

The Promise, Power and Purpose of Pentecost

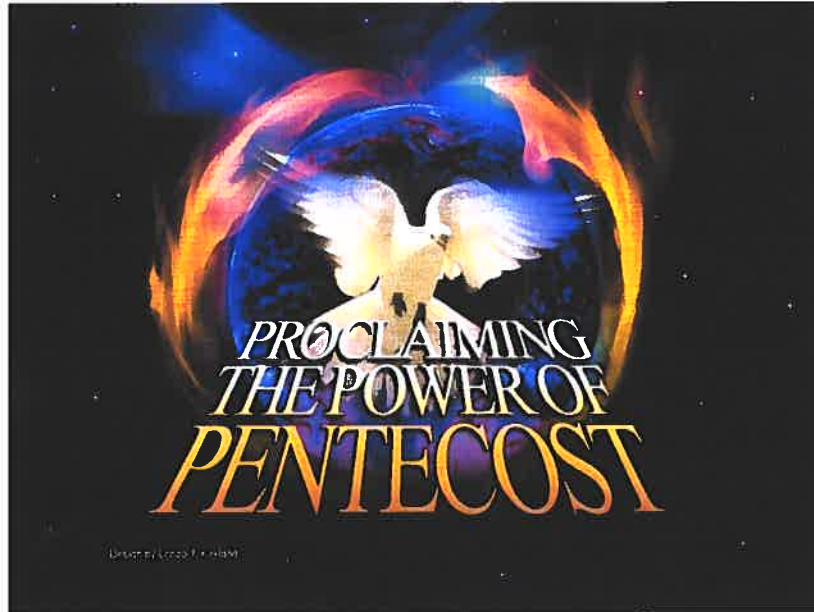


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PEACE WITH GOD

Do thoughts about God and eternity trouble you? Do you have a guilty conscience before God? You can be certain of your relationship to God. The Scriptures speak clearly about the great issues of sin, salvation, death, heaven, and hell. Romans 3:23 says, For ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The ALL in this verse shows us that sin and guilt is the condition of every person born into this world. Many people attempt to remove the guilt by morality, meditation, church membership, water baptism or communion. No pathway of human works will ever give lasting inner peace or freedom from guilt.

The good news is that God has done for man what he was unable to do for himself. God sent His Son, Jesus Christ, into the world to pay man's sin debt in full. When Christ was crucified on the cross, He shed His divine blood to pay the supreme sacrifice for your sins, my sins, and the sins of the whole world (Hebrews 9:22). On the third day, God raised Christ bodily from the dead (1 Corinthians 15:1-6). Having conquered death, hell, and the grave, Jesus Christ is alive forever and offers eternal life to anyone who will repent of their sins and believe on Him for their salvation. To repent means to turn from your sin (Acts 17:30). To believe means to trust in Christ's precious blood and believe you are forgiven by faith (Acts 16:31). To receive Christ and be saved, pray this prayer sincerely to God:

Dear God,

I am a lost sinner. I repent of my sins. I believe Christ died for me and was raised from the dead. I trust in His precious blood. Lord Jesus Christ, come into my heart and save me now, and I thank you by faith it is done.

Amen.

If you prayed that prayer and meant it, you are saved on the authority of the written WORD OF GOD (Romans 10:13). Here are the first steps to follow in your new Christian life:

- 1) Be baptized (immersed) in water (Matthew 28:19-20)
- 2) Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8; 2:4; 8:14-17)
- 3) Join a church which teaches the verbal inspiration and inerrancy of the Bible (66 books), the Trinity, the Deity and Virgin birth of Christ, salvation by repentance and faith in Christ's blood, the new birth, holy living, bodily resurrection and His literal second coming (1 Timothy 3:15)
- 4) Read and study the Scriptures systematically (2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16)
- 5) Spend time in prayer daily (Luke 18:1; Ephesians 6:18)
- 6) Confess your sins to God (1 John 1:9)

MEMORIZING SCRIPTURE

Memorizing Scripture is very important to the Christian life. One scholar has memorized 14,000 verses of Scripture. When he started this, he began to experience victory in his spiritual walk. This is important for adults as well as children. The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee."

