

# Baptized with the Holy Spirit

---

## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Instruction about Baptisms**

Hebrews 6:2, in reference to the elementary teachings of Jesus Christ, makes a point concerning, “*instruction about baptisms*” meaning plural!

- 1- Baptism into the Body of Christ at New Birth- 1 Corinthians 12:13
- 2- Water baptism as an outward demonstration of an inward work- Matthew 28:19
- 3- The Baptism with the Holy Spirit- Acts 1:5

### **B. The Spirit Within**

When an individual is born again, he/she receives the Holy Spirit within according to John 4:13- Jesus made reference to this living water that He gives, “*Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.*”

After the resurrection from the dead Jesus in John 20:22 appeared to the disciples and, “*He breathed on them and said, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’*” These men were born again back then as we know this spiritual experience today. They received the Holy Spirit within, they were saved and on their way to heaven!

#### **1 Corinthians 3:16-17**

**Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you? If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.**

#### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

**Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.**

### **C. The Spirit Upon**

Early on in the beginning of Jesus’ ministry, John the Baptist made reference to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. In Acts 1:4 Jesus makes a connection with what John the Baptist had said.

#### **Luke 3:16-17**

**John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.”**

#### **Acts 1:4-5**

**“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.”**

Through the incarnation of Jesus, being born of a virgin, He had emptied Himself of all divine prerogatives according to Philippians 2:7, “*...but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*” Like us, He needed the power of the Holy Spirit to carry on the Father’s work of healing the sick, casting out devils and setting the captives free. Briefly I want to show you that Jesus, as our example relied on the Holy Spirit for His power.

Jesus was around 30 years old when He had started His earthly ministry. However, prior to the start of His earthly ministry, there was no record of any healings or miraculous signs being performed. Not until after the Spirit came upon Him when He was water baptized by John.

#### **Luke 3:21-22**

**When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove.**

#### **Luke 4:1-2**

**Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.**

#### **Luke 4:14**

**Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside.**

#### **Luke 5:17-18**

**One day as he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law, who had come from every village of Galilee and from Judea and Jerusalem, were sitting there. And the power of the Lord was present for him to heal the sick.**

Yet Jesus made reference to an impartation subsequent to the new birth that entailed a unique experience with the Holy Spirit. The well of salvation in the New Birth is meant to refresh you, but the living water is meant for others. Jesus had referenced the same substance “Water”, being a type of the Holy Spirit; however, the flow or operation within the life of a believer is as distinct as water in a well versus water in a river.

#### **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. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.**

Now we will see that in the Scriptures, examples where folks were getting saved and then shortly there after, the Holy Spirit came “Upon” them when they received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. For example, when Philip preached Christ at Samaria in Acts chapter 9, a number of folks get saved and water baptized- received the Holy Spirit within. But it was not until later that they received the Holy Spirit upon.

#### **Acts 8:15-17**

**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.**

#### **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.**

#### **Acts 19:6-7**

**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.**

Acts 1:8

“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.”

Luke 24:48-49

“You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been **clothed** with power from on high.”

These words came from Jesus Christ Himself as He instructed His disciples after His resurrection from the dead to **NOT** go out and fulfill the Great Commission until they were empowered, equipped and Baptized with the Holy Spirit and Power!

#### **D. The Anointing**

The power of the Holy Spirit upon the believer today is an equipping anointing for service and ministry! Every Christian is called into the ministry of reconciliation according to 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. As born again believers, we are already anointed. What does “anointing” mean? Well this term is used from Genesis to revelation. In the Old Testament, olive oil was poured upon the head of the prophet, priest and the king to be commissioned for service. Oil symbolically represented the Holy Spirit upon their lives, to empower them to carry out God’s work, His call and fulfill His plan for their lives upon the earth.

4886. mashach, maw-shakh'; a prim. root; to rub with oil, i.e. to anoint; by impl. to consecrate; also to paint:--anoint,
---

**Moses poured some of the anointing oil on Aaron’s head and anointed him to consecrate him.**

**Leviticus 8:12**

Consider the life of David, after he was anointed by Samuel to be the next King of Israel in place of Saul. Like Samson, the Spirit of God came upon David, who was only a teenager at the time; enabling him to kill a lion and a bear. David, through faith in His God and the anointing upon his life, faced Goliath, who was one big bad dude. It was his faith in God that released the power of God, the anointing of the Holy Spirit upon David to kill Goliath. The word “Anointing”, “Power of God” and “Holy Spirit” are all synonymous terms.

