ephesus went on to answer Paul...

*“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.** And all the men were about twelve.”*

Acts 19:1-7

At this point, I must interject because some theologians think these men in Ephesus were not born again, but rather they were disciples of John the Baptist, only knowing that the Messiah was coming. The problem with this thinking is that Paul’s question would have been foolishness if they were not already born again with faith in Jesus. Why would he ask an unregenerated, unsaved person if they had received the Holy Spirit? An unsaved person cannot receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and Paul knew that, as he wrote in 1 Corinthians 2:14...

“...the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.”

Therefore, Paul had already judged that they were saved, but needed more. They needed the proper water baptism in the name of Jesus and then the Baptism of the Spirit.

Thus far, we see a clear New Testament pattern developing and we have not even covered all of it. To me, these scriptures should be enough to convince anyone that the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues is a Biblical doctrine. So, why do so many Christians reject this truth? Well, there are many reasons, but none of them surprised God. He told us hundreds of years before the church began that tongues would be a way He would speak to His people. He also said that tongues would be a rest and refreshing or a recharging exercise for us, yet many would not hear. Take a look at what Isaiah the Old Testament prophet said...

*“**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: yet they would not hear.**”*

Isaiah 28:11-12

Paul even quoted this verse right in the middle of his teaching on how private and public tongues should be used by believers in 1 Corinthians 14:21, which let's us know that this is an Old Testament prophesy about the gift of tongues.

Chapter 3

A Gift for Today

This brings us to 1 Corinthians 14. Many ministers and Bible college teachers have tried using this chapter to discourage or outright reject the use of unknown tongues, but Paul never meant it for that purpose. In fact, he ends the chapter saying, “...brethren, covet to prophesy, and **forbid not to speak with tongues**” (vs. 39). He stated in this chapter that he himself spoke in tongues more than all of them (vs. 18) and he laid out the proper use of tongues in a public worship service. He taught that two or three messages in tongues could be given in a service if someone there operated in the gift of interpretation (vs.26-28). Paul also explained some of the spiritual benefits of speaking in unknown tongues (vs. 1-5).

The “anti-tongues” crowd misuses the following passage in 1 Corinthians 13 in a desperate attempt to dismiss the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues...

“Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail, whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.”

1 Corinthians 13:8-10

They misuse this passage by saying, “It is clear from these verses that tongues no longer continue today. The phrase ‘when that which is perfect is come’ refers to the written revelation of Scripture. When this revelation

was completed, there was no need for the temporary gifts (e.g., tongues, prophecies, and knowledge) which were given in order to substantiate the message the apostles were preaching.”¹

This is their argument in a nutshell and it sounds plausible until you look a couple of verses down and see that no mention is made of the canonization (*finishing of the New Testament and it's joining with the Old Testament*) of the Bible as “that which is perfect”. Paul goes on to finish the chapter by saying...

*“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass darkly; **but then face to face**: now I know in part; **but then shall I know even as also I am known.**”*

1 Corinthians 13:11-12

Clearly, the event that removes the dark glass and partial knowledge is when we meet Jesus “face to face” at the resurrection. It is when Jesus comes because He is the perfect One. Paul, the man who went to heaven and heard unspeakable words not lawful for a man to utter, the man who wrote the majority of the New Testament, said in essence, “Now (even after all his revelations) I know in part, but then when I see Him face to face in my resurrected body I will know Him just like HE knows me.” There will be a full revelation of Jesus when we see him face to face. John put it this way...

*“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, **and it doth not yet appear what we shall be** (we don't know it all yet): *but we know that **when HE shall appear** (not the**

canonization of the Bible) *we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.*”

1 John 3:2

Job said it like this...

“For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself and my eyes shall behold and not another...”

Job 19:27-27

The Greek word in this passage for ‘perfect’ is teleios and it means, “the perfect state of all things to be ushered in by the return of Christ from heaven”². So, it is clear that tongues and prophecies will cease when Jesus returns, but until then we need every tool and help we can get.

Peter said this about the baptism of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost...

“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

Simple logic tells us that our God would not tell us that the last days are going to be the worst time the world has ever known, but then say, I’m not going to manifest My supernatural power through My people. To the contrary, concerning the last days, the Bible says...

