

# The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

By Kenneth L. Birks

When we consider the preparation that's needed to have our vessels filled with the oil that is necessary to remain faithful to our calling, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is essential. Without it, our flames will go out. We won't have the spark that is needed to ignite us as the flames of fire God has purposed. When the early disciples of Jesus received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, they received it with tongues of fire with their passion ignited. As a result, they went forth as flames of fire fulfilling the purposes to which God had called them.

I realize, as I share my thoughts on the baptism of the Holy Spirit, there are various interpretations as to how this happens in our individual lives. If you're convinced that your perspective is biblically sound, you should stick to it. However, if you base your viewpoint on experience, I would caution you. Doctrinal positions should never be based on experience, but rather on convictions that are biblically sound.

I once had someone tell me, "I don't believe speaking in tongues is the sign of the baptism of the Holy Spirit because it's not the way it happened to me." Whether tongues are or aren't, is not the point. If we all decided to base our doctrinal positions on personal experiences, there would be a myriad of interpretations. In His sovereignty, God can move upon us in all kinds of ways. However, if they're not defined in the Bible, we don't have the right to promote or try to start movements based on personal experiences. We must teach according to the Bible, not our own experiences.

## **Jesus Allowed the Scriptures to Interpret Who He Was.**

Just as Jesus allowed the Scriptures to interpret who He was, so must we with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. It was as Jesus opened the Scriptures and began to explain the events concerning Himself that the hearts of His disciples burned within them. He was able to open their understanding in a way that they could comprehend the meaning of Scriptures.<sup>1</sup>

**Luke 24:32** *And they said to one another, "Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us."*

The beautiful thing about God is that He is intimately acquainted with all our ways.<sup>2</sup> When we give reign to the Holy Spirit, He knows how to communicate with us so

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<sup>1</sup> Luke 24:44-45

<sup>2</sup> Psalm 139:1-4

## The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

that we understand the Scriptures in a way that we know. He knows how to speak to us on our levels. He is acquainted with all our ways.

The Holy Spirit wants to open the Scriptures for us as well. He desires to open them in a way that causes His fire burns within us, making us flames of fire as we go forth ministering in His zeal. One of the reasons so many Christians in today's Christianity lack passion and intensity towards the Lord is that they haven't had Scriptures opened to them in the way only the Holy Spirit can do through His baptism.

When I first received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, after being saved for a year and a half, it was an awesome experience. It was as though the windows of heaven opened before me as the word of God came alive in my heart in a manner that was entirely new to me. As the eyes of my understanding were exquisitely opened, I fell in love with Him and His word that continues to this day.

I come from a Classic Pentecostal or Charismatic perspective. Before that, I was raised with an Evangelical Holiness perspective. When I first turned my life over to the Lord in the mid-70s, I had just come out of the hippie culture and had mixed up ideas about spiritual beliefs. The one thing that helped me to get established in the faith was that I had determined not to filter any former beliefs I'd picked up along the way as filters. I put them on a shelf so to speak. Throughout my Christian walk, I have tried to steer away from labels and be a Bible-believing Christian. I have chosen not to use filters but to allow the Scriptures to interpret themselves in all that I believe and teach. My loyalty is to the word of God, not a school of thought. With that in mind, I ask that you put your convictions aside, momentarily, and allow God's word to speak for itself.

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins, it was the oil that made the difference as to which virgins went on to become the bride of Christ. They all had oil, but the foolish virgins didn't take the time to get the extra supply that was needed. We saw that oil is symbolic of the Holy Spirit's presence in our lives. Getting the additional portion of the oil is the main ingredient that's needed in our preparation to be ready when the bridegroom comes. Therefore, we need to know how to get it.

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit was Prophesied**

The fact that there are prophecies concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit makes it part of the prophetic purposes that should come to pass in our lives just as it did for the early church. The prophet Joel foretold that the Holy Spirit would be poured out on all flesh, which includes you and me. In this chapter, we will see that both John the Baptist and Jesus prophesied the baptism of the Holy Spirit as well as the prophet, Joel.

