

*GOD'S E.R.*  
*FREED FROM ALL THINGS*

*Acts 13:39 and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things*

**Class 2 – Basic Training for Christians - Lesson Four**

***“The Baptism in the Holy Spirit”***

In Ephesians, we are taught about the Armor of God. The last “piece” of armor that is mentioned is *praying in the Spirit* – which is the evidence of having *The Baptism in the Holy Spirit*.

**Ephesians 6:18** With all prayer and petition *pray at all times in the Spirit*, and with this in view, be on the alert with all perseverance and petition for all the saints,

If we are to *pray in the Spirit*, we first need to understand much about the Holy Spirit.

**WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

The Scriptures clearly teach us that the Holy Spirit is God.

**Acts 5:3** But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit ... You have not lied to men but to God."

The Holy Spirit is a person. He, with the Father and the Son, make up the triune God. He is not a power, a force or an energy. He is a person of feeling – compassionate, loving, kind and He can be hurt or *grieved*:

**Ephesians 4:30** Do not *grieve* the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

The Holy Spirit prays the perfect will of the Father for us continually. He prays through us by giving us the Gift of Tongues:

**Romans 8:26** In the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; 27 and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

The Holy Spirit has different names in the Scriptures, which pertain to His Attributes:

- The Spirit of Truth - (John 16:13). He always speaks truth.
- The Comforter - (John 14:26). He gives us His comfort.
- The Spirit of God and The Spirit of the Lord- He gives and inspires wisdom, understanding, counsel, might, knowledge and the fear of the Lord (Isaiah 11:2).

## THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is working in us many things for our benefit, that we may be conformed to the likeness of Jesus (to be like Him). His work is to change us through:

1. Convicting the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8),
2. Guiding us into all truth (John 16:13),
3. Regenerating us (John 3:5,6),
4. Glorifying Christ (John 16:14),
5. Revealing Christ to us and in us (John 16:14,15),
6. Leading us (Romans 8:14), and
7. Empowering us (Acts 1:8).

## BORN OF THE SPIRIT AND BAPTISED IN THE SPIRIT

Every Christian is born of the Spirit, having received the work of the Holy Spirit in conviction, an understanding of Truth in Christ Jesus, regeneration, and a growing measure of a revealing of Christ in and through us. However, empowerment of the Believer through the Holy Spirit is only realized when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 1:8** But you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes upon you; and you will be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

It is the Father's will that every Christian be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 2:38** NLT Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39 This promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles -- all who have been called by the Lord our God.

## PURPOSE OF THE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit has several purposes. The Holy Spirit is poured out so that all the works of the Holy Spirit mentioned above might be manifest in the Believer's life. Another purpose of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is that men and women will become children of God like Jesus the Son of God in nature, holiness and power. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit gives us the same access to relationship to the Father and the ministry in power as Jesus had in His earthly ministry.

After His resurrection, Jesus instructed those who believed to go and wait until they received the promised power of the Holy Spirit, with all His marvelous attributes, including empowerment to accomplish His perfect will:

**Luke 24:49** And remember that I am about to send out my Father's promised gift to rest upon you. But, as for you, wait patiently in the city until you are clothed with (this) power from on high.

The disciples then went and did as the Lord instructed them, and they waited in the upper room in Jerusalem.

**Acts 1:13** When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; ... 14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.... **Acts 2:2** And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 **And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.** 4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.** 5 Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. 6 And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. 7 They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? 8 And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia"

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is to give us the power and anointing to demonstrate Christ to people and win people to Him. (Acts 1:8). We gain such a closeness with God and intimate fellowship with Him, through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. This closeness guides us through life in a sensitivity to the Spirit of God that we could never have without this gift.

### **SPEAKING IN TONGUES IS THE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

“Speaking in tongues” refers in general to speaking in languages unknown to the mind of the speaker, by the power of the Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:4). These may be tongues (languages) of men or of angels (1 Corinthians 13:1).

#### **There are three types of tongues:**

**(1) Praying in tongues (from man to God).** This is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit which is evidenced in the Gift of Tongues. This is often called “our prayer language,” which edifies, builds up or strengthens, the person praying. We also use our “prayer language” to praise God by speaking or singing. As we pray in tongues, we can also receive “Words” in tongues from God, which requires asking the Lord for interpretation if we do not understand as we receive.

**(2) Prophecies in tongues (from God to man). (Requires interpretation -1 Corinthians 14:5- 9)** This kind of tongues is a spiritual gift for the edification of others. When Paul said that not all speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 12:28-30), he was speaking of this gift which is a message from God, through an individual, given to a body of believers or an individual. In those verses it is talking about *ministries* in the church - not about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

**(3) Known language, but unknown by the speaker.** In this case, the speaker is speaking Words from the Spirit of God in a human language understood by the hearers but not by himself. It can be said these tongues are a sign for the unbelieving (Acts 2:8; 1 Corinthians 14:22).