*“And such as do wickedly against the covenant shall he corrupt by flatteries (referring to the antichrist): **but the people that do know their God shall be strong and do exploits**”*

Daniel 11:32

This also agrees with what Paul said about the last days just prior to the second coming of Jesus...

*“This know also, **that in the last days**, perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers (of the Holy Spirit maybe???) disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; **Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away**”*

2 Timothy 3:1-5

In verse 5 above, the Greek word for “power” is *dunamis* which means “God’s miraculous power”³.

So, we are warned that some proud men would have an outward form of godliness or appear to be Christians, but deny and reject the ‘*dunamis*’ power of God. Wow! It sounds very much like Christians today who are saying that tongues have ceased and there is no longer a need for the other power manifestations of God’s Spirit. Now, I know this might sound harsh, but it is the Word of God. Of course, you do not have to speak in tongues to be saved or go to heaven, but as an old preacher once said about tongues and the other gifts of the Spirit, “You don’t have to...you get to”. And if you do

not want to “step out of the boat” that is okay, but you should not hinder others with false teaching. There are people who need to progress into these areas with God in order to come out of things like addiction, witchcraft and sexual sin. They need all the power they can get from God to make it on this earth. As the old saying goes, “Lead, follow, or get out of the way,” but do not be a stumbling block.

Chapter 4

Why Tongues?

My first response is “Why not?” If Jesus told His twelve apostles who spent three years with Jesus personally, were privately tutored by God in the flesh, saw His many miracles and heard His tender counsel to thousands of hurting people, that they needed to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the gift of tongues then who are we to say that we do not need it? To me, it is the essence of pride to think that we do not need everything God offers and says we need. It is pride that says, “But I will look foolish babbling in tongues. How can I, an educated, successful person allow myself to appear so foolish?” This is another reason I believe God chose tongues as the gift to kick off a life in the fullness of the Spirit—to expose pride.

“But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God has chosen the weak things of the world (apparent babbling in unknown gibberish) to confound the thing which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to naught things that are: that (for the reason) no flesh should glory in His presence”

1 Corinthians 1:27-29

This was the conclusion I came to back in the summer of 1987. I had rededicated my life to Jesus after a powerful encounter with God. I began reading the Bible every day and studying. A few weeks went by and I got to the book of Acts. When I read chapters one and two, I realized that if they needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit,

so did I. Of course I did not know how to go about it, but I instinctively knew that it was for me.

During that time, I worked on Sundays and Wednesday nights, so I couldn't go to church. But on my first visit to a church after rededicating my life, a visiting minister taught on the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the initial evidence of tongues. I knew this was not a coincidence, but I did not go forward and receive prayer. The next day, I got in my place of prayer and read Acts chapter two once more. I prayed to be filled with the Holy Spirit and I was. I sensed the presence of God and began to speak in other tongues. God did not make my mouth and vocal cords move, but as I stepped out in faith an utterance came from down deep and flowed out like a fountain.

Jesus told his disciples...

*“For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. **But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me in both Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth**”*

Acts 1:5, 8

I noticed an exponential increase of His power to be a witness to the people around me almost immediately after this experience. I led people to Jesus in parks, on buses, in little Bible studies, in the mall and just about anywhere. I led many of my old friends and family members to Jesus. I had boldness and an ability to remember Scriptures that I had not learned. There was a supernatural wisdom that would bubble up to give

answers to people. It was an awesome time and I have plenty of witnesses that can verify that many lives were changed as the result of my receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Praise God that some of the people I led to the Lord and others I trained during that time became pastors and missionaries!

I also began to experience the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, particularly the word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, prophesy and interpretation of tongues. These gifts added greatly to my witnessing and my personal walk with the Lord. Jesus used the word of knowledge in John 4 when He witnessed to the Samaritan woman. He told her a piece of knowledge that He could only know by the Spirit. He told her how many husbands she had been with and that the one she was with at that time was not her husband. That got her attention and caused her to believe. Like Jesus, I also had times when God would reveal something to me about someone that I had no prior knowledge of. I would watch the tears run down their face as the Holy Spirit touched their hearts as I shared the word of knowledge with them.

Remember what Paul said...