**1 Samuel 16:13**

**So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the LORD came upon David in power.**

**Isaiah 11:2**

**The Spirit of the Lord will rest on him — the Spirit of wisdom and of understanding, the Spirit of counsel and of **power**, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.**

**Luke 4:18-19**

“**The Spirit of the Lord is on me**, because he has **anointed me** to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

**Acts 10:38**

How God **anointed** Jesus of **Nazareth with the Holy Spirit** and **power**, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him.

## 1 John 2:20, 27

But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and all of you know the truth. As for you, the anointing you received from him remains in you, and you do not need anyone to teach you. But as his anointing teaches you about all things and as that anointing is real, not counterfeit- just as it has taught you, remain in him.

### Anointing

5545. chrisma, khris'-mah; from G5548; an unguent or smearing, i.e. (fig.) the spec. endowment ("chrism") of the Holy Spirit:--anointing, unction.

Notice the Greek word "Chrisma" which is the root word for "Charismatic". The anointing is synonymous with the person of the Holy Spirit- you can use both words interchangeably and still be meaning the same thing. The anointing is simply an adjective that describes the operations and workings of the Holy Spirit. Referring to the influence that the Holy Spirit has upon the lives of God's children or His manifest presence in a corporate gathering of Christians- which known as the corporate anointing.

Certainly, there are many Old Testament examples of men and women anointed with the Holy Spirit who did powerful exploits for God, but it was always by the Spirit- Zechariah 4:6, "... *not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,* ' says the Lord Almighty." However, our greatest example of a man anointed with the Spirit, was the Son of Man, Jesus Christ! As we have already said, even though Jesus was God on the earth 2,000 years ago (Matthew 1:23), He still depended on the Holy Spirit for His power- 1 John 4:17 NKJV, "...*because as He is, so are we in this world.*" We too are totally dependent on the Holy Spirit; that is how we can fulfill John 14:12, "*I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father.*" The same Holy Spirit that was upon Jesus to do the Father's will, is also upon us. The only difference is that Jesus had the Spirit without measure according to John 3:34; we have the Holy Spirit upon us in measure.

## II. Not an Option

### A. Don't leave Home without Him

When it comes to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Jesus makes it very clear that it was a prerequisite to fulfilling the Great Commission and living a Spirit filled victorious Christian life. Clearly in scripture, speaking in other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance in Acts 2:4, is the initial evidence to being baptized with the Holy Spirit. Notice, speaking in tongues is listed among those signs that follow believers in Jesus Christ.

### Mark 16:15-18

**He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."**

Jesus made it clear that to "speak in new tongues" would accompany believers just as much as laying hands on the sick. Since these references are in the same context of Scripture, one could not say that only some Christians could speak in other tongues, because they would have to imply the same premise to laying on of hands in ministering healing to the sick- that only a few Christians can lay hands on the sick or cast out demons. Whenever God commands us to do something, He always gives us the grace and power to do it. As disciples of Jesus Christ, we desperately need the manifest power of God upon our lives to effectively engage this hostile world with the Gospel. Even Jesus received an anointing of power to enter His ministry after receiving John's Baptism; we too are completely dependent upon the Spirit's power operating through us to minister too many.

Here is a provocative question. Would it be a sin for us not to seek out and receive the gift of eternal life according to Romans 6:23? Jesus said the following concerning the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the sinners in convicting them of the sin (singular; one sin) of rejecting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

### **John 16:8-9**

**When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: in regard to sin, because men do not believe in me.**

### **Acts 17:30**

**“In the past God overlooked such ignorance, but now he commands all people everywhere to repent”**

Jesus also gave a command that all Believers, Christians, Disciples of Christ are to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, by receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit.

### **Acts 1:4-5**

**On one occasion, while he 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.”**

### **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.”**

The prerequisite for going to heaven according to John 3:3, is the new birth; which is the result of confessing Jesus as Lord and Saviour according to Romans 10:9-10. Water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit do not save us, but they are commands from the Lord directed towards believers. When it comes to commands in the Bible, rest assured it is always God’s will for everyone to obey them. For everyone who acts on them in faith, God gives the grace to receive the life and blessing that they bestow.

For Christians, being baptized with the Holy Spirit is not an option- it is a COMMAND! So it must be His will.

## **III. A Separate and Distinct Experience**

There is no doubt in the hearts of fair minded Christians, that numerous Scriptures make reference to a “Baptism with the Holy Spirit” throughout the New Testament. Where it gets debated is in regards to when and how a believer receives this experience.

Some are of the opinion that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is included as part of the New Birth experience.

