

# baptism with the Holy Spirit

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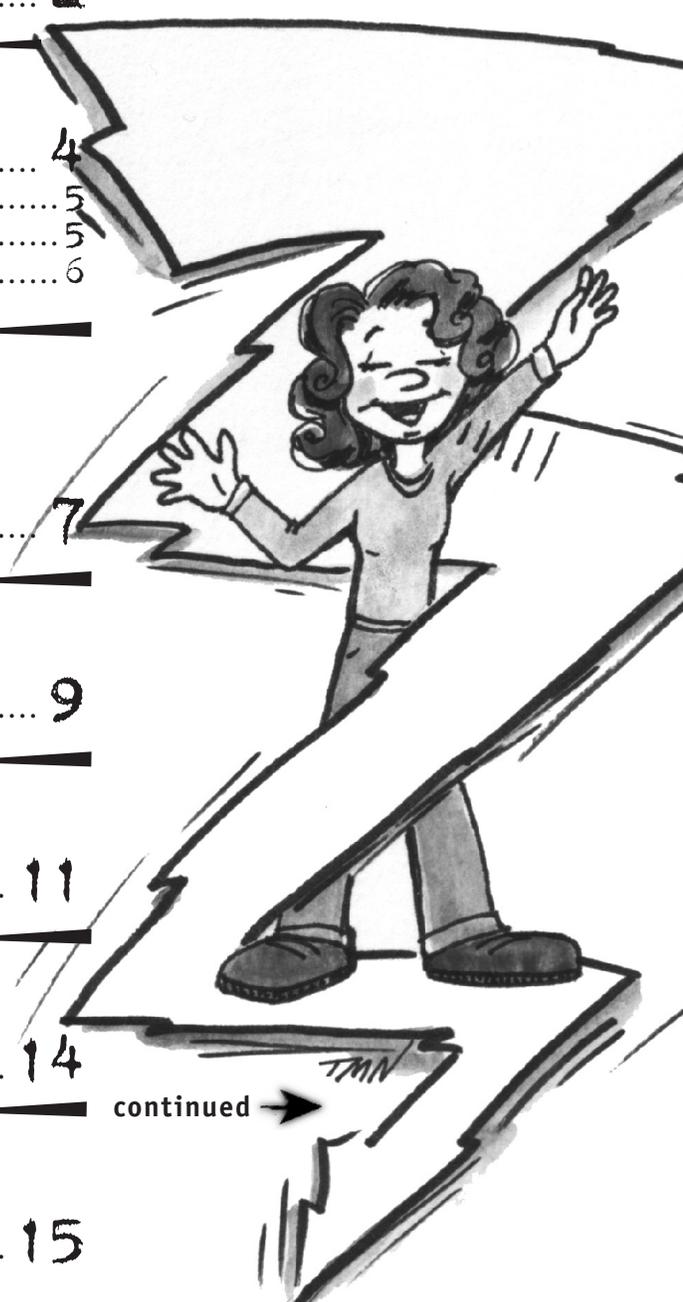
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# what is the TRINITY

God is a Trinity. He is **one** God in respect to His being and unity. He consists of **three** coequal persons: Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit. In other words, within the oneness of God there are three persons. This is difficult to comprehend, but it is not contradictory. A god whose nature and essence you could fully understand would be a god who is too small; he would not be worthy of your awe and worship.

*Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Deuteronomy 6:4 (emphasis mine)*

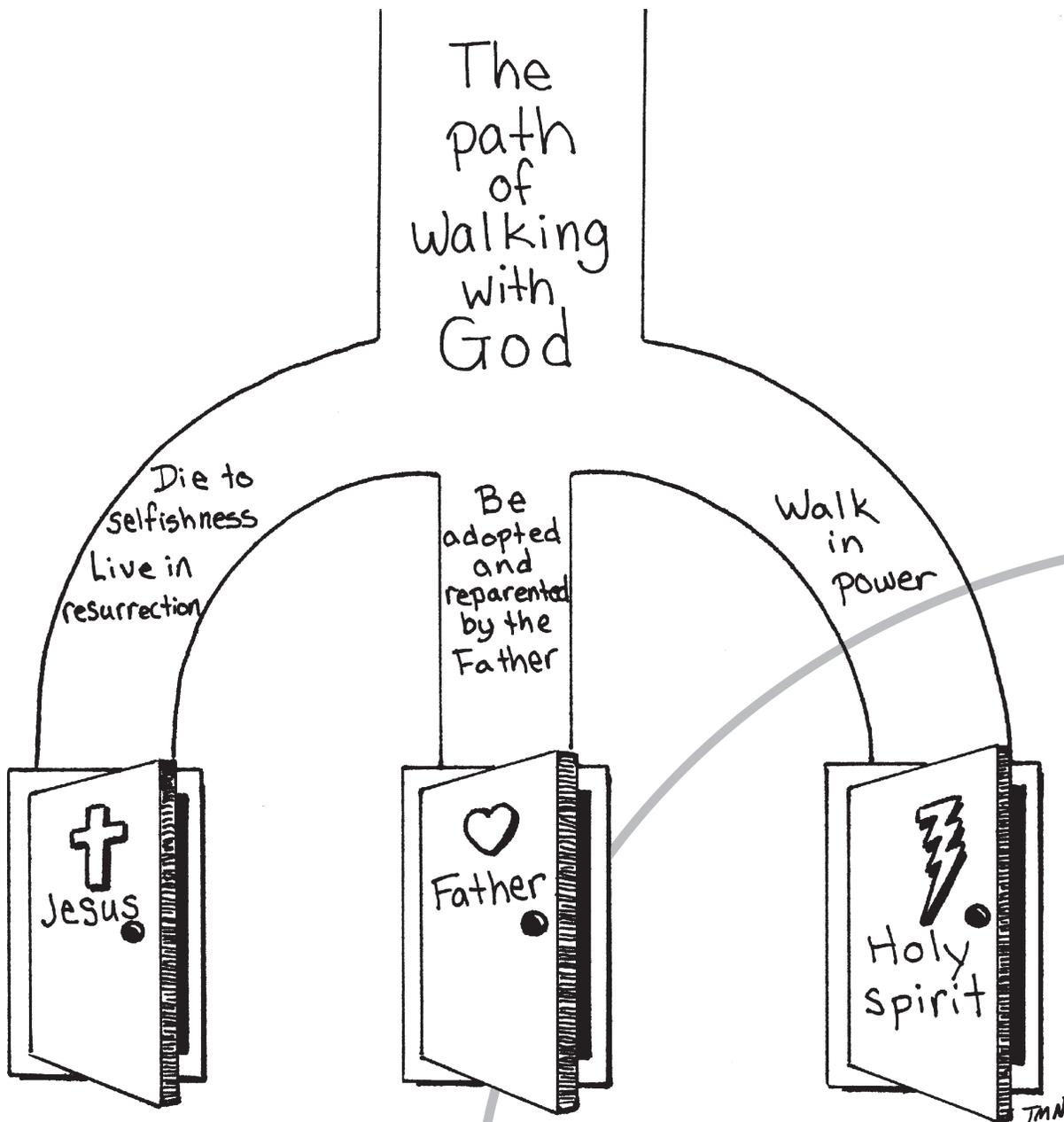
*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:19-20 (emphasis mine)*