On one side of a 3 x 5 card, write out the verse **WORD FOR WORD**, complete with the chapter number and verse number. Be accurate with your wording and punctuation. On the other side of the card write out the verse by putting down only the first letter of each word as a reminder. When you can quote the entire verse word for word, looking at only the first letter of each word, you are well on your way to having it memorized.

Here is how John 3:16 would look on a card:

F G S L T W, T H G H O B S,

T W B I H S N P, B H E L.

JOHN 3:16

Write out or type whole chapters on a sheet of paper, complete with verse numbers, punctuation, and Scripture reference. Remember.word for word.

You can also choose great themes of Scripture such as salvation, grace, peace, love. Also, the great fundamental doctrines of Scripture can be mastered this way. When you can quote Scripture word for word, you are armed with the Sword of the Spirit. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Satan hates to hear Scripture quoted!

REMEMBER: HE WROTE IT, WE QUOTE IT!

THE PERSON AND WORK OF GOD, THE HOLY SPIRIT

I. Who is the Holy Spirit?

A. His Divine Attributes

1. He is Eternal (Hebrews 9:14)
2. He is Omnipotent (Job 26:13)
3. He is Omniscient (Romans 8:27; 1 Corinthians 2:11)
4. He is Omnipresent (Psalm 139:7-10)
5. He is infinitely Holy (Romans 1:4)
6. He is God, the third Person of the Trinity (Acts 5:3-4)
7. He is co-equal to the Father and the Son (Matthew 28:19-20)
8. He is one with the Father and the Son (1 John 5:7)
9. To sin against Him is the unpardonable sin (Matthew 12:31-32)

B. His Divine Works in the Old Testament

1. He was present at Creation (Genesis 1:2)
2. He convicted men of sin (Genesis 6:3)
3. He spoke through the prophets (2 Peter 1:21)
4. He empowered prophets, priests, and kings (1 Samuel 16:13)
5. He inspired the writing of ALL Scripture (2 Timothy 3:16)

C. His Divine Works in the New Testament

1. He anointed John the Baptist (Luke 1:15)
2. He produced the virgin birth of Christ (Luke 1:35)
3. He anointed Jesus Christ in His ministry (Acts 10:38)
4. He anointed the Apostles (Acts 2)
5. He anointed believers in the Book of Acts (Chapters 2, 8, 10, 19)

D. His Divine Works Today

1. Produces the New Birth in believers (John 3:3)
2. Seals believers unto the day of redemption (Ephesians 4:30)
3. Indwells all true believers (1 John 4:4)
4. Fills yielded believers with power (Ephesians 3:16)
5. Reproduces the power of Pentecost today (Acts 2:4, 39)
6. Convicts men of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8-11)
7. Divides spiritual gifts within the church (1 Corinthians 12:7-11)
8. Illuminates believers in the Scriptures (John 16:13)
9. He always works in connection with Scripture (Revelation 22:18-19)

Historical Manifestations of Spiritual Gifts

***Iraeneus* (115-202 AD)** (Pupil of Polycarp; disciple of Apostle John)

“We hear of many brethren in the Church having prophetic gifts, and speaking in all sorts of languages through the Spirit.”

***Tertullian* (160-220 AD)**

“Speaks of the spiritual gifts, including the gift of tongues, as being manifested in his day.”

***Chrysostom* (5th Century AD)**

“Whoever was baptized in apostolic days, he straightway spoke with tongues . . . And one straightway spoke in the Persian language, another in the Roman, another in the Indian, another in some other tongue, and this made manifest to them that were without that it was the Spirit in the very person speaking.”

The Encyclopedia Britannica states that the glossalalia (tongues) “recurs in Christian revivals of every age, i.e. of the mendicant friars of the 13th century, among the Jensenists and early Quakers, the converts of Wesley and Whitfield, the persecuted Protestants of the Cevennes and the Irvingites.”

The History of the Christian Church (1882) by Phillip Schaff: The phenomenon of speaking in tongues reappeared from time to time in seasons of special religious revival and even to this day.

J.J. Gorres (1862) “This gift, which the apostles received on the day of Pentecost, we find again later among the hermits of the desert.”

At the time when **the Huguenots** were suffering great persecution in France, many of them were filled with the Spirit, and the gifts of the Spirit were in manifestation, including the gift of tongues.