#### **John the Baptist's Prophecy.**

**Matthew 3:11** *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and Fire.*

John's prophecy is very significant in that Peter identified the passages in Acts 2 and Acts 10 as the baptism of the Holy Spirit spoken by John. Speaking of both events, when questioned by the Jerusalem council of elders as to why he went to the Gentiles, Peter said, *"Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how he said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If therefore God gave them the gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God."*<sup>3</sup>

### **Jesus' Prophecy.**

**John 7:37-39** *on the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. <sup>38</sup>He who believes in Me, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."<sup>39</sup>But this He spoke concerning the Spirit whom those believing in Him would receive, for the Holy Spirit was not yet given because Jesus was not yet glorified.*

According to John's gospel, it's when Jesus ascended back to heaven from where He'd come that He would once again be glorified with the Father. He had told His disciples it was to their advantage for Him to go to the Father, so that the Holy Spirit could come to them. It was when Pentecost fully came that the Holy Spirit came and baptized them with tongues of fire just as Jesus had prophesied.<sup>4</sup>

It's important to note; it's with the baptism of the Holy Spirit that we receive the fire of the Lord. It not only consumes the chaff in our lives but provides the passion and the zeal of the Lord to go forth as flames of fire, fulfilling the Father's purposes.<sup>5</sup> Because of the passion and intensity that comes with it, is what makes it so crucial to open our hearts to the truth of God's word and receive all that He has for us.

### **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit as a Second Experience**

As we look to all that the baptism of the Holy Spirit entails, it's important to understand that there's a difference between the birth of the Spirit and the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The fact that Jesus said we should hunger and thirst for it shows us the importance of knowing the difference between the birth and the baptism.

The Greek Word for baptism is *"baptizo,"* which means to be thoroughly whelmed or immersed. As it relates to Spirit baptism, it means to be fully immersed in God's Spirit or be baptized in the Holy Spirit. When we are born again, we experience the

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<sup>3</sup> Acts 11:16-17

<sup>4</sup> John 17:5, 16:7, Acts 2:2-4, Mark 16:17

<sup>5</sup> Matthew 3:11-12

birth of His Spirit just as the disciples did after the resurrection of Jesus from the dead when He breathed on them as told by John, the disciple whom Jesus loved.

### **The Example of the Original Disciples.**

**John 20:22** *And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."*

Before Jesus breathed the Holy Spirit upon them, the disciples were still under the Old Covenant. Now that Jesus had risen from the dead, the New Covenant was in full force, which meant they needed to be born again by His Spirit, so He breathed on them, and they received. They were then told to wait in Jerusalem until they would receive the promise that would endue them with power from on high.

**Luke 24:49** *Behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.*

**Acts 1:8** *But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come upon you: and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the world.*

The passage from the book of Acts is a continuation of Jesus' conversation at the end of the gospel of a Luke. Luke wrote both books. The disciples had already received the birth of the Spirit and were now being told to wait for the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The Greek word for "power" is "dunamis," which has its root meaning in the Greek word for "dynamite." What Jesus was saying is, "You will receive explosive power when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit." After receiving this explosive power, they went forth in the zeal of the Lord preaching the gospel with signs and wonders.

### **The Example of Philip's Ministry in Samaria.**

Another example of the birth of the Spirit coming before the baptism of the Holy Spirit is found in the book of Acts with Philip's ministry in Samaria. Philip was having dramatic results as he ministered in the Spirit. Multitudes with one accord were heeding the things spoken by him as they witnessed the miracles which he did. Demons were screaming as they came out of people, those who were paralyzed and lame were healed, and there was great joy in the city.<sup>6</sup>

When the apostles, who were at Jerusalem, heard what was happening in Samaria, they sent Peter and John to Samaria to authenticate it. Upon arriving and observing all that was happening, Peter and John realized these people had received salvation, been delivered and even water baptized but hadn't received the baptism

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<sup>6</sup> Acts 8:1-13

of the Holy Spirit. They then proceeded to lay hands on them and pray for them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. It wasn't enough to be saved, delivered and baptized in water; they still needed the baptism of the Holy Spirit to go forth in the zeal of the Lord.<sup>7</sup>

### **The Example of the Disciples in Ephesus.**

Another example, in the book of Acts, which reveals two separate experiences in the Holy Spirit is found when Paul came upon some disciples in Ephesus. He discovered they'd only been baptized into John's baptism, not having heard of the Holy Spirit. Paul then proceeded to tell them about Jesus. When they believed Paul's message about Jesus, he then baptized them into Christ. After getting them saved and water baptized, they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In all three of these examples, it's clear there were two experiences in the Holy Spirit—the birth and then full immersion in the Holy Spirit.