Proofs in the Bible that refute this notion:

- 1) In Luke 24:28 and Acts 1:4- Jesus specifically instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for this experience, we know that the disciples had already been born again at the time He said it- John 20:22.
- 2) Acts 2:4, discloses that an initial sign to receiving this experience is witnessed by speaking in a language, unknown to the speaker supernaturally as the Holy Spirit gives the utterance.

- 3) Peter, having just been baptized with the Holy Spirit, was transformed by the power of God and 3,000 folks got saved through a gospel message. In that message Peter made reference to the gift of the Holy Spirit as another promise for their children, and for all who were afar off- all those who would be saved.
- 4) Acts 8:14-21; 9:17; 19:1-6- Are additional references to regular believers, not Apostles, not just Jews, but folks like you and me, who were getting saved and then shortly thereafter, in a separate encounter were Baptized with the Holy Spirit and power.

**Note:** Acts 10:44-48 shows one instance where folks were saved, filled with the Spirit and then water baptized.

#### **IV. Receiving the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

##### **A. The Gift is for the Born Again Christian**

When an individual repents and receives the gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ, he/she becomes eligible for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

###### **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.”**

##### **B. Received by Grace through Faith**

Like the New Birth, it is a gift, received by the sinner by grace through faith- Ephesians 2:8-9. Likewise, the child of God must also release faith in God’s Word concerning the Baptism with the Holy Spirit to receive this promise from God.

###### **Luke 11:13**

**“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?”**

As faith came from hearing the good news that Jesus saves; when acted upon, the miracle of the New Birth takes place. As faith comes from hearing the wonderful promise concerning the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, likewise, God’s Word will cause faith to come; when acted upon, the promise is realized!

##### **C. Laying on of Hands or Not**

Laying on of Hands: **Acts 8:14-21; 9:17; 19:1-6**

No Hands: **Acts 2:4; 10:44-48**

##### **D. The Spirit gives the Utterance but YOU do the Speaking!**

###### **Acts 2:4**

All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak in other tongues** as the Spirit enabled them.

When it comes to receiving the impartation, here are a few tips that will help in receiving:

- 1- First, get a solid foundation from God's Word on the whole subject.
- 2- Make sure your heart is free from any un-confessed sin- condemnation robs us of faith.
- 3- When hands are laid on you or when receiving privately, don't talk in a known tongue- exp. English
- 4- The Spirit gives the utterance, but you do the speaking; simply give volume to the Spirit's utterance.
- 5- Don't let the sound throw you, it may sound like baby talk- who cares, just speak it out.
- 6- Yes your mind and the devil will fight you on this, don't be timid, move your tongue and let er fly!

If nothing seems to happen- **DON'T GIVE UP!** Hebrews 11:6 says that God rewards those who earnestly seek Him. Remember, your Father God really wants you to receive this promise. Get back in the Word and/or have a mature believer walk you through it one on one- you will receive if you don't quit Hebrews 6:12!

Speaking with other tongues is not all there is to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, but it is an important part. The essence of being filled with the Spirit is to receive power to fulfill the Great Commission. Speaking with other tongues is a means to this end. Most of the time, folks are having trouble learning to yield and speak the sounds and utterances that come out of their spirit by the Holy Spirit. Our minds want to figure it out and process it. Remember that speaking in other tongues is an ability unlocked by the Spirit for our spirit to speak mysteries to God for our own edification or for intercession for others.

### **1 Corinthians 14:2**

**For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.**

### **Jude 20-21**

**But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.**

### **Romans 8:26-27**

**In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will.**

Just as there are different kinds of prayers that are directed and inspired by the Holy Spirit, one of them is speaking with other tongues. It is beautiful and powerful means of communication with God and to energize and recharge our spiritual batteries. It is God's will that we live a Spirit-Filled life, living in the overflow, maintaining the glow of God's glory in our lives. This will ensure that we are ready for every opportunity to be a blessing to others. Whether it is to witness to the lost, pray for the sick, encourage a fellow believer or exercise dominion over the devil in Jesus' Name.

### **Ephesians 6:18**

**“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.”**

### **1 Corinthians 14:14-18**

**For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind. If you are praising God with your spirit, how can one who finds himself among those who do not understand say “Amen” to your thanksgiving, since he does not know what you are saying? You may be giving thanks well enough, but the other man is not edified. I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.**

## **V. Powerful Results**

The Scriptures are very clear concerning the Kingdom of God- it is a Kingdom of power!

