

A Biblical Experience

Tongues & the False Teachings

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Introduction

“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38

“If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” Luke 11:13

I don't know about you, but I don't want to do anything outside the Bible or ignore parts of the Bible because they are controversial. This brings us to the subject of tongues.

“But tongues are of the devil” someone said.

“Tongues have ceased” somebody argued.

“Those people who speak in tongues today don't do it like the day of Pentecost” another said.

I challenge you to meditate on the scriptures given in this short booklet. This booklet is written to born again believers in Jesus Christ.

If you are not saved, skip to the back of the booklet where you will find the Gospel. God loves each person so much and “desires that none perish but all come to repentance” (2 Peter 3:9).

We will be addressing those questions mentioned earlier as well as some other points of confusion that I had (I was raised in a very normal Baptist-like church).

I will list many facts, each one with scripture references.

Just for reference, each verse in this booklet is from the KJV. It is public domain in the United States, so it was a good choice for this booklet. But look up and mark the verses in your favorite version and check them for context.

Chapter 1

Biblical Accounts

In total, we have five scriptural accounts of the initial filling of the Holy Spirit, and one account of “re-filling”. I will list each one in order. Aside from these accounts, there are no other examples in all of scripture.

1. The Day of Pentecost.

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?” Acts 2:1-8

Again I will encourage you to read the entire chapter for context. At this time, there are only a couple of points that I will draw from these verses.

In some ways this passage is hard to imagine or picture happening. But notice this detail: whatever was coming out of the disciples mouths and what was being perceived by the listeners *was not the same thing*. EACH person heard them speak in THEIR own language all at the same time. Evidently, the Holy Spirit did some form of translation inside of each person that was listening.

From this text, some have concluded that all legitimate forms of speaking in tongues must happen in this fashion, while any-

thing else is just fake or unbiblical. So we will compare that idea to other scriptures to see if this true.

2. Peter and John Get Re-Filled With The Holy Spirit.

This next account is the only instance of *re-filling* of the Holy Spirit that we have a record of in Acts. I encourage you to read all of Chapter 4, it's far too long to quote here, so I will summarize.

Peter and John were passing by the paralyzed man at the gate. Do you remember that account in Acts that says, "silver and gold have I none but such as I have give I thee" (Acts 3:6)?

So the Holy Spirit healed the crippled man through the hand of Peter. Peter and John ended up in trouble for preaching to the crowd that gathered. They were taken for questioning and then ultimately released with a warning, "***And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.***" Acts 4:23

The Group Prayer Meeting

At this point the scriptures recorded the prayer the group prayed. Let's continue with verse 31. "***And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.***"

Notice this detail: Peter and John returned to "their own company" (Acts 4:23) and when they prayed, they were **all** filled. Including Peter and John.

Possibly this is no big deal to you, but for most of my life I believed that you only get filled with the Holy Spirit once and that happens at the time of conversion, automatically.

3. Believers Get Filled After Philip Preaches The Gospel

Now we move on to maybe the most interesting account.

I encourage you to keep reading. Don't close the book. I am only quoting scripture and encouraging you, as well, to read the context for yourself.

This is where things get messy for traditional denominational thinking. Remember that when our beliefs conflict with the Bible, we are blessed when we bend to fit the Bible instead of taking a pair of hypothetical scissors to the Word of God.

With that said, we pick up here in Acts 8, where Philip is holding a meeting and preaching the Gospel.

“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done. Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.” Acts 8:12-17

No, you did not read that wrong. Someone clearly forgot to tell Peter and John that the Holy Spirit fills a believer at the time of conversion.

Let’s look closer at the text. Verse 12 says, ***“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”***

I don’t think that Philip would baptize a non-believer do you? The Bible clearly says they believed in the name of Jesus and were baptized in water as a public declaration of an inward change.

Peter and John Travel to Samaria

It’s worth noting that a significant amount of time must have passed since the people believed in Jesus. The news had to travel to Jerusalem by foot and then the apostles had to walk to Samaria.

“When they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. (For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 8:15-17)

Many days later, when Peter and John arrived in Samaria, they had the nerve to believe that they could lay their hands on someone **SUBSEQUENT** to salvation, and the Holy Spirit would then flow from them to the people, and they would receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17).

