

ENDUED WITH POWER FROM ABOVE



FULL GOSPEL CHURCH OF GOD

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INTRODUCTION

“And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”.

Luke 24:49

Here Jesus calls the “*promise*”, “*power from on high*”. A deeper study of Acts 1 reveals that the “*promise*” mentioned by Jesus in Luke 24 is now equated to the baptism with the Holy Spirit – Acts 1:4-5.

“The Holy Spirit” (In Greek [pneuma hagion], without the definite article) is the same as “*power from on high*”.

In Dr Bullinger’s book *The Giver and His Gifts* he writes: “*When we have examined all the fifty passages where this expression (pneuma hagion) occurs, we shall find this to be the general result, that it is never used in the sense in which (to pneuma to hagion) “the pneuma the holy” is used, that is to say, it is never used of the Holy Spirit, BUT ALWAYS OF WHAT HE DOES, it is never used of the GIVER, BUT ALWAYS OF HIS GIFTS and operations.*”

This is why Peter explained to those from the circumcision what happened when he was in the house of Cornelius, “*And as I began to speak, The Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how what He said, John indeed baptised with water; but ye shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit. For as much then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us...*” Acts 11:15-17. See also Acts 2:38-39.

Here Peter ties the **GIFT** of the Spirit to the “*promise*” which is “*power from on high*”, the baptism with the Holy Spirit. Thus, to be baptised with the Holy Spirit is **THE SAME** as to receive the promise given by Jesus, which is the power from on high, which is the gift of the Holy Spirit.

The instant they received the “**PROMISE OF THE FATHER**”, they received the “**POWER FROM ON HIGH**”, and the instant they were “baptised” “**FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, THEY BEGAN TO SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE THEM UTTERANCE.**” Acts 2:4

WHO IS THE BAPTISER WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The answer is clear from Matthews 3:11(b), **HE** (Jesus) shall baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with Fire”.

Even **BEFORE** Jesus started his earthly ministry it was said of Him – **HE** will baptise you with the Holy Spirit. All four of the gospels make this statement – Matt 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16 and John 1:33.

At the end of His earthly ministry, just before He went to His Father, Jesus made this statement in Luke 24:49, “*And behold, I send the PROMISE of my Father upon you...*”

JESUS is the Baptiser with or in the power of the Holy Spirit! All four gospels confirm the witness of John the Baptist – **HE WILL BAPTISE YOU WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**

The contrast is obvious, John baptises with **WATER**, Jesus baptises with the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

It is not the Father or the Holy Spirit that baptises us with the **HOLY SPIRIT'S POWER**, the power from above, it is **JESUS** who baptises. No person can baptise you with the Holy Spirit power. The apostles, in religious obedience laid hands (Acts 8:14-18 and Acts 19:6) on the faithful and prayed, but the baptiser with the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF BEING BAPTISED WITH THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We confine ourselves to Acts.

Acts 1:8 "But ye shall **RECEIVE POWER**", refers to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 "And ye shall be **WITNESSES UNTO ME...**"

Acts 2:4 "...and began to **SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES...**"

Acts 2:38 "...and ye shall **RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.**"

Acts 8:18 "And when Simon **SAW...THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS GIVEN...**" (Something happened! We know from the context of the New Testament that they spoke in tongues.)

Acts 10:46-47 "The Holy Spirit (power or gift) was received" - '**FOR THEY HEARD THEM SPEAK WITH TONGUES, AND MAGNIFY GOD.**'

Acts 11:16-17 "...ye shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit... the **SAME GIFT** as he gave unto us".

Acts 19:6 "...and they **SPOKE WITH TONGUES, AND PROPHESED.**"

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PERSON AND THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

We see that as believers, Peter and the Apostles had the Holy Spirit in them before the day of Pentecost (John 3:5-8). Even King David could say in Psalm 51:11 "...and take not thy Holy Spirit from me".

The indwelling of the Spirit of God in people is experienced by believers in the Old and New Testaments, whereas the baptism with the Holy Spirit is exclusively a New Testament experience (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8).