God in three persons was manifested at Jesus' baptism. *As soon as **Jesus** was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a **voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased."** Matthew 3:16-17 (emphasis mine)*

The universe is filled with examples of plurality within unity. Light is one beam with a multicolored spectrum. A triangle has sets of three distinct parts, line segments and points, yet it is one figure. Water can, at a certain temperature, be present simultaneously in its three forms: solid, liquid, and gas. *For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities – his eternal power and divine nature – have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. Romans 1:20*

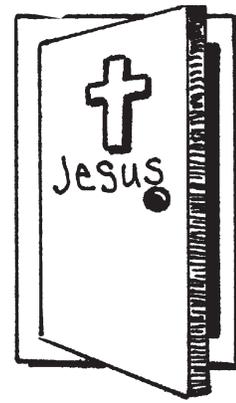
# You can experience ALL THREE PERSONS OF GOD

Below is a simple drawing illustrating this truth. Notice that the paths from each person of the Trinity feed into the path of walking with God. That's because all three are each God and God consists of all three. The descriptions of your experience with each person of the Trinity melt into one another. As you walk with God, the distinctness of the three persons blurs, and that is to be expected. God as a Trinity is a reality, though difficult to understand and articulate.



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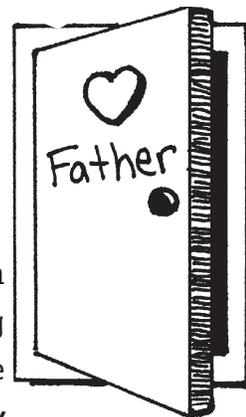
## Experience God the Son - Jesus Christ



You enter into relationship with God through repenting and accepting the payment made for your sins by Jesus, God the Son. Jesus is the door. *I am the gate; **whoever enters through me will be saved.** He will come in and go out, and find pasture. John 10:9* (emphasis mine)

The path beyond that door leads you to pick up your cross daily, die to selfishness, and walk in the joy of resurrection liberty. *And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and **take up his cross daily, and follow me.** Luke 9:23* (emphasis mine)

## Experience God the Father



You can experience a deeper revelation of your place as an adopted child of God the Father. You open the door by forgiving those who have wronged you and receiving the healing love of the Father. *For if you **forgive** men for their transgressions, **your heavenly Father will also forgive you.** But if you do not forgive men, then your Father will not forgive your transgressions. Matthew 6:14-15* (emphasis mine)

The path beyond this door leads you in the process of being reparented by a perfect Father and discovering His perfect and trustworthy character. *For you did not receive a spirit that makes you a slave again to fear, but you received the **Spirit of sonship.** And by him we cry, "**Abba, Father.**" Romans 8:15* (emphasis mine)

## Experience God the Holy Spirit



You experience God the Holy Spirit when He enters your life when you accept Jesus' forgiveness for sin. *You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, **if the Spirit of God lives in you.** And **if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.** Romans 8:9 (emphasis mine)*

In addition to this, you can experience the power of God the Holy Spirit by entering the door of the baptism with the Holy Spirit. The path beyond this door leads you to walk in power. You have access to (as you ask for them) the miraculous gifts of power. *Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the **message of wisdom**, to another the **message of knowledge** by means of the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by that one Spirit, to another **miraculous powers**, to another **prophecy**, to another **distinguishing between spirits**, to another **speaking in different kinds of tongues**, and to still another the **interpretation of tongues.** All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 (emphasis mine)*

# what Jesus and John the BAPTIST SAID ABOUT THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

In the following Scriptures, make a note each time these themes are mentioned in some way:

1. The Holy Spirit would be given after Jesus ascended back to heaven.
2. The Holy Spirit was a promised gift from the Father.

In Acts, the apostles continually referred to these two points in order to document that what they experienced was the baptism with the Holy Spirit which Jesus and John the Baptist foretold in the following passages.

➔ **Read:**

**Luke 3:16**

**John 7:37-39**

**John 14:26**

**John 16:7**

Just before Jesus ascended, He instructed the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the “Father’s promise” of the Holy Spirit.