There is even more to this account if we continue reading. Simon the sorcerer tries to buy power. We will circle back around to that later.

4. Apostle Paul Gets Filled With The Holy Spirit.

Next in order, as we go through the book of Acts, is the apostle Paul. Do you remember how Saul was blinded on the road to Damascus when Jesus appeared to him? After three days, Ananias was sent to Saul. Ananias had special instructions from the Lord.

Acts 9:17 tells us, ***“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 Ghost.”***

Firstly, Ananias calls Saul “Brother Saul.” Now, you wouldn’t go around greeting someone attempting to destroy the church and hurt people as “brother” unless you knew they were truly born again.

In addition to that, notice that Ananias did not say, “that thou mightest receive thy sight and be born again”. No, he said, “be filled with the Holy Ghost”. Three *days after his salvation*. Paul was a Jew. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit had already occurred among the Jews.

Some might argue that each people group had to have some interaction with the Apostles for the Holy Spirit to be sent to that

group (i.e., the Jews, Samaritans and Gentiles). But we see from this text that that is false.

As a side note, you will see that tongues are not mentioned in this account.

5. Peter's Vision And Filling Of The Gentiles.

For context: Peter had a vision of unclean animals. The Lord said, "kill and eat". Peter protested. After the vision, some men came to find Peter who had been sent from Cornelius's house. Cornelius had a vision where an angel told him how to find Peter.

"And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do." Acts 10:5

Peter went with them to Cornelius's house. Then he begins to preach to the gentiles there...

"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" Acts 10:43-47.

How do we know the Gentiles in this account received the Holy Spirit? Well, how did the Christian Jews who were with Peter know?

Look at verse 46, "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God." **What was the evidence of receiving the Spirit according to the text? Speaking in tongues.**

6. Filling Of The Twelve Disciples.

The final account we have in all of scripture of people being filled with or receiving the Holy Spirit, is found in Acts 19.

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John’s baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve.” Acts 19:1-7

It’s amazing what you miss when looking through the lens of denominational thinking.

In fact, when discussing this topic with others, in the past, I would just skip this text, thinking that it did not apply to any Christian I was talking to. I thought the people in this account didn’t have the Holy Spirit because they didn’t believe on Jesus.

This is true, but until recently, I didn’t realized that I was overlooking some very important details.

Firstly, ask yourself, “Why would Paul ask anyone “have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” This was a very misleading question asked by Paul to these people. UNLESS it was possible to believe and not receive the Holy Spirit.

But now to the good part...

After learning that they had not heard the actual gospel of Jesus Christ, Paul explained that John pointed to the One to come in verse 4, “*that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.*”

So they were baptized in water again, but this time, AFTER they believed in Jesus for salvation (Acts 19:5). That’s great, no problem there.

Water Baptism As A Declaration Of Salvation

Have you ever been to a baptism service? It takes time for just two or three people.

The minister usually asks a few questions, such as “Do you believe Jesus died to pay for your sins?” and “Do you believe Jesus rose from the dead?”. Then the minister would say either “in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost” (Matthew 28:19) or “in the name of Jesus” (Acts 2:38).

I don’t believe that God is concerned on the exact wording you choose. I think He loves our simple obedience.

After that, they go dry off and the next believer enters the water.

Now do this to all twelve believers.

The Filling Of The Holy Spirit Is A Separate Experience

It probably took at least 30 minutes to organize all of this (assuming they didn’t have to walk to the water).

After this time passed, Paul laid his hands on each one of them and they each received the Holy Spirit. **Not at the moment of salvation but as a subsequent and separate experience.** And this experience was in no way automatic. *Paul laid his hands on each person individually.*

Notice, what was the evidence of being filled with the Spirit? Tongues and also this time prophecy.

That's it. That is every single scriptural account of a group or individual being filled with the Spirit.

There is no other point of comparison.

Once you see it, it's hard to unsee it.

At least for me, what I believed for most of my life had absolutely no basis in scripture. In fact, it contradicted every Biblical account.

I had a choice, to close the Bible and say, "Well I don't believe that, my pastor never taught the Bible that way". Or do I say, "My beliefs need to bend to the Word of God".

I was born again for over 20 years and had not had an experience like any one of the accounts found in God's word.

