

157. Baptism With The Holy Spirit #2

By Arland Steen

Supreme Scripture

Acts 1:8 (NKJ): *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 earth.*

Sticky Statement

The Holy Spirit is your “go to” person.

The resource of being baptized with the Holy Spirit is for prayer, praise and power. We see in the New Testament that Jesus breathed on His disciples to receive the Holy Spirit in salvation but also told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit had been poured out. It's clear that the Baptizer, Jesus, understood these to be two separate experiences. Many people today and in New Testament times would be saved but not filled with the Holy Spirit.

The Samaritan Believers

Acts 8: 5-6, 12,14-17 (NKJ): *⁵ Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. ⁶ And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles, which he did. ¹² But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. ¹⁴ Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, ¹⁵ who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. ¹⁶ For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷ Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

These people were saved according to Jesus. See Mark 16:15-16.

But what had not yet happened is that they had not received the fullness of the Holy Spirit. Opening up to receive the baptism with the Holy Spirit is akin to saying, “I not only want the *person* of Jesus but I also want the *power* of Jesus to operate through my life.”

The Objectives & The Resource

➤ Prayer

Romans 8:26-28 (NKJ): *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 groaning's which cannot be uttered. ²⁷ Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸ And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.*

We do know how to pray – to the Father in the name of Jesus.

We do not know how to pray, *as we ought* – because our minds are limited but when we pray *as we ought* then *all things work together for good to those who love God*.

P.C. Nelson said the Greek in verse 26 reads, “the Holy Spirit makes intercession for us in groaning’s that cannot be uttered in *articulate* [made clear, distinct, and precise in relation to other parts] speech.”

Articulate speech would be your regular kind of speech. Nelson said this includes both groaning’s and your prayer language. This agrees with Paul.

1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJ): *For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.*

This is the Holy Spirit helping you pray according to the will of God and doing it more precisely.

Praying with your spiritual language eliminates selfishness in prayer and praying contrary to the will of God.

- Praise

1 Corinthians 14:15-17 (NKJ): *¹⁵ What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding. ¹⁶ Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? ¹⁷ For you indeed give thanks well, but the other is not edified.*

This refers to singing praise and worship to God using your resource of spiritual language. Notice he said when you do this you *give thanks well*.

Caveat: If an uninformed person were present he or she would not understand and remain in the dark and maybe get offended. In cases like that he said to pray with your understanding.
- Power

Jude 1:20 (NKJ): *But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,*

This is a means of strengthening your spirit in your private prayer life to give you power.

Mark 16:17-18 (NKJ): *¹⁷ And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; ¹⁸ they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."*

Power is needed to:

 - #1: Cast out demons
 - #2: Speak with new tongues
 - #3: Take up serpents without being harmed
 - #4: Drinking deadly substances without being hurt
 - #5: Laying hands on the sick and seeing them be healed

A common denominator in each of these objectives is the resource of spiritual language.

- Notice that speaking in an unknown tongue is in this list.

Jesus is the One who first introduced this resource to His disciples long before the day of Pentecost.
- Everyone spoke in tongues on the day of Pentecost.

The fact that every single disciple spoke in his spiritual language and that Jesus counted it important enough to cite it as a sign of a believer in Him speaks of its importance. The importance of using the resource of spiritual language simply cannot be honestly minimized in God's divine order. Unknown languages were the birthmarks of the early Church! And this is something that God still wants in the Church, as it is a timeless Church resource.
- Spiritual language is the evidence that one has received the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:45-46 (NKJ): *⁴⁵ And those of the circumcision 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. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.*

This is a critical juncture in Church history because Peter had ministered salvation to Gentiles for the first time in response to a request from an Italian named Cornelius. They were convinced these Gentiles were actually saved and filled with the Spirit for one reason – tongues.

Is It Necessary To Speak With Tongues?

Understand that tongues are not the Person of the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit isn't boiled down to speaking in tongues. However, both go hand in hand. The tongue of a shoe is not the shoe and the shoe isn't the tongue but the tongue is part of the shoe and a shoe is not a shoe without it. When you purchase a car you also get a certificate of title or evidence that the car is yours. The car is not the

certificate and the certificate is not the car but you won't get very far in the car without the title because the car would not be considered legally yours without it. So, the car is not of full benefit to you without the title. So, you wouldn't say, "If I get a car is it necessary to get the title also?" No, you get to get the title also!

To answer the question, "Is it necessary to speak with tongues?" I'd say that if you want a New Testament experience then you will want to speak in tongues. That's what the Christians in the early Church did and it is consistent with what scripture teaches and the examples we have in the New Testament.

Two Qualities In Spiritual Language

#1: Majesty

There is majesty to spiritual language. In every NT case people were praising and worshipping God and watching evangelism or miracles happen. There is nothing unworthy or uncommon about it.

#2: Miracle

Speaking in a language you didn't learn is a vocal miracle. It is humanity cooperating with deity. The Holy Spirit is the Source and we yield our tongue to Him. This does not mean we lose control of our abilities. We choose to speak by faith depending on Him to give us the utterance we need.

There is a solid body of truth in scripture that supports the baptism with the Holy Spirit, including the liberating of our tongues into the use of the resource of spiritual language. At the birth of the Church this vocal gift was on the believer's lips and today the gift is widely used as a resource for personal prayer, praise and power.