

## Session 3

# MINISTERING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## STUDY CENTER

**Acts 1:8, But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:**

This verse indicates clearly to us that the moment we receive the tangible power of God in our lives is after the Holy Spirit comes upon us. So the first question to answer is, when and how does the Holy Spirit come upon you?

Well, before we begin, let's first list the **KEY SCRIPTURES** from the book of Acts that pertain to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit experience. You should learn them for easy reference. We will refer to them repeatedly throughout this lesson.

- Acts 1:8
- Acts 2:1-4
- Acts 2:32-33
- Acts 2:38-39
- Acts 8:14-16, 21

- Acts 9:17 (1 Cor. 14:18)
- Acts 10:44-48
- Acts 11:15-18
- Acts 19:1-6

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *What is it?*

*Acts 1:5, For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*

The word *baptized*, comes from a Greek word 'baptizo' which means to become submersed, thrust under, or soaked. Being baptized with the Holy Spirit is different from water baptism because instead of being submersed in water, we are submersed in the Spirit of God and His supernatural power!

The Bible uses many phrases to describe the baptism of the Holy Ghost/Spirit. It also uses '*received the Holy Ghost*' (Acts 2:38), '*filled with the Holy Spirit*' (Acts 2:4) or '*the Holy Spirit fell on them*' (Acts 10:44).

Regardless of the phrase used to describe it, each Bible example of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit brought the same result. ***They were completely submersed in the Spirit of God, received a supernatural impartation of power and they all spoke in other tongues.***

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *A Separate Experience From the New Birth*

Many teach that the new birth experience is when you receive all of the Holy Spirit there is to receive.

However, according to Acts 1:8 above, Jesus speaks to His disciples about this being an event that had not yet occurred. Notice Jesus said to them, "***ye shall receive.***" He did not say, "you have already received."

Let's go back to the verses in the book of John that many have used to say that when you are saved/born-again, you received all the Holy Spirit there is.

John 20:20-23, *20And when he had so said, he showed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad,*

*when they saw the Lord. 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost. 23 Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose-soever sins ye retain, they are retained.*

First let's look at the context of what was happening here. The setting indicates this to be a moment when the disciples received salvation for five reasons:

1. *They saw the Lord* (vs. 20). They "**saw**" or received a revelation of the Lord for the first time as the Risen Savior. When Jesus showed them His hands and side, they were glad to see Him. Salvation is when we truly "see" the crucified and Risen Lord with gladness.
2. *Jesus extended peace to them* (vs. 21). Jesus was our way to have peace with God and be saved from His judgment. This happens at salvation.
3. *He breathed on them* (vs. 22). On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Holy Spirit came like a wind of power that saturated. Here He came on them in a soft breath. This speaks of a lesser measure that caused the new-birth, while Pentecost spoke of a fullness that brought power.
4. *Here Jesus imparted the Holy Spirit, not the Father* (vs.22). Acts 1:4, clearly stated that the Holy Spirit's coming was a promise or gift from the Father. Here Jesus was the one who imparted this first/initial experience of the Holy Spirit. This seems to speak of Jesus as the way of salvation, while Pentecost speaks of the Father as the source of power and the miraculous (John 14:10).



### MORE SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES

*The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not only SEPARATE from the new birth, but it COMES AFTER the new birth.*

- *Acts 8:14-16—Samaria receives the Holy Spirit after they received the message of salvation.*
- *Acts 9:6&17—Saul (Paul) receives the Holy Spirit after he meets Jesus on the road to Damascus.*
- *Acts 10:2, 33, 44—Cornelius is a devout man, who readily receives the word of salvation and afterwards receives the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.*
- *Acts 19:1-2—Certain DISCIPLES receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit after they believed.*

The baptism of the Holy Spirit is obviously a separate experience from the new birth, otherwise we would be left to believe that the early disciples were not born-again Christians until the Day of Pentecost. Acts 1, leads us to believe they were already saved (Acts 1:14).

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *It Did Not End or Pass Away!*

Not only is the baptism of the Holy Spirit a separate experience from the new birth, but this experience of power did

## MINISTERING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (cont...)

not pass away or cease when the Bible was written, as some groups have taught.