Actually, the church (remember, traditional Baptist teaching) taught some about the Holy Spirit. Still, everything that was taught was head knowledge. Nothing that could be experienced in reality.

My lack of experience, was my experience.
And it was thoroughly unscriptural.

Chapter 2

Questions Answered

If you are still reading this booklet, I really believe God is getting your attention through His written Word. But I totally understand the concerns and belief hurdles. Some of which were mentioned at the beginning of the booklet.

Let us spend the rest of the book looking over common questions. Pray and meditate about these upcoming verses.

1. Born of the Spirit

First and foremost, it is essential that I get this out of the way right up front. By this point you may possibly be thinking, "Wow, I don't have the Holy Spirit at all." But scripturally that's not so. When you place your faith in Jesus you are born again.

Remember what Jesus said in John 3:3-6,

"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born? Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit."

It's one thing to be born of the Spirit, it's another thing to be filled with the Spirit.

All of the texts from Acts prove this. And Jesus said you must be born of the Spirit to be saved. If you need more proof, look at the Gospel of John. For context, Jesus has already risen again at this point.

"Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were

assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you. And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord. Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost...” John 20:19-22

Right here, they were born of the Spirit. I don't believe that Jesus did or said that for no reason.

However, after this, they were not yet bold and did not speak in tongues or preach until many days later (from the ascension to the day of Pentecost), when they were filled. We know this because they were told to wait in the upper room for the Holy Spirit and power, and we picked up the book of Acts there.

2. Tongues is of the Devil.

How about the rest of the concerns mentioned earlier? I had someone not long ago ask me, “But how do you know speaking in tongues isn't from the devil?”

I simply quoted this scripture (isn't it great how the Lord answers our questions before we ask and we aren't left wondering)

Luke 11:11-13, “If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”

If you ask your Heavenly Father for the Holy Spirit, you will not get a serpent or scorpion. If you do, Jesus lied. Further more (and I know this point is well established already), it's very odd that Jesus said to “ask for the Holy Spirit” if everything happens automatically.

Chapter 3

The Gift Of Speaking In Other Tongues

What about tongues stopping sometime in the early church? I certainly believed that all my life. Let's look at the scripture.

*1 Corinthians 13:8-13, "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. **But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.** When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; **but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.** And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.*

Some have argued that "the bible is the perfect thing that came"....Ok.... the Bible does not have a face.... Did the early church think "oh yeah he is talking about the Bible"?

Of course not.

This is clearly talking about Jesus returning for the church. And when he does, we will not need tongues, prophecy or special knowledge.

If the apostle Paul was just seeing in a glass dimly, but then "he will see face to face", how much more are we looking in a glass dimly.

Here are a few questions to ask yourself.

1. Have you been taught by the Holy Spirit for 3 years in the desert like Paul? (Galatians 1:16-18).
2. Have you seen a vision of Heaven?
3. When is "**then**"? Paul did not see the finish of the Bible. Paul said that *he* would see face to face.

You have to read into the text to make it say that these things have stopped already.

The same new covenant gift of tongues is still readily available to “those who ask Him” (Luke 11:13). This verse in 1 Corinthians in no way indicates that Jesus took back the gift.

Tongues Are Still For Today

Yeah, but somebody said, “it’s not like the day of Pentecost. These people today are just babbling, and fooling themselves.”

Paul clears this right up in 1 Corinthians 14:23-28.

“If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad? But if all prophesy, and there come in one that believeth not, or one unlearned, he is convinced of all, he is judged of all: And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth. How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.” 1 Corinthians 14:23-28

In this New Testament Church, tongues had to be interpreted for anyone to understand. Instead of all understanding in their own language, nobody understood.

Everyone Can Have This Gift

This next one is one of the worst lies of all. It robs people of a real blessing. Someone said, “well you have the gift, but I don’t.”

Let’s look at the verse they are quoting and then find it in the

context of the entire book. It's amazing how context clears up an issue. This is the verse they are referring to.

1 Corinthians 12:7-12, "But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will. For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ."

Make a note of "Manifestation of the Spirit is given every man to PROFIT WITHAL". These are ministry gifts to benefit the church. "Divers kinds of tongues and interpretation" are listed in these gifts.

