The Baptism
PREFACE

There are times in our life with Christ that are so special, so momentous, so important that God has said you will draw on them, learn from them, receive further revelation from them throughout your lifetime. Additionally, the Lord has taught me that these “-touches from Heaven” will not only be for this time, but they are experiences that will reach into and follow us throughout eternity.

Many such experiences in the Lord come to mind. We obviously cannot exclude our salvation, the greatest miracle of all. But I do believe another such event of significance is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

I am reminded of the patriarchs of our faith: the Old-Testament saints. They would have an encounter with God and immediately build an altar, right on the spot, to commemorate that outstanding occasion. In Genesis 35: 9-15, Jacob had such an encounter with God. As Jacob was obedient and went to Bethel, he met God there. That’s when God changed his name from “deceiver” to “receiver” (from Jacob to Israel): “…a nation and a company of nations shall be of you, and Kings shall come out of thy loins.” The Word had such impact, such profound meaning to him that Jacob built an altar. He could always go back there and remember. He could see years later with more insight and more clarity what God was saying to him. He continued to worship God through that experience. Throughout his lifetime he drew from it. And it had gravity and import to his seed and to that nation of promise.

We know that when we receive Christ, we receive the measure of faith needed to believe. We also receive God’s Holy Spirit because we cannot say that Jesus is God except the Holy
Spirit reveals that fact to us. It is the most substantial and essential event in anyone’s life. After that life-changing experience, we become candidates for many weighty encounters with our Father.

Our Jewish heritage (see Romans 11:17) shows that Abraham, Isaac and Jacob did not just build one altar, but they built many altars of various prominence.

When we receive Christ, we must begin to move forward in our journey and receive those experiences that God has ordained for us. It is one of the ways that we enter into an ever-increasing intimacy with our Lord.

I submit to all that read this book that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is as important to us as Christians that it is easily second on God’s priority list behind salvation (I do not discount the powerful work of the Word of God in us, but that’s a daily transformation). The experience so connects us with our Father, I say unashamedly and with great boldness, that if you want to “be all that you can be” you will be diligent to receive this special encounter.

This book is in obedience to God who has called me to write it. It is a testimony but also a teaching. I love the way God works: He told me to write it; and before I wrote it He told me to have it translated into Spanish (He always gives us an inkling of what He will make possible for our future).

Let this story encourage you; and allow the scriptures to edify you. If you don’t know about the baptism in the Holy Spirit or if you have never been baptized in the Holy Spirit, allow God to use this book. It will give you the faith to know and to receive. The Holy Spirit baptism is God’s promise to “you and your children, and for all that are far off, even as many as our Lord God shall call” (Acts 2:39).
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Part 1 The Testimony

Chapter 1
My Story

This is my story. It’s not a happy story. But we know as Christians that God has a way of making all our experiences count. It is because of this that I have no regrets. God deals with us according to our story. And no two stories are alike. When we finally look to Him, He always knows exactly what we need and how to get it to us.

This testimony is not about me. It’s about the grace of God that comes upon all of us if we just reach out to Him. It is a testimony about the love and grace of Jesus.

I’ve had five fathers and five mothers. And I was not in the foster-care system. I know that’s an incredible statement; but, nonetheless, altogether true. I was six months old when my birth mother and father, who were not married, abandoned my older brother and me. My brother, Bob, was borderline retarded with an IQ of about 80. The rumor was that he was neglected nutritionally when he was a baby.

As a consequence of being abandoned, we ended up in an orphanage for a few months in Los Angeles and then were sent to St. Paul, Minnesota, to be with my grandmother, Gerti.

As believers, we can look back on our lives and often see the providence of God. For me this was one such occasion. My grandmother and my many relatives in Minnesota were strong Baptist believers. We went to Church and Sunday School every week. I was not only taught the Word of God but they
believed in challenging me with God’s plan of salvation. For five years I was very happy and secure. But finances forced my grandmother to send us back to my birth mother in Los Angeles.

My mother, Lonny, was now married to a man named Hal. He was physically abusive and an alcoholic. Sometimes people are so lost they are searching for themselves, looking desperately for wholeness. And in their confused, fragmented life they can really be no good to anyone else. Such was the state in our house.

Bob and I were often left alone to fend for our one-year-old half-brother and ourselves. We lived in the Watts area of Los Angeles, a very rough neighborhood. During those times at seven and eight years old, I would go out and break into houses and steal money. When I would get caught Hal would punish me by forcing me to eat cigarettes and drink them down with beer until I got sick.

