



UNDERSTANDING THE BAPTISM

*in
the*

HOLY SPIRIT

by Lisa Comes

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...

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."

ACTS 1:4-5, 8

1

Jesus makes it clear that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation and water baptism.

In salvation, every believer is born again by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit dwells in us. Ephesians 1:13 says, *When you believed, you were marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.* A seal in Bible days represented ownership. The Holy Spirit in us represents the fact that we belong to God.

Therefore, if you are saved, you do not have to seek the Holy Spirit's indwelling presence because He lives and abides in you. However, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation that every believer should seek and receive.

John the Baptist said in 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 worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

On the Day of Pentecost, Peter said in Acts 2:38–39, *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. This promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.*

2

Jesus makes it clear that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift to you from the Father.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is one of many gifts that God has given us.

We should receive and partake of every gift God has given us. We do not have to be afraid of any gift that God wants to give us. James 1:17 says, *Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father...*

Gifts from God

The gift of salvation
Ephesians 2:8

The gift of righteousness
Romans 5:17

The gift of eternal life
Romans 6:23

The gifts of the Spirit
1 Corinthians 12:7–11

The five-fold Ministry Gifts
Ephesians 4:11

The gift of the Holy Spirit
Acts 1:4

When you receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you receive a supernatural language and a supernatural power.

3

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 tongues as the Spirit enabled them. Acts 2:1–4

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Acts 19:1–6

With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all. Acts 4:33

The apostles performed many signs and wonders among the people...Crowds gathered also from the towns around Jerusalem, bringing their sick and those tormented by impure spirits, and all of them were healed. Acts 5:12–16

The Bible gives several reasons why it is important for believers to pray in tongues.

4

When you pray in tongues, you pray directly to God from your spirit. This is your own personal prayer language in which you can pray and communicate with God. *For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit.* 1 Corinthians 14:2

When you pray in tongues, you are spiritually edified and strengthened. *He who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves...* 1 Corinthians 14:4

When you pray in tongues, you magnify and praise God from your spirit. *For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.* Acts 10:46 (New King James Bible). *Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.* John 4:23–24

When you pray in tongues, you pray Spirit-directed prayers. The Holy Spirit directs your prayers according to the perfect will of God. *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with the will of God.* Romans 8:26–27

5

Five steps to receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Step 1. You must be born again. *John 3:3 & Acts 2:38*

Step 2. You must believe that it is for you. *Acts 2:39 & Acts 2:17-18*

Step 3. You must desire the gift of the Holy Spirit. *John 7:37-39*

Step 4. You must ask for it. *Luke 11:13*

Step 5. You must do the speaking. *Acts 2:4 & Isaiah 28:11-12*

The Holy Spirit will not talk through your mouth. You will do the speaking. You will sense the Holy Spirit giving you the utterance, but you have to take a step of faith and speak forth what the Holy Spirit gives you in tongues. It may sound strange to you, but allow that supernatural language to flow out of you.

You have to remember that you cannot speak two languages at one time. Begin to worship God out of your heart in your own language, and then stop speaking your native language and begin speaking in tongues. Pray in your prayer language every day.

6

There is a difference between the Gift of Tongues and a believer's personal prayer language.

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit...To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a 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 12:4, 8-11

The Gift of Tongues is one of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit that is given to believers as the Spirit determines. It is when the Holy Spirit gives a believer a message in tongues to a congregation or body of believers, and it is always accompanied by the Gift of Interpretation of Tongues. The same person or another person will understand what the Holy Spirit is saying and will speak the interpretation. It is not a direct translation, but an interpretation. It should always strengthen, encourage, and comfort believers. Every believer can have their own personal prayer language in which they can speak in tongues, but not every believer functions in the Gift of Tongues. (See 1 Corinthians 14.)

Characteristics of the Gift of Tongues

- Spoken to man
- The message is understood
- It edifies the Church
- Interpretation is needed
- It's a sign to unbelievers

Characteristics of Prayer Language

- Spoken to God
- Speaks mysteries
- Edifies the speaker
- There is no interpretation
- For believers