### **1 Corinthians 2:4-5; 4:20**

**My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power, so that your faith might not rest on men's wisdom, but on God's power. For the kingdom of God is not a matter of talk but of power.**

### **Philippians 3:10**

**I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection...**

### **Romans 8:11**

**And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.**

### **Ephesians 1:19-20**

**His incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms**

In a nut-shell, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an amplification of God's presence and operations in your life. From opening the Scriptures in a clearer and deeper way, to super-charging your prayer life, deeper compassion and love for people, particularly the lost. A new boldness to preach the Word, resisting temptation and exercising spiritual authority over the devil- to name a few!

Spirit Enabling Power to:

- 1- Boldness to be a witness for Christ- Acts 4:8; 9:28
- 2- Dynamic Praise and Worship- Acts 16:25
- 3- Generosity in Giving- Acts 4:32-34
- 4- Opens the Door for Supernatural Signs and Wonders- Acts 5:12-16;
- 5- Power in Prayer- Acts 4:23-31

Simply look at the results of the Spirit filled Early Church in the New Testament, and you'll see that the results speak for themselves.

### **Acts 6:5, 8**

**They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit. Now Stephen, a man full of God's grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.**

It just makes sense, if God has called us to fulfill the Great Commission; we need a great amount of power to walk in the footsteps of Jesus- 1 John 2:6. To attempt to follow God without the power of God is an endeavor that falls into a system of works- our strength is very limited, which takes the joy out of following Jesus.

### **Romans 14:17-18; 15:13**

**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit, because anyone who serves Christ in this way is pleasing to God and approved by men.**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

## **VI. Now Concerning Spiritual Gifts**

As I have just mentioned, the Baptism with the Holy Spirit opens the door for a great manifestation of the Holy Spirit to operate through your life and ministry. The Scriptures have much to say on the subject, so with this limited time we will hit the main points.

### **A. God does not want you Ignorant Concerning Spiritual Gifts**

#### **1 Corinthians 12:1**

**Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.**

In the 12<sup>th</sup> chapter of first Corinthians, the nine manifestations of the Spirit are presented. They are not gifts, in the sense that a person possesses one and can exercise it anytime he/she wants. Rather, they describe the various manners in which the Holy Spirit chooses to manifest Himself as He chooses, when He chooses and through whom He chooses.

#### **I. Revelation Manifestations- Reveals Something**

Everything within the realm of knowledge- facts, events, purpose, motive, origin, destiny; human, divine, or satanic; natural or supernatural; past, present, or future- comes within the focal range of the word of wisdom(Greatest), the word of knowledge(2<sup>nd</sup> greatest) and the gift of discerning of spirits(3<sup>rd</sup> greatest of the revelation gifts). They include in their comprehensive scope, all that God knows. There is nothing God knows that may not be made known to man as the Spirit wills through the operation of one or more of these three gifts! The word of wisdom gives us a revelation of the mind and purpose of God; therefore, it is ranked first among the revelation gifts. The word of wisdom always deals with the future. The word of knowledge gives us a revelation of things present or past. The discerning of spirits gives us insight into the spirit world.

#### **Word of Wisdom**

The word of wisdom is a supernatural revelation by the Spirit of God concerning the divine purpose in the mind and will of God. God has all wisdom and all knowledge. He knows everything, but He never reveals to anybody everything that He knows. He just gives them a word of what He knows. A word is a fragmentary part of a sentence, and so it is with wisdom.

The word of wisdom, like the word of knowledge, may be given by an audible voice, a vision, or a dream. It may come through the vocal gift of prophecy, or through tongues and interpretation. In the Old Testament, Joseph received a word of wisdom through a dream which revealed God's plan and purpose for the future- look at **Acts 11:28-30** concerning a future prediction!

#### **Word of Knowledge**

The Word of Knowledge is the supernatural revelation by the Holy Spirit of certain facts in the mind of God. God is all knowledge and He knows everything. Fortunately for us, He does not reveal everything He knows to man. He gives him just a word, or a part of what He knows.

Therefore, this supernatural manifestation of knowledge from the Holy Spirit of God has nothing to do with academics, someone's IQ, experience or studying the Bible a lot. This is divine revelation of things not known to the individual. It was revealed to Ananias that a man named Saul was expecting a visit from Ananias. The Lord revealed this revelation knowledge to a regular believer. What was revealed to Peter concerning Ananias and Sapphira was also a Word of Knowledge. There are plenty more examples throughout the Bible in the Old and New Testaments.

### **Discerning of Spirits**

Not to be confused with a person claiming to have a gift of ‘Discernment’ of being suspicious and speculative of others- there is no such gift in the Bible!