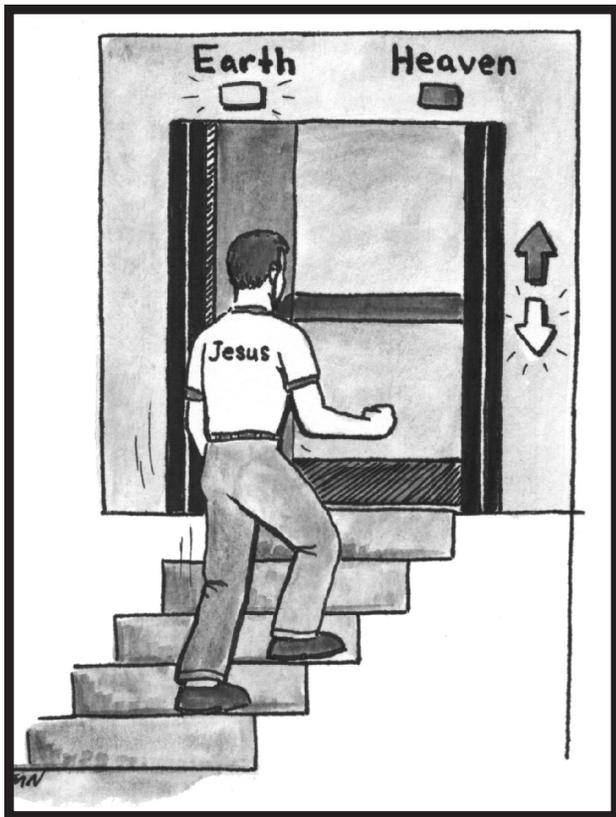
➔ **Read:**

**Luke 24:49**

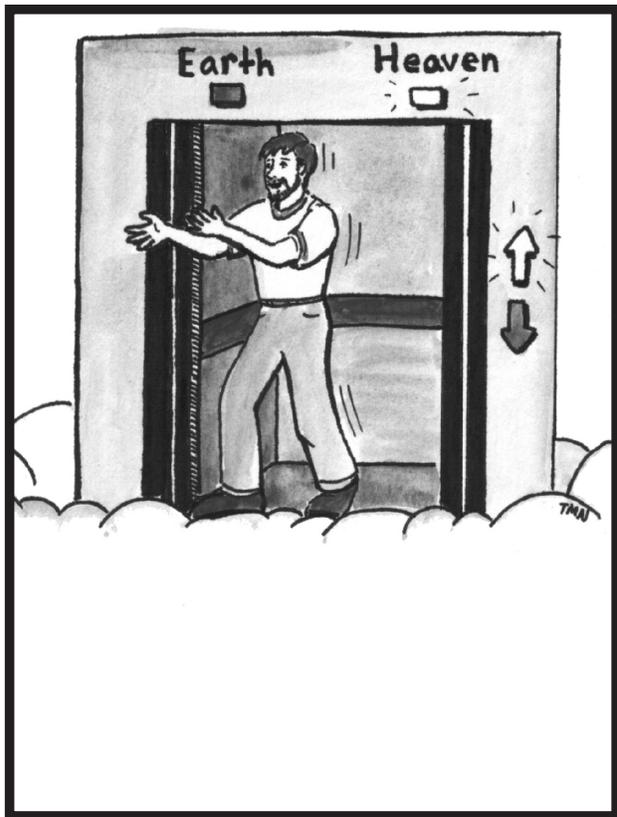
**Mark 16:15-20**

In the above passage, Mark, who generally included fewer details than Luke, leaves out the part that Luke reported in his gospel account and in Acts – that Jesus instructed them to wait in Jerusalem for the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Mark picks up the story after the Holy Spirit was given. He has recorded the same accompanying signs that Luke reports in Acts.

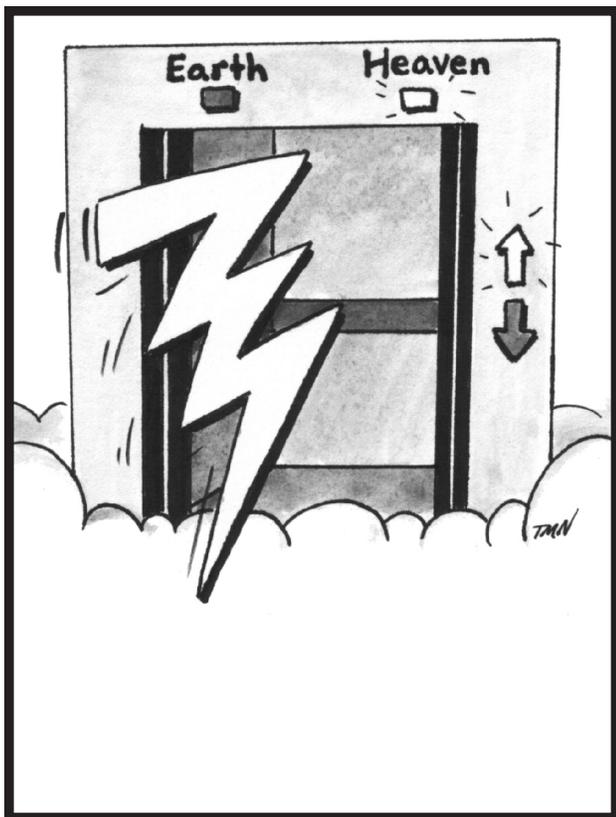
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*"It is for your good that I am going away..."*



*Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you." John 16:7*



*"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." Luke 24:49*

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# when the baptism with THE SPIRIT FIRST OCCURRED

In the next passage you will see that Jesus gave the disciples the Holy Spirit to be within them between the time He ascended and when the promised power from the Holy Spirit would come (referred to in Luke 24:49). Therefore, they were never without the presence of God in one of the persons of the Godhead at anytime, since Jesus had to return to heaven.

➔ **Read John 20:20-22.**

When you receive Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes and dwells within you just like it happened to the disciples in the above passage.



Then, you are to pray for the baptism with the Holy Spirit for power just as the disciples did in the book of Acts.

*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. John 7:38-39*

Here are the passages in Acts that tell about the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Follow the themes of “promise of the Father” and “after Jesus was exalted or ascended.” This documents that what the people in Acts were experiencing was what Jesus had told them about before He left.