Unknown to me at that time, there was a couple that could not have children who were looking to adopt. The woman, Laura, was a childhood friend of my mother. Coincidentally, she was also adopted, but by an older couple. When she was a child she loved to travel the block and-a-half to be with our “wonderful young family” and to play with my mother and my Aunt Ginny. After visiting with us, Mac and Laura wanted to adopt both my brother and me. But finally, because of Bob’s mental disability, they chose to only take me.

At almost nine years old, in 1957, I went from the poverty of Watts to Downey, California, an upscale bedroom community just south of Los Angeles. At that time it was referred to as the “little Beverly Hills.” My adoptive father, whose name I still bear, was a successful contractor who built custom homes and shopping centers. He had just begun a business relationship with the founder of Denny’s (then known as Danny’s Donuts).
Poverty certainly doesn’t bring wholeness, but neither does wealth. My adoptive father had more than enough. But in his hunger for more of what cannot satisfy he found himself being a womanizer, and increasingly dependent on alcohol. There was always a party atmosphere around the crowd he worked with. They had the money and the power; and they were going to use it for the “good life” which was beautiful women and the party lifestyle. This caused tremendous pressures at home and many fights. Ultimately, my adoptive mom and adoptive father ended up getting divorced. He then married the woman he was having an affair with, and left our home.

I lived with my adoptive mom. She got a decent settlement from Mac; and we continued to live in the same house. At that time, she started dating a man who claimed he was a “musical genius” and worked for Warner Brothers and Disney Studios. She married him and found out, after he fleeced her for practically all she had, that it was all a lie. She had an annulment; and he ended up in Leavenworth Federal Prison where we heard he died a few years later.

Meanwhile, Mac, my adoptive father, had divorced his second wife and was now married again. He would come and pick me up for outings and overnight stays with him. He had started his own coffee shop chain called Van’s but had, unfortunately, started too big, too fast, and ended up bankrupt.

Anyway, during one such outing, we went deep-sea fishing on his boat. His drinking had gotten much worse during this period, and he got very drunk. I was fifteen at the time and I wanted a car. His new wife, Gloria, had sided with me on my choice of a car, which was impractical and expensive. When we got home an argument ensued between them about the car; and he began to beat her up. As he beat her head against the doorframe, she screamed to me for help. As he got her on the floor
and was punching her face, I finally got up enough courage to pull him off. It literally saved her life. He took her to the hospital. And even though he claimed to have blacked out and had no recollection of beating her, he ended up in jail for assault. She did not press charges, but that marriage was over as well.

My adoptive mom, Laura, had to sell our house because her second husband had left her without resources to continue to live there. During that time, I had started Junior High School and began to get in with “the wrong crowd.” As a result, I began smoking, drinking, and I became sexually active. At one point, I came home and my adoptive mom confronted me. I ended up pushing her into the refrigerator. It was then that I realized I needed a change.

I had a friend that was being forced to go to military school; and I convinced my parents to send me there. I spent two years at the Army and Navy Academy High School in Carlsbad, California. During that time, I learned self-discipline and how to accomplish goals. My grades got better; and, overall, I felt better about myself. Many of those attributes I’ve carried into my adult life. But it still was not enough. In 1967, during my senior year, I began to smoke pot and had my first encounter with LSD.

While I was in Military school both my adoptive mom and adoptive dad remarried, but not to each other. Mac had married a woman, Rosemary, who was a Christian; Laura had married a man, Hugh, who was a sexual deviant.

After I graduated from high school, I lived with my adoptive mom and new stepdad. They lived on a large property where they were able to give me my own trailer to stay in. They did not want me in their house because they were involved in sex swapping with other couples.
At the same time, my adoptive dad was getting increasingly worse with his alcohol abuse. He now got drunk every night and was more and more bitter and angry after having lost everything. It was during that time that I accelerated my drug use, expanding into selling marijuana and LSD, as well as taking uppers and downers and other miscellaneous narcotics. Over the period of several years, this took a tremendous toll on me, severely accentuating my already-troubled mind.

It might have been me trying to find answers, maybe it was me trying to numb the pain, I’m not sure. But because I was “dealing” it, it was there. So I took LSD every day for months. I began feeling like I was slipping into insanity. I knew, at that point, no one could help me; no psychiatrist, no medical man, no one. It was then that I contemplated suicide. But I remembered the Jesus from my youth. And I cried out to Him: “Lord, I’m beyond help. I don’t know where to turn. If you can be real in my life, help me.”
Chapter 2
My Salvation

My whole life the Lord had been waiting for me to cry out to Him. And when I did I believe the wheels began to turn. My life began to be a “God set-up.”