H.L. Christopher of New Britain, Connecticut, writes of a marvelous revival that the Lord gave in Oslo, Norway, in 1899, in which many Norwegian people were filled with the Spirit and spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

From “With Signs Following” by Stanley Frodsham © 1946 Gospel Publishing House

Dake Chart: Ten Proofs the Spirit Baptism is for All

1. John predicted that Christ would baptize all people (Matthew 3:11; John 1:33).
2. Jesus promised it to everyone who would believe in Him (John 7:37-39).
3. Jesus promised the Spirit to all children of God who would “ask Him” (Luke 11:9-13).
4. Jesus commanded all men to tarry “until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8).
5. Jesus promised His power and anointing to every believer (Acts 1:4-8; John 14:12; Mark 16:17-18).
6. Peter promised it to all men (Acts 2:38-39; Acts 5:32).
7. Peter predicted that it would be given to all men in the last days (Acts 2:16-21).
8. Jesus died that all men might have it (Galatians 3:13-14). The promised Spirit in Galatians 3:14 is the same as in John 7:37-39; John 14:16-17, 26; John 15:26; John 16:13-15; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:38-39).
9. The early church expected all believers to receive it and saw to it that they did get it (Acts 8:14-18; Acts 9:17; Acts 19:1-6).
10. That all the above applies to Gentiles as well as to Jews is clear in Matthew 3:11; John 7:37-39; Acts 2:16-21, 38-39; Acts 5:32; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 11:14-18; Acts 15:7-11; Galatians 3:13-14; Romans 10:12.

Dake Chart: Sixteen Great Lessons of Acts 8

1. Prayer for the Holy Ghost is part of the gospel program (Acts 8:15; Acts 1:14; Acts 9:17-18; Acts 19:1-7; Luke 11:13; 1 Corinthians 12:30; 1 Corinthians 14:1).
2. The Holy Spirit being given here does not refer to receiving the Spirit of adoption, for all receive this when born again (Romans 8:9, 14; Romans 14-16).
3. The Holy Spirit here must refer to the Spirit baptism and the supernatural gifts of the Spirit for service, not to salvation, for these people were already saved from sin, justified, born again, healed, baptized in water, and had great joy in Christ (Acts 8:6-13).
4. This experience was subsequent to the experience above (Acts 8:6-13).
5. It was for all believers (Acts 8:14-17).
6. It was evidently what the church at Jerusalem had received so they wanted other churches to have it (Acts 2:33, 38-39; cp. Matthew 3:11; John 7:37-39).
7. Being converted, healed, baptized in water, and having great joy does not bring the Holy Spirit as the Church at Jerusalem had the Spirit, for the Samaritans had all this and yet lacked the Holy Spirit's power (Acts 8:6-13).
8. The Holy Spirit in this measure can be imparted by prayer and laying on of hands (Acts 8:15-23).
9. This does not mean that this is the only way to receive, for no hands were laid on men at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-21) or at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48).
10. Others besides the 12 apostles can lay hands on believers to receive the Spirit in this manner (Acts 9:17-18; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6).
11. It is biblical to hold special services for this extra reception of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:15-17; Acts 9:17-18; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Timothy 4:14; 2 Timothy 1:6; Hebrews 6:2).
12. This experience was something that produced evidences that could be seen and heard by men or else no money would have been offered for such power (Acts 8:18-23).
13. Spiritual things are not for the purpose of making money (Acts 8:18-23).
14. The Spirit's power cannot be bought with money (Acts 8:18-23).
15. One must be right at heart to partake of this program (Acts 8:21).
16. It was "the gift of God" (Acts 8:20) which is also called the Spirit baptism in Acts 1:4-5; Acts 2:38-39; Acts 11:14-18; Acts 15:7-13; Acts 19:1-7.

THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

DEFINED: The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a special enduement of spiritual power, given by the Lord Jesus Christ to the born-again believer to empower him for gospel ministry, and is evidenced by speaking in other tongues.