It actually has a more limited range than the other revelation gifts, because its revelation is limited to a single class of objects- spirits. Revelations that the word of wisdom and the word of knowledge bring are broader and apply to people, places, and things, whereas the discerning of spirits gives supernatural insight into only the realm of spirits. It is important to realize that the gift of discerning of spirits is not just the, “discerning of devils or evil spirits” only. It is supernatural insight into the realm of spirits both good and bad.

Moses sees God- **Exodus 33:18-23**

Isaiah the prophet- **Isaiah 6:1-5**

An example of this is found in the Apostle Paul’s ministry- **Acts 16:16-18**

## **II. Power Manifestations- Do Something**

### **Special Faith**

Remember that the gift of faith, like all the other manifestations of the Spirit, is supernatural. It is the greatest of the three gifts of power. It is a gift of the Spirit to the believer so that he might receive miracles. The working of miracles is a gift of the Spirit given to the believer so that he might work miracles. One gift receives, and the other gift does something. One gift is passive- it receives. The other gift is active- it works. In the KJV translation of the Bible 1 Corinthians 12:10 puts it, “To another the WORKING of miracles...” When you perform a miracle, that’s “working” a miracle; however, when you receive a miracle, you don’t “work” it, and that’s the gift of faith in operation.

The gift of faith was used by the patriarchs of old for direct supernatural blessings or fulfillment of human utterances. When these patriarchs were about to die, they would lay their hands on their sons and would command blessings upon them. Often these blessings did not come to pass until many years later. We see this in the lives of Abraham, Isaac, and Joseph. These patriarchs believed their pronouncements would come to pass at the appointed time in the future. This was the gift of faith in operation.

### **The Gift of faith for raising the Dead**

Remember, that spiritual gifts often work together in order to accomplish the task at hand. In the case of raising the dead, three gifts operate together- the gift of faith, the working of miracles, and the gifts of healings. This is one reason why we don’t see too many people raised from the dead. Some Christians may be used by the Holy Spirit through some of these manifestations, but not too many have all of them in operation.

First of all, in the raising of the dead it takes special faith from God to call a person’s spirit back when it has left the body. It then takes a working of miracles to raise the person by restoring decayed and dead tissue. Finally, it takes the gifts of healings to remedy the original cause of death; otherwise, if the person is not healed he would immediately die again.

## **Working of Miracles**

From a Biblical Perspective:

A miracle is a supernatural intervention in the ordinary course of nature; a temporary suspension of the accustomed order through the Spirit of God.

After Elijah ascended to heaven in a chariot in the whirlwind, Elisha received his mantle and struck the Jordan River with it. Dividing the waters by a sweep of his mantle is an example of working of miracles in operation- an intervention in the ordinary course of nature.

We see the working of miracles all throughout the ministry of Jesus. For example, when Jesus turned the water into wine at a wedding in Cana in Galilee, or multiplying the bread and fish to feed thousands; these were examples of supernatural interventions in nature by the power of God.

## **Gifts of Healings**

**1 Corinthians 12:28 NKJV**

**And God has appointed these in the church: first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings...**

Notice that in verse twenty-eight, both the words “gifts” and “healings” are plural. This is the way it should be in every one of the verses, for this is the way it is in the Greek. Notice, too, this is the only one of the gifts of the Spirit which is in the plural. All the others refer to only one gift. Why are they “gifts of healings” and not the “gift of healing”? I really don’t know, but I have my opinion. I don’t think any of us could know for a certainty, because the Scripture doesn’t tell us specifically, but I think there are gifts of healings because there are different kinds of diseases- and one gift wouldn’t heal all kinds.

I have noticed in the ministries of others, that when these gifts are in operation, there is a greater degree of success in some areas of healing than in other areas. For some ministers there are certain kinds of diseases which are seldom healed in their ministries, yet certain other diseases are nearly always healed. “Why?” I don’t know. Perhaps in the process of time we will know more about this, for we are here to study and to learn. In the ministry of Jesus, every manner of sickness and every manner of disease was healed. All the gifts of healings were in manifestation, because Jesus had the Spirit “without measure.”

### **III. Utterance Manifestations- Say Something**

#### **Prophecy**

Prophecy is a supernatural manifestation of the Holy Spirit upon a believer in the form of inspired utterance in a known tongue.

Prophecy is the most important of the three gifts of inspiration or utterance. The reason it is the most important is because it takes the other two- divers kinds of tongues and the interpretation of tongues- to equal prophecy according to **1 Corinthians 14:5**.

The Hebrew word that is translated “to prophesy” means “to flow forth.” It carries the thought “to bubble forth like a fountain, to let drop, to lift up, to tumble forth, and to spring forth.” The Greek word that is translated “to prophesy” means “to speak for another.” It means to speak for God, or to be His spokesperson.

