
After The Baptism In The Holy Spirit

8-13

By Pat Mullins

(All Scripture references are taken from the New American Bible unless otherwise noted) 8/13

Praise the Lord! Jesus has just baptized you in His Holy Spirit. This means you are entering a new and exciting life as a disciple of Jesus. As time passes by, Jesus will be continually teaching you and forming you through His Word and the Holy Spirit. In order for you to be as good a disciple as possible, there are many things you must know. In this discussion, we use the term "man" generically, but we mean of course the human person - man and woman.

THE NEW LANGUAGE OF TONGUES

Praying in tongues is a continued use of the outward and biblical sign of your Baptism in the Holy Spirit. St. Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 14:2 "A man who speaks in tongues is talking not to men but to God. No one understands him, because he utters mysteries in the Spirit." In 1 Corinthians 14:14 St. Paul says: "If I pray in tongues my spirit is at prayer but my mind contributes nothing." Then in 1 Corinthians 14:18 St. Paul proclaims: "Thank God, I speak in tongues more than any of you..." And Jesus tells us in the Gospel of Mark 16:17: "These signs will accompany those who have professed their faith: they will use my name to expel demons, they will speak entirely new languages,..." Later in this pamphlet we will discuss the "gift of tongues" which requires interpretation as a form of prophesy, but for now let's continue to look at the prayer language of speaking in tongues. The new language is a love language between you and God that the Holy Spirit has given to you. It is not only the outward sign of your being baptized within, in the Holy Spirit; it is also a sign to you of His continued presence. It is a new way of praying that you should add to your other ways of praying. As you continually praise God in this wonderful supernatural way, you are being constantly reminded of His supernatural presence.

As you use this new prayer language you will find that it becomes a great and comforting companion. You can stop it and start it - like a faucet. You can pray out loud in it, or you can pray silently, at any time and in any place. There are four main reasons for, and results of, praying in tongues. Let's look at them:

1. **Cleansing.** Several times a day pray out loud in your new language when you are alone. This can be in your car, the shower, walking down the street, just anywhere. (Take care not to draw attention to yourself!) As you do this you will find that praying in tongues really cleans out anything within you that is blocking your relationship with Jesus. It will also remove anything that is keeping Jesus from giving you all He wants you to have. We are often like a garden hose which has been idle outside for a long time. It gets clogged. We too get clogged up with doubts, fears, and worries. Just as you run the water through the hose and the water gets clearer, so praying in tongues washes away unpleasant things from your soul. Living Water (Holy Spirit) is so powerful and precious! Praying in tongues will help you stay on top of circumstances, and not get under them.

2. **Intercession.** From time to time Jesus will give you a prayer burden for people and situations. You will experience a heaviness or slight pressure in your spirit. You may not know what the exact problem is! This is one of the main reasons for praying in tongues (Rom. 8:26). What better intercessor could you have in the time of your own needs, problems and concerns than the Holy Spirit praying in us and for us?

3. **Exercise of your spirit.** We humans are divided into three parts - spirit, soul, and body (see Heb. 4:12, & 1 Thess. 5:23). Because God is a spirit he communicates with our spirit. Our spirit is like a receiving set. Our spirit is in union with God. It can know what God wants (intuition). It can

also know what is right and wrong (conscience). Our soul however, consists of our mind, will, and emotions. The third part of us is our body which operates through the five senses to



live in the world. The "natural" man refers to the body and soul (or mind - Greek word is psyche, or in English psyche for the soul). God says that this part of man cannot receive the things of the Spirit of God. "The natural man does not accept what is taught by the Spirit of God. For him, that is absurdity. He cannot come to know such teaching because it must be appraised in a spiritual way." (1 Cor. 2:14) He cannot know them because they are spiritually, not mentally or physically discerned or perceived. The guidance of God within a person is from the prompting of the Holy Spirit to the spirit of the person, and that person must be one who has received the life of Jesus into his life hereby giving 'life' to his spirit; that person can then be said to be united with the Lord. "But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him" (1 Cor. 6:17) The Corinthians were people who greatly exercised their ability to speak in tongues - so much so that it got out of hand - but that does not annul the value of the gift! God says that "... they came behind in no gift and were enriched in all utterance and knowledge." Their spirits were built up by speaking in tongues in order to exercise the other gifts. Paul said that he spoke in tongues more than any of them. This had to be a constant habit of St. Paul's.