A short time later, after my appeal to the Lord, I was living at my adoptive dad’s house in Anaheim, California. Maybe as a result of my stepmom’s prayer (remember he married Rosemary who was a Christian woman), I got a really good job at Southwest Forest Industries in Santa Fe Springs, California. My stepmom and adoptive dad were having marital problems, mostly as a result of his excessive drinking. As a result, she decided they would start going to church.

We began going to a church in a city nearby. During an invitation for salvation, the Holy Spirit told me I needed to go forward. I was consumed by a struggle between the desire to go forward and the overwhelming fear of making a spectacle of myself. However, when they gave the alter-call, I couldn’t believe I stood up because I felt like I was paralyzed. It could have been my imagination, but I think they were genuinely surprised that anyone responded. I don’t think that was the usual way people got saved in this church. As they saw that I was coming down the aisle, the pastor announced that the elders should come down and pray for me. As they prayed for me, one by one, I remember being somewhat disappointed that I didn’t “feel” anything (I understand now that it’s by faith and not by feeling, but at that time I was believing for “a feeling”). They
prayed with me until just about everyone had left.

I still remember, after over 40 years, that as I walked down that aisle, leaving that church, the Lord allowed me to feel a weight being lifted off me. I actually felt like I was floating a few inches off the ground. When I got into the car where my adoptive father, stepmom, stepbrother and stepsister were waiting I remember my father saying he was proud of me.

As we went to dinner, I was not able to concentrate fully on the conversation, because all these scriptures came flooding into my spirit. And I understood them! I remember saying to myself: “this is the meaning of life.” I felt great that night.

The next day the onslaught of negativity, fear, and all the rest that I was suffering from before I got saved seemed to double. I had doubt that my experience was real. The enemy attacked with zeal. But the Lord had placed me in that home with my Christian stepmom, who knew the Word; and she encouraged me. Instinctively, I knew there was more that I needed to do; and God began to move me in that direction.
Chapter 3
The Baptism

Jesus said, “…those who hunger and thirst for righteousness shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). There was something in me that knew there was more that God had for me. I was led by that hunger; I was led by that desire. And I desperately needed deliverance from demonic attack. I now realize once we get saved, the devil will change his tact and will do all he can to keep us from becoming established in God.

Not surprisingly, God had a man at my new job that began to witness to me about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He said it was not an immersion in water, but an immersion in the Holy Spirit. Boom! I knew in my “new knower,” that’s for me. I began to learn about the baptism. I devoured all I could find on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, all the scriptures and all the teachings. I was determined that I was going to get this. I tried and I tried with no success, but I was driven. I was driven by desire, but I was also driven by need.

Finally, about a month after the Lord had revealed to me about this precious gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit (maybe about two months after being saved), I found myself in a little church in Paramount, California. It was called Bethel Assembly of God. They were having revival meetings. A “Spirit-filled” woman had befriended my adoptive mom; and while I was visiting with my adoptive mom she told me about the meeting. Well, this was the last night of the revival and guess what the Evangelist was preaching on? You guessed it. The baptism in the Holy Spirit!
I already knew all the scriptures. Many of them had become emblazoned in my mind from repetitive reading. The presence of God was there in a strong way as the Evangelist preached on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The place was packed. When the preacher called for those who would like to receive the baptism to come forward, there was nowhere to go except into the aisle. As I knelt, I lifted my hands and began once again to pray, “Lord, please fill me with Your Spirit.”

I had been trying to speak a few words in tongues that I heard others speak. I was trying so hard, but nothing happened. Then a little old lady came up to me, laid her hand on my shoulder and said, “I have a word from the Lord for you.” She said, “The Lord says you’re trying too hard and to relax and let the Holy Spirit do it.” Those simple words hit me like “a ton of bricks.” Scripture says, “the truth shall set you free” (John 8:32). Immediately, I began to speak in tongues. This time I knew that it was by the unction of the Holy Spirit.

The first thing that happened was that the Holy Spirit got hold of my spirit, that inner man that God had quickened two months before, and gave me a new ability to praise Jesus. This was no ordinary praise; but with every word I said in the Spirit it hit the perfect mark. And every word of praise was received. I wasn’t speaking in English. I was praising in tongues, “the heavenly language.” And somehow I knew what I was saying: “I love You Jesus, thank You for coming into my life, thank You for saving me. I see You in Your glory. You are so beautiful, so wondrous. I see that You are my answer, I see that You are my solution. I love You. You are my God.” It was so satisfying to be able to praise my Savior in a liberty I had never known before. It was as if I was before the throne itself and there were no earthly limitations.
As the Spirit of the Lord began to take me deeper and deeper in this heavenly praise, a fire started in me. It was like someone put a furnace in my inner man. The Lord showed me later that He was purging me of all the accumulated “garbage” (see Matthew 3:12). It was part of a healing within my mind and my spirit.