The simple gift of prophecy should not be confused with the prophetic office. 1 Corinthians 14:3, says, “*But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.*” Thus, we can readily see that in the simple gift of prophecy there is no revelation. In the office of a prophet, however, we often find revelation coming forth even through prophecy.

It is also interesting to note the difference between prophecy in the Old and New Testaments. In the Old Testament, prophecy is essentially foretelling future events, whereas in the New Testament it shifts strongly to forth telling. In the simple gift of prophecy there is no foretelling whatsoever. Notice that Paul is telling the whole Church at Corinth to eagerly desire spiritual gifts- “especially the gift of prophecy.” Yet Paul had just gotten through telling them in the twelfth chapter of First Corinthians verse 12, that God has set in the church, “. . . first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers ...”

Then Paul asked, “Are all apostles?” The answer is no. “Are all prophets?” No, they couldn’t be. If prophesying made you a prophet, then Paul would be contradicting himself. However, the fact that you have prophesied doesn’t make you a prophet. It means that you have exercised the simple gift of prophecy.

Thus, to stand in the office of the prophet, a person must have operating in his ministry the gift of prophecy plus at least two of the revelation gifts: either the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and/or the gift of discerning of spirits. Therefore, we should not confuse the office of the prophet with the simple gift of prophecy which all believers are told to eagerly desire. All can have the gift of prophecy, because God wouldn’t have told us to eagerly desire something that wasn’t available to us. All can prophesy, but we can’t all be prophets just like all can’t be Apostles. The things that mark an Apostle: 2 Corinthians 12:12

**“The things that mark an apostle — signs, wonders and miracles — were done among you with great perseverance.”**

### **Tongues**

The manifestation of the Spirit of God which gives the Spirit filled believer the ability to speak in different kinds of tongues is not to be confused with the devotional gift of speaking in other tongues; which is the initial sign of being baptized with the Holy Spirit and fire according to Acts chapter 2 and verse four. The former is a message that is meant to be interpreted in a known tongue in order for yourself and others to be edified- this gift is exercised as the Spirit wills. The later is a personal devotional communication line between you and God- **Isaiah 28:11-12**

God had prophesied in the Old Testament that He would pour out His Spirit in Joel 2:28-29.

Speaking with tongues has nothing whatsoever to do with linguistic ability; it has nothing to do with the mind or the intellect of man. It is a vocal miracle! The gift of tongues is the most prominent of the three vocal gifts- or as they are sometimes called, gifts of utterance or inspiration- the gift of prophecy, divers kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

### **Note:**

The gifts of tongues and interpretation of tongues are distinctive to this dispensation. We see all the other gifts of the Spirit — the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, discerning of spirits, special faith, working of miracles, gifts of healings, and prophecy — in operation in the Old Testament. In the ministry of Jesus we see all the gifts of the Spirit in operation except tongues and interpretation. The gifts of speaking in tongues and interpretation of tongues are distinctive to the dispensation in which we live. Therefore, they are more in use- **“they will speak in new tongues ...” Mark 16:15-18!**

We should not be too concerned about our ministering in tongues and interpreting in public. We should be primarily concerned with maintaining tongues in the place where they principally belong as a devotional gift to assist us in the worship of God continually. God will use some people in public utterance in tongues, but that is a gift and is not intended for everyone, but as the Spirit wills.

Therefore, one reason we speak in tongues is because Jesus said this is a sign which will follow believers. It is the scriptural evidence; that is, it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. One preacher disagreed with this, saying, "John the Baptist was full of the Holy Ghost and he didn't speak with tongues. Prophets of the Old Testament had the Holy Ghost, but they never spoke in tongues." I replied, "Yes, but we are not living under the Old Covenant." What happened back then is an example for us now. We desire the Holy Spirit in operation in our lives, according to the dispensation in which we live. Therefore, we have to start with the Acts of the Apostles. We can't go back to the Old Covenant, because we are not living there. John the Baptist was a prophet under the Old Covenant. Jesus Himself said concerning John, in Matthew 11:11, *"I tell you the truth: Among those born of women there has not risen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."* In this dispensation, we have a better covenant established on better promises- Hebrews 8:6, and particularly in the area of the Holy Spirit.