*“But if all prophesy, and **there come in one that believeth not, or one that is unlearned, he is convinced of all, and he is judged of all: and thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report God is in you of a truth**”*

1 Corinthians 14:24-25

In my life the baptism of the Holy Spirit and gift of tongues opened the door to the other gifts. Some try to play down tongues and say that it is the least of the gifts.

To that I say, maybe so, but Jesus said the last would be first and the least in the kingdom would be the greatest. Those are spiritual principles and regardless, Jesus and all of His apostles believed it was important.

The Bible also tells us that the gift of tongues enhances our prayer life and recharges our spirit. Paul put it this way...

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit Himself maketh 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

“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also”

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him: howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort. He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth (builds up, emboldens, and encourages) himself; but he that prophesieth edifies the church”

1 Corinthians 14:2-4

In addition to the benefits of tongues I have mentioned, we see that the gift of tongues joined with the gift of interpretation is equivalent to the much desired gift of prophesy. Paul wrote...

*“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesieth: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, **except he interpret**, that the church may receive edifying”*

1 Corinthians 14:5

In this passage Paul is not trying to discourage speaking in tongues. Remember, there is a private use, a use in a prayer meeting and a public use of the gift as a message to the church. Here he was only regulating how the gifts of tongues should be used in a public worship service as a message to the church. Furthermore, this prophesying that Paul mentioned here is not just preaching a sermon, it is a supernatural revelation of something specific that God is saying now that gives direction or addresses a present or future question. This is why Paul said...

“Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret” (interpret...not to be confused with translate)

1 Corinthians 14:13

You see, through these two gifts a person can begin to learn to hear more specific direction from the Lord. Remember that God said...

“For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people...”

Isaiah 28:11

I remember one such incident of praying in tongues and then I heard the Spirit of God tell me to give my car to a family that I had led to the Lord several years earlier. My car was only about four years old and it was paid for. As I heard that specific direction from the Lord, I began to squirm a little and resist. I needed my car, but I knew it was the Lord and when I said okay, the presence of God flowed through me like a mighty wind. His presence came on me so strong that I could not hold back the tears. I could tell that He was very pleased.

At the time, I lived about 70 miles away from the family. I got in my car and drove to one of my relatives' house who lived near them and got him to go with me. When we arrived at their home I told them that God had spoken to me to give them my car. They broke down in tears. They had been struggling financially and their car was falling apart. To top it off, they had just received word that the man's mother was dying in a hospital two states away and they did not have a way to get there. I gave them my car and they went to visit his mother. When they arrived, they decided to pray for her and God miraculously healed her. It was so powerful and dramatic that his brother-in-law and sister accepted Jesus as their Savior right then and there. The new converts returned to Alabama with them on fire for God. That event changed their lives and mine, but it would never have happened without the gift of tongues and interpretation and of course, obedience to the Holy Spirit's direction.

On another occasion, I was praying in the Spirit (or tongues) and saw a vision of a woman my dad worked with in Montgomery, Alabama. My dad had told me that she had been diagnosed with cancer and my dad was already praying for her healing. In the vision, it was as if I could see through her and I saw a small demon hanging onto her side just under her arm. As I saw this in prayer, I commanded the demon to let go and leave her in the name of Jesus Christ. Upon hearing that, the demon fell to the floor and wandered off. I knew she was healed. I called my dad and told him to tell her what happened and that she was not to doubt that God had healed her. She believed and later it was confirmed that her breast cancer had disappeared without treatment! As Jesus said...

*“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.** He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you”*

John 16:13-14

Chapter 5

Counterfeits

Are there demonic counterfeits of the gifts? Absolutely! There are Satanists and witches who appear to speak in tongues. These modern-day sorcerers can also tell you things that they could only know with supernatural assistance, like the modern day “magician” Criss Angel. And sometimes they even appear to be right or good.

There are also false prophets and ministers among us in the church world (even several very well-known prophets in Charismatic circles) who look and sound like true ministers, but they are operating in a demonic spirit. Unfortunately, many in the body of Christ are opening themselves up to demons by allowing these false prophets to lay hands on them and minister to them. I know about this by first-hand experience.

The fact that there are counterfeits does not mean there is not the real thing. How could there be a counterfeit dollar bill, if there is not a real dollar bill to copy? This should not surprise us either. The Bible tells us that deceivers would come and we should be alert and discerning, but, we cannot throw the baby out with the bath water, i.e. throw out the real gifts because some false ones exist. Peter dealt with Simon the Sorcerer and Paul dealt with Elymas the Sorcerer and the girl with the spirit of divination (see Acts 8, 13, 16). It is part of the walk of the believer.