1. The Baptism Promised

A. By John the Baptist

1. Matthew 3:11
2. Mark 1:8
3. Luke 3:16
4. John 1:33

B. By Jesus Christ

1. Mark 16:15-20
2. Luke 24:49
3. John 7:37-39
4. Acts 1:4, 5, 8

C. By the Apostle Peter

1. Acts 2:16-21, 38-39
2. Acts 8:14-17
3. Acts 10:44-47
4. Acts 11:15-17

D. By the Apostle Paul

1. Acts 19:2-6
2. Romans 8:26-27
3. 1 Corinthians 1:5-7
4. 1 Corinthians 14:5, 14, 15
5. Galatians 3:5
6. Ephesians 5:18
7. Ephesians 6:18
8. Philippians 4:9
9. 1 Timothy 4:14
10. 2 Timothy 1:6

II. The Baptism Given

A. To Jesus Christ

1. Matthew 3:13-17
2. Mark 1:9-11
3. Luke 21-22
4. John 1:32-33

- B. To the 120 at Pentecost**
 - 1. Acts 2:1-4
 - 2. Acts 2:15-18
 - 3. Acts 2:33
 - 4. Mark 16:17

- C. To the 3000 at Pentecost**
 - 1. Acts 2:38-41
 - 2. Mark 16:17

- D. To the Samaritans**
 - 1. Acts 8:14-17
 - 2. Mark 16:17

- E. To the Apostle Paul**
 - 1. Acts 9:17
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 14:18

- F. To the Gentiles**
 - 1. Acts 10:44-47
 - 2. Acts 11:15-17

- G. To the Ephesians**
 - 1. Acts 19:2-6
 - 2. Ephesians 6:18

- H. To the Romans**
 - 1. Romans 1:11
 - 2. Romans 8:26-27

- I. To the Corinthians**
 - 1. 1 Corinthians 1:5-7
 - 2. 1 Corinthians 2:4
 - 3. 1 Corinthians 12:7
 - 4. 1 Corinthians 14:5

- J. To the Galatians**
 - 1. Galatians 3:5

- K. To the Philippians**
 - 1. Philippians 3:17
 - 2. Philippians 4:9

- L. To the Colossians**
 - 1. Colossians 3:16; spiritual song: 1 Corinthians 14:14-15

M. To the Thessalonians

1. 1 Thessalonians 3:2, c.f. Romans 1:11
2. 1 Thessalonians 5:19-20
3. 2 Thessalonians 2:15

N. To Timothy

1. 1 Timothy 4:14
2. 2 Timothy 1:6-8

O. To Titus

1. Titus: Convert of Paul; Titus 1:4, c.f. 1 Corinthians 14:5

P. To Philemon

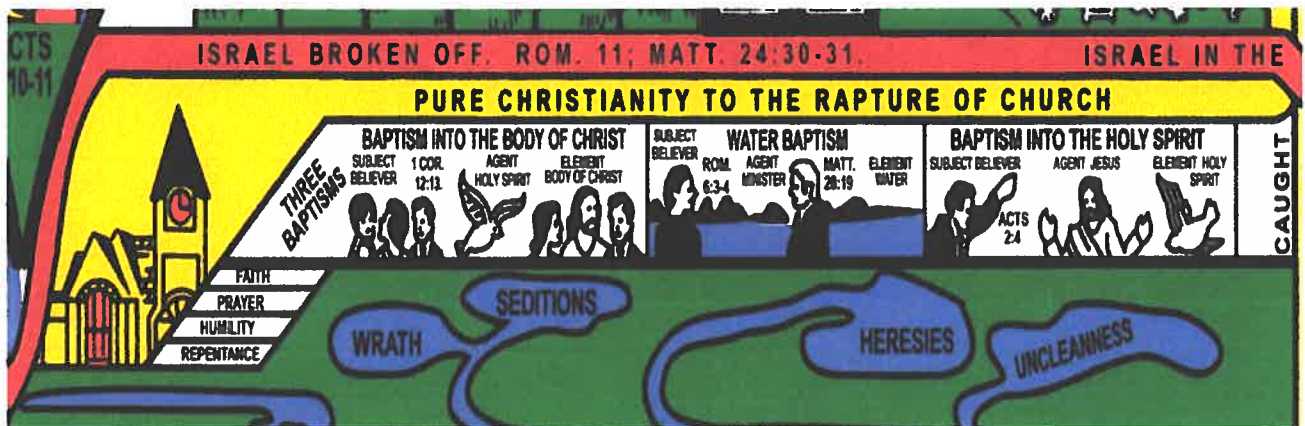
1. Philemon – A fellow laborer of Paul (1:1)
Paul desired all to speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:5)
2. Philemon was a Colossian believer
The Colossians sang in tongues (Colossians 3:16)
3. Epaphras ministered in Colosse (Colossians 1:7)
He was a fellow servant of Paul (1 Corinthians 14:5)