Paul said, "I wish you all spoke with other tongues" (1 Corinthians 14:5) and "Do not forbid to speak with tongues." (1 Corinthians 14:39). Although not all Christians today speak in tongues, nevertheless, they may, they can and they should - when they are baptized in the Holy Spirit! This is the will of God for all Christians.

Praying in tongues can be done anywhere and at almost any time after you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. (1 Timothy 2:8). You can pray in tongues while travelling, while reading, while listening as well as while kneeling in prayer. There are several reasons why it is good for Christians to spend much time praying in tongues:

1. He who speaks in an unknown tongue speaks to God (1 Corinthians 14:2). These prayers will be effective because they are prayed according to the will of God.

2. Speaking in tongues enables us to pray more than we would be able to with just our earthly language. God says, "Pray without ceasing." (1 Thessalonians 5:17). Having the gift of tongues will help us to be "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" (Ephesians 6:18) even when our minds are tired and we don't know how or what to pray. (Romans 8:26,27).

3. Speaking in tongues allows us to pray for things and situations we don't know about. The Holy Spirit prays through us to accomplish His will in heaven, here on earth.

4. "He who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself." (1 Corinthians 14:4). This means that speaking in tongues builds up our spiritual life. Jude exhorts the Christians as follows: "But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God." (Jude 20,21). Speaking in tongues helps us to be deeply conscious of the fact that we abide in God and He in us. Speaking in tongues therefore strengthens our relationship with God which will result in greater love and faith being known in and through us.

5. Speaking in tongues helps us to train our spirits to hear the voice of God and to operate in the other gifts of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

6. We should imitate Paul (1 Corinthians 11:1; Philippians 4:9), who spoke in tongues more than all the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 14:18). The majority of God's people with a significant healing ministry like John G. Lake or Smith Wigglesworth testify that speaking in tongues was a very important key to their ministry.

7. Speaking in tongues refreshes our spirits and our minds. Isaiah 28:11-12 speaks of a rest that comes when we pray in this manner.

## HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Here is the important question – how do I receive the promise of the Father - how do I become baptized in the Holy Spirit?

Remember, if you are a Christian, you have the Holy Spirit already residing within you (Romans 8:9). The word "receive" is used in the sense *welcoming*. Earlier we learned about the “works” of the Holy Spirit. We must *allow or welcome* His *Empowerment*, by welcoming the Baptism of the Holy Spirit into and upon our lives. His power is freely available to those who will trust and obey.

**Acts 5:32** And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.

Prepare yourself to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit through:

1. **REPENTANCE** - Examine yourself. Be honest with yourself and God. God requires thorough repentance from ALL KNOWN SIN. Decide to live for God wholeheartedly. Confess and forsake your sins, trusting Jesus for forgiveness (Prov 28:13; 1 John 1:9). If you have unforgiveness in your heart towards anyone, you must forgive that person (Mark 11:25)
2. **RENOUNCE EVIL POWER** If you have ever dabbled in false religions or ANY form of the occult (including astrology) you must renounce that evil power now in the name of Jesus. It is from Satan and his demons. If you are in doubt about some practice or habit then renounce that too (Romans 14:23).
3. **THIRST AFTER GOD** Jesus explains in John 7:37,38 "If any man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water'", which refers to the Holy Spirit. We must have a desire to experience more in God in order to be filled with the Spirit.
4. **ASK IN FAITH** "Ask and you will receive, that your joy may be full" (John 16:24).
5. **RECEIVE** We receive the Holy Spirit as a gift, not on the basis of works, but by "hearing with faith" (Galatians 3:5).
6. **YIELD TO GOD** You must begin speaking, trusting God to give the language. Do not worry about whether you understand the sounds you make - you will make the sounds according to the language that the Holy Spirit gives you. Keep speaking in tongues, allowing the Holy Spirit to flood your spirit, soul and body.

### Prayer to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit:

Dear Jesus, thank you for the most wonderful gift of all - the gift of salvation. Lord, you promised another gift - the gift of the Holy Spirit. I want all you have for me. Baptize me in the Holy Spirit like you did in the days of the Early Church. I consecrate my life to you. I am a believer and you said Lord that believers would speak in unknown languages (tongues). Give me now this gift of tongues. I believe I have now received the power to do what I have asked for. Thank you Jesus!

**Next week we will study “*Covenant – Depths of Abiding*” - Learn the REAL Depth of Relationship You have with the Lord!**