### **Interpretation of Tongues**

As we have said, prophecy is supernatural utterance in a known tongue. Divers kinds of tongues are supernatural utterance in an unknown tongue. The interpretation of tongues is the supernatural showing forth by the Spirit the meaning of an utterance in other tongues. It is not translation of the tongues; it is the interpretation of tongues. The gift of interpretation of tongues is the least of the nine gifts of the Holy Spirit, because it is dependent upon another gift in order to operate. It does not operate unless the gift of tongues has been in operation.

The purpose of this gift of interpretation of tongues is to render the gift of tongues intelligible to the hearers so that the Church, as well as the possessor of the gift, may know what has been said and may be edified. Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:5, *"He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified."*

### **Interpretation, Not Translation**

As we have noted, the interpretation of tongues is not translation. Often time's people wonder why it is that when someone speaks at length in tongues, an interpreter will occasionally give only a short interpretation. Because interpretation is simply showing forth supernaturally by the Spirit of God the meaning of what was said in tongues, the interpretation may not require as many words as the original message. Similarly, someone may give a short utterance in tongues, yet the interpretation may be lengthy. The same principle of clarity is involved: It may take longer to give the interpretation in order to clearly show forth the meaning of the message.

If the person who is interpreting tongues is also used in prophecy, he/she may finish the interpretation and go on into prophecy. Most people who are keen in the Spirit can readily recognize the difference, because the instant one speaks forth prophecy, his words take on more authority and a greater anointing: There is more inspiration and a greater blessing to prophecy.

### **Interpretation in Private Prayer Life**

#### **1 Corinthians 14:13-15**

According to verse thirteen, those who speak in other tongues are instructed to pray for the gift of interpretation. The reason Paul instructs us to seek this gift is not necessarily that we may interpret publicly, but rather that we may interpret our private prayers, if God so wills. Knowing what we are praying would greatly edify us spiritually and if God wished to use us publicly to interpret messages in tongues that would be an added blessing.

May I suggest that a great way to get started interpreting tongues would be in our own private prayer lives? Someday you may suddenly realize that what you are speaking in English is what you have been praying about in tongues- It would be the interpretation of it. Of course, God knows what we are praying about in tongues, because we are talking to Him, but sometimes He wants us to know what we are praying about too.

## **B. The Holy Spirit will NOT Interrupt Himself**

The Apostle Paul by the Spirit of God sets forth some guidelines for us to follow in order to curb excess, maintain unity and edification of the saints. When the Spirit of God is directing the order of a service, He will not cause folks to carry themselves in a manner that creates confusion or projects anything other than edification. Not to limit spiritual gifts to only feel good messages, even a word a reproof is edifying if spoken by the Spirit and not the flesh.

Paul devotes the entire fourteenth chapter of First Corinthians to the gifts of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation. Then he goes on to state in verse 33 (KJV), *“God is not the author of confusion.”* Paul means that in the use- or misuse- of prophecy, tongues, and interpretation there is sometimes confusion.

Unfortunately, countless Christians have been in services where the misuse of these gifts had occurred and have gone home confused. Ministers should not allow this to happen in their services, instead they should try to point out any errors and explain them to the people so they won't go home confused.

This doesn't mean that the devil was working in those services. It just means that people can get things mixed up. If we learn to stay in the Spirit, walk according to the Word, and follow Paul's admonition to *“But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way”* (1 Corinthians 14:40), we will not have confusion in our services.

Excessive use of spiritual gifts can do more harm than good! This is the mistake the Corinthian believers were making and one that we often make. Concerning public ministry in tongues, Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:27-28, *“If anyone speaks in a tongue, two or at the most three should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.”* In the Greek the words “two” and “three” are personal pronouns and refer to people. Paul was simply saying that not more than two or three people should speak in a service. In the next verse he said, *“Let the prophets speak two or three. . . .”* There may be more prophets present who could speak, but in any one service only two or three of them should speak. This order in the service is a guideline that will prevent confusion from too much information. Also 1 Corinthians 14:32, *“The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets.”* You may have a word from the Lord but it needs to be held until the proper time or not spoken at all!

We need to be very careful to walk softly before the Lord. We need to remain open to Him as we walk quietly, honorably, and reverently about spiritual matters. And we need to invite the operation of the Spirit of God among us and maintain a spirit of humility. We can and do miss it from time to time- let's admit that and grow.

Sometimes we just need practical advice concerning these manifestations to help us maintain good order in our services. Then even visitors could understand and be impressed by our good order. More important, we would not grieve the Spirit of God.

### **Ephesians 4:30**

**And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.**

He has been grieved at times in some churches- grieved by wanting to manifest himself and not being permitted to do so, and grieved by the way some people do things out of order! When someone is uttering a message in tongues, a person who is used in the gift of interpretation should immediately begin to be in tune with the Spirit (if he is not already), because the Lord may want to use him in the operation of that gift.