➡ **Read:**

**Acts 1:4-8**

**Acts 2:1-4,14-21, 32-39**

**Acts 8:13-24**

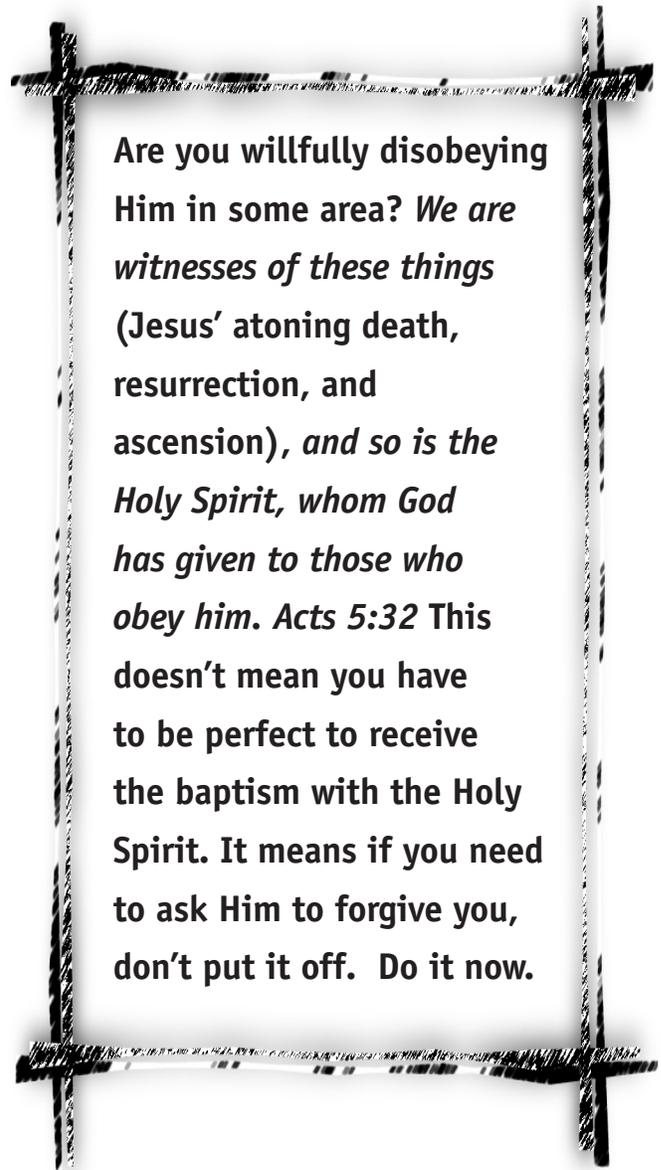
**Acts 9:10-20**

**Acts 10:1-2,44-46 and 11:15-17** (or **Acts 10:1-11:17** for the whole story)

**Acts 19:1-7**

Up until the day that the disciples first experienced the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit only came upon certain people for special reasons.\* The disciples realized that this event was opening the door to a new era. Now, the Holy Spirit would come upon **anyone** who believed in Jesus and asked for the power of the Holy Spirit. Everyone who followed Jesus would have access to this power that was once reserved for a few.

\*(In Luke 1:15, 41, 67, the Holy Spirit comes upon John the Baptist, Elizabeth, and Zechariah. In Luke 2:25, He comes upon Simeon. There are many more examples of special anointings of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.)



**Are you willfully disobeying Him in some area? *We are witnesses of these things* (Jesus' atoning death, resurrection, and ascension), *and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him. Acts 5:32* This doesn't mean you have to be perfect to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit. It means if you need to ask Him to forgive you, don't put it off. Do it now.**

# Preparing to receive the BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **Have you repented of all known sin?** Have you repented of and renounced any occult activities including mood-altering drug use? Have you committed your life to Jesus to follow Him fully?

- **Is there any area of your life that you are knowingly withholding from God's control or direction?** Will you relinquish that area to God?

- **Have you had any teaching against speaking in tongues?** What was it? Are you willing to renounce it in light of the Scriptures you have studied? *Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39*

The people who taught you these things were, in most cases, sincere and seeking to follow God. In this area, however, the evidence of Scripture and the experiences of Christians through the ages indicates that speaking in tongues is needed for today as much as in the first century church that Acts describes.

- **Do you fully agree that the baptism with the Holy Spirit with any or all of the accompanying signs is for Christians now just as it was for the believers in Acts?** You are part of the generations *who are far off*. And you are one *whom the Lord our God* (has called). *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."* Acts 2:38-39

- **Do you want more of God in your life?** Do you want to walk through the door of the baptism with the Holy Spirit to have access to more of the power of God? *Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, .... 1 Corinthians 14:1*



When you pray and ask to be baptized with the Holy Spirit, you can believe that you will receive what you ask for because it is His will. *“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!” Luke 11:11-13*

## Information about Speaking in Tongues

The purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for greater power to do God’s work. In addition, just like what happened to the Christians in Acts, God will enable you to speak in tongues, a heavenly language you could not learn by human effort.

Tongues is a very useful gift, especially in prayer as you speak to God the things He wants prayed. Praying what God wants to be prayed is more important than understanding with your mind what you are praying. *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. 1 Corinthians 14:2*

Here’s what might happen to let you know God is enabling you to speak in tongues.

- **You might hear syllables in your mind or you might see words in your mind as if they were written on a chalkboard.**
- **Your mouth might feel like it is “gently filling.”**
- **You might feel something welling up from within you.**

As the Holy Spirit fills you, open your mouth, speaking a syllable out loud, and the rest will

come. This action is taking a step of faith like Peter did when he stepped out of the boat to walk on the water. Just like Peter, you will be doing something you've never done before. It is a miracle that God is enabling you to do. For you, stepping out of the boat is yielding your voice and tongue to God and speaking out loud what He will give. Peter stepped out of the boat depending on Jesus to enable him to miraculously walk on water. You will step out of the boat by speaking out, expecting God to enable you also to do the miraculous.

If you do not receive a language right away, do not get discouraged. When you have another opportunity, pray again with someone asking for more of the Holy Spirit's filling and God will enable you to pray in tongues. It WILL happen. Sometimes it comes right away, sometimes it takes a little while. Don't let Satan discourage you.



# receiving the baptism WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

After you have studied these worksheets, have a Christian friend lay hands on your shoulder or head and pray along with you as you talk to God. Pray these things out loud:



**Tell God you relinquish all of yourself to Him.**

**Tell Him you desperately want and need more of His power to witness boldly and work signs and wonders in His name.**

**Ask Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit.**

**Tell God that you receive His promised baptism with the Holy Spirit. ... *how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him! Luke 11:13 "I am going to send you what my Father promised;... you (will be) clothed with power from on high." Luke 24:49***

**Thank Him.**

By praying these things, you have walked through the door of baptism with the Holy Spirit.