When I was a pastor in Montgomery I had to deal with a woman like this on a Sunday morning. She started speaking in tongues and I immediately discerned that it

was not the Holy Spirit. It became evident that she had the wrong spirit when I told her to stop and she refused. I had to have her escorted out of the building. I was able to recognize the false gift because I was very familiar with the real; not because I was prejudiced against the use of tongues or afraid to let people operate in the gifts.

Chapter 6

Quenching the Holy Spirit

Church services should be a place where there is a demonstration of the power of God. Usually before Jesus preached, He did a miracle or healed a lot of people. 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 my Father**”*

John 14:12

Paul put it this way...

*“How is it, brethren? When you come together, **every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying**”*

1 Corinthians 14:26

*“And I brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man’s wisdom, **but in the demonstration of the Spirit and of power (dunamis): that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God**”*

1 Corinthians 2:15

You may say, “Why don’t we see more of this power in the church?” Well, there are several reasons. First of all, many churches and ministers have created an atmosphere of unbelief by either rejecting the gifts of the Spirit or neglecting them. Remember when Jesus went to His home town to minister and the Bible says,

*“and **He could there do no mighty work, save He laid His hands upon a few sick folk, and healed them. And He marveled because of their unbelief”***

Mark 6:5-6

Sometimes, the manifestation God’s power is hindered because there is not enough prayer and fasting. The disciples could not get a demon cast out of a boy one day and they asked Jesus why. He answered them...

*“**Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove and nothing shall be impossible unto you. Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting”***

Matthew 17:20-21

And finally, there could just be too much sin in the camp (church) or in your life. The apostles put it like this...

*“and we are His witnesses of these things, and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that **obey Him”***

Acts 5:32

The Apostle Paul put this obedience issue this way...

*“But fornication, and all uncleanness, or covetousness, let it not be once named among you, as becometh saints; Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks. For this ye know, that no whoremonger, nor unclean person, nor covetous man, who is an idolater, hath any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. Let no man deceive you with vain words: **for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.** Be not ye therefore partakers with them. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reprovèd are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. **And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;**”*

Ephesians 5:3-18

Chapter 7

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit and You

Really, the question we should ask is this: Does my Christian life and or my church more resemble the ministry of the Pharisees or the Apostles? The Pharisees criticized Jesus. They said His miracles were done by demonic power, while they themselves did not have any power in their own lives. Their pride and traditions caused them to want to destroy (even if was just verbally) anyone who did not agree with them. The good news is that Saul of Tarsus (Paul) was a Pharisee, but he became a tongue-talking, miracle-working, vision-seeing, Spirit-led, man of God. And he said...

“Howbeit for this cause I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might show forth all longsuffering, for a pattern to them which should hereafter believe on him to life everlasting”

1 Timothy 1:16

So, we see that the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues is a Biblical doctrine. We have also determined by the Scripture that it is for believers today. We have seen some of the benefits to operating in this gift. The rest is up to you. If you can humble yourself enough to admit this is the truth and seek God for this new dimension of His Spirit, you will receive. You might receive in your private prayer time, in a big worship service or you may need to ask some believers who speak in tongues (about six hundred million world-wide) to pray for you. However it happens, remember that ***you speak*** as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance or moves upon you. This means that at some point you have to step out in faith and begin speaking, but

not in your own language. As you do this in the presence of God, He will cause the rest to come forth. He does not force you to speak. Remember, Jesus told Peter to come out and walk on the water, but if Peter had not physically stood up and stepped over the edge of the boat, he would have never walked on the water with Jesus.

God wants you to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the initial gift of tongues. If you are a minister or theologian, put down your pride and go with God on this. If you have already received the baptism, but rarely pray in tongues, start using this powerful gift more in your prayer life and see what happens. All of us need to walk more in the Spirit and we can.

Endnotes

¹ Hebrew-Greek Key Word Study Bible, AMG Publishers
© 1984, 1991 AMG International pg. 1436

² Thayer's Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament
published by Hendrickson Publishers, Inc. pg. 618

³ 1411 in the Strong's Concordance

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