It was then I had a vision; it was a true vision of biblical proportions. As I was praising in the Spirit, and I was being fire-purged, I saw Jesus. He was standing. At first I thought He was an angel. His robes were whiter than white. His face was like the sun. And yet I could still somehow recognize his features. I soon realized as I was kneeling before Him that it was still Jesus who I was praising. As I continued in this praise of gratitude, it was as if this radiance from Him penetrated my spirit. Though not a word came from His lips, He began to tell me that He loved me; He told me that I had worth, and that He needed me (He wanted me as much as I needed Him; that’s how much He loved me).

There was a heavenly exchange during that time that literally changed my life. It was as if God opened up my heart and poured in a “big pitcher” of love. The garbage was burned away and the void was filled with His love; and He gave me the ability to praise Him without restraint. He healed my mind and He healed my broken heart. I was totally delivered from the attack of the enemy.

I don’t know exactly how long it was, but when I opened my eyes everyone was gone, and I was drenched. I couldn’t have sat under a shower and been as wet. Never again did I doubt the reality of God.
Part 2 The Teaching

Chapter 4
What Is The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience with God in which His Spirit joins with your spirit and allows you to praise God with a fullness and completeness that you would never be able to do without Him and without this encounter.

Baptism literally means: “to be immersed.” To be baptized in the Holy Spirit means to be immersed or surrounded and saturated by the Holy Spirit. It empowers you. It’s another level of experience in the Holy Spirit. It is always accompanied by speaking in tongues, as a sign and as an ability to communicate with God in another way.

When you are saved, you receive the Holy Spirit to believe. In fact, you cannot believe that Jesus is God except the Holy Spirit gives you that revelation.

First Corinthians 12:3, “and no one can say, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ except by the Holy Spirit.”

At this “new birth” you receive His Spirit that guides you into all truth. He is with you and in you. The Bible says you are sealed unto the day of redemption by that Holy Spirit of promise. He allows us to understand His Word by the power of the Holy Spirit. Truly, redemption is complete by the work of the Holy Spirit the day we believe.

The disciples knew that Jesus was Lord. Jesus asked His
disciples, “Who do you say that I am?” and Peter replied, “You are Christ, the Son of the Living God. And Jesus said to him, ‘Blessed are you, Simon Bar-jona, because flesh and blood did not reveal this to you, but My Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 16:17).

They were confessing believers, born again according to the biblical standards, yet Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they received the power that was needed to accomplish the Great Commission.

*Jesus said, “…but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).*

In fact, He commanded them to not even leave Jerusalem until they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

*“Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father promised, ‘Which,’ He said, ‘you heard of from Me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now’” (Acts 1:4-5).*

On that appointed day, which happened to be the Jewish Feast of Pentecost, they received power to be witnesses. That is the express reason they needed another level of God’s Spirit. They had a big job ahead of them and they needed God’s dynamis power (“dynamite” power) to do it.

Incidentally, we see later on in Acts 17:6 that the Holy Spirit’s power had been displayed in a strong way after the day of Pentecost because the rulers in Thessalonica said, “These that have turned the world upside-down are come hither also.”
In Acts 2:1-4, as the 120 that were obedient to what Jesus had commanded were in the “upper room,” the very first baptism in the Holy Spirit was “poured out.”

Acts 2:1-4, “When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

Peter stood up on that day and proclaimed, “Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself” (Acts 2:39).
Chapter 5
How Do You Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

God desires that we receive all that He has for us at any given time. It is in this place where we say, “God, I want all that You have for me,” that He begins to make plans for this to happen. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is no different in receiving than deliverance from a hindrance in our life, a healing we need, or a “miracle” that needs to happen in an acute situation. In God, it is all by faith.

“And without faith it is impossible to please God” (Hebrews 11:6).

When I began seeking the Lord for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I literally absorbed everything about it: what people told me about the experience and what the Bible said about it. I read books about it; I was hungry and desperate for the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul said, “…desire earnestly spiritual gifts…” (1 Corinthians 14:1). With this in mind, I have attempted to delineate six distinct steps to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Step 1: You Must Be Born Again

Jesus said you must be “…born of water and the Spirit” (John 3:5). What He literally was saying is there are two births: there is a natural birth and a spiritual birth. You must be born of both to see the Kingdom of God.
Paul says, “That if you confess with your mouth, ‘Jesus is Lord,’ and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation” (Romans 10:9-10).