# keep being filled with THE HOLY SPIRIT

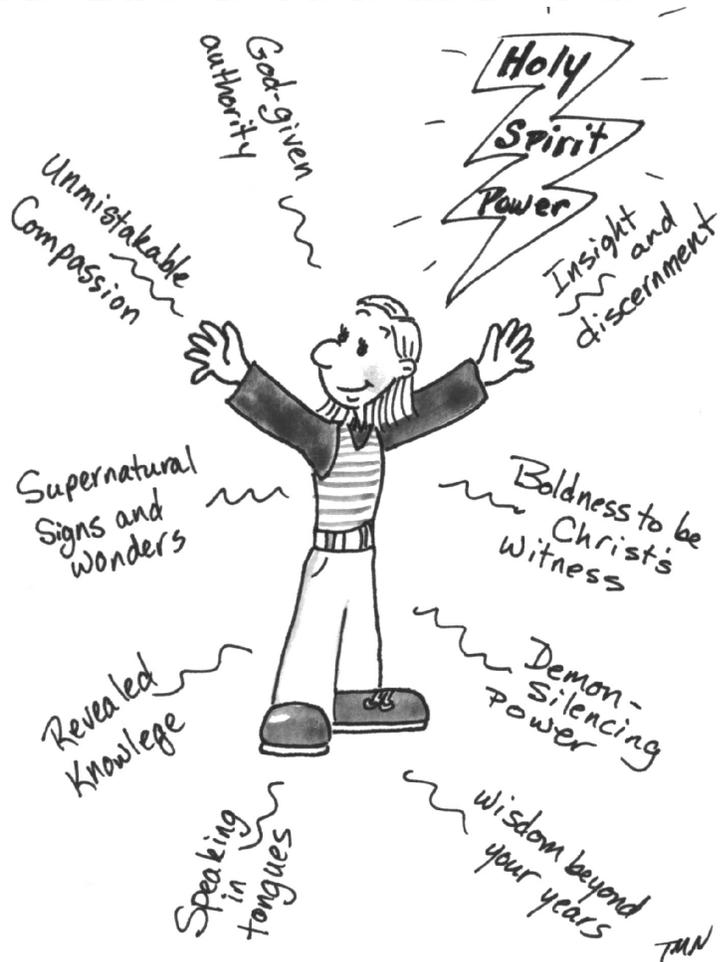
When you walk through the door of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, you are entering the life of power for increasing boldness and ability to be used by God in miracles. It is important that you pray often, and have others pray for you, to be filled more and more. Ephesians 5:18 says ... *be filled with the Spirit.*

The believers in Acts that had already experienced the baptism with the Holy Spirit prayed for additional filling by the Holy Spirit. If they needed ever-greater levels of the Spirit's power in their lives, so do you. Please read about this now in Acts 4:29-31. Notice that the believers are being threatened, so they ask for greater boldness. Consider doing the same.

No one has all of the Spirit that is available to him/her; there is always more of God! You continually need the Spirit to empower and enable you to be a bold witness for Him.

Because of the baptism with the Holy Spirit, you now have access to doing "greater things" because Jesus went to the Father. He had to go away to the Father for the Holy Spirit to be sent. And the Holy Spirit needed to be sent to "clothe you with power" so you could do the "greater things." *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. John 14:12 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 to you. John 16:7* Until Jesus returns, you must keep seeking more of Him and more of the Holy Spirit's anointing power to do the "greater things" that Jesus said you would do.



# the baptism with the HOLY SPIRIT IS AN EXPERIENCE SUBSEQUENT TO SALVATION

## All Believers Have the Holy Spirit within Them

All believers have the Holy Spirit within them and are to seek the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

After the resurrection, but before Jesus returned to the Father in heaven, He breathed on the disciples and they received the Holy Spirit. *And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit." John 20:22*

The disciples now had received the Holy Spirit within them. Yet they were told to wait in Jerusalem for the Father's promise that would give them power. *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." Luke 24:49*

What Jesus breathed on them in John 20:22 was a different experience with the Holy Spirit than they were to expect to receive as they waited in Jerusalem.

When you receive Jesus as your Savior, the Holy Spirit comes to live within you just as Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit into the disciples.

Then, like the disciples, you need to ask for the Father's promise that will give you the power you need. This "promise of the Father" is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. This will be shown later in this paper.



## The First Century Experience Subsequent to Salvation

After the baptism with the Holy Spirit was given as recorded in Acts 2, believers in other areas did not automatically receive it. The disciples sought them out, taught them about the baptism with the Holy Spirit, and prayed for them to receive it.

### ➤ Read

**Acts 8:14-17**

**Acts 19:1-6**

## The Baptism with the Holy Spirit was Foretold

The fact that Peter uses the words “gift” and “promise” in Acts 2:38-39 is significant. In teaching about the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the apostles were careful to document that this experience was in fact the promised gift from the Father that Jesus foretold would come after He ascended. They were told to wait for the promise. Jesus did not want them, or you, to try to do His work without the Holy Spirit’s power.

The Holy Spirit was put within the disciples (John 20:22), but that was not the baptism with the Holy Spirit because Jesus had not yet ascended. We know this through the following conversation that took place just before the incident in John 20:22. *Jesus said (to Mary, after the resurrection), “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet returned to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am returning to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”* John 20:17

The following passages foretell the giving of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Underline the themes of baptism with the Holy Spirit, the promise that would be sent, and it would come after Jesus ascended.

*John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. Luke 3:16*

*...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 7:37-39*

*But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,... John 14:26*

*...Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you. John 16:7*

*I am going to send you what my Father has promised; ... Luke 24:49*

The following passages reveal the apostles' documentation that what they were experiencing was the baptism with the Holy Spirit that Jesus had foretold would come.

Underline the themes of baptism with the Holy Spirit, the promise (gift) that would be sent, and it would come after Jesus ascended.

*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 1:4-5*

*Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. Acts 2:33*

*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 10:44-46*

Later, Peter tells what happened to the Gentiles to other believers: *“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?” Acts 11:15-17*

The baptism with the Holy Spirit is a **different experience** from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within all believers. It is the **promised gift from the Father** that Jesus foretold. Jesus insisted that it was very important and that it would be accessible **after He ascended**. For the disciples, it opened the door for power, miracles, speaking in tongues and prophesying, boldness, and more. The same is true for you today if you ask for it.

## The Baptism with the Holy Spirit Is for Believers Today

The baptism with the Holy Spirit was not only for the disciples that received it initially in Acts 2. It was to be received by future generations.

*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.**" Acts 2:38-39 (emphasis mine)*

The baptism with the Holy Spirit did not end when the apostles died because the promise was for their children, too. The promise was for all whom the Lord would call. If you are a Christian, the Lord has called you and you are eligible for the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. (Remember that the "gift" and the "promise" refer to the baptism with the Holy Spirit.)



# is speaking in tongues **NEEDED TODAY?**

From *Small Group Leadership Resources Notebook*, New Life Church, Colorado Springs, CO. Used with permission.

