

## Believing is Receiving

*"How to be filled with the Holy Spirit"*

Despite the fact that, when one is saved...when he receives Jesus Christ into his heart as his Lord and Savior...he, in fact, "**receives**"...is indwelt by...the Holy Spirit, nevertheless, the Word of God teaches us that...**after** conversion...there is an act of "**receiving the Holy Spirit**" which Luke 24:49 refers to as being "**endued with power from on high**"...AND...the primary purpose of God's giving us this power is to enable us to have the "**abundant life**" which Jesus said He came to give us.

*"But you will receive **POWER** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses..." (Acts 1:8)*

Scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit is promised to **YOU!**

In **Matthew 3:11** John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come One...(Jesus)...who is more powerful than I, Whose sandals I am not fit to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.**"

In **Luke 24:49** Jesus said, "I am going to send you what My Father promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

**John 7:37-39**, "On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. **By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive.**"

In **John 14:16-17** Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever - the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you know Him, for He lives with you and will be in you."

In **John 16:7** Jesus said, "But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him...(the Holy Spirit)...to you."

**Acts 1:4-5**, and **8**, "On one occasion, while He...(Jesus) ... was eating with them, He gave them this command: `Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift My Father promised, which you have heard Me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be My witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'"

**Acts 2:38-39**, "Peter replied, `Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off - for all whom the Lord our God will call.'"

**Ephesians 5:18**, "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

God shows us His pattern for receiving the Holy Spirit, by means of **FIVE INSTANCES**...which are recorded in the Book of Acts...of those who received the Holy Spirit:

**FIRST: On the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was given for the first time in Acts 2:1-4** *"When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them."*

**SECOND: When the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit in Acts 8:14-20** *"When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.' Peter answered: 'May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money!'"*

**THIRD: When Saul of Tarsus received the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17-18** *"Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, 'Brother Saul, the Lord - Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here - has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.' Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized."*

Along with this passage, Paul...in I Corinthians 14:18... states, *"I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you."*

**FOURTH: When the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit at Cornelius' house in Acts 10:44-46** *"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."*

**FIFTH; When the Ephesians believers received the Holy Spirit in Acts 19:1-7,** *"While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, 'Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?' They answered, 'No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.' So Paul asked, 'Then what baptism did you receive?' 'John's baptism,' they replied. Paul said, 'John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.' On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all."*

In the same way that there was only **one** Calvary...when Christ died for man's sin... there was only **one** Pentecost...when God gave His Holy Spirit to the Church. And just as, at Calvary, provision was made for people of all ages to be "saved", so, too, on the Day of Pentecost...with the coming of the Holy Spirit... provision was made for believers of this entire Church age to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit.

When God gave the Holy Spirit to His Church on the Day of Pentecost, He gave it as the Church's **permanent possession** during this entire, present, Church age, and He, now, waits to give each individual believer his, or her, share in Pentecost on the one condition that he...or she...apply for it "**by faith**."

***As you took forgiveness from the hand of the living Christ, take your share of the Pentecostal blessing from the hand of the living Christ!***

Because there isn't any Scripture in the Bible that teaches us that "**one must speak in tongues as a sign of receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit**," one cannot insist, absolutely, that "tongues" is the only sign of one's having received the fullness of the Holy Spirit...nevertheless...in **every instance** in the Book of Acts, where the Holy Spirit was received...and the initial external manifestation is mentioned...the external manifestation was **ALWAYS** *speaking in tongues*.

The only instance where "tongues" is not mentioned is in Acts 8 where the Samaritans received the fullness of the Holy Spirit, however, there **was** some **external manifestation** that Simon saw because verse 18 says, "*When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money and said, 'Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.'*" What could it have been that convinced Simon that these Samaritans had received the Holy Spirit, unless it was the same manifestation...that of speaking in tongues...that was mentioned in every other instance of the filling of the Holy Spirit?

In Mark 16:17, Jesus said, "*And these signs will accompany those who believe...they shall speak in new tongues.*"

Nowhere does God's Word declare, as some teach, "*that believers were to speak in tongues only up until the time that the original disciples died...or...only up until the time that the immature believers at Corinth became mature and had no more need for special manifestations.*"

In I Corinthians 14, Paul declares, "**I would like everyone of you to speak in tongues**," (vs.5)...and..."**I thank God that I speak with tongues more than all of you**," (vs.18)...and...in I Corinthians 12, he states, "**God hath set in the Church...**(the Church Universal) **...these gifts**" (vs.28).

## **HOW YOU MAY RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT**

### **1. BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS WITH YOU RIGHT NOW!**

Jesus said, "I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you **FOREVER**" (John 14:16).

The Holy Spirit is near you right now!

## **2. BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GIFT!**

Luke 11:11-13, "*Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!*"

John 14:16 teaches us that God will "**GIVE**" the Holy Spirit to us when Jesus said, "*I will ask the Father, and He will GIVE you another Counselor to be with you forever!*"

## **3. BELIEVE THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT MUST BE "RECEIVED" IN BY YOU!**

God, the Father in heaven, performed the act of "**giving**" the gift of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and now each believer, as a candidate for this gift, must perform the act of "**receiving**" God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

While "receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit" is by faith in God...and in His Word...*faith, nonetheless, is ACTIVE!*

Acts 2:38 states, "...you will **RECEIVE** the gift of the Holy Spirit" ...and, since the word "receive" means "**to accept, to take, to claim, or, to acquire**", this Scripture verse teaches us that one takes an **active part** in the **receiving** of this gift!

