

FUNDAMENTAL FACTS FOR FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS

Lesson Three **SPEAKING IN TONGUES**

There is much confusion about the Holy Spirit baptism.

Multitudes of sincere, God-fearing people claim to have received this experience with the accompanying evidence of speaking in tongues.

What is the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Where does speaking in tongues enter into the picture? Has speaking in tongues ceased?

As a class, reread the same scriptures we studied in the lesson on Water Baptism.

Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:4,5.

Whenever a subject such as this is **REPEATED** in the Bible in **FIVE** consecutive books, then **YOU CAN KNOW** there is an experience we call the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

It is not the Holy Spirit baptism which is so controversial, rather it is the claim by Pentecostals that speaking in tongues is the **INITIAL EVIDENCE** that a person has received this experience.

Before we examine the **EVIDENCE**, let's determine the **PURPOSE**.

The **PURPOSE** of the infilling of the Holy Spirit is the **POWER TO SERVE GOD**.

Now that we have determined the purpose of the baptism with the Holy Ghost, we need to focus on the means by which we can know we have received. We call this the **INITIAL EVIDENCE**.

Different people make different claims as to how they know they have received.

As a class, read Acts 8:5-13.

Notice the following events in Acts, chapter eight:

1. Christ was preached..... (verse 5).
2. There was unity (verse 6).
3. Miracles took place..... (verse 6).
4. Demons were cast out..... (verse 7).
5. Paralyzed people were healed (verse 7).
6. Cripples were healed (verse 7).
7. People were filled with great joy..... (verse 8).
8. Many were baptized in water (verse 12).
9. Signs and miracles were evident (verse 13).

What is _____ so amazing is that with all that was happening in Samaria, people had not been baptized with the Holy Spirit.

Not one person in that great move of God had been filled with the Holy Spirit. How do we know this?

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

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Notice that when they received the Holy Ghost, something different happened than the nine events before mentioned.

I believe scripture would bear me out that they spoke in tongues. The apostles knew that when people received the Holy Ghost, they spoke with tongues.

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. Then answered Peter,*

*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost **AS WELL AS WE?*** **Acts 10:44-47**

Peter knew they had received because, “For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.”

We find an interesting account in Acts 19:1-6. Here we find the people were not only believers, they had been baptized by immersion in water twice, yet they had not received the Holy Ghost. The same thing happened to them as happened in Acts 2:4 and 10:46.

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 unto 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**

Why is it then that in some Bible accounts tongues were not mentioned when people were filled with the Holy Ghost? It could be because this had become the accepted sign, and the writers did not feel it necessary to mention it every time.

For an example, we can consider that when Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit—a man who was later to become a great apostle—there was no mention of him speaking in tongues.

As a class, read Acts 9:17-19.

Again I ask, could it be that since tongues were the accepted sign the writer felt no compelling need to mention them? I say this without timidity because we know the Apostle Paul spoke with tongues.

Let us look to him for the proof:

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*I thank my God, **I SPEAK** with tongues **MORE** than ye all:
Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my
voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.*

1 Corinthians 14:18-19

Why speak in tongues at all? What profit is there in speaking in a language we cannot understand?

As a class, read I Corinthians 14:1-4.

Speaking in tongues **EDIFIES**, or **BUILDS UP**, the one doing the speaking. Do Christians need to build themselves up?

*But ye, beloved, **BUILDING UP YOURSELVES** on your most holy faith,
praying in the Holy Ghost,*

Jude 1:20

The command is to pray in the Holy Ghost and build ourselves up. Why?

Speaking in tongues, or praying in tongues, is praying with the Spirit, or as Jude says, "Praying in the Holy Ghost," the purpose of which is to build yourself up to become a better servant of God.

The scripture plainly teaches that the baptism of the Holy Ghost with speaking in other tongues is for **WOMEN** as well as **MEN**.

*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

*These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the **WOMEN**, and **MARY** the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*

Acts 1:14

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your **SONS** and your **DAUGHTERS** shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

Acts 2:17-18

Speaking in tongues is the privilege of **EVERY** Spirit-filled believer. It must be understood that **every** Spirit-filled believer can pray, sing, and worship God in other tongues.

However, not everyone has the **gift** of bringing a message in tongues in the church to be interpreted. To bring a message in tongues, one must have the **GIFT** of tongues and not just the **EVIDENCE** of tongues. Also, this gift cannot be used at will, but must be activated by the anointing of the Holy Spirit.

Paul was talking about the gift of tongues when he wrote:

Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?

1 Corinthians 12:30