Some people say that tongues have passed away and are no longer to be used today. Their proof text is *Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears. ... Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:8-12*

They believe that the “perfect” in this passage has come and that it is the Bible, so tongues have ceased. However, the answer is in the text itself. Verse 12 says, *Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.* When is “then” when we will see face-to-face and fully know all? It is when Jesus returns. That is when perfection will come. We will all be whole so there will be no more need for miracles or healing. We will see Jesus face-to-face and communicate perfectly with Him so there will be no more need for tongues or prophecy. Tongues exist today because we need it, just as we need the rest of the gifts of the Holy Spirit such as miracles and healing. When Jesus returns, there will be no more need for the gifts.

# is speaking in tongues **AVAILABLE TO ANY CHRISTIAN?**

From *Small Group Leadership Resources Notebook*, New Life Church, Colorado Springs, CO. Used with permission.

Some people say tongues are not for everyone. Their proof text is *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 1 Corinthians 12:29-30* The obvious answer is no. Therefore some argue that they don't speak in tongues because it is not their gift. This is a misunderstanding about the two types of tongues described in the New Testament.

The “gift of tongues” is God's message to people and must be accompanied by the “gift of interpretation.” Both gifts are coupled together in this passage. Speaking in tongues in prayer or praise to God (praying in the spirit) accompanied the baptism with the Holy Spirit in Acts and is for everyone. Not everyone will manifest the “gift of tongues” for the public meeting, but everyone can pray in tongues.

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# how speaking in tongues IS TO BE USED

Two questions guide the use of tongues:

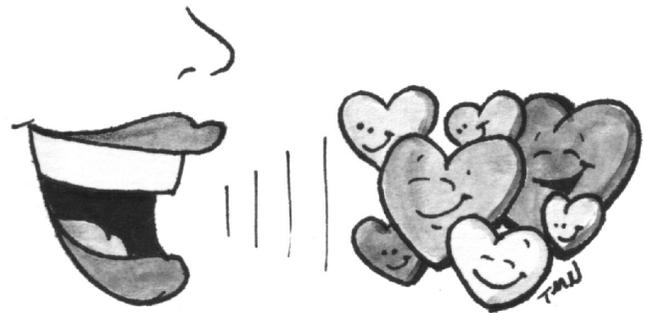
**Toward whom is the communication focused?**

In the New Testament, the use of tongues is focused in two directions: focused toward God or focused toward people. Either God or people are receiving the primary benefit of their use.



**What will edify and what is loving?**

## Tongues Used as Prayer and Praise to God



Speaking in tongues as praying or praising God in the spirit is available to everyone. It comes with the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

In four out of the five references to people being baptized with the Holy Spirit, they spoke in tongues.

➔ **Read:**

**Acts 2:4**

**Acts 9:17** with **1 Corinthians 14:18** (Paul's experience)

**Acts 10:44-46**

**Acts 19:6**

This creates a strong case that speaking in tongues accompanying the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for everyone. People are enabled by the Holy Spirit to pray and praise God in tongues, or “in the spirit.”

Here are passages about praying in the spirit.

Toward whom is the communication focused in the following verses?

*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. 1 Corinthians 14:2*

*For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 1 Corinthians 14:14*

God is the focus; He is the One benefiting from the communication. This is prayer or praise to God in tongues. It is praying with, or in, the spirit or is also referred to as “a prayer language.” Praying in the spirit means **praying mysteries to God in the will of God**. This gives you greater ability to pray for the things that God wants accomplished. You are tapping into God’s infinite intellect. You are no longer limited by your own knowledge or reasoning about what you think is best. It is important for you to use this gift in your times of prayer with God. Paul used this gift a great deal in his prayers.

Praying in the spirit includes tongues, and other things like groanings. **Read Romans 8:26-27.**

You are told to pray in the spirit and that it builds you up. Underline these themes in the following passages.

*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. Ephesians 6:18*

*But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit. Jude 1:20*

*He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 1 Corinthians 14:4*

*(Paul speaking) I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 1 Corinthians 14:18*  
(The context indicates Paul is referring to prayer in the spirit focused toward God.)



When the Holy Spirit enables you to speak in tongues, use it everyday to pray and praise God. While praying in tongues, some find it helpful to focus their thoughts on the situation or person for whom they are praying as they bring the concerns to God.

## Praying Together

In a gathering, people may pray in tongues all together about a subject of common concern. The focus is on communicating with God. It is not necessary for them to understand what each other is praying in that situation since they all know what the subject is.

At some point, (in the author's opinion) let it become quieter so that if someone wants to pray in English, their prayer can be heard and agreed with. Those that want to continue to pray in tongues should do so quietly. Now, the focus is still toward God, but communication is also toward people who need to be agreeing with the prayer.

➡ **Read:**

**Acts 4:24, 29-30**

**Acts 10:45-46**

**Acts 19:6**

In the last two passages, tongues were not interpreted. They were speaking to God all together.

If, in a gathering, someone prays or praises out loud in tongues while the rest are quiet, the one speaking should interpret his prayer. If you are praying with another person and you pray in tongues, you should also pray in English so that he/she can agree with the prayer.

➡ **Read 1 Corinthians 14:14-17.** Here, the focus is toward God **and** people. Also, **what will edify?** must be considered.

# Tongues Used as God's Message to People

Remember the two questions that guide the use of tongues:



**Toward whom is the communication focused? and**

**What will edify and what is loving?**



When God gives a message to the people in tongues, it must be interpreted. The communication focus is toward people. People are to be edified, built up. The loving choice is to assure that they understand what is being spoken.