4. **Praise.** Literally hundred of times in the Bible - old testament and new testament- we are either commanded to praise, urged to praise, or shown examples of where and why to praise. All of these exhortations have one thing in God's mind toward us. We need to praise for our benefit. God does not need our praise. God knows who He is, and all of our praise will not add to or take away from Him one little bit, but it will change us completely if we will HEAR in our hearts what the Spirit is saying about praise. We need to praise God in order to get our minds and hearts out of our unbelief! We need to praise God in order to give Him the proper place in our estimate of things in our lives. He is God! He created the entire universe. He created me, He is well able to handle any situation in my life if I will let Him into the situation, trust Him, and let it go. I need to praise Him in order to get my SELF out of the center of the universe, and let him be enthroned as God of my life and all the Situations of my life. I need to praise him to get past my SELF centeredness! If I will obey Him in praise, the Holy Spirit will bring a peace and confidence in God into my mind and heart. If I will praise Him all the time, in every situation, for everything in my life whether I understand it or not, then my whole perspective on life will begin

to change. I will praise Him I will be able to obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit more quickly and with less difficulty. To praise God is and act of my WILL, not and overflow of my emotions "...let us continually offer God a SACRIFICE of praise..." (Hebrews 12:15) I must make a choice to believe that God is bigger than the situation facing me. I must make a decision to believe that God loves me. I must make a decision that God cares about this situation and WANTS to do something about it to help me. Then I must make a decision to obey the Holy Spirit in doing what I have been told to do in the situation. "Rejoice always, never cease praying, render constant thanks; such is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thess. 4:16-18) Praise of God is probably the first step for each believer beginning to walk in obedience to the Holy Spirit's guidance for our lives, and as we are willing to begin to obey in this thing which we can do, the Holy Spirit will be able to release the Christ in our life to change our life to change our hearts into the agape love of God. We must learn to praise, and the prayer meeting is one place to learn with others who are deciding to live a life of trust and obedience to the Holy Spirit. Often the sound of our own voice is one of the most intimidating reasons to stop praising, or we are embarrassed at the sound of our own shouting into what our senses tell us is empty air. If we will believe God that He is present in the praises of His people, then we will continue to praise as an act of our decision until our feelings change. And the feelings will change! If only we will persevere, God will always fulfill His part of the Word He has spoken, and He will make his presence known to us in the changed feelings. Read the Psalms and notice how many times the writer makes the decision to praise in the midst of his troubles. As you read the accounts of battles in the old testament, see how praise was a key factor for God to be present in the fight for His people. The Hebrew tribe of Judah was the tribe that lead the way through the 40 years in the wilderness and Judah was often the first tribe sent into the battle. The name of Judah means PRAISE. Praise God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and God will change your life! Amen.

Finally, one of the most precious gifts for each of us personally, is the gift of our prayer language (tongues) when it comes to praise. Very often we run out of words to say in praise - "The Spirit too helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit himself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be express in speech." (Romans 8:26) - and we continue to praise in tongues; as we do, God can work in our hearts and bring new trust and faith in Him. Just Do it! Praise in your understanding and praise in the spirit. (see 1 Corinthians 14:15) one of our first steps in obedience to God's will in our lives is to **PRAISE HIM**. "All you peoples, clap you hands, shout to God with cries of gladness...God mounts his throne amid shouts of joy; the LORD amid trumpet blasts. Sing praise to God, sing praise; sing praise to our king, sing praise." Psalms 47:2-7 "Sing praise to the Lord with all you hearts." Ephesians 5:19b "For though the fig tree blossom not nor fruit be on the vines, Though the yield of the olive fail and the terraces produce no nourishment, Though the flocks disappear from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, Yet will I rejoice in the Lord and exult in my saving God." Hab. 3:17-18 "The favors of the LORD I will sing forever, through all generations my mouth shall proclaim your faithfulness." Psalms 89:1-2 "Enter his gates with thanksgiving, his courts with praise; Give thanks to him; bless his name," Psalms 100:4 "I will sing to the LORD all of my life; I will sing praise to my God while I live." Psalms 104:33 "Sing gratefully to God from your hearts in psalms, hymns, and in-

spired songs." Colossians 3:16c "I will announce your name to my brothers, I will sing your praise in the midst of the assembly"; Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Alleluia." Psalm 150:6

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

When we enter into the life of the Spirit, we discover certain gifts or manifestations of the Spirit. These are the Holy Spirit's supernatural tools or equipment for Christian service. All are specific and apply to individual situations. Their use is always for a particular time, place and circumstance. All Spirit-filled Christians are able to serve others with all of these gifts of service because of the in-dwelling Holy Spirit, and are to do so whenever the Spirit directs. The Holy Spirit gives them; "To each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good." (1 Cor. 12:7) St. Paul lists nine gifts of the Holy Spirit that are for the service of one another in our lives, and all should be present in our charismatic meeting. This specific list is in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10.

