

SPEAKING IN TONGUES - THE HOLY SPIRIT'S ROLE IN THE LIFE OF THE BELIEVER

INTRODUCTION

Prior to Jesus' ascension to heaven, He commanded His disciples not to leave the city of Jerusalem but tarry there until they had received the promise given to them by their Heavenly Father. That promise was none other than the person of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit was the assurance given to the early church fathers that the church would know exactly what to do and how to build the church through the Spirit's leadership. Jesus Himself said that it was necessary for Him to leave them in order for the Holy Spirit to come to them. As a result, the majority of the Body of Christ worldwide (600,000,000) have had encounters with the third person of the Trinity. Today, many in the church need to once again recapture that blessed promise in order to experience greater depths in God and His power to fulfill the work of the Gospel in all the earth.

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

“But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me.” John 15:26

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13

I. THE THREE PHASES OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK

- A. The Holy Spirit With Us: The Holy Spirit is with us before our salvation experience. Prior to accepting Christ's salvation, each of us were encountered by the Spirit's work of conviction. It is the work of the Holy Spirit to initiate the work of salvation in each of our hearts. It is the Holy Spirit who opens our eyes to our sin and our need for Christ and His forgiveness.

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” John 3:5

“And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16:8

[OCF – Speaking in Tongues – The Holy Spirit’s Role in the Life of the Believer- Carlos Sarmiento]

- B. The Holy Spirit In Us: The moment our eyes have been opened to our need of Christ, the Holy Spirit comes and does the work of repentance in the heart of the sinner. The moment the miracle of salvation takes place, the work of the Spirit of God goes from being with us to living in us. This is the point when the believer becomes the temple of God.

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever - the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.” John 14:16-17

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

- C. The Holy Spirit Upon Us: The Holy Spirit comes upon us after our salvation experience. This was the promise Jesus was referring to His disciples to. He commanded them not to depart from the city but to remain in Jerusalem until they were filled by the Spirit of God. In this stage, the believer becomes a vessel the spirit can anoint and use to testify of Jesus' salvation, by confirming His word with signs and wonders following.

“... for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now...But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:5, 8

“...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.” Acts 10:38

II. UNDERSTANDING HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES

“To Him all the prophets witness that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins... And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.” Acts 10:43, 45

- A. The Holy Spirit. That's His name and it reveals to us the nature and character of God's holiness. It's important to understand that the Spirit of God is never given to an unrepentant sinner. The Holy Spirit comes into the life of a person because they have responded to the preaching of the Gospel. The Gospel must be preached and received in order for the Holy Spirit to come.

“But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8:12-15

“...having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever.” 1 Peter 1:23

- B. Once the Gospel is preached, the testimony of Scripture reveals that the Holy Spirit comes to fulfill the second phase of His work in the life of the believer. That is, to fill the believer with God's Spirit, His anointing and His power. The apostles and the church of Acts confirm that speaking in tongues was an indication that one was filled by the Holy Spirit.

“When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:1-4

“For as yet He had fallen (Holy Spirit of verse 15) upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.” Acts 8:16

- C. The apostle Paul also passed through these two phases, these two experiences with the Holy Spirit. We see that Paul was encountered by Christ (gospel preached) resulting in having his spiritual eyes opened to his need of salvation through Christ. Afterward we are told that he has a subsequent encounter with the Holy Spirit at which time he receives the Spirit’s infilling.

“And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ Then the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’ So he, trembling and astonished, said, ‘Lord, what do You want me to do?’ Then the Lord said to him, ‘Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.’” Acts 9:5-6

“And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’” Acts 9:17

- D. We therefore have the confirmation of holy scripture revealing to us that the moment one receives the infilling of the Holy Spirit, they are gifted and given the ability to speak in tongues. I believe this promise is still applicable today and every born again person has the right to encounter the infilling of the Spirit and receive the empowering of God's anointing for service. (Acts 1:5, 8, 2:1-4, 8:12-17, 9:1-17, 10:44-46, 19:5-6).
- E. Jesus explains this twofold work of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life by comparing a well of water to a river of water.
1. The Well symbolizes the personal and inner work of the Spirit in the individual believer. This symbolizes the continual work of salvation in the life of the believer.
 2. The River symbolizes God's continual flow in the life of a believer touching and meeting the needs of others. This symbolizes God's anointing flowing through us to touch others.

“Jesus answered and said to her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, ‘Give Me a drink,’ you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.’ The woman said to Him, ‘Sir, You have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. Where then do You get that living water? Are You greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, as well as his sons and his livestock?’” Jesus answered and said to her, ‘Whoever drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.’” John 4:10-14

“On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, ‘If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.” John 7:37-39

III. THE THREE BAPTISM RITES OF EVERY BELIEVER

“...of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.” Hebrews 6:2

- A. Baptism into the Body of Christ: this happens immediately and instantaneously at the moment one receives Christ as their Savior. The miracle of salvation makes each and every believer a member of the Body of Christ.

“There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism.” Ephesians 4:4-5

- B. Baptism into water: this is a voluntary act that takes place in the life of a believer once one has been baptized into the Body of Christ. Water baptism is an act of obedience that declares one is no longer living for themselves but now has given his/her allegiance to Christ. It signifies the start of a brand new life, sanctified in Christ.

“Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, “See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?” Then Philip said, “If you believe with all your heart, you may.” And he answered and said, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” So he commanded the chariot to stand still. And both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water, and he baptized him.” Acts 8:35-38

“There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” 1Peter 3:21

- C. Baptism in the Holy Spirit: as already noted, believers have the right to receive the infilling and empowering of the Holy Spirit after one's salvation. The purpose is to receive the anointing of God in order to do the works of God.

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

“...he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’” Acts 19:2, 6