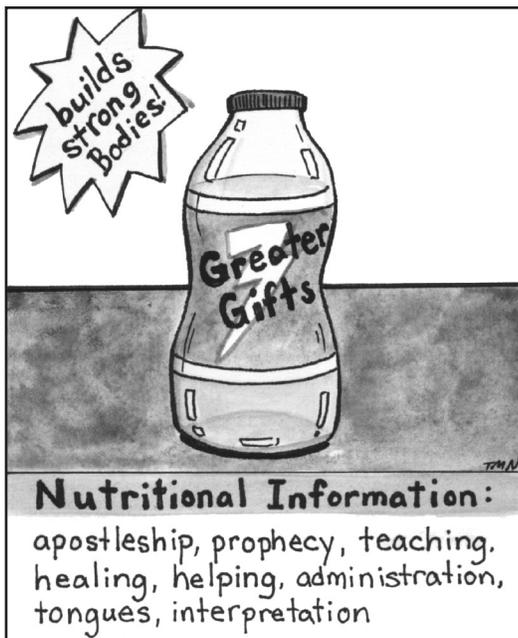
Tongues with interpretation together fulfill some of the same purposes of prophecy which is also God's message to the people (discussed later). Underline the words in the following verse that tell the purposes of God's messages to people. *But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort. 1 Corinthians 14:3*

Both tongues and interpretation are coupled together in the following passages.

*Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ... to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. 1 Corinthians 12:7, 10*

*And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret? 1 Corinthians 12:28-30* In answer to these questions, no, not everyone will be given these types of public ministry gifts. Not everyone will be given a message in tongues or interpretation of tongues for a public meeting.

*But eagerly desire the greater gifts. 1 Corinthians 12:31* Many of the “greater gifts” are listed in 1 Corinthians 12:28-30 – they are “greater” because they edify and build up others. Earnestly seek to be used by God to deliver His message to the people through tongues with interpretation and prophecy. Don’t neglect praying in tongues (communication focused toward God), but also seek the gifts that build up others.



*I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater (in the sense of being more helpful, or edifying, to the people in the public meeting) than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified. (tongues + interpretation = as edifying to the church as prophecy) 1 Corinthians 14:5 Both speaking in tongues and prophecy are gifts you are to earnestly keep asking God to give you. Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:39*

**“My experience has been that the more I pray in tongues privately, the more I am able to prophesy in the public meeting. There seems to be a direct correlation between the two. In order to speak the ‘five’ words of prophecy in public, I will have prayed the ‘ten thousand words’ in tongues privately.”** *I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you (when he is alone). But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue. 1 Corinthians 14:18-19* Dick Schroeder, University Christian Fellowship (Chi Alpha) at Montana State University, Bozeman

## How to Use Tongues in a Group

If you believe God is giving you a message that will be delivered in tongues to the whole gathering, the message should be interpreted. Then, everyone can be blessed by the message. This is common sense and is a loving choice. Note in the following passage Paul's use of tongues a great deal privately and how he sought to interpret the tongues if he gave them aloud publicly. This was answering the question, **What will edify?** Read 1 Corinthians 14:12-19.

If you are praying or blessing in tongues in a public meeting so that everyone can hear it, you should pray that God enables you to interpret so that the people are edified. If you do not feel it is a message for the whole group, you should quietly speak to yourself and God. It's scriptural to pray in tongues by yourself (or with others who are individually praying in tongues) and you don't have to interpret what you are praying. You are speaking to God. But in the public meeting, since your purpose is to edify each other, if you pray or speak in tongues so that everyone can hear it, someone needs to be able to interpret it.



➤ **Read 1 Corinthians 14:26-28.**

You may not know if someone in the meeting has the interpretation of your message in tongues. The above passage (1 Corinthians 14:26-28) says that if you give a message in tongues and (after waiting for a short time) no one interprets it, the meeting should continue on. If there is another message in tongues and no one interprets, that should be the last one (or maybe one more) since no one has the gift of interpretation in the group at that time.

The following passage gives instruction on how the meeting should go when people are prophesying, which includes tongues with interpretation, so that things are done in the most edifying way. *Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged. (Notice that you can ALL prophesy. What is the purpose?) The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues. But everything should be done in a fitting and orderly way. 1 Corinthians 14:29-32, 39-40*

# use the gifts of the Spirit WITH INTEGRITY

Abuse of the power of the Spirit is not the fault of the Spirit or the gifts -- it is due to the lack of integrity in the person using the gifts. *Follow the way of love **and** eagerly desire spiritual gifts... 1 Corinthians 14:1* (emphasis mine)

*If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.*  
*1 Corinthians 13:1, 2*

Therefore, let love govern how you use the power and the gifts and you will use them with integrity.

**Use the power and the gifts with patience and kindness.**

**Use them without envy, boasting, or pride.**

**Don't be rude or self-seeking when you use them.**

**Don't use them if you are angry.**

**Don't keep a record of wrongs or tolerate any other evil in your own life.**

**Align your private thoughts and actions with truth.**

**Use the power and the gifts in a way that protects people from needless hurt or humiliation.**

**Be worthy of trust.**

**Pray for people with hope and perseverance as you operate in the power of the Spirit.**

Adapted from 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

# when you pray for someone

## TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

(The pronouns "she" and "her" have been used here because he/she became cumbersome.)

- **If the person for whom you are praying has studied the Scriptures and instructions on these worksheets and has answered the questions presented, she should have no trouble receiving the gift of the Spirit and speaking in tongues.**
- **Satan might try to tell her that she is just making up the words when she speaks in tongues.** Tell her not to listen to him. If she were making it up, she would be using her mind to create the words.
- **Sometimes a person does not receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit fully because there is something she is holding back from God.** Probe gently to see if this is the case. Consecration and commitment to Jesus is very important in receiving the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Also, there should be a hunger for more of God and an earnest desire for spiritual gifts. Pray that this will be true in her life.
- **If more than one person is praying for someone, have just one of you do the coaching and teaching.** This reduces her feeling of being overwhelmed and helps her focus on Jesus. Do not pray in tongues above a whisper while she is receiving from the Lord. She will be distracted by your language and find it hard to concentrate on being filled. Pray things like "Fill her, Lord." Also, it is not necessary to pray loudly unless the Lord tells you to.
- **If the person does not receive the gift of tongues at the time you are praying for her, DON'T WORRY and don't let her worry.** Remind her that speaking in tongues is NOT the goal. The goal is to be filled with the Spirit in order to walk in greater power. She has asked for this and God says He will give the Spirit to whoever asks. If she doesn't "feel" any different or if there are no outward "manifestations," remind her that all our prayers are based on faith that *...if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. And if we know that he hears us -- whatever we ask -- we know that we have what we asked of him. 1 John 5:14-15* She has walked through the door into a life of access to more of God's power. She has received one layer of that power. Pray for her often (even weekly) to be filled more and more with the Holy Spirit. Encourage her that she will speak with tongues and begin to function in some of the other miraculous gifts as she continues to ask God for them. Her goal must be to be full of the Holy Spirit and to be increasingly more effective in winning those far from God and encouraging other Christians.