*Acts 2:38-39, 38...Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.*

Here the baptism of the Holy Spirit is referred to as a gift. Now this verse doesn't sound like that gift is ever going to end while earth continues does it? No, it is for us, our children, and generations to come. It is literally for every-one who is a born-again child of God!

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *Speaking in Tongues, Is The Initial Evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.*

Many have been taught that anyone can be baptized with the Holy Spirit, but not everyone will speak with tongues. They say that speaking in tongues is only for a select few. Again, let's go back to the Bible and use it as our pattern for today.

First we will find that every instance in Scripture in which people received the Holy Spirit, states or gives the indication that they spoke with tongues.

1. Acts 2:4— *"...they were all filled...and began to speak with other tongues"*

2. Acts 8:8,14-17,19 & 21— The people of Samaria received the Word of God for salvation. Then they received the Holy Spirit afterwards. Did they speak in tongues? Well, it doesn't say specifically, but there is good indication that they did. In verse 19, that Simon the sorcerer also wanted that power. Remember Acts 1:8? You shall receive power! He knew they had something supernatural! Yet, how did he know the Holy Spirit fell? He had to see some kind of sign that convinced him because you can't see the Holy Spirit physically. Now, can you think of the visible sign in all other biblical accounts? It was speaking in tongues! Why would this case be different?

So, did Simon see them speaking in tongues? Well, in verse 21, Peter rebukes this evil sorcerer for wanting to "purchase" the power of God. So he tells Simon *"Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter."* It is interesting that the word "matter" in the Greek, according to Strong's Concordance also means "utterance." So did Simon see the people of Samaria speak in tongues? More than likely he did!

3. Acts 9:17-19—Saul (Paul) receives the baptism of the Holy Spirit, but there is *no* indication he spoke with tongues. However, 1 Corinthians 14:18, says Paul was very happy to be a tongue-talker! So when did he start speaking in tongues? Well, to stay consistent with so many other accounts in the Bible, it is safe to say that Paul started speaking in tongues on the day he was filled with the Holy Spirit in Acts 9:17.

4. Acts. 10:44-46—Cornelius' house was baptized with the Holy Spirit. In fact, later when Peter describes the event in Acts 11:15-17, he compares it to what he and the others experienced on the Day of Pentecost—the outpouring or the gift of the Holy Ghost! What was the evidence the people in the house of Cornelius had been baptized with the Holy Spirit? V.44...*for they heard them speak with tongues."*

5. Acts 19:1-6—When Paul ministered to the group of disciples he met on the road near Ephesus, they were filled with the Holy Spirit and immediately began to speak with tongues.

## SPEAKING IN TONGUES: What is it?

- *It is a supernatural/heavenly language one receives when they are baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit.*
- *It is a REAL and legitimate language, spoken to God. (1 Cor. 14:2)*
- *One cannot "learn" the language of speaking in tongues. The words are supernatural and come from the Holy Spirit. (Rom 8:26, Acts 2:4)*
- *Your mind may not know what you are saying when you speak in tongues. (1 Cor. 14:14)*
- *Speaking in tongues is also referred to as 'praying in the spirit'. (1Cor. 14:14-15)*
- *You can sing in tongues. (1 Cor. 14:15)*
- *Tongues may sound like a defined language, or they may sound like groans, or other utterances. (Romans 8:26)*

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: *If you speak in tongues, does it always need an interpretation?*

Many have learned that if you speak in tongues, at any time, whether in public or in private, that it always requires an interpretation. They think that is what Paul meant as described throughout 1 Corinthians 14, and particularly in verses 27 & 28 (READ).

However, if Paul meant that all speaking in tongues requires an interpretation, then every story in the book of Acts had something missing! They forgot to interpret! Furthermore, in Paul's teaching in these two verses, he states that one person should act as the interpreter. In other words, the one speaking in tongues is not the one doing the interpreting. So according to this teaching, if you cannot interpret your own tongues when alone, you had better not speak in tongues for fear of error!