When you do what the Bible says, the Holy Spirit comes to be with you and dwells in you. When He resides in you, He brings all that you need to begin to live the successful Christian life. At the moment of belief and confession, God begins to renew your character. In Galatians 5:22-23 it says, “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control...” When we receive Christ, God immediately begins to develop these qualities in us. Given time and effort we develop the fruit of the Spirit. If the Holy Spirit was not dwelling in you it would be impossible for you to learn or display these Godly attributes. On the other hand, it is after salvation that you become a candidate to see spiritual gifts come to fruition in your life.

Salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are two distinct works of the Holy Spirit. An example of this is in Acts, chapters 10 and 11, where it explains what happened in the house of Cornelius. God spoke to Peter by a vision and showed him a sheet full of things that Peter as a Hebrew would never eat. But the Lord told him three times to “kill and eat” (Acts 10:13).

At the same time, an angel also spoke to Cornelius telling him to send for Peter because he had a “message” for him. So Peter went and told Cornelius everything the Lord had commanded him to share concerning the gospel (Acts 10:22, 33).

Now Cornelius was a Gentile, and to this point the good news of salvation was only preached to the Jews. But Peter was
obedient to the Holy Spirit and to the vision God had given him. And he went and preached the gospel to the whole house of Cornelius. They believed what was preached, were born again, and immediately were baptized in the Holy Spirit. Peter wasn’t even finished preaching God’s plan, revealing the scriptures concerning Jesus, and explaining the cross, that they believed.

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as He did upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ Therefore, if God gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also, after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?” (Acts 11:15-17, emphasis added)

“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God…” (Acts 10:44-46).

Salvation and the baptism in the Holy Spirit, in this instance, occurred one right after the other. I have heard testimonies of this happening to some. But more often than not, we receive salvation and then after a time, when we begin to hunger for more of God, we receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. But whether it’s at the point of belief, or weeks, months, or even years after we believe, you must be born again to receive the Holy Spirit baptism from God.

**Step 2: You Desire**

The scripture says that we should “desire earnestly spiritual gifts” (1 Corinthians 14:1). In James 1:17 it says, “Every
good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming
down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation
or shifting shadow.” The baptism in the Holy Spirit is definite-
ly a gift from heaven. We should desire that gift. The Word of
God says that “those who hunger and thirst after righteousness
shall be filled.” The Bible promises that He will bless you with
the desires of your heart. Jesus taught He will give you the
godly things you desire.

“Delight yourself in the Lord; and He will give you the
desires of your heart. Commit your way to the Lord, trust also
in Him, and He will do it” (Psalm 37:4-5).

“Therefore I say unto you, ‘what things soever ye desire,
when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have
them’” (Mark 11:24, KJV).

Desire an encounter with Jesus, rather than an experi-
ence in speaking in tongues. Being baptized in the Holy Spirit
is all about praising Jesus. The encounter we seek is an ability
to praise Him with the help of the Holy Spirit.

Step 3: You Learn

You need to have faith when trying to receive anything
from God, including the baptism in the Holy Spirit. And faith
comes by hearing (learning) the Word of God (Romans 10:17).
The scripture says we perish because of a “lack of knowledge”
(Hosea 4:6). We can miss out on “God blessings” because of a
lack of knowledge. You must educate yourselves about the bap-
tism in the Holy Spirit so you know what the scriptures say
about it.

Additionally, it is helpful to memorize and rehearse
scriptures over and over again. They need to find a way from
your head down into your heart. That’s where they become effective. We can be so slow to understand; but if we are diligent in His Word, He will reward us. What’s more, the enemy does not want us receiving gifts from God. We must, therefore, arm ourselves with the mighty Word of God and do battle until His Word gets down into our spirit man and makes the difference.

Step 4: You Ask

With anything in God, you must ask. “You have not, because you ask not.” Jesus said in John 14:13-14, “Whatever you ask in My name, that will I do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me anything in My name, I will do it.” God is just waiting for us to ask so He can respond.

“So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; and he who seeks, finds; and to him who knocks, it will be opened” (Luke 11:9-10).

Step 5: You Develop Faith

The scriptures say that faith comes by hearing the Word of God. It is important to emphasize that “by hearing” it means “to receive a revelation about it.” We develop faith by meditating on the revelation of God’s Word. The more that you study the scriptures concerning the baptism in the Holy Spirit the more faith will well up in you to believe for it. The Holy Spirit Himself will teach you and He will apply the faith you need by revealing the Word of God to you.

“How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the path of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers! But his delight is in the law of the Lord, and in
His law he meditates day and night. He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in its season and its leaf does not wither; and in whatever he does, he prospers” (Psalm 1:1-3).