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- **Sometimes the person has trouble receiving because she doesn't feel that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for her.** She may feel she isn't good enough. She may be afraid. If there are sins she feels guilty about, ask her to confess to God and repent. If she is feeling condemnation about things already dealt with, ask her to repent of not believing that Christ's blood is enough. Have her renounce all lies she has believed about her place in God's forgiveness. If she is afraid, read Luke 11:9-13 again to remind her that she can trust a loving Father who will give only good gifts to His children.
  - **If she receives only a couple of words in tongues, use the example of babies learning a language.** They start out with just a few words, use them over and over, and then receive more. Pray again for her and she will probably receive more of her language right there. Tell her to use whatever part of her new language God has given her. Then, she will receive more.
  - **Ask her to pray in her new language with you as you pray in yours.** Have her think of a subject about which she wants to pray or some praise she would like to give to God. Then do it!
  - **Follow up on the prayer time in a couple of days.** Ask her if she has noticed any changes. Some people notice that they have a keener sense of sin, an increased desire for prayer and reading the Bible, more love for the unlovable, more joy, more boldness, or a greater willingness to sacrifice for the gospel message.

#### Sources

Chuck Lester, Chi Alpha at University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

Dick Schroeder, University Christian Fellowship (Chi Alpha) at Montana State University, Bozeman.

*Small Group Leadership Resources Notebook*, New Life Church, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

# list of SCRIPTURES

## ➔ General References

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| <b>Deuteronomy 6:4</b>        | the LORD is one   |
| <b>Matthew 3:16-17</b>        | Jesus baptism with Holy Spirit and Father's voice                                 |
| <b>Matthew 6:14-15</b>        | if you forgive, Father will forgive you   |
| <b>Matthew 28:19-20</b>       | make disciples, baptizing in name of Father, Son, Holy Spirit                     |
| <b>Mark 16:15-20</b>          | signs will accompany those who believe, disciples preached with signs             |
| <b>Luke 3:16</b>              | Jesus will baptize you with Holy Spirit   |
| <b>Luke 9:23</b>              | follow Jesus, take up cross, deny self  |
| <b>Luke 11:9-13</b>           | ask, seek, knock, Father gives Spirit to those who ask                            |
| <b>Luke 24:49</b>             | I'll send you what Father promised, stay until clothed with power                 |
| <b>John 7:37-39</b>           | whoever believes in Me, streams of living water flow, Holy Spirit                 |
| <b>John 10:9</b>              | Jesus is gate, enter by Me, saved   |
| <b>John 14:12</b>             | will do greater things because Jesus goes to Father                               |
| <b>John 14:26</b>             | Counselor whom Father will send, will teach you                                   |
| <b>John 15:26-27</b>          | Counselor will testify of me, you also must testify                               |
| <b>John 16:7-13</b>           | if I (Jesus) go, Counselor will come, He will convict world, guide you into truth |
| <b>John 20:17</b>             | Jesus tells Mary that He has not returned to the Father yet                       |
| <b>John 20:21-22</b>          | Jesus breathes Holy Spirit onto disciples   |
| <b>Acts 1:4-5</b>             | Jesus said to wait for the gift, baptized with Holy Spirit                        |
| <b>Acts 2:1-4</b>             | disciples filled with Spirit and speak in tongues                                 |
| <b>Acts 2:32-33</b>           | Jesus exalted, poured out promised Holy Spirit                                    |
| <b>Acts 2:38-39</b>           | promise for you, children, all far off  |
| <b>Acts 4:29-31</b>           | disciples pray for more boldness, filled again with Holy Spirit                   |
| <b>Acts 5:32</b>              | God gives Holy Spirit to those who obey Him                                       |
| <b>Acts 8:12-17</b>           | believers in Samaria prayed for and receive Holy Spirit                           |
| <b>Acts 9:10-20</b>           | Paul filled with the Spirit   |
| <b>Acts 10:44-46,11:15-17</b> | Gentiles baptized with Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues                              |
| <b>Acts 19:1-6</b>            | believers in Ephesus receive Holy Spirit, speak in tongues                        |

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Romans 1:20</b>            | God's attributes clearly seen from what made                         |
| <b>Romans 8:9</b>             | Spirit lives in you if you are Christ's                              |
| <b>Romans 8:15</b>            | you received Spirit of sonship, Abba, Father                         |
| <b>Romans 8:26-27</b>         | Spirit helps us pray with groanings                                  |
| <b>1 Corinthians 12:7-11</b>  | list of spiritual gifts  |
| <b>1 Corinthians 12:28-31</b> | apostles, etc., do all speak in tongues?, etc., desire greater gifts |
| <b>1 Corinthians 13</b>       | love chapter   |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:1</b>     | follow love, eagerly desire spiritual gifts                          |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:2</b>     | speaks in tongue speaks to God                                       |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:3</b>     | prophecy to strengthen, encourage, comfort                           |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:4</b>     | speaking in tongues edifies you                                      |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:5</b>     | wants all speak in tongues, prophecy                                 |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:13-18</b> | in church, interpret tongues, Paul speaks in tongues more than all   |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:24-25</b> | prophecy reveals secrets of heart, God among you                     |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:26-33</b> | rules for tongues and prophecy in meeting                            |
| <b>1 Corinthians 14:39-40</b> | eager to prophecy, don't forbid tongues, orderly                     |
| <b>Ephesians 5:15-20</b>      | be filled with the Spirit, singing, thanks                           |
| <b>Ephesians 6:18</b>         | pray in Spirit for saints  |
| <b>1 John 5:14-15</b>         | if ask according to His will, we have what we ask                    |
| <b>Jude 1:20</b>              | build yourselves up, pray in Holy Spirit                             |

## ➔ All these terms refer to the same experience

Baptized with the Holy Spirit, **Acts 1:5**  
 Gift of the Holy Spirit, **Acts 2:38, Acts 10:45**  
 Filled with the Holy Spirit, **Acts 2:4**  
 Promise, **Acts 1:4, Acts 2:39**  
 Endued with power, **Luke 24:49**  
 Holy Spirit came upon them, **Acts 19:1-6**