This is simply not true, the context of Paul's instruction was entirely in reference to the public and local assembly or church meeting. It did not refer to the private use of speaking in tongues. Paul was teaching them how to use the gift of tongues in an orderly way in a public meeting

Yet, some would say, *"That's right, if you go to a church and hear everyone speaking in tongues all at once, it is out of order, according to Paul!"*

Well if that was the case, then the disciples who spoke in tongues all at once (Acts 19:6) were out of line. So were the disciples on the day of Pentecost *because they didn't have an interpretation either!* *"Yes, but didn't the people nearby hear them in their own native languages? That means there was an interpretation!"* Wait a moment, we don't read anywhere that the disciples in the upper room deliberately interpreted at all, the way Paul taught it. No, instead they just spoke in tongues and people heard.

They didn't interpret, but instead the Holy Spirit enabled some of the surrounding people to know what they were saying (Acts 2:6-11). However, not all the people present understood their tongues. Some who heard them thought they were just babbling drunk (Acts 2:13). It doesn't appear that the Holy Spirit was determined that everyone present understood their tongues as they were all speaking out together.

In most cases, our speaking in tongues is used just the way the disciples used it on the Day of Pentecost and in

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other accounts in the book of Acts. It is for self-edification and to lift our voice to God in prayer or worship (1Cor. 14:2, 4). This can be done whether you are alone or with others in a group setting (as many in the Bible did). Think of it as being the same as when we all lift our voices to God as a group in worship and prayer in our normal language.

**The entire context of 1 Corinthians 14, was to teach order in a public setting when someone stands up to give a message in tongues specifically directed to the congregation.** Then you need an interpretation so the hearers can receive and act upon what God is saying.

### SPEAKING IN TONGUES: 10 Benefits (Kenneth E. Hagin)

1. **It is the initial sign of the baptism.** Acts 2:4
2. **It edifies/strengthens you spiritually.** 1 Cor. 14:4  
**It builds your faith.** Jude 20
3. **It helps you pray for the unknown.** Rom. 8:26
4. **It helps you pray in line with the will of God.** Rom. 8:27
5. **It helps you to keep a pure mind.** 1 Cor. 14:14
6. **It broadens your ability to worship God.** Acts 10:46
7. **It opens the door to other gifts of the Spirit.** Acts 19:6, 1 Cor. 12:8-10
8. **It refreshes you.** Isaiah 28:11-12
9. **It Reminds you of the Holy Spirit's presence.** John 14:16-17
10. **It provides a way to communicate with God inside yourself anytime or place.** 1 Cor. 14:28

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: What Does It Mean To Tarry For the Holy Spirit?

Some teach that when Jesus told His disciples to go and tarry in the city of Jerusalem in order to "wait" for the promise of the Holy Spirit (see Luke 24:49 & Acts 1:4), that this indicated that we also have to "wait" or "tarry" to receive the Holy Spirit today. They say that everyone who is seeking to be filled, must first ask, then "wait." Then they will only receive at a special, probably unexpected time, decided by the Holy Spirit. However, we can see that this is not an accurate biblical teaching for two simple reasons:

1. In both verses Jesus not only told them to wait or tarry, but He specifically told them to do their waiting in the city of Jerusalem. If we are to follow Jesus' exact directions to "tarry" or "wait" for the Holy Spirit, then we would have to do so in Jerusalem too!
2. The disciples only had to wait in this instance because the Day of Pentecost (Holy Spirit's coming to earth) had not yet come at that time. Once that day arrived, after Acts 2:4, everyone was able to receive instantly. We see this is true in all other Bible accounts of the baptism of the Holy Spirit that we studied earlier.

### RECEIVING & MINISTERING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Here are several simple steps you can use to help someone receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, similar to how many helped people receive in the book of Acts.

1. **Make sure they are a Christian, and have made Jesus their Lord and Savior.** For many it is helpful to ask them if they are sure they are saved. Some struggle to receive, simply because they are not sure they are even right with God.

2. **Encourage them that this is a biblical promise God wants them to have.** In Acts 2:38-39, Peter encouraged the hearers on the Day of Pentecost that this promise was for them and their children and it is still for us today. (James 1:17, Hebrews 13:8)

3. **Let them know they are receiving the Holy Spirit, not just tongues.** Speaking in tongues is only the evidence of the Holy Spirit filling them. However, the focus is the Holy Spirit and His power filling their life, not just speaking in tongues only.

4. **Lead them in a prayer.** Truthfully, in most Scriptural examples, people didn't pray an actual prayer to receive, but they did need to exercise their faith and be expectant to receive. Often repeating a prayer helps people use their faith for receiving.