### **COMMANDED TO "RECEIVE" THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

Acts 2:38, "*Peter replied, `Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And YOU WILL RECEIVE the gift of the Holy Spirit.*"

Acts 19:2, "*And (Paul) asked them, `Did you RECEIVE the Holy Spirit when you believed?` They answered, `No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.*"

John 7:39, "*By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to RECEIVE. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.*"

John 20:22, "*And with that He...(Jesus)...breathed on them and said, RECEIVE the Holy Spirit.*"

Galatians 3:2, "*Did you **RECEIVE** the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard?*" Again the question in verse 5, "*Does God **GIVE** you His Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard...the Word?*"

After Scripture tells us that the gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the Church on the Day of Pentecost, the thought of "*giving*" of the Holy Spirit is never mentioned again.

*The Holy Spirit has been here ever since the Day of Pentecost and He is immediately available to any believer who will receive Him!*

### **GOD DID ALL HE COULD DO AT PENTECOST!**

Because this wonderful fullness of the Holy Spirit can be the blessed possession of any believer who will "*receive*" it, the first step, then...in acquiring this gift ...is for the believer to "**will to receive**" that which God has already given ...and made available ...to him!

The Lord "*moved*" on the Day of Pentecost when He gave you the gift of the infilling of the Holy Spirit...**the next move is yours!**

#### **4. BELIEVE THAT THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS "**RECEIVED**" BY FAITH!**

Galatians 3:2 and 5 makes it clear that one receives the Holy Spirit by faith when it asks the question, "*Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by **believing** what you heard?*" Verse 6 gives the answer to this question when it states, "*Consider Abraham: `He **BELIEVED** God, and it was credited to him as righteousness*"...and verse 14 goes on to say, "*He (God) redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that **BY FAITH** we might receive the promise of the Spirit.*"

Scripturally, one could never teach that one must clean up his life *before* he can receive Jesus Christ as his Savior...well, it is just as erroneous to teach that one must reach a certain level of spiritual maturity...or have attained some superior degree of disciplined living...before he can qualify to "*receive*" the gift of the Holy Spirit...because ...God does not give man the gift of the fullness of the Holy Spirit because of his "good works" or because he has reached a certain spiritual stature. - **No, on the contrary, because...in fact...God's gifts are received by believing faith!**

Despite the fact that many want the fullness of the Holy Spirit, they have never received it because they believe that some secret sin...or their lack of spirituality...**prevents** them from receiving it!

Degrees of spiritual attainment...consecration...personal holiness...are, of course, vastly important, however, they have no bearing upon receiving the power from on high... because...in fact, it is the power of the Holy Spirit which enables one to

live the Christ-like life! So...then...the gift of the Holy Spirit is not given as a reward for one's having reached a certain degree of holiness, but, rather, this power is given **to** enable one to live a holy life!

One who receives the gift of the Holy Spirit has no more Christian character the moment he receives this gift than he had the moment **before** he received the gift, however, he now has a divine Source of help, and ability, which cannot be over estimated!

A "*gift*" is never earned as wages are!

Scripture teaches that the righteousness of Christ is credited to one's spiritual account because of one's faith...**not** because of one's "good works!"

## **5. BELIEVE...BY FAITH...THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES YOU THE WORDS AND THAT YOU, THEN, MUST SPEAK THEM OUT.**

The "*exercise of faith*" is when one speaks out the words that the Holy Spirit gives.

Many believe, erroneously, that, when they receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will *take hold of their tongue and **MAKE THEM** speak with tongues - without their having anything whatsoever to do with it.*

Many candidates for the infilling of the Holy Spirit have a problem surrendering to the Holy Spirit simply because...when they receive...**in their minds**...the words that the Holy Spirit has given them...they think the words are of themselves so they hesitate to speak them out!

If, somehow, those who are hungry for the baptism of the Holy Spirit could be encouraged to exercise faith in God and speak out the words that have been given to them by the Holy Spirit, they would be wonderfully, and gloriously, filled with the fullness of the Holy Spirit!

Acts 2:4 states: "**All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and (they) began to speak in other tongues - as the Spirit enabled them.**"

In this verse lies the secret of "**HOW TO RECEIVE THE FULLNESS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**" and, if one believes this verse...and acts upon it...he will experience the glorious infilling of the Holy Spirit!

It is important to note that the subject of this verse (Acts 2:4) is "**they**". It states that "**they**" were filled with the Holy Spirit and "**THEY**" began to speak in other tongues!

- **The Holy Spirit did NOT speak with tongues - "*THEY*" DID!**

According to the Companion Bible, the original translation reads, "*They began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit was in the process of giving them the utterance.*"

A candidate for the infilling of the Holy Spirit exercises **FAITH** when he speaks out the words that the Spirit gives him ...even if it is only one or two words.

A modern speech translation of Acts 2:4, is, "*they began to speak with other languages AS THE HOLY SPIRIT PROMPTED THEM,*" and the Weymouth translation of Acts 2:4 is, "*they began to speak in another language as the Holy Spirit gave them words to utter.*"

I would encourage anyone who is seeking the gift...the "baptism"...of the Holy Spirit to believe that the words he is receiving in his mind are **supernaturally** given by the Lord and, then...upon believing that...to open his mouth and speak these words out and, in the process of doing so, the Holy Spirit will give him more words to speak.

**This is how the fullness of the Holy Spirit is received by "faith!**

The Holy Spirit will furnish you with the inspiration...He will give you the words to utter...however, He wants you to open your mouth and speak the words out!

**The Holy Spirit does not do the speaking -YOU DO  
- however, that which you speak is of the Holy Spirit!**

The Bible plainly teaches that man, by his own will, does the speaking, but **what** he speaks is supernaturally directed!

May you...by an act of your will... determine to RECEIVE this wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit which God has provided for you...and...may you...again, by an act of your will... determine to **speak out that which the Holy Spirit will, supernaturally, direct you to!**