This is very important. Let's look a bit further in Paul's letter and see if there is any other kind of tongue that is used in a different way.

"Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest? For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified. I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all: Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by

my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.” 1 Corinthians 14:13-19.

There it is, “I pray with the spirit” (verse 15). But when does Paul pray with his spirit? Remember he said, “I speak in tongues more than ye all, yet in the church...” So it’s outside the church.

It’s in his prayer closet! The distinction here is between tongues as a ministry gift vs. tongues as a personal devotional prayer tool between you and the Lord.

That really clears up the confusion. Not everybody is called to speak in tongues and interpret in church. But anybody can speak in the language they received when they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

What’s that? Not everybody received tongues when filled with the Spirit in the book of Acts? Let’s find out if that is true.

A closer look

There are two accounts of the initial filling of the Spirit that do not directly mention tongues. Those are the only two we need to focus on.

1. Simon The Sorcerer tries to buy the power.

Going in order, the first one is Acts 8 Philip preaching. Remember how the apostles Peter and John came to Samaria weeks or months after the people believed and were baptized? They laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost.

How do we know that they were filled with the Holy Spirit? That’s easy, the scriptures say so directly. But interestingly enough somebody else knew... Simon the sorcerer.

Let’s continue the account from where we left off earlier.

*“Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. **And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay***

hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.” Acts 8:15-21.

What was so incredible about what happened when these believers were filled with the Holy Spirit? It must have been something visible to the outward scenes, or else Simon would not have noticed. Actually it must have been very impressive to get him to want to buy this power.

What power? Not the Holy Spirit Himself.

Simon wanted to lay his hands on others so they could be filled, because he desired the attention.

So what was the evidence that these believers were filled? We can compare this context with the rest of the scriptures that we looked at and deduce that they spoke with tongues (probably quite powerfully). To come to any other conclusion, would be totally fabricating doctrine and not rooted in the rest of scripture.

2. Saul (Paul) is filled with the Holy Spirit.

Now what about Saul (Paul) when he was filled after Ananias laid his hands on him? That’s where the story ends, nothing more is said in that account.

However, we know from 1 Corinthians 14:18, that Paul ***“Speaks in tongues more than ye all, yet in the church...”***

So if he didn’t receive this prayer language when he was filled with the Spirit, when did he receive it?

When seen in the light of the other scriptures, the only conclusion we can come to is that he did speak in tongues right then and there and was simply not included by the author of Acts.

Remember that every detail of every account is not recorded or the “world could not contain the books” (John 21:25). That verse was specifically about Jesus, but I’m sure the principle applies to the book of Acts also, seeing as it is still Jesus working

through His people. So it's safe to say he did speak in tongues when he was filled with the Spirit.

Why Speak In Tongues?

I have been asked before, "why do you speak in tongues?" (asking that question from a "what's the point?" frame of mind). And you know, that's a valid question, there many of verses on the subject.

1. You pray mysteries known only to God.

"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unknown to men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries."

1 Corinthians 14:2.

So you are praying mysteries (mysteries to you, not to God). In other words, you are praying for things you didn't even know to pray for. Now that sounds like a good thing to me!

2. You are edified.

"He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." 1 Corinthians 14:4.

So I'm edified when I speak in tongues. Edify means to "build up" or a better Greek translation is "charge up". This is one great benefit of tongues. When you are weak spiritually, pray in tongues. The Bible says you WILL be edified.

3. You bypass your head.

"For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also. 1 Corinthians 14:14-15.

If you have a problem that is over your head, pray with your spirit, then pray in English. Watch what God does. Don't be surprised when you start to understand the solution to the problem

effortlessly. *“Let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret.”* (1 Corinthians 14:13).

There is also another edify or build up (charge up) reference.

Jude 1:20, “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost”

For me, it would be a total waste not to pray in tongues. God has said that I will be built up spiritually when I do. Ignoring this truth is ignoring God’s provision and attempting to function in my own strength.

By this time, I am praying that you have allowed the Word of God to sink deep into you and build faith. If you are ready to follow what Jesus said and “ask Him”, God promises to give you the Holy Spirit.

Chapter 4

Personal Testimony

I'm going to share with you my testimony and what God has done for me personally.