**Step 6: You Receive; By Faith You Begin To Speak**

Many people stumble when they are in the receiving mode. They praise God in their language (English, Spanish, etc.) and they wait for the “lightning bolt” to fall. They are waiting for the Holy Spirit to fall on them and take over their tongue. I’ve seen the Holy Spirit come upon people to baptize them; and they wait and wait and wait, and the anointing to baptize with the Holy Spirit leaves. Why? It is because God always responds to faith.

“As He entered a village, ten leprous men who stood at a distance met Him; and they raised their voices, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ When He saw them, He said to them, “go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they were going, they were cleansed” (Luke 17:12-14, emphasis added).

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit is not the same as being healed of leprosy but they both require faith. More often than not, you must try to begin to speak in the heavenly language (tongues) by faith. When the anointing comes to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, you will know He is doing it.

It might be awhile before you “feel” like it’s the Holy Spirit and not you. You might even have to go through that process a number of times. You might have to be persistent until you come to the place where God needs you to be, to receive. As the apostle Peter said, “don’t be weary in well doing” (Galatians 6:9).
When seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, don’t be afraid to openly express your praise, emotions and feelings to God. Don’t hold back anything. If you’re afraid that someone might hear you praising the Lord, that fear will be a hindrance to you receiving because the Holy Spirit responds to faith, not fear.

I was determined to receive the baptism; and I would not give up on it. I went “to the altar” a number of times. I spoke words that I heard others speak when they were speaking in tongues (not a bad idea), but I did not receive. I did not give up. Finally, God gave me a “Word of Knowledge” through this gentle old godly woman. She said, “Relax. You’re trying too hard. Just relax and let the Holy Spirit do it.”

God knows our heart better than we do. If you don’t give up, He will show you what to do. Believe me, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is important enough that you should never give up until you receive. You ask, “how will I know that I have received?” You will know!! You will know for sure!! And if you don’t, you need to continue pursuing the Holy Spirit until you know in “your knower.”

One last note: I want to encourage you that when you are being baptized in the Holy Spirit be mindful not to quit too soon. I advise you, while under the baptism anointing, that you get all you can get. I especially believe if you stop before you feel God’s fire, you may not be getting all that God intended you to have. John the Baptist said under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit that Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire.
Chapter 6
Seven Answers About The Holy Spirit Baptism

Is The Baptism In The Holy Spirit From God?

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is from God. When we pray we should not fear that the experience is from anywhere except straight from God’s throne room.

When you are being baptized in the Holy Spirit, you are praising Jesus; you are exalting Him as God. In fact, you are given the ability to do it more so than ever before. The truth is the Holy Spirit gets a hold of your spirit and in union you praise God in the heavenly language. That is perfectly scriptural.

“I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not see Him or know Him, but you know Him because He abides with you and will be in you” (John 14:16-17).

If you ask God for the baptism in the Holy Spirit, He will not give you some other spirit.

In Luke 11:11-13, Jesus said, “Now suppose one of you fathers is asked by his son for a fish; he will not give him a snake instead of a fish, will he? Or if he is asked for an egg, he will not give him a scorpion, will he? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”
Where Does The Holy Spirit Baptism Come From?

The anointing comes from within. The seed (the potential) was planted by the Holy Spirit at the new birth. When the anointing comes to baptize with the Holy Spirit, it comes from within. The experience may even feel like it’s coming from without, but remember that the Holy Spirit Himself is always connected to heaven but still lives within you. And then the Holy Spirit begins to flow from within-outward, as the scripture in John 7:38 says, “He who believes in Me…from his innermost being will flow rivers of living water.”

Is The Holy Spirit Baptism For Today?

Some say that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was only for that short period of time during the book of Acts. I have personally never run across a scripture reference that has even faintly alluded to that possibility. It is just a theory; and it’s a theory born in unbelief. The things that Jesus lived and died for us to receive are like a rock solid foundation. Paul said that Jesus Christ “is the same yesterday, today and forever.”

The Bible also says that God is not a respecter of persons. What he did for those people recorded in the book of Acts He will do for us if we only believe. Like the unbelieving Israelites who failed to enter the Promised Land, those who don’t believe God’s promises are for today will fail to enter into all that God has prepared for them in this life.

Where Do You Receive The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?

The Bible says, “…where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17). You don’t have to be in a church to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. All you need is a place where you can praise God. The Word says that God inhabits the praises of His people. You need to be somewhere
you won’t be distracted. You want to avail yourself to God fully so that he can pour out on you all that He desires. So you need your mind, your spirit and your body focused on Jesus and nothing else.