All believers who were reborn have the Holy Spirit as Person living in their hearts, while the baptism with the Holy Spirit is an additional experience. This is why Jesus could command his disciples, who already had the Spirit in them, to remain in Jerusalem until they were baptised with the Holy Spirit.

Samuel Chadwick explains that the baptising with the Holy Spirit is something that follows after being born again. *“In rebirth there is a **GIFT OF LIFE** through the Spirit, and whoever receives it is saved: in the baptising with the Holy Spirit there is a **GIFT OF POWER** which equips the believer for service.”*

The person who is reborn is a candidate for a second experience. With his first experience, his conversion, he received the Spirit as a **PERSON**, but with his second experience, he is baptized with the **POWER** of the Spirit. We distinguish in the New Testament between the **PERSON** and the **POWER** of the Spirit, in the connotation of baptism with the Holy Spirit.

To be a child of God means to have the Spirit living in you (John 14:16-17). To be baptized with the Holy Spirit means you have received the gift of speaking in other tongues (1Cor 12:10) which is one of the nine gifts.

The **PROOF** that you are a child of God is seen by the fruit of the Spirit in your life but the **PROOF** that you have been baptised with the Holy Spirit is the speaking in foreign or new tongues that have not been acquired by learning.

THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

- **NINE REASONS WHY**

1 Cor. 14:2 There is **COMMUNICATION** with God in an exceptional and **SUPERNATURAL** manner.

1 Cor. 14:4 The spirit of one speaking in a tongue is **ENLIGHTENED, REFRESHED** and **STRENGTHENED**.

1 Cor. 14:2 He **SPEAKS THE MYSTERIES OF GOD ALOUD** through the Spirit.

Acts 1:8 The person receives the **POWER OF THE SPIRIT**.

Acts 1:8 There is potential to be a **MORE EFFECTIVE WITNESS** for the Lord.

1 Cor. 14:14 The person now **PRAYS WITH HIS SPIRIT** – not with his mind.

1 Cor. 14:15 The person now **SINGS WITH HIS SPIRIT** – not with his mind.

1 Cor. 14:16 The person now **BLESSES (GIVES THANKS) WITH HIS SPIRIT** – not with his mind.

Acts 2:14 **FEARLESS WITNESS** – Peter, the former coward (John 20:19 and John 18:25), stands up after being baptised with the Holy Spirit and speaks fearlessly to thousands.

The baptism or fulfillment with the Holy Spirit power is so important to a believer, that the Lord Jesus commanded His followers to stay in Jerusalem until they received the promise from the Father (Acts 1:4).

THE CONDITIONS FOR BEING BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Acts 2:37-38 “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **REPENT**, and be **BAPTISED** every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye **SHALL** receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Acts 8:12 “But when they **BELIEVED** Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **BAPTISED**, both men and women.”

Mark 16:16-17 “He that **BELIEVETH** and is **BAPTISED** shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that **BELIEVE**, in my Name shall they cast out devils, they shall speak with new tongues.”

Three very important points are emphasized in the above texts:

- **CONVERSION – BAPTISING – FAITH**

Yet God is not limited. Acts 10:45-47

Those that were converted and baptised may be baptised with the Holy Spirit.

1 Cor. 12:31 “But **COVET** earnestly the best gifts and yet show I unto you a more excellent way”.

1 Cor. 14:1 “Follow after charity, and **DESIRE** spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy.”

Acts 8:15 “Who when they came down, **PRAYED** for them, but that they might receive the Holy Spirit”.

Acts 9:11,17 “And the Lord said unto him, arise, and go in to the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he **PRAYETH**, and Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**”

Acts 19:6 “And when Paul had **LAI D HIS HANDS** upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”

We can and must pray for it.

Take note that nowhere in the whole of the New Testament does it say that we must wait for baptism with the Holy Spirit, except solely in the case of Peter and the Apostles, because never before was the power of the Holy Spirit poured out like on the day of Pentecost. We don't have to wait because this already happened about 2000 years ago.

