



**RECEIVE
THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

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In Him,

Rev. Ron Bakken

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Receive
The
Holy Spirit

RECEIVING THE HOLY GHOST

“In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, 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 spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” John 7:37-39

In John 4 we find the story of the woman at the well. Jesus, again, is speaking of living water. *“...if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give Me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of Him, and He would have given thee living water.”* (v 10)

“...Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst: but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.” John 4:13-14. Notice that in both these passages Jesus is speaking of “living water”. John 4 says when you receive this living water you’ll never thirst again because the water will be a well springing up into everlasting life. This is the New Birth.

This woman needed to have everlasting life. She would then have her own personal well of eternal life.

It would never run dry, therefore, she would never thirst again for eternal life. She had found the Messiah and believed on Him.

Water is a type of the Holy Spirit in the Bible. Referring to verses 37 and 38, John 7:39 says, "*But this spake He of the Spirit...*" Even though both of these passages speak of living water, there is a difference in the two. John 4 speaks of a well of water, whereas chapter 7 talks of rivers of living water.

What is the difference between a well and a river? The well of water is for your own personal refreshment. The river of water is for you to reach others. The main difference is power. People harness rivers with dams to produce electric power. Rivers have a lot of power and a lot of potential. Notice they are both water, but the use is different. So it is with the New Birth and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. The born again experience is for your own personal use. You will never thirst again. But the baptism of the Holy Spirit give you power so you can reach others.

Speaking of Jesus, Acts 1:4-5 says, *“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”*

These same disciples to whom Jesus spoke had already been born again. We read in Romans 10:9, *“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from dead, thou shalt be saved.”* They had done this, therefore they were born again.

Jesus appeared to the disciples after His death and resurrection, and in John 20:22 He said to them, *“Receive ye the Holy Ghost...”* They already had the Holy Ghost before Pentecost. They were born again. Romans 8:9b says, *“Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is not of His.”* People that are born again have the Holy Ghost. The difference is that those who are born again have a well of water, while those who are baptized in the Holy Spirit have the well and the river.

If you have a glass half full of water you can say, "My glass has water in it," and that would be true. But if you fill that glass to overflowing you can say, "My glass is filled." It's the same water, but once again, the quantity is different. Being born again and filled with the Spirit are two separate experiences.

Acts 8:5 says, "*Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.*" In verse 12 we read, "*But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.*" They believed and were born again.

Continuing on to verses 14 and 15, "*...they sent unto them Peter and John: Who when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost.*" Notice they were already born again and therefore had the Spirit, but they still needed to receive the Holy Ghost. Just like we receive Jesus, we also have to receive the Holy Ghost. Verse 16: "*(for as yet he has fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)*" They were already born again, but when Peter and John laid their hands on them, they received the Holy Ghost. (V 17)

This clearly reveals that being born again and receiving the Holy Ghost (sometimes termed being baptized in the Holy Ghost) are two different experiences.

Another scripture revealing this is Acts 19:2 when Paul asked some of the disciples at Ephesus, *“Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?”* My question to you is the same. Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?

You might ask, ‘Why do I need to receive the Holy Ghost?’ Referring back to Acts 1:4 we see that Jesus “commanded” the disciples not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, that is *“...ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”* We should receive the Holy Ghost because Jesus commanded it!

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is not an option. It is a command. You can either disobey or obey – the choice is yours. Obedience is better than sacrifice. If you’re a Christian who loved the Lord then you will obey this divine command from heaven. Jesus said, *“If ye love Me keep my commandments.”* John 14:15

Some have said, "But being baptized in the Holy Spirit has been done away with." According to the scripture this is a false claim, - *"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, (that's us) even as many as the Lord our God shall call."* Acts 2:39

You also need power to witness for Jesus. *"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghosts is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses..."* Acts 1:8 If the disciples needed power to witness, we do too.

TONGUES: THE INITIAL EVIDENCE

Why Tongues?

We have established the need for receiving the Holy Spirit. Remember in Acts 1:4-5, in speaking to His disciples, Jesus *“Commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.”* A command means there is no choice given. You either obey or disobey. A command from Jesus should be an end to all argument.

But why tongues? Why are they so important?