### **Speaking in Tongues**

Probably, the most significant and controversial question concerning the baptism of the Holy Spirit is the issue of speaking in tongues as the evidence of having received it. There are various views and interpretations throughout Christendom, even amongst Charismatics. I am a tongues talking Christian, who believes it to be the evidence of having received it. Though I understand this, I would not say to someone, who doesn't speak in tongues that they're not baptized in the Holy Spirit. That's between them and God. If God chose to move upon them in His sovereignty, who am I to question their experience. However, when establishing doctrine, our commitment must be to how it plays out in God's Word. It is from this perspective that I share my thoughts.

As stated earlier, with any doctrinal position, there must be a divine harmony of revelation. In the New Testament, we often find a truth introduced in the gospels, the experience of its reality in the book of Acts, and in the epistles, further elaboration. These three must be in divine harmony without contradicting the others. For example, Jesus started the tongues movement when He stated, *“And these signs will follow those who believe: in My name, they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues.”* That's all He said about it. He didn't explain how or when. But He did say, *“When the Holy Spirit comes; He would teach us all things.”*<sup>8</sup> He was trusting the Holy Spirit to instruct and guide us into the full revelation of all

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<sup>7</sup> Acts 8:14-17

<sup>8</sup> John 14:26

truths.<sup>9</sup> In the book of Acts, we see how the apostles and other believers received tongues. In the epistles, Paul gives much instruction about speaking in tongues.

### **Tongues in the Book of Acts.**

In the second chapter of the book of Acts, we have the account of the early disciples. In this report, they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, evidenced with tongues of fire.

**Acts 2:1-4** *When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Just as Jesus promised them, the Holy Spirit came upon these early disciples and apostles of Jesus. They were baptized in the Holy Spirit just as a John the Baptist had prophesied.<sup>10</sup> Jesus had told them, they would speak with other tongues but did not mention how or when this would happen. Now we see that it happens with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Peter, later, identified this great event as the baptism of the Holy Spirit as promised by John, Jesus and the prophet, Joel.<sup>11</sup> Peter not only defines this event as the promise for these believers but for as many as the Lord calls in the days and years ahead.

**Acts 2:39** *For this promise is for you and your children, and to all who are afar off, as the Lord our God will call.*

Another dramatic event in which the baptism of the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues is found in the book of Acts is when Peter was commissioned to the house of Cornelius. The event of Peter called to the home of Cornelius is the prophetic fulfillment of God bringing the Gentiles into the salvation of Jesus Christ for the first time. Just as this prophetic purpose was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost with the early believers, so it was with these first Gentile believers. God was now calling the Gentiles into the family of God, resulting in them receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit in the same manner as Peter and the others did.

God calling Peter to the house of Cornelius is an excellent example of God, in His zeal making His prophetic purposes come to pass. While Peter was still speaking, God interrupted Him and broke in with the power of the Holy Spirit. God had to break through barriers that had been formed as strongholds in the thinking processes of

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<sup>9</sup> John 16:13

<sup>10</sup> Matthew 3:11, Acts 11:16

<sup>11</sup> Acts 11:15-16

both parties. God in His sovereignty knows how to break through in spite of our archaic forms of thinking. This should bring hope and vision to us as we look to the future in all that God desires to do.

**Acts 10:44-47** *While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. <sup>45</sup>And those of the circumcised who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. <sup>46</sup>**For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.** Then Peter answered, <sup>47</sup>“Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?”*

It's important to note; the reason Peter and the other Jews knew that the Gentiles had received the baptism of the Holy Spirit was they heard them speak in tongues. Hearing them speak in tongues was the evidence that they had received it. Jesus said all believers would speak in tongues. We now we see the most significant barrier is fulfilled as the Gentile believers are filled as well. The Gentile event is also further fulfillment to what Peter spoke when he said the baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to as many as the Lord calls.

Another great example of speaking in tongues as the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is when Paul comes upon disciples in Ephesus. He discovered they had been baptized under John's baptism only.

