

*the  
Baptism  
in the  
Holy Spirit  
from  
Within*

Richard Ronsisvalle

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## Preface

Many years ago I asked the Lord to give me a sermon on the baptism in the Holy Spirit that would be so clear that even a child would be able to understand. I believe that God has done just that. The Holy Spirit has anointed me to put down some truths in this book that I trust will help many people to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. I do not consider myself an authority on the subject nor am I a specialist in that this message is the main theme of my ministry. I endeavor to teach and preach a balanced approach to the whole counsel of God, however, I have helped many people who had been seeking God for many years to receive this experience.

So much is being said about the baptism in the Holy Spirit that stems from tradition rather than the scriptures. I sincerely trust that this writing will share fresh revelation directly from the Word of God. It is my prayer that this book will minister to you in such a way that you will reach out for a deeper life in Jesus and you will begin to hunger and thirst after righteousness and be continually filled with the Spirit. -

*SPECIAL THANKS*

*to*

*Nell Harris*

*For her ministry of helps  
in typing the manuscript*

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*The Holy Spirit Baptism*  
*From Within*

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## The Promise of the Holy Spirit

If you were to ask me why I believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, my answer would be in two parts. Firstly, I definitely believe because I have received. Thomas Myer-cough said, "A man's experience is not at the mercy of a man's argument." I am convinced of the reality of this experience simply because I have received. Despite this fact I want to remind you that we should never build a doctrine upon a personal experience. Many people are making a tragic mistake in promoting doctrines and scriptural principles basing their explanations upon what they have experienced. Always keep in mind that if an experience is not solidly supported by the scriptures it is to be absolutely rejected. Therefore, I believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit secondly, and most importantly because this experience is clearly discovered and expressed throughout the Word of God. To confirm such a statement let's examine what the Bible has to say about the subject.

### *The Scriptural Promise:*

#### a. Old Testament Conditions

During the dispensations or periods of time that are recorded in the Old Testament, we find that the Holy Spirit did not indwell or rest upon the life of the average individual. I believe God especially

anointed those whom He had called or chosen to fulfill a certain responsibility or a special task. Prophets, priests, and those that were in a place of spiritual authority or in a position of leadership were empowered by the Spirit to more effectively accomplish the work God had called them to perform. During the Old Testament times the Holy Spirit did not, and let me underscore that, *did not* indwell the life of the average person.

b. Joel's Promise

However, there appeared on the scene of life a person who began to prophesy and predict that whereas the Holy Spirit anointed the lives of certain people, in days to come the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh. "And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions; and also upon the servants and handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit" (Joel 2:28, 29).

Joel predicted that in the future God's Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh.

c. New Testament Promise

At the dawn of New Testament times there appeared John the Baptist. He began to tour the wilderness preaching basically a message of baptism and repentance. He was considered the forerunner paving the way for Christ to usher God's spiritual kingdom into the world. John stated, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance; but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). Notice in this verse that two baptisms are mentioned. Pay particular attention to the key



word "baptism" for it is of vital importance. In essence this is what John was saying. All those who wish to believe in this new world order that I am introducing might let it be known by outwardly confessing so by being baptized in water as an outward sign of repentance. But the one that is coming after me is greater than I, He will not only baptize you in water as a sign of repentance but He will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.

d. The Promise of Jesus

When Jesus made His appearance upon the scene of life He said, "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him; but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:16, 17). Jesus was saying to His disciples, I have been your source of strength and power but now I am going to leave you. I will not leave you comfortless, for I will send you another and He shall be your comfort, the strength and power of God within you. The Holy Spirit will become the ability to do and act, the force that can do the work, "and I will pray the Father and he shall give you another that he may abide with you forever."

Some of the last words Jesus said to His disciples are found in Luke 24:49, "And behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until you be endued with power from on high." The promise is clearly and emphatically stated.

*Historical Entrance:*

Now I would like to discuss the exciting entrance of the Holy Spirit into the world. This takes place as the 120 are

gathered together waiting for the promise of Christ. What they are waiting for, they have no idea. How He will make His appearance they do not have the slightest inclination. Jesus had given the command and here we find them waiting in one mind and one accord for the promise of Christ. "Suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind [original translation describes this wind as a rushing tornado] 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" (Acts 2:2-4).

It was the week of the Feast of Pentecost and people were gathered from all regions of the country, from every walk of life. It has been said there were as many as two million people commemorating this particular feast in the city of Jerusalem. Now when this unusual outpouring of the Holy Spirit was noised abroad a great multitude gathered at the upper room or wherever it was that they were praying. The people were all amazed and marvelled saying one to another, "What meaneth this?" Yet others mocking said, "These men are full of new wine." Then Peter standing with the 11 began to preach and in essence this is what he said. "This is that spoken of by the Prophet Joel when he declared, 'And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh.' " This is that which John the Baptist referred to when he stated, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I. He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." This is that which Christ promised, "And I will pray the Father and he will give