The first reason is that tongues is the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The Baptism of the Holy Ghost is received by faith, just as salvation or healing or anything else is received. Likewise when you are healed there is a manifestation, or an “evidence” of that healing, so it is with the Holy Ghost. You will speak with tongues... that’s the Bible evidence.

We read in Acts 2:1-4, *“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with 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.”

Notice it says they were filled... and they spoke with other tongues. This evidence was repeated every time someone was filled with the Holy Spirit as recorded in the book of Acts.

In Acts 10 we find the story of Cornelius, a just man, devout, one that feared God and prayed to God always. (v. 2) But he still needed to be born again. Jesus said you **MUST** be born again. (John 3:3)

As the story unfolds we find Peter preaching to Cornelius and his household.

“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.” Acts 10:44-45

How did they know?

“For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.” (v. 46) They knew because the Gentiles spoke in tongues. Speaking in tongues is the common denominator throughout the book of Acts.

As we read in Chapter 11, we find Peter explaining the above account. *“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.”* (v. 15) Peter said it was just like what had happened to them at Pentecost, yet he saw no tongues of fire and heard no rushing mighty wind. What he heard was people speaking in an unknown tongue

In referring back to Acts 10:46, we are reminded that what convinced the Jews that the Holy Spirit

had fallen on the Gentiles was the fact that Gentiles were speaking in the tongues.

Continuing on in Acts 11:16-17, we read, *“Then remembered I the Word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but we shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I that I could withstand God?”* Notice again Peter said it was the “like gift” or the same gift: the Holy Spirit of God!

We find the third incident in Acts 19:1-6: *“And it came 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 ye 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.”

Once again we see they spoke with tongues. Once again we can be reminded that this is the common denominator throughout the book of Acts. When people were filled with the Holy Spirit they always spoke with tongues.

Looking at verse 6, we see that something else happened here too – these men prophesied. Other supernatural manifestations can take place such as prophecy, tongues of fire, the rush of a mighty wind, etc., but speaking in tongues will always be evident. These believers spoke in tongues first.

In turning to Acts 9, we find that Saul, later known as the Apostle Paul, who met Jesus on the road to Damascus, had been born again, and was waiting for Ananias to come to him. Picking up the account in verse 17 & 18, we read:

“And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him 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."

Some may point out that this passage does not say that Paul actually spoke in tongues. This is true, but in 1 Corinthians 14:18 Paul wrote, *"I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than ye all."* That was Paul's testimony concerning the gift of tongues that God gave him. He thanked God for it and used it more than anyone else.

When did he receive it then? If we go by the other scriptures, it was when he was baptized in the Holy Spirit. A lot of people have been hindered from speaking in tongues simply because of improper teaching. They did not know that the Bible reveals that tongues is the initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and therefore did not expect to speak right away. You are to speak in tongues right away and you will if you believe these scriptures.

Looking at the final account, we read in Acts 8 that Philip has gone preaching to Samaria and many

people have been saved. Picking up the story in verses 14-18, we read:

“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 they laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

“And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostle’s hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money.”

Verse 18 says when Simon saw that through the laying on of the Apostle’s hands the Holy Ghost was given...

What did he see? We cannot see the Holy Spirit... but we can see someone speaking. If we take into account all of the other evidence, we can conclude that Simon saw them speaking in tongues. Every other scripture in the book of Acts, concerning the baptism in the Holy Spirit, bears witness with this. Also church history establishes the fact that Samaritans spoke with tongues at Samaria.

“Finally Acts 8:21 says, *“Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter.”*”

The word matter is “Logos” in the Greek. It is the same word translated “Words” in 1Corinthians 14:19 where the Apostle Paul, speaking of tongues says 10,000 “words” in an unknown tongue. It is also the same word used in 1Corinthians 1:5 where it is translated utterance. Notice this is the context of the supernatural gifts of the Spirit. (v. 8) Peter is saying you have no part or lot in this utterance, in these words, in this receiving the Holy Ghost and speaking with tongues.

There is no way around it. Church history and the Word of God testify that speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. If you have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit I pray that you would receive Him now.