Q. To the Hebrews

1. Hebrews 2:3-4
2. Hebrews 6:2

Baptisms - Plural

- a. Into Christ (Romans 6:3; 1 Cor. 12:13)
- b. Into water (Matthew 28:19-20)(Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 19)
- c. Into the Holy Spirit (Acts 2, 8, 9, 10, 19)



R. In the Epistles of Peter

1. 1 Peter 1:12

2. 2 Peter 3:2

Be mindful of the Apostles' commands (GR.-Plural)

- a. Acts 2:38
- b. Acts 8:14-17
- c. Acts 19:1-6

S. In 1, 2, and 3 John

1. 1 John 2:20, 27
2. 2 John 4; walk in truth: Apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42)
3. 3 John 3-4: walk in truth: Apostles' doctrine (Acts 2:42)

T. In Jude

1. Jude 20
Praying in the Holy Ghost, i.e. tongues - languages (1 Corinthians 14:15)

U. In the Revelation

1. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the churches
 - a. Revelation 2:7
 - b. Revelation 2:11
 - c. Revelation 2:17
 - d. Revelation 2:29
 - e. Revelation 3:6
 - f. Revelation 3:13
 - g. Revelation 3:21
2. The Church enriched by utterance
1 Corinthians 1:5-7

III. Results of the Baptism

A. In Jesus Christ

1. Luke 4:14
2. Luke 4:32
3. Luke 4:40-41
4. Luke 7:11-15
5. Acts 10:38

B. In the 120 at Pentecost

1. Acts 2:1-4
2. Acts 2:37: sinners convicted
3. Acts 2:42
4. Acts 2:47

C. In the Apostle Peter

1. Acts 2:14-40
2. Acts 3:1-8
3. Acts 14:3
4. Acts 15:12

5. Acts 16:9
6. Acts 16:16-18
7. Acts 16:25
8. Acts 18:11
9. Acts 19:1-8, 11-12
10. Acts 20:9-12
11. Acts 28:3-5
12. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15
13. Galatians 4:19

D. In any Believer

1. John 14:12
2. Mark 16:15-20
3. Acts 2:4
4. Acts 1:8
5. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11
6. Romans 8:14
7. Romans 8:26-27
8. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15
9. Jude 20
10. 1 Peter 2:5, 9

IV. How to Receive the Baptism

A. Have a Born-Again Experience

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. Romans 3:23 | Know you are a lost sinner |
| 2. 1 Corinthians 15:1-6 | Hear the gospel of salvation |
| 3. Romans 5:8-9 | Salvation is by Christ's precious blood |
| 4. Acts 17:30 | Repent – turn away from your sins |
| 5. Acts 16:31 | Believe on Jesus Christ (trust in Him) |
| 6. Romans 10:9-10 | Confess Him as Savior and Lord |

B. Scriptural Assurance of Salvation

1. John 3:17
2. Matthew 10:32
3. John 5:24
4. Romans 5:1
5. Romans 8:16

C. Hear the Word of God on the Baptism

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Romans 10:17 | Faith comes by the Word of God |
| 2. John 7:37-39 | Desire the Baptism ("Thirst") |
| 3. John 7:37-39 | Believe His words |
| 4. Acts 2:4 | Drink by faith |
| 5. Acts 2:4 | You begin to speak by His power |
| 6. Jude 20 | Exercise your new language regularly |

RECEIVING THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues (languages), as the Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:4) The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a free gift and a commandment for all born-again Christians to receive. This is accepted by most Pentecostals and increasingly larger numbers of other Christians, but too many haven't received. They desire to; yet are unsure on how to receive. This is very prevalent, even in Pentecostal churches. Many people want to receive, who know they should receive, but are living without the promise of the Father.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a free gift, purchased by the Blood of Christ, and is not a complex process. This gift was simply received by believers throughout the book of Acts and church history. The book of Acts details believers experiencing personal salvation, water baptism and the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Church history documents that those gifts continued throughout the centuries. Excesses, extremes and abuses can't negate the scriptural promises for faithful believers.