### Sample Prayer to Receive the Holy Spirit:

*Father, I thank you that I am your child, I know You have promised that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a promise for me. Holy Spirit*

*I ask You to fill me now. I expect to speak in other tongues now, just as those in the Bible spoke in tongues. I thank You for it now Holy Spirit! In Jesus' Name, Amen!*

5. **Pray for them and lay hands on them.** You may want to lay your hands on them and pray for them to receive and gently say "receive the Holy Spirit". Found in so many of our *Key Scriptures* (see page 1), we find the disciples laying hands on the recipients. However, in some cases they did not. The Holy Spirit just fell on them.

6. **Tell them to expect to speak in tongues.** Some are more confident and will instantly start speaking out in tongues. Others need encouraging. Remind them gently that although the Holy Spirit forms the language, THEY have to do the talking. It often helps to have them open their mouth and move their tongue and stop any speaking in their natural language. Sometimes they will hear in their heart or "mind" unusual syllables or sounds. Tell them to speak them out without worrying how they sound. It helps if you also start speaking in tongues along with them.

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: Helping people overcome any fears about the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

#### CAN I ACCIDENTALLY RECEIVE A "WRONG" OR "EVIL SPIRIT", INSTEAD OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

You don't have to worry about getting a "wrong" spirit or a demon instead of the Holy Spirit. *Luke 11:11-13 says, "If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"*

#### WHAT IF I DON'T SPEAK IN TONGUES?

If you don't seem to "hear" any syllables in your heart, be bold enough to just move your mouth and make sounds. *Isaiah 28:11 says, "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people."* The experience is different for everyone, so if your lips just seem to babble or stammer at first this is okay. **Remember every person's experience may not be exactly the same!**

#### ARE THE "TONGUES" FAKE OR JUST IN MY MIND?

Remember that when you speak in tongues, it is YOU who does the speaking, while the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. *Acts 19:6 says, "and THEY spake with tongues..."* Who spoke? They did! Yes, it will sound like you and you will hear the words in your mind too, while the Holy Spirit is forming those sounds into a powerful and supernatural language!

# MINISTERING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## WORK CENTER

### STUDY QUESTIONS

1. From memory, list the key scriptures from the book of Acts.

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2. List two reasons it is not biblical to “tarry” for the Holy Spirit.

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3. In what verse does the Bible say Paul spoke in tongues? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Can you say from memory Acts 2:1-4? Write it here. \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What verse in the Bible tells us that the baptism of the Holy Spirit didn't end or pass away? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What verse in the Bible tells us that we never have to fear receiving anything but the Holy Spirit when we ask? \_\_\_\_\_

7. Discuss here why we know that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate experience from salvation? Give Scripture. \_\_\_\_\_

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8. From memory, can you recite the 10 benefits of speaking in tongues?

## Section 3

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# MINISTERING THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

## ACTIVATION CENTER

### EXERCISE 1

- Have one or more volunteers see if they can list the key scriptures from the book of Acts about the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Just list the references and give a basis of what they are about (do not quote them word for word).

### EXERCISE 2

#### Role Playing Time!

- Have two volunteers demonstrate how to help someone receive the Holy Spirit. One person will play the recipient while the other plays the minister/helper.
- As time permits have two others demonstrate the same. As time will allow you can have as many who want to practice.
- As a group, discuss ideas on how we can grow and improve or how we help someone receive.

**KEY:** Remember there isn't a set formula for people to receive, because accounts in Scripture are all different. However, the idea is to teach a pattern that makes receiving for people simple. We also want to learn how to minister to people in a tactful and biblical way.

### EXERCISE 3

- Set aside some time, to just pray in tongues as a group.
- For practice, have different ones gain boldness by praying in tongues in front of the group alone. Encourage one another in your boldness and confidence.

### EXERCISE 4

- If time permits, ask volunteers who have successfully prayed for people to receive the Holy Spirit, to share ideas that they have used that have been helpful.
- Allow for some brief discussion.

## Resource/Study Suggestion



- Book Suggestion: *Why Tongues* by Kenneth E. Hagin (every person should own several copies) available in the LOH Bookstore.
- Do a personal Bible Study on the Holy Spirit and how He empowers your life.