1. The Word of Knowledge is the revelation of a piece of information which cannot be known in a natural way about a situation that is past or current. This is God's diagnosis of a problem, a sickness or other situation.
2. The Word of Wisdom is a supernaturally given revelation of God's direction and guidance for a specific situation. It tells us what God wants us to do.
3. The Gift of Faith is an instantaneous complete assurance of God's willingness and ability to act in a given situation. The absence of doubt which the gift brings is often given with the gifts of healing and working of miracles.
4. Gifts of Healings are sovereign actions of God through His people when the Holy Spirit involves us to bring God's healing power to those who are sick.
5. The Working of Miracles is a special momentary gift of authority when the Holy Spirit inspires us to speak the words God gives us as a member of the Body of Christ in order for God to set aside a normal order of things and accomplish an action supernaturally.
6. Discerning of Spirits is when the Holy Spirit enables us to know what spirits are involved in a particular situation or person; this may be the discernment of either good or evil spirits. This gift is for information, and is dependent upon some other working or gift of the Holy Spirit in order to know what action should be taken in the situation. We must recognize or discern demons in this way before we can begin to deal with them.
7. The Gift of Prophecy is an anointing of the Holy Spirit to speak the words of God. It is always for urging us onward, building us up in Christ, or instructing us in our spiritual life. Seldom is it used by the Lord fo predicting future events, but God may use prophesy to make us aware of things that may occur that could damage our faith in Him.
8. The Gift of Tongues is a special form of Prophecy. God may use this form to get the attention of the group before giving the message, or for some other special purpose of service to His Body of Christ gathered at that time. It is a message given in a language unknown to the speaker and is always used in conjunction with the

gift of interpretation. The gift of Tongues is not to be confused with praying in tongues which is [a] the sign of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, [b] a means of communications in a language known by the hearts and not by the speakers and [c] a means of private prayer and intercession.

9. The Gift of Interpretation of Tongues gives a message in the vernacular which explains the sense of what was said in the gift of tongues. These two gifts operating together are a form of prophesy. The exercise of any of these gifts requires co-operation between us and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will use us to deliver whatever



gift of God's love is needed at the moment if we have the faith in God to obey the Spirit. Our part in this is obedience. He will not operate us like puppets. To exercise the spoken gifts we must open our mouths and speak out the words we understand the Lord is giving us, or do anything else He may direct us to do. Do not be alarmed if you do not immediately see all of the gifts operating in your life. God will develop these gifts in you as you are ready to obey, and as need for them arises. It is appropriate to seek these gifts through prayer, through practice and through increasing obedience to the guidance and teaching of the Holy Spirit.

THE COMMANDMENT OF LOVE

To show God's love for our fellow man we must have Christ living His life in us, and we must be in obedience to Him. The gifts are tools for showing this love of God, and this love (agape) is necessary for the proper use of the gifts. St. Paul emphasizes this in 1 Cor. 13 by saying that if we speak "with tongues of men and angels" and exhibit many of the other gifts, such as prophecy, word of knowledge, faith, miracles etc., but do not use these in agape love, (agape love is obedience to the Holy Spirit in everything that will serve or help our neighbor) then our ministry is worthless as far as we are concerned. It is true that the Holy Spirit will bless the person we are praying for in accordance with the gift He has asked us to deliver, but for us there will be no blessing if we are not in obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit in agape love. God's gifts can be used or abused. We fulfill all of God's commandments to us when we use spiritual gifts to the glory of God and for the benefit of His creatures.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The word 'baptism' is a Greek word that means to be completely immersed into, and suffused by, the substance into which we are 'baptized'. When we received the baptism of the Holy Spirit we are immersed into the Holy Spirit of God, and He immediately begins some house-cleaning in our lives. Things which used to bother us no longer do so. Fears, irritations and resentments begin to fall away. We begin to see people differently - more as God sees them. The Spirit will also show us areas of thoughts, words and deeds in our lives that are hurtful to our spiritual life and joy in Jesus - sins we hardly realized were there. When He does this we have two alternatives. We can choose to disbelieve God and forfeit His

freedom offered in the change, or we can turn these things over to Him to be removed and replaced with better things. If we choose the latter, He will continue the process with one thing at a time, just as fast as we will let Him, until Jesus is Lord in all areas of our lives and the real life of Christ is the life we live. This is what the Apostle Paul means when he said: "I have been crucified with Christ; the life I now live is not my life, but the life which Christ lives in me" (Gal 2:19-20 NEB) The fruit of the spirit is listed in Galatians 5:22-23 as love, joy peace patience kindness, goodness, fidelity, gentleness, and self control. These are the great and comforting characteristics of God, and these are our new characteristics given with our new life in Christ. As we allow the Holy Spirit to guide us in our lives through our spirit, and as we are willing to follow and obey the Holy Spirit in getting the selfishness and sin out of our lives, we find that these characteristics become a part of our life because Christ is our new life. The letter to the Hebrews states; "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever," (Hebrews 13:8) I can expect the Holy Spirit to do this in my life if I will let Him, and I can be really happy and full of life every day of my life here on this earth. "He who calls us is trustworthy, therefore he will do it." (1 Thess. 5:24) We should not try to make our selves over. We have already tried that unsuccessfully all our lives. The Holy Spirit is in the sanctifying business. He is the one who can clean up our lives. All we have to do is let Him. Relax. Learn to leave things to Him. Learn to obey. Do not fear His strange, supernatural ways. Step out boldly in trust and faith. Let Him show you the way, for His way is different from ours. He knows better than we do. He has more ability, and more ingenuity. He is totally dependable, always helpful, all powerful, and completely loving.