Let's deal with some of the most common hindrances to receiving. These are found to be the most prevalent reasons:

1. **Tarrying:** There is a teaching which says you tarry, tarry, tarry and then you may receive. Actually, tarrying ended on the Day of Pentecost, and now we are taught to just receive that which has already been given. Paul said, “Have you received yet?” (Acts 19:2) We don't have to tarry or wait for something already given. We simply ask in faith believing.

2. **Feelings:** We have been taught that if we don't feel it, we haven't got it. We don't feel saved, we don't feel our prayer was heard, etc. Martin Luther, when asked if he felt like he was saved, replied, “No, but the Word of God says I am, so I know that I am.” Not what we feel, but the Word of God is final authority. Not our feelings, but God's Word the Bible is the power of God (Romans 1:16). A big factor is that faith in God actually means believing the Bible. I am lifting up Christ when I believe His Word. You may or may not feel something when you are saved or baptized, but what does the Word of God say about it? Learn to trust the authority and precepts of the Word and you will receive God's best in the fulfillment of His promises.

3. **Understanding:** A big hindrance is that we will not believe we are filled until we actually speak in other tongues. We are led first by faith not by emotion or experience. Receiving anything from God is first by faith, then the physical and emotional follows afterward. Do not reverse the divine order. First, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, then the physical speaking in other tongues (languages). The tongues do not bring Him, they only manifest that He is already there. **“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues” (Acts 2:4).**

You are supposed to believe the Word of God and then you will receive. By using the following principles we have seen people receive immediately:

1. **BELIEVE GOD'S WORD:** If you believe the word, you will also act on it. One translation says faith without corresponding action is dead (James 2:17).
2. **ASK FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE NAME OF JESUS:** Luke 11:13 says anyone who asks for the Holy Spirit will receive from God. Faith in the word precedes and produces experience.
3. **PRAISE GOD FOR THE BAPTISM:** This is very important, because you are saying, "*I have now received the Holy Spirit*" by faith in the Bible, not by feelings or what someone else said I should do or feel. By faith I believe the Word of God.
4. **NOW BEGIN TO SPEAK IN TONGUES.**
Remember Acts 2:4. **"When they were filled, they began to speak with other tongues." Who did the speaking?** They did . . . their spirit, by The Holy Spirit within them. Paul said, "I will pray with tongues, I will sing in the Spirit," as an act of his own will because the Spirit lived in him. Now that you have received you can also, as an act of your will, begin to speak in tongues as the Spirit gives the words. You must stop speaking in English to begin in the Spirit. Begin to speak, by faith, from your spirit. The Holy Spirit will never force you but will empower you as you yield to Him.

In dealing with one man who was doing everything he knew and could do to receive, we shared these four principles. We told him to believe, ask, praise, stop speaking in English, and begin to speak in tongues. Before we could pray with him again, he was worshipping God in other tongues. Remember the scripture always produces results!

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The Gift of Tongues: Publicly and Privately

1 Corinthians 14

- a. Is not unto men (v 2)
- b. But unto God (v 2)
- c. For no man understands him (v 2)
- d. In the Spirit he speaks mysteries (v 2)
- e. He edifies himself (v 4)
- f. Paul wanted all to speak with tongues (v 5)
- g. Prophecy is greater than tongues, except they are interpreted (v 5)
- h. The church receives edifying through interpretation (v 5)
- i. Tongues will not edify the church unless interpreted (v 6-13)
- j. Those who speak in tongues should pray to interpret (v 13)
- k. Praying in tongues is praying in the Spirit (v 14)
- l. We pray with the Spirit (tongues) and with understanding (English) (v 15)
- m. Paul spoke in tongues privately more than all the Corinthians (v 18)
- n. Publicly he preferred to speak 5 words they understood than 10,000 in tongues (v 19)
- o. We are not to be children in understanding these things (v 20)
- p. Tongues were prophesied in the Old Testament (v 21) (Isaiah 28:9-12)
- q. Tongues are a sign to unbelievers (v 22)
- r. The church is not to speak in tongues in unison (v 23)
- s. An individual may have a tongue in a public service (v 26)
- t. 2 or 3 believers may have a tongue in a public service (v 27)
- u. If no interpreter is present they should keep silence in a service (v 28)
- v. In that case, speak to yourself and to God (v 28) (don't disrupt a service)
- w. If anyone claims to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge these commands (v 37)
- x. Do not forbid people to speak with tongues (v 39)
- y. Let all gifts be operated decently and in order (v 40)