**Is Speaking In Tongues The Evidence Of Receiving The Baptism In The Holy Spirit?**

*Mark 16:15-17 says, “these signs will accompany those who have believed: In My name they shall cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues…”*

There are five examples in the book of Acts about believers being baptized in the Holy Spirit that give evidence that the initial sign of the Holy Spirit baptism is speaking in tongues.

The first account of the Holy Spirit baptism is in Acts 2:1-4 when the 120 were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. Verse 4 says, “And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.”

The 120 were believers in Christ. They had already received Christ as the Messiah and confessed with their mouth and with their actions that He was Lord. They were born again. In the Pentecost account we see they received power to go forth and “turn the world upside-down.” The primary sign when they received this baptism in the Holy Spirit was speaking in tongues. In this case, it was somewhat unique because they knew Jesus in the flesh and then they knew Him in the Spirit. Nevertheless, they were candidates to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit because they believed on Him.
The second example is in Acts 8:12-19. It is the account of Philip going to Samaria to preach the gospel.

“But when they believed Philip, as he proclaimed the good news about the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized” (Acts 8:12).

The scripture says in Acts 8:14-17, “Now when the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent them Peter and John, who came down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For He had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.”

We see that they had received the Word of God and were baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus, so they were born again. But they had not been baptized in the Holy Spirit because it says “He had not fallen upon any of them.” So, when Peter and John laid hands on them they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The book of Acts says, “Now when Simon saw that the Spirit was bestowed through the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money, saying, ‘Give this authority to me as well, so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit’” (Acts 8:18).

The Bible doesn’t directly speak about tongues in this instance; but in this story Simon the Sorcerer saw something that impressed him greatly because he wanted to purchase the ability to lay hands on people so that they would receive the Holy Spirit.

Since Simon witnessed something really amazing when
these people were baptized in the Holy Spirit, it is reasonable to deduce that the sign of speaking in tongues was probably what impressed Simon so much.

The third instance in scripture of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is with the conversion of Saul (Paul). Saul was going to Damascus with letters of accusation to imprison believers when Jesus spoke to him.

“As he was traveling, it happened that he was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him; and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me?’ And he said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And He said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting, but get up and enter the city, and it will be told you what you must do’” (Acts 9:3-6).

Paul heard the voice of Jesus, believed Him and was obedient to His Word; he went into the city and waited. At this point Paul is saved; he is acting in belief.

The Lord had spoken to a disciple named Ananias in a vision, and told him to go to Saul and lay hands on him so that he would receive his sight; and that he would receive the Holy Spirit (Saul was blinded during his conversion).

The account in scripture says, “So Ananias departed and entered the house, and after laying his hands on him said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus who appeared to you on the road by which you were coming, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ And immediately there fell from his eyes something like scales, and he regained his sight, and he got up and was baptized’” (Acts 9:17-18).

It is safe to infer here that when Paul received the Holy
Spirit by the laying on of hands, he was baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues because it is later on in scripture that Paul says, “I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all” (1 Corinthians 14:18).

The forth example of the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) baptism is in Acts, chapter 10. Peter had been sent to the household of Cornelius and in the midst of his message the Holy Spirit “fell” on them, and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

*Acts 10:44-48 explains it this way: “While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God. Then Peter answered, ‘Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he?’ And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.”*

They believed while he was preaching and immediately were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and magnified God.

The fifth account of believers being baptized in the Holy Spirit is recorded in Acts, chapter 19. When Paul was traveling through Ephesus, he encountered some disciples and asked them if they received the Holy Spirit since they believed. They replied that they had not even heard about this Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2).

“One asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ and they replied, ‘John’s baptism.’ Paul then explained that John the Baptist’s baptism was for repentance, and that they should
believe in the One coming after him, that is, Jesus. They were then baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Acts 19:3-5).

And when they had thus confessed their trust and belief in Jesus (were saved) and were baptized in water (baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus), Paul placed his hands on them; and they were baptized in the Holy Spirit because they heard them speak in tongues.

“When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking with tongues and prophesying. There were in all about twelve men” (Acts 19:5-7).

The Difference Between Speaking In Tongues And The Gift Of Tongues

First Corinthians 14:1-5, “Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.”

I would like to make a distinction here, as Paul does in the aforementioned scriptures, between the “Gift of Tongues” and the “Heavenly Tongues” that God gifts us with when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit and fire. Paul says that prophetic
utterances are superior because they minister to the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit will speak through us (by the prophet-ic) to men, for edification (building them up), exhortation (encouraging them on) and consolation (comforting and guiding them).