THE WORD OF GOD

You must read the Word of God in order to give the Holy Spirit the new materials to work with in creating in you the new life of Christ. Ask the Holy Spirit for the desire to read, and as you begin don't try to understand too much of what you read yet. The job of teaching us is the duty of the Holy Spirit. If we will read the Bible as 'food' for our spirit the Holy Spirit will have God's Word to use in us to develop the "mind of Christ" and will have the material needed to form in us the life of Christ. Remember that "Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever." and, if Christ is to become our life, we must learn to let Him live that life in the same obedience He has always lived toward God. As we become more familiar with Christ as our life, then He will guide us into how to release Christ to be our life more, as we read more, and learn to obey more. At the beginning we may not have the desire to read the Bible every day, but if we do not do so there cannot be any growth or maturity into the life of Christ. We can make a start by reading the Gospel of John, then the Acts of the Apostles, then right on through to the end of Revelation. Then come back to the beginning of Matthew and read though again in the same sequence. The Gospels tell us mainly who Jesus is to us and for us, but the letters to the Churches tell us why Jesus had to die for us, rise again, and live for us now. The decision for our rate of growth in the Spirit is mainly up to each of us individually; God will never force us. We must choose to do what is necessary as our part of the action that shows our desire to want a better life, and then the Holy Spirit will have a prepared vessel into which to pour the grace of God to do the job. We cannot make our transformation happen any faster than the Lord has determined, but we can slow the process down immeasurably by not fulfilling our responsibility to read and hear the Word of God, and obey it. Start with what you can do even if



read. You may want to underline as you read, so read a Bible that is easy to handle, and one in which you will feel free to mark things the “speak” to you. Before you read the Bible always pray first. Pray in your heavenly language as you ask the Holy Spirit to teach you what He wants you to know from your reading, and then trust Him that He will do it as He chooses. He will do it!



THE LIFTING OF HANDS

Lift up your hands often when you pray (Take care not to draw attention to yourself.) The lifting of hands signifies our surrender to the will of God, similar to a young child reaching up to daddy to pick him up and love him. It also a willing action on our part to show our honor of God “Lift up your hands toward the sanctuary, and bless the LORD.” Psalm 134:2 “Let my prayer come like incense before you; the lifting up of my hands, like the evening sacrifice.” Psalm 141:2 “It is my desire, therefore, that everywhere prayers be said by the men of the congregation, who shall lift up their hands with a pure intention.” 1 Timothy 2:8 NEB “And I will lift up my hands to your commands and meditate on our statutes.” Psalm 119:48 “Thus will I bless you while I live: lifting up my hands I will call upon your name.” Psalm 63:4

FELLOWSHIP

You must get together with Spirit filled believers who are seeking to learn to live the same life of Christ that you are seeking. We need that example and encouragement to continue to press on into this new experience of living. The Bible tells us we are only one part of the Body of Christ and that we need to be functioning properly with other members of the Body. Therefore we need to need with Spirit filled believers to study, pray and praise the Lord frequently and regularly. You will begin to get stale in your walk with the Lord if you do not meet with other Spirit filled believers.

TRUST GOD

God has made fantastic promises to supply our needs. Trust Him to back up His Word! Relax. Learn to leave problems with Him. Learn to obey Him. Do not fear His unfamiliar and supernatural ways. Step out boldly in faith. Let God show you the way. His way is often different from ours. He is totally dependable, all powerful, and completely loving.



BOOKS TO READ

Besides reading the Bible each day, read what will help you grow spiritually, God has raised up teachers (one of the five fold ministry, 1 Cor. 12:28). God has prompted many teachers to write down what He has shown them. Following are suggestions:

On The Holy Spirit

THE HOLY SPIRIT & YOU - DENNIS BENNETT

Gifts of the Spirit - Steven Clark

Aglow With the Spirit - Dr. Robert Frost

Seven Steps to Baptism in H. S. - Kenneth Hagin

Fanning The Flame- McDonnell, Montague, Liturgical Press

ON HEALING

Healing - Francis McNutt

Healing For Catholics -

Fr. R. De Grandis, S.S.J.

Apostle Of Faith - Smith Wigglesworth

Deliverance from Evil Spirits -Francis MacNutt, Chosen

An Exorcist Tells His Story-Armoth, Ignatius



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