Interpretation of Tongues

1 Corinthians 12-14

Interpretation of tongues is a supernatural gift given by the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10). It is the companion gift which makes known the meaning of public message in tongues. It is given in the native tongue of the speaker and listeners.

Interpretation of tongues is one of several ways believers can minister in a public service (1 Corinthians 14:26) (Psalm, doctrine, tongue, revelation, interpretation).

In 1 Corinthians 12:30, the Apostle Paul asks, "Do all interpret?" The implied answer is "no." Why? Because the gift of interpretation is distributed by the Holy Spirit and each member of the body has different gifts.

Prophecy is greater than tongues, except they be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:5) that the church may be edified. The church is edified when interpretation is given in the native tongues of the listeners to help them understand what the Spirit is saying through tongues.

Those who give messages in tongues publicly are told to pray for the gift of interpretation (1 Corinthians 14:13). Not all believers give public messages in tongues or interpretation (1 Corinthians 12:30), but all believers can and should speak in tongues in their private prayer language (1 Corinthians 14:5). Paul also said that he prayed with the Spirit and with the understanding, meaning that the believer should interpret his own private prayer language (1 Corinthians 14:14-15).

All public messages in tongues should be interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:27). If no interpreter is present, speakers in tongues should keep silent in the church speaking to themselves and to God, not disrupting the order of a service. All operations of spiritual gifts in public services should be done decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

All manifestations of spiritual gifts are to be judged by the written Word of God. Spiritual gifts are never to supersede or replace Scripture. God the Holy Spirit, who inspired the Bible (66 books) will never contradict Himself. Anyone, regardless of their prominence, who contradicts Scripture, is in deception and believers are accountable only to the Word of God as final authority (Revelation 22:18-19).

The Gift of Prophecy

1 Corinthians 12-13-14

The gift of prophecy is the gift to speak to men supernaturally in their native tongue by the Spirit of God which edifies, exhorts, and comforts the church (1 Corinthians 14:3). It is not merely preaching or quoting Scripture, although it will always agree with and contain scriptural truth.

The whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation was written by the special gift of prophecy through divinely chosen prophets and apostles. Operations of prophecy or any other spiritual gift is not on the same level of authority as the Holy Scriptures and are to be judged as to their agreement with the Word of God (2 Peter 1:16-21; Revelation 22:18-19).

The gift of prophecy is given in the New Testament (1 Corinthians 12:10). All believers may prophesy as the Holy Spirit leads (1 Corinthians 14:31). The gift of prophecy is not to supersede the teaching and preaching of the Word of God, but to complement it. Smith Wigglesworth said he was first of all a man of the Word of God and second of all a man of the Spirit of God.

All true prophecy will exalt the Lord Jesus Christ (Revelation 19:10). True prophecy will never contradict the Scriptures (Revelation 22:18-19). False prophecy will be prevalent in the last days (Matthew 7:15-27; 24:23-24).

We are to follow after charity (love, the fruit of the Spirit) and desire (earnestly) spiritual gifts, especially prophecy (1 Corinthians 14:1).

Anointed prophecy edifies and uplifts the church (1 Corinthians 14:4). Prophecy is superior to tongues, except they are interpreted (1 Corinthians 14:5).

Prophecy is for ministry to believers (1 Corinthians 14:22), where tongues are for a sign to unbelievers. However, 1 Corinthians 14:24 says that anointed prophecy will convict the unlearned believer and the unbeliever, which will cause them to fall upon their face and report that God is in you of a truth.

The spirit of the prophet is subject to the prophet, meaning no one can be disorderly and claim that God the Holy Spirit is forcing them to speak or act in a disorderly manner (1 Corinthians 14:32, 33).

We are commanded to covet to prophesy, and no man has authority to forbid speaking in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:39).