My Experience

As a Baptist, I began to see that I had been missing something. God had more for me than I initially knew. God brought the son of a youth pastor to me to pray for me. All he asked was, "Would you like to receive your prayer language?" I had already discovered, by that time, that I had been missing big pieces of the Bible in my past and was very open to receiving this scriptural experience.

Just for reference, up to this point, I had heard only one person speak in tongues before in my entire life, and I thought it was fake.

He prayed for me and laid his hands on me.

Sure enough, I felt something stirring in my belly, and sounds began to come out of my mouth. Could I have stopped it? Yes. Did I, by faith, have to open my mouth and cooperate? Yes. But I could totally tell it was NOT 100% me. The Holy Spirit was taking hold and praying with me and through me.

In my brain, I felt awkward. At the same time, deep down, I felt power. That is Biblical, but at the time, I didn't know it. (John 7:38).

My Wife's Experience

My wife was there with me that night at the church and witnessed the experience. My family traveled to this church for a special event, so we stayed in a hotel. The next morning, I was loading the car, and when I came back to the room, my wife was lying on the bed face down, crying and speaking fluently in other tongues. I just left and went back to packing the car.

Later on, I asked her about the experience. She said, “Yeah, I saw you come in, but I didn’t want to stop.” Praise God! How did she receive, you ask? She asked God, and He answered.

How to Receive the Gift of Tongues

All right, now for some practical steps. The first step is to ask God. I have found it helpful to go ahead and begin to speak praise to God after you ask.

What this did for me was get my mouth moving. This helps to avoid quenching the Spirit by just sitting around and waiting for him to take total control over you and move your mouth, which is never going to happen. Remember that Paul said, “I” pray with the Spirit.

I repeated simple praise to God, and then soon, non-English sounds began to slip out. It really did come from deep within.

When I asked my wife about her experience, she answered, “I just did what I saw the night before.” I asked the Father to fill me with the Holy Spirit, then praised God over and over. At first, nothing, but suddenly this language came bursting out.”

I believe that getting the mouth moving is a practical first step of faith.

Make a note of this verse.

It really speaks directly to asking for wisdom, but later in the verse, James broadens this principle to include “anything”.

*“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. **But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering.** For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.”*

James 1:5-7

Prayer

Here is a prayer that you can say. Just like salvation, it is a gift. Receiving is all you need to do after asking.

“Father, in the name of Jesus, according to your Word, I’m asking you right now to baptize me in the Holy Spirit, with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.”

Now begin to praise God. Even just repeating “hallelujah” and expecting your tongues to flow, allow those sounds to begin to slip out of your mouth. It may start as a stammer or stutter.

That’s all there is to it. Receive what God has for you!

For many, it’s really that easy. However, for many religious, denominational people (to whom this book is truly addressed), years of incorrect teaching can clog the pipe, so to speak, and obstruct the flow. I believe you receive the Holy Spirit if you ask for Him. Now you must yield to Him and be corporative with Him.

Most people that I knew who were led to the Lord by someone who speaks in tongues had an easy time responding. Almost everybody that I know who grew up as I did had a very hard time receiving.

However, everyone, I know who grew up the same way I did and desired their prayer language eventually **did receive** it. And no, they did not simply mimic the sounds of those around them. They had a supernatural experience with the Holy Spirit of their own. Most of them in a powerful, unmistakable way!

The Gospel (Good News)

If you have jumped back here from the front of the book, I would like to share this with you:

The Bible says we have all broken God's law. I don't have to convince you; your conscience has already done it.

“But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.” Revelation 21:8.

What has God done so that we could escape receiving our wages? (the Bible calls death wages) You have certainly heard that Jesus came to earth and died on the cross. But you may not have understood this: When Jesus died, his last words were, “It is finished” (John 19:30). What did he mean? He was literally saying, “Debt paid.” Jesus paid for every person's sin. Now that's good news if you know how to receive it

“To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. Acts 10:43

“Therefore He who supplies the Spirit to you and works miracles among you, does He do it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?—just as Abraham “believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” Galatians 3:5-6

By faith, put your trust in Jesus to save you, and you will be made righteous. Not by works but by your faith. Good works and right living will then follow naturally as the fruit (proof) of your salvation. That's all it takes!

