

Living Word Church of God

Baptism With the Holy Spirit and Speaking in Tongues

In this study we will be looking at scriptures related to the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and speaking with other tongues. We hope to bring clarity to these questions:

- Is there a difference between the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the coming of the Holy Spirit into the believer's life at the new birth?
- Is the manifestation of tongues evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?
- Does tongues consist of "actual" (or earthly) languages, or of "unknown" languages?
- Is the baptism with the Holy Spirit for today, and is it for all believers?

We will begin by looking at the four instances of the initial "outpouring" of the Holy Spirit on believers in the New Testament. We will then look at other passages that deal with the matter of tongue and its role in the church.

The Day Of Pentecost

Read Acts 2:4 – 13. In this passage, the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (KJV/NKJV) – gave them the ability (NLT) – kept giving them clear and loud expression in each tongue and in appropriate words (AMP). The Greek word translated "utterance" is *apophtheggomai* (Strong's # 669) which means to enunciate or declare (or "sound off"?).

- Who was doing the speaking?
- Who was "sounding off"?

The crowd consisted of men from "every nation under heaven" (v 5). "Each one heard them speaking in his own language."

Others (v.13) said, "They are just drunk."

- What did those in verse 5 hear?
- How did they realize that those from other countries were also hearing the disciples speak in their own native languages? (For example, how did the Parthians learn that the Egyptians were hearing Egyptian?)
- What does a drunk sound like?

Peter explained the phenomenon as the fulfillment of Old Testament Prophecy from Joel 2, that the Holy Spirit would be, "Poured out on all flesh."

The Samaritan Believers

Read Acts 8:14-16. Philip had previously preached the gospel to the Samaritans, and they had responded with faith in Christ and were baptized. Peter and John were dispatched and prayed for them to receive the

Holy Spirit, although they had already given their lives to Christ and been baptized in water. Peter and John then laid their hands on them, “and they received the Holy Spirit.”

Simon the sorcerer saw that they had received the Holy Spirit at the laying on of hands and wanted to buy this power from the apostles.

- Were those who believed the preaching of Philip saved when Peter and John came to town?
- Does this account exclude the possibility that they spoke in tongues when the Holy Spirit came upon them?
- What evidence might Simon have seen that made him want to buy this ability? Do you suppose Simon would have been willing to pay for the ability without some sort of clear manifestation?

Peter to the Gentiles in the Home of Cornelius

Read Acts 10:44-48 and Acts 11:15. Peter had a Holy Spirit interruption of his attitude toward Gentiles and found himself preaching the gospel to a group of them gathered in the home of Cornelius. While he was still speaking, the Holy Spirit, “fell on all who heard the word.” Those Jews accompanying Peter saw that the Holy Spirit was “poured out” on these Gentiles – “For they heard them speak with other tongues and magnify God.”

Based on the Spirit baptism, Peter concluded that these Gentiles had been saved and commanded water baptism for them. Peter later defended this decision (Acts 11:15) saying, “The Holy Spirit fell on them, as upon us at the beginning,” referring to the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2).

- How did the Jewish believers know that the Holy Spirit fell on these Gentiles?
- If the Jewish believers were already conversing with the Gentiles in known languages, how did they recognize that the Gentiles were speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave utterance?
- What was the sign of God’s acceptance of the Gentiles, spirit baptism or water baptism?

Paul at Ephesus

Read Acts 19:2-7. Paul found disciples who were baptized with John’s baptism of repentance. They had believed on Jesus but didn’t know there was a Holy Spirit. They were again baptized, this time in the name of Christ. As Paul laid hands on them, “The Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”

- Why had they not previously received the Holy Spirit?
- What evidence accompanied the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on them?
- This is the fourth instances in Acts of new believers experiencing the outpouring of the Holy Spirit; three of the four specifically mention the same phenomenon and the fourth does not exclude it. What is that common phenomenon?

1 Corinthians 13:1, 8-10

“Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging symbol. . . Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.”

- What kind of tongues are mentioned here? (Hint: there are two.)
- What, besides tongues, will pass away? When will they pass away?
- Have these other things passed away?

1 Corinthians 14:2, 4

“For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however in the spirit he speaks mysteries. . . He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. I wish you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you prophesy, for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification.”

- To edify someone is to build them up; it is like charging a battery.
- If you speak in a tongue without interpretation, to whom do you speak?
- If you speak in a tongue without interpretation, who understands you? Who doesn't understand you?
- Who is being edified by speaking in a tongue?
- Is Paul saying he wishes people wouldn't speak in tongues? If not, what *is* Paul saying?

1 Corinthians 14:13-14, 39

“Therefore let him who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. . . Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.”

- If I speak in tongues, what should I also hope to do?
- If I pray in a tongue, what part of me is praying?
- If I am praying in the spirit, but I lack understanding of what I am praying, whose will is being prayed?
- Should speaking (or praying) in tongues be forbidden?

Romans 8:26

“Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered”

- Who helps us when we pray?
- Is this the same Person who “gave utterance” on the day of Pentecost?
- What might “groanings which cannot be uttered” sound like?
- Why might it be beneficial to “speak mysteries to God” when we don’t know how we ought to pray?

Jude 20

“Building yourselves up in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”

- Praying in the Holy Ghost (or praying in the spirit) does something; what is it?
- What did 1 Corinthians 14:2 say would edify you?