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Jesus said, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 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 Him?"
Luke 11:11-13

Notice "how much more" will He give you the Holy Spirit when you ask. You can believe Him. Ask Believing and you will receive. Pray this prayer:

Heavenly Father, I confess Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe God raised Him from the dead. Thank you that I now have eternal life. I see my need to receive the Holy Spirit and to speak in tongues. Jesus commanded it and You promised that if we would ask, we would receive the Holy Spirit. Therefore, I ask You now fill me with the Holy Spirit. I thank You for doing it now in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, Amen.

In Acts 2:1-4, we are given the account of the original outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We read in verse 4, *“and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

Notice that when they were filled the spoke. Not that you are filled, you will speak. Acts 2:4 tells us *“they began to speak,* “ therefore you have to open your mouth and begin to speak.

God isn't going to knock you on the head, grab your tongue and speak for you. You have to begin to speak. You have to open your mouth, take a deep breath, and by faith begin to speak. Remember you can't speak in two languages at once so don't speak in English or any other language that you have acquired with your mind.

As you begin to move your tongue the Holy Spirit will give you the utterance, or the words. At first these words will sound foreign to your ears, and you may

think of them as baby sounds, but that's all right. That is tongues. As you continue to speak, more words will come.

I remember when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit. Driving to college, I would say, "Lord, I'm going to speak in tongues." Then I would open my mouth and sounds would come out as I spoke. I would get upset and think, 'that's not it!' I didn't think it was tongues because it didn't sound like any language I recognized.

I shared this with my brother. He listened to me and said, "That's it! What do you want – French? God gave you the language He wanted you to have."

Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:1, "*Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels...*" It doesn't have to be an earthly, recognizable tongue. Just continue to speak the language out and more words will come. Be like the Apostle Paul who said, "*I thank my God, I speak in tongues more than ye all.*" (1 Corinthians 14:18)

WHY SPEAK IN TONGUES

Speaking in tongues is very beneficial to the Believer. First of all it is a direct contact between you and God. It is like a hot-line to heaven. 1Corinthians 14:2 says, *“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men but unto God.”* That’s Exciting! 1 Corinthians 14:14 says, *“For it I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”* Notice you’re praying directly out of your Spirit to God!

Secondly, we pray correctly, in God’s will even about things we don’t understand, when we pray in tongues. So many times our minds get in the way, we don’t know how to pray as we ought as it says in Romans 8:26. *“...but the Spirit maketh intercession for us.”*

1Corinthians 14:2b Amplified says, *“Because in the (Holy) Spirit He utters secret truths and hidden things (not obvious to the understanding)”* 1Corinthians 14:14 says in the Amplified Bible, *“For if I pray in an (unknown) tongue, my Spirit (by the Holy Spirit within me) prays.”*

Speaking in tongues is a divine act of cooperation between you and God. Thank God, when we pray in tongues we are not limited to our understanding. But rather His full knowledge and will are prayed through us as we yield to the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues.

Thirdly, speaking in tongues builds up and improved the believer spiritually. 1Corinthians 14:4a Amplified, *“He who speaks in a (strange) tongue edifies and improves himself.”* The word *edify* means to build up, such as building a building. Praying in tongues helps build your spiritual life. It can also be likened to charging up a battery. As you pray in tongues, you charge yourself up spiritually. We all need that divine charge of the Holy Spirit! Now of course you want to “improve” and the Word of God states that as you pray in an unknown tongue, you will improve spiritually.

Finally, as you pray in unknown tongues, you are giving thanks well. 1Corinthians 14:16-17 says, *“Else when thou shalt bless with the Spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned shall say Amen at the giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.”*

I know in my own personal experience, there are times when to just say thank you seems so hollow. It just doesn't express what is in my heart. That is where praying in other tongues comes in: you give Thanks in a more excellent way.

Your thanksgiving is expressed in a way that goes beyond your natural understanding. Your thanks are not bound by the limitations of your mind, imagination, or English language. Truly this is a way to give thanks well.

In closing, I want to remind you that 1Corinthians 14:2 says when you pray in an unknown tongue, no man understands you, for you are speaking not unto men but unto God. 1Corinthians 14:14 says it again: *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”*

Clearly the Word of God states that you will not understand praying in tongues so don't let the Devil or your doubts talk you out of this wonderful gift for this reason. Just know it's from God. Remember the benefits and continue to pray in other tongues. Truly you will be blessed in every way.

Be like the Apostle Paul and 'pray in tongues more than ye all.' (1 Corinthians 14:18)