Sometimes a believer may have waited for someone else to interpret and they have waited for someone else as well. Any one of them could have interpreted the message in tongues, but they all lost it because they didn't tune into the Holy Spirit. We will not get things from God unless we are tuned in to Him. This is the reason why we sometimes don't have an interpretation of an utterance. When you have missed it, simply say to the person who gave the message in tongues, *“Please give that again, and I will interpret it.”* You will find that when they start speaking, you will get in the Spirit, and God will give you the interpretation.

A final point I want to stress about tongues and interpretation is found in First Corinthians 14:26, “*All of these must be done for the strengthening of the church.*” When something is done in the Spirit- and this is one way to judge if it is in the Spirit - it will be edifying, inspiring, and it will be a blessing. Note: Of course, if we are out of tune with the Spirit, we are not in a position to judge.

Manifestations of spiritual gifts do need to be judged, however. After all, we do judge them, whether we do it publicly or not, because we either accept or reject them. We can't always accept just any man's judgment, however; only the judgment of those who are sensitive to the moving of the Holy Spirit and the Word of God.

Remember, that all of the nine spiritual gifts operate by faith. They do not operate by the gift of faith; they operate by common or general faith.

**Mark 9:23- Jesus said, “Everything is possible for him who believes.”**

If you believe, all things are possible to you!

## **VII. One Infilling – Many Re-Fillings**

Finally, a critical point needs to be made in regards to staying full of the Spirit or to maintain the glow. When it comes to keeping our edge and staying filled with the Spirit, we need to realize that we are cracked vessels; in other words we leak.

When you are first filled with the Spirit, you have a full tank, but as you go through life, you are making withdrawals on that anointing and it needs to be replenished by:

- 1- Getting full of God's word
- 2- Praying in a known and unknown tongue
- 3- Praise and Worship
- 4- Fellowship with believers individually and corporately
- 5- Avoiding sin since it acts as a big drain on your spirit

**Proverbs 4:23**

**Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.**

**Proverbs 20:27**

**The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.**

It is God's will for His children to live Spirit filled lives, to stay full of the Spirit and not allow ourselves to run on empty- I believe this is when the spiritual valleys come into play. God has not left us, but if left to our feelings we would live a roller-coaster Christian life- 2 Corinthians 5:7- “*For we walk by faith, not by sight.*”

Like after the day of Pentecost when the disciples were so full of the Spirit they were misunderstood as being intoxicated with natural wine, but it was the affect of spiritual wine that made them look inebriated- staggering, laughing, having a good time in God! No cares, no worries about what other's thought of them- bold!

**Ephesians 5:17-20**

**Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Do not get drunk on wine , which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

Notice the Scriptures does not say not to be drunk, just not by physical substances. The implication is clear, get drunk, filled and full of the Holy Spirit. Often the saints need a good time of refreshing from the Lord in order to keep their spiritual batteries fully charged- Acts 3:19. I love joy and laughter inspired by the Holy Spirit!

From the Scriptures we see clearly that God does not have a problem with us having a good time and laugh. When God fills us with Holy Spirit and joy, we can get ‘Drunk in the Spirit’ by all appearances without all the nasty side effects- like hang over, violence and such. It’s a wonderful thing when believers succumb completely to the influence of the Spirit of God- Great things will result for the Glory of God!

### **Isaiah 12:3**

**Therefore with joy shall you draw water out of the wells of salvation.**

### **Psalms 126:1-3**

**When the Lord brought back the captives to Zion, we were like men who dreamed. Our mouths were filled with laughter, our tongues with songs of joy. Then it was said among the nations, “The Lord has done great things for them.” The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy.**

### **Romans 14:17**

**For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.**

### **Romans 15:13**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit .**

First Infilling of the Holy Spirit- Acts 2:4

Re-Filled with the Holy Spirit- Acts 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9; Ephesians 5:18

### **1 Corinthians 14:2-4**

**For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.**

### **Ephesians 5:18-19**

**Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord.**

### **Jude 1:20**

**But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.**

Howard Carter said, “We must not forget that the speaking with other tongues is not only an initial evidence of the Holy Spirit’s indwelling, it is a continual experience for the rest of his life, to assist in the worship of God. It is a flowing stream that should never dry up, and that will enrich the life spiritually.”

We need to remember what the Apostle Paul had said in 1 Corinthians 14:18, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.” The devotional gift of speaking in other tongues for Spirit filled believers is meant to be an active part of our Christian experience in this lifetime.