**Acts 19:1-6** *And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples, <sup>2</sup>he said to them, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” So, they said to him, “We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.” <sup>3</sup>And He said to them, “Into what then were you baptized.” So, they said, “Into John's Baptism.” <sup>4</sup>Then Paul said, “John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who come after Him, that is, on Christ Jesus.” <sup>5</sup>When they heard this; they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>**And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.***

There are couple points in the above passage that are worth pointing out: The first is that Paul recognized these people were believers in God, so he asks them the question, “Did you receive the Holy Spirit since you believed?” At this point, Paul doesn't know they don't know about Jesus. He assumes they do and asks the question about Spirit baptism, meaning he recognizes it as a second experience following salvation by believing in Jesus. For Paul to ask if they had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit is an appropriate question to ask a believer. Secondly, once Paul shares the gospel with them, and they believe, he baptizes them into Christ and then proceeds to lay hands on them so that they can receive the baptism

of the Holy Spirit. Once they receive, they begin to speak in tongues, which, once again, shows speaking in tongues as the evidence of having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

We now have three actual examples of speaking in tongues as the evidence of having received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are two other examples, but they don't explicitly say that speaking in tongues was involved. However, there is a strong implication they were. The first is with the revival at Samaria with Philip and Peter involved. As discussed earlier, these people were saved and baptized but hadn't received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Upon Peter's arrival, he discovers they haven't received the Holy Spirit and proceeds to get them baptized in the Holy Spirit. The passage doesn't say they received tongues, but Simon the sorcerer saw something that made him want to offer money to Peter to acquire the ability to administer this extraordinary gift. When Peter rebuked Him, he said, "*Your money perish with you, because you thought that the gift of God could be purchased with your money! You have neither part nor portion in this **matter**, for your heart is not right in the sight of God.*"

The Greek word for "*matter*" is "*logos*," which means "*a word, speech, discourse, or account.*"<sup>12</sup> There is a strong possibility Peter was referring to the divine utterance that just came forth as a result of their baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The other example was with Paul when Ananias prayed for him to receive the Holy Spirit. It doesn't say that Paul spoke in tongues, but later it is quoted in his letter to the Corinthians that he speaks in tongues more than anyone.

**Acts 8:17** *And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."*

**1 Corinthians 14:18** *I thank my God I speak in tongues more than you all.*

In summary of this section, there are three primary examples of speaking in tongues as the evidence that the disciples received it with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The two other examples show, in all probability, speaking in tongues was the sign. As Paul said, "*By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established.*"<sup>13</sup>

## **Is Speaking in Tongues for Today?**

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<sup>12</sup> Vines Expository Dictionary

<sup>13</sup> 2 Corinthians 13:1



## The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Whether or not speaking in tongues is for today is a matter we must discuss because whatever you believe about this will affect you in one way or another.

When the baptism of the Holy Spirit came upon the early disciples on the day of Pentecost, Peter had much to say about it, quoting from Joel's prophecy. As he summed up his message, he said, this same promise of the Holy Spirit is for everyone to whom the Lord calls. To all of us who have been drawn by God into this great salvation, the promise is to us throughout all generations. There is no time limit on it.

**Acts 2:39** *For this promise is to you and your children, and to all who are afar off, as the Lord our God will call.*

As we have seen in some passages, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is also referred to as the gift of the Holy Spirit. When Paul was writing to the Corinthians, he mentioned that he didn't want them to come up short in any gift, while they eagerly waited for the second coming of Christ.

**1 Corinthians 1:4-8** *I thank a God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given to you by Christ Jesus, <sup>5</sup>that you were enriched in everything by Him in all **utterance** and all knowledge, <sup>6</sup>even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you, <sup>7</sup>**so that you come short in no gift**, eagerly waiting for the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>8</sup>who will also confirm you to the end, that you may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

The two passages of Scripture just mentioned show that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, evidenced with speaking in tongues is for as many as the Lord calls from every generation until the time Christ returns for His Church.

The next passage is the primary one used by those who say speaking in tongues was done away when the Bible was canonized. It mentions that tongues, prophecies, and knowledge will be done away with when that which is perfect comes. The popular interpretation is that the canonization of the Bible is that which is perfect. Since it had arrived, we no longer need tongues and prophecies, but somehow knowledge is still required, even though it says, knowledge will be done away with too. Let's look at the passage and see for ourselves.

**1 Corinthians 13:8-10** *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. <sup>9</sup>For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. <sup>10</sup>But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.*

The key to this passage is to determine what Paul was referring to when he said, "But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away." The problem with the idea that the canonization of the Bible is the

interpretation to “that which is perfect” is that neither Paul nor his readers wouldn't have had an idea to what he was saying. The Bible wasn't canonized until the fifth century. In verse twelve the interpretation is seen.