Anyone claiming to be a prophet or spiritual Christian is to acknowledge these commands from the Apostle Paul as commandments of the Lord (1 Corinthians 14:37).

All spiritual gifts are to be operated decently and in order (1 Corinthians 14:40).

Dake Chart: Classification and Definition of Gifts

Gifts fall into three natural divisions

1. Gifts of revelation – the mind gifts:

(1) **The word of wisdom.** This is supernatural revelation, or insight into the divine will and purpose, showing how to solve any problem that may arise (1 Kings 3:16-28; Matthew 2:20; Luke 22:10-12; John 2:22-24; John 4:16-19; Acts 26:16; Acts 27:21-25; 1 Corinthians 5).

(2) **The word of knowledge.** That is supernatural revelation of divine knowledge, or insight in the divine mind, will, or plan; and also the plans of others that man could not know of himself (Genesis 1:1-2:25; 1 Samuel 3:7-15; 2 Kings 6:8-12; Acts 9:11-12; Matthew 16:16; John 1:1-3; Acts 5:3-4; Acts 21:11; Ephesians 3).

(3) **Discerning of spirits.** This is supernatural revelation, or insight into the realm of spirits to detect them and their plans and to read the minds of people (Matthew 9:4; Luke 13:16; John 2:25; Acts 13:9-10; Acts 16:16; 1 Timothy 4:1-4; 1 John 4:1-6).

2. Gifts of inspiration – vocal gifts:

(1) **Prophecy.** This is supernatural utterance in the native tongues (1 Corinthians 14:3). It is a miracle of divine utterance, not conceived by human thought or reasoning (Acts 3:21; Acts 11:28; Acts 21:11; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 14:23-32). It includes speaking to people to edification, and exhortation and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3).

(2) **Diverse kinds of tongues.** This is supernatural utterance in other languages, which are not known to the speaker (Isaiah 28:11; Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19:1-7; 1 Corinthians 12:10, 28-31; 1 Corinthians 13:1-3; 1 Corinthians 14:2, 22, 26, 27-32).

(3) **The interpretation of tongues.** This is simply supernatural ability to interpret in the native tongue what is uttered in other languages not known by the one who interprets by the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:10; 1 Corinthians 14:5, 13-15, 27-28).

3. Gifts of power – working gifts:

(1) **Faith.** This is supernatural ability to believe God without human doubt, unbelief, and reasoning (Romans 4:17; James 1:5-8; Matthew 17:20; Matthew 21:22; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24; Hebrews 11:6; Hebrews 12:1-3).

(2) **The gifts of healing.** This is supernatural power to heal all manner of sickness without human aid or medicine (Mark 16:18; John 14:12; 1 Corinthians 12:9).

(3) **The working of miracles.** This is supernatural power to intervene in the ordinary course of nature and to counteract natural laws if necessary (1 Corinthians 15:10, 27-31; Hebrews 2:3-4; Psalm 107; Exodus 7:10-14:21; 2 Kings 4:1-44; 2 Kings 6:1-7; Matthew 17:20; Mark 9:23; Mark 11:22-24; John 14:12).

FLOWING IN SPIRITUAL GIFTS

- 1) Minister to the Lord (Acts 3:1, 4:13; 2 Chronicles 26:3-5)
- 2) Meditate in the Word (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:1-3; 119:97; 2 Timothy 2:15)
- 3) Know your position in Christ (Romans 6-7-8; Ephesians 1:3)
- 4) Be filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:4; Ephesians 4:30; 5:18)
- 5) Give all the glory to God (Acts 3:12-13)
- 6) Practice prayer and fasting (Matthew 17:15-21; Acts 13:2, 3)
- 7) Be bold in faith (Mark 11:22-24; Matthew 19:26; Romans 10:17)
- 8) Know the inward witness (Romans 8:14; Proverbs 20:27)
- 9) Stir up your gift(s) (1 Timothy 4:12-15; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Jude 20)
- 10) Use the name of Jesus (Luke 10:19; Acts 3:6; Mark 16:15-20)
- 11) Live a life of holiness (Hebrews 12:14)
- 12) Walk in divine love (1 Corinthians 13)
- 13) Covet spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:39)
- 14) The Word of God is final authority (1 Corinthians 14:29-33; Revelation 22:19-20)

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