Note in verse five that Paul wishes that “you all spoke in tongues.” He then says that it is greater, however, to prophesy than to speak in tongues except when there is an interpretation of the tongues. There are “prophetic tongues” that are coupled with an interpretation and is equally effective in edifying the church as is prophesy. Then there is that tongue whereby we “do not speak to men but to God.” These tongues are the personal heavenly tongue that God gives us when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Paul says that when we speak in tongues we edify ourselves. When the Holy Spirit is present, He always edifies (makes us strong). It is good to edify ourselves, but even better to edify the church. So, we must earnestly desire the Holy Spirit who is the giver of all “spiritual gifts.”

Paul did say, “not all speak with tongues” (1 Corinthians 12:30); but he said it in the context of the spiritual gifts mentioned in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. Those tongues are “prophetic tongues” and it should be followed by an interpretation for the edification of the body (church).

The tongues that come as a result of being baptized in the Holy Spirit are definitely a gift but it is not the “Gift of Tongues” listed among the nine spiritual gifts that Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians, chapter 12.

**Why We Should Pray In Tongues**

When we feel weak spiritually or when the enemy comes with an attack, that is the time to use your heavenly language. It edifies, builds up, what the enemy is trying to tear down.
Paul said, “I speak in tongues more than you all.” Paul was not so different from us that the enemy did not try to discourage him, lie to him, and try to divert the mighty thing that God was doing through him. I believe the greater the call, the greater the attack the devil will try to mount; and, therefore, the more we need to “pray in the Spirit.” Mighty men and women of God know enough not to speak the negativity that comes from the devil or give credence to it; but it does not mean that they are so close to God that the enemy cannot attack them. Paul became strong through attack. And I believe one way he remained that way was “I speak in tongues more than you all.”

When we pray in the Spirit we will be more “spiritually minded.” In Jude 1:20 scripture says, “But you, dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.” As you pray in tongues you bypass the mind. And the Holy Spirit who is in you, who knows you more intimately than you even know yourself, makes all your needs known to God. When a believer prays in tongues it is not his mind praying but his spirit.

First Corinthians 14:14-15, “For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also.”

If you are praying in tongues, you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit because speaking in tongues is the evidence. When you are praying in tongues it is a prayer that comes from your spirit, not your mind. You bypass your mind and pray directly from your spirit. What makes it so effective is the Holy Spirit, who knows the deepest secrets of our hearts (innermost being, spirit), helps our spirit connect with God.
Second Corinthians 5:11 says, “Having in mind, then, the fear of the Lord, we put these things before men, but God sees our hearts; and it is my hope that we may seem right in your eyes” (basic English Bible, emphasis added).

And Romans 8:26 says, “…for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words…” As we pray from our spirit the Holy Spirit who is our helper makes known our needs and the needs of others. I believe the Holy Spirit then communicates answers to our spirit that edify and build us up spiritually.
APPENDIX: Baptism Scriptures To Memorize

Here are a number of scriptures that are specifically about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You should read them; meditate on them. There may be several that strike a chord in your spirit; memorize those. As you speak out these promises of God concerning you, they will surely find fertile ground in your heart; and, before you know it, when you ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit that “…out of your belly shall flow rivers of living water” (John 7:38).

1. Matthew 3:11, “I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”

2. Mark 16:17, “And these signs shall follow those who believe: In My name they will drive out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well.”

3. Luke 11:11-13, “Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”
4. **John 1:33**, “I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is He who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’”

5. **John 7:37-38**, “…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).

6. **Acts 1:4-5**, “…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.’”

7. **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.”

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

9. **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, even as many as our Lord God shall call.”
10. Acts 8:14-19, “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the Word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles’ hands, he offered them money and said, ‘Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit.’”

11. Acts 9:17-19, “Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on Saul, he said, ‘Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here, has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the Holy Spirit.’ Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he could see again. He got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength.”

12. 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.

13. Acts 11:16, “Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’”

14. Acts 19:2-7, “…there he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘no, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ ‘John’s baptism,’ they replied. Paul said, ‘John’s
baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all.”

15. 1 Corinthians 14:2, “For anyone who speaks in an unknown tongue does not speak to men but to God.”

16. 1 Corinthians 14:4-5, “He who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.”

17. 1 Corinthians 14:18, “I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.”

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

19. 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.”

20. James 3:5, “Likewise the tongue is a small part of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue is also a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole person, sets the whole course of his life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell” (that’s why God gives us spiritual tongues).

22. Isaiah 28:11, “Indeed, He will speak to this people through stammering lips and a foreign tongue.”

23. Joel 2:28, “And afterward, I will pour out My Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions.”