**1 Corinthians 13:12** *For now we see in a mirror, dimly, **but then face to face.** Now I know in part, but **then I shall know just as I also am known.***

Paul is referring to the second coming of Christ as to when we see Jesus face to face. We will be like Him in every way as we are changed into His divine image. John explains this perfectly in one of his epistles.

**1 John 3:2** *Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but **we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.***

Once again, we see how Scripture very adequately interprets itself, while allowing personal biases to be set aside.

### **The Difference between the Sign and the Gift**

There's one more area that can be confusing when it comes to speaking in tongues. We must understand that there are two different manifestations of tongues. There is the gift of tongues listed with the other gifts of the Spirit, and the tongue that comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Paul explains the difference in his first letter to the Corinthians.

The Scripture reference that often causes the most confusion is the one that asks the rhetorical question, “*Do all speak with tongues?*” The obvious answer is, “No!”

**1 Corinthians 12:29-30** *Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all workers of miracles? <sup>30</sup>Do all have the gifts of healings? Do all speak with tongues? Do all interpret?*

In the above passage, Paul had just finished his teaching on the gifts of the Spirit and how members of the body have differing gifts used for strengthening the body of Christ. The gift of tongues He is referring to is the gift that is used when the Church comes together, which must be followed by an interpretation.

In chapter fourteen of 1 Corinthians, he addresses the issue of tongues, because the Corinthians were misusing the gift by all speaking in tongues when the church came together.

**1 Corinthians 14:23** *Therefore if the whole church comes together in one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those who are uninformed or unbelievers, will they not say that you are out of your mind?*

Paul makes a clear distinction in this chapter between the use of tongues in your prayer time vs. in the church. In the church, they must follow with an interpretation and in their own prayer life, he says, *“I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all; yet in the church, I would rather speak five words with my understanding.”*<sup>14</sup>

When referring to the gift of tongues in the Church, he says, *“Do all speak in tongues?”* When referring to the prayer language that comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit, he says, *“I would that you all speak in tongues.”*

### **How to Receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

Now that we know the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for today and evidenced with speaking in tongues just as it was for the first disciples of Jesus, we should receive it. Jesus said, all those who believe in Him would speak in tongues and out of their innermost beings would flow rivers of living water. We are to be conduits of the blessings of God. As His ambassadors, we are to go forth, fervently in the power of His Spirit, ministering His purposes with passion. No matter what our calling in life is, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is necessary to keep us in tune with all that God desires to do in and through us.

#### **The First Step is to Believe.**

One of the reasons I've been so laborious in this chapter is so that you are convinced in your hearts that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for you. Abraham, who is the father of our faith received the promises of the Father because he was convinced that what God had promised, He was able to perform.

For me, believing was an important step. I was brought up to think the baptism of the Holy Spirit was very different than what I have just shared. Because I had an open mind after coming out of the hippie culture, I wanted to know for myself why I should believe certain truths. As Paul commended the Bereans for searching the Scriptures for themselves, I approached the subject in the same manner. I spent about six months reading books and studying the Scriptures about the baptism of the Holy Spirit until I was convinced on the subject.

Now, God wants you to receive the promise of the Holy Spirit by being convinced so that He can perform on your behalf. Jesus said, “Your Heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.” You must believe and be thoroughly convinced that He will fill you with the oil of His Holy Spirit. As you ask Him to baptize you in the Holy Spirit, He is faithful to honor His promise towards you just as He has for countless others.

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<sup>14</sup> 1 Corinthians 14:18-19

## **The Second Step is to Ask, Seek, and Knock.**

Once you come to the place where you genuinely believe the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for you, then ask, seek and knock until you receive it. As you do, there will be a genuine hunger that begins to grip your soul until you receive it.

**Luke 11:9** *So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened.*

There must be a heart of faith with an expectation of receiving as you seek Him. The heart of the Father wants nothing more than to grant you your request as you come before Him with a pure heart of belief and trust. The next verses assure us of this as Jesus continues this conversation with His disciples.

**Luke 11:10-13** *If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? <sup>12</sup>Or if he asks for an egg, will he give him a scorpion? <sup>13</sup>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!*

## **The Third Step is to Apply Action to Your Faith.**

Faith without works is dead. True faith will always involve some sort of action that shows you are fully convinced of what you believe. The effort required in receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit is to open your mouth and begin to speak, but not in any language you know. It was as the early disciples began to speak that the Spirit gave them the utterance.