HINDRANCES FROM BEING BAPTISED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

All believers are candidates to be baptised with the Holy Spirit, but sometimes there are obstructions that have to be removed first. A few of these obstructions are as follows:

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- **DISBELIEF**

Disbelief and fear go hand in hand. This is not the time or the place for disbelief.

The Word of God is clear:

Mark 16:17 “And these signs shall follow them that **BELIEVE**...they **SHALL** speak with new tongues.”

We believe the Word of God!

- **GUILT FEELINGS**

Do I still have sin in my life? Has God forgiven all my sins?

1 John 1:9 “If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”

- **UNWILLINGNESS FROM GOD’S SIDE**

Who says God wants to baptise me with the Holy Spirit? Does **HE** want to baptise **me**?

Maybe it is only for other believers.

Mark 16:17 “And these signs shall follow **THEM** that **BELIEVE**; In My name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues.”

Acts 2:38 “Then Peter said unto them, **REPENT**, and be baptised **EVERY ONE** of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye **SHALL** receive the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.”

1 Cor. 14:1 “Follow after charity, and **DESIRE SPIRITUAL GIFTS**, but rather that ye may prophesy.”

- **THE LORD HAS HIS OWN TIME**

I will wait until He decides to baptise me. When the disciples **ACCEPTED THE WORD** and were **BAPTISED**, they called on the Apostles Peter and John to pray for them so that they may receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17). After Paul went to Ephesus and the disciples were **BAPTISED**, he laid hands on them and the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:6)

- **WRONG PERCEPTIONS**

People believe that something strange and is going to happen to them when they are baptised with the Holy Spirit, like being struck down, doing something against their will, losing consciousness, being torn away and waking up later, or that they will ‘feel’ something.

These are all misconceptions and are to be rejected. The Word of God is clear when it comes to gifts of tongues. 1 Corinthians 14:32: “And the spirits of the prophets are **SUBJECT** to the prophets.”

All that will be unusual is that you will be **SPEAKING IN A STRANGE UNKNOWN LANGUAGE** which the Spirit gives you. The sounds are strange to you because it is your spirit speaking through your vocal cords. 1 Corinthians 14:14: “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, **MY SPIRIT PRAYETH**, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

HOW CAN I RECEIVE THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- **PRAY FAITHFULLY**

Ask Jesus who baptises with the Holy Spirit to baptise you with the power of his spirit. Thank Him faithfully with praise.

- **SPEAK FAITHFULLY**

Acts 1:14 *"They all continued with **ONE ACCORD IN PRAYER AND SUPPLICATION**...."*

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."*

Acts 10:46 *"For they heard them **SPEAK WITH TONGUES** and magnify God."*

Acts 19:6 *"... and they **SAPE WITH TONGUES** and **PROPHESIED**."*

1 Cor. 14:2 *"For he that speaketh **IN AN UNKNOWN TONGUE** speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him, howbeit in the spirit **HE SPEAKETH MYSTERIES**."*

1 Cor. 14:4 *"He that **SPEAKETH IN AN UNKNOWN TONGUE** edifieth himself."*

In each of the above instances people did something – **THEY SPOKE!**

You cannot speak with your mouth closed. **YOU** must **SPEAK** and praise God. You don't wait for God; He waits for you to open your mouth and to start praising Him in a wonderful heavenly tongue given to you by the Spirit as you speak.

The Day of Pentecost was fulfilled ages ago. The gift of the Spirit has already been poured out by Jesus. You must now receive it through faith by speaking with your mouth.

The Lord desires that all His children should speak in tongues – **NEW TONGUES** that the Spirit gives them. 1 Cor. 14:5 *"I would that ye all spake with tongues..."* Every child of God should also praise God in a heavenly tongue in prayer.

From our discussion and the texts mentioned it is clear that a person, after being converted and baptised, can receive the Holy Spirit. But this time he does not receive the **PERSON** of the Spirit but the **GIFT** or the **POWER** of the Holy Spirit. And in the cases mentioned this comes with a **PHYSICAL** sign. The people **SPOKE WITH TONGUES**.

Every one of us must also strive to receive the **GIFT** of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

Thank God for **POWER FROM ABOVE**.

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