**Acts 2:4** *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

In summary, I believe God desires that we all receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. In doing so, we allow our lamps to have a continuous supply of oil that's necessary to be adequately prepared for when the bridegroom comes for His bride. It's the oil that keeps the fire or the passion in our lives going strong and causes us to be minister as flames of fire.

May God bless you as you press into all that He has for you. I close this chapter with another poem that expresses the Father's heart as you ponder how He desires to bless you with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

May the poem on the following page bless you as you seek God and allow His Holy Spirit to baptize you with power.

## **Come Holy Spirit** – By Ken L. Birks

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The Holy Spirit of God, free to all, comes with might and power.  
The promise is given to all who are afar off, as many as are called.  
As the disciples long ago, He comes with tongues of fire in this hour.  
Out of our inner beings' flow rivers of living water, to be enthralled.  
The Father delights in giving the Holy Spirit to all who are called.

Come Holy Spirit as we seek, ask and knock for your presence.  
Asking in faith, believing in Your promise, we come with expectation.  
As we seek with whole hearts, fill our vessels with Your excellence.  
Pour forth from our innermost beings a new language with conviction.  
As living water comes forth, hearts are filled with prophetic anticipation.

Come Holy Spirit, burn the chaff that holds us back from purity.  
Let the fire of the Holy Spirit come with conviction that possesses.  
Leaving sin behind, our mortal bodies are quickened to walk in morality.  
Do not allow sin to reign as we allow Your Spirit to have full access.  
Show us hurtful ways that hold back from all that we acquiesce.

Come Holy Spirit, give guidance as we walk in Your ways.  
Lead us in paths of righteousness leading to Your desires.  
Lead us in conformity to Your image as we gaze.  
As we follow, lead us away from the enemy's tempting fires.  
Greater are You than anything the enemy throws our ways.

Come Holy Spirit, teach us in the ways of the Father, so fine.  
Your anointing teaches us all things pertaining to life as we dine.  
In all that has been given, reveal all that's in His heart of hearts.  
Your teaching drops as dew as we yield to what the Spirit imparts.  
Teach us to number our days as we are given to Your purposes.

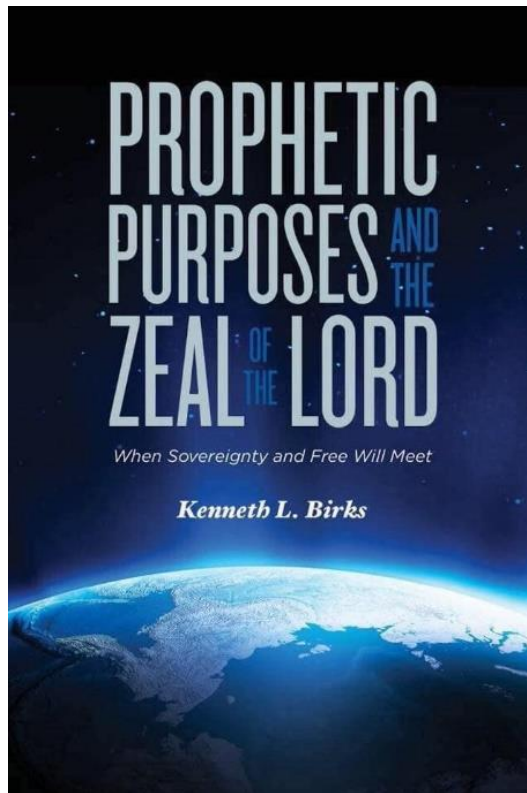
Come Holy Spirit, release Your gifts to encourage and strengthen.  
Release healing and miracles to come forth to heal all as Jesus did.  
Let the prophetic realms come forth to reveal the Father's intentions.  
Release the gifts of tongues to speak mysteries in the Spirit, amid.  
Bring forth discerning of spirits to reveal the enemy's pretensions.

We give thanks for Your Spirit who works in us the works of Jesus.  
You are the One we give glory to for all that's been given and done.

**Scripture References:** Acts 1:8, 2:39, 2:3-4, John 7:37-39, Luke 11:9-13, Mathew 3:11-12, Romans 6:12, John 16:13, 2 2:20'Corinthians 3:18, 1 John 4:4, 2:20, 27, 1 Corinthians 2:9-12, 2 Peter 2:2-4, Revelation 3:20, Deuteronomy 32:2, Psalm 90:12, 1 Corinthians 12:4-11, Matthew 8:16-17, 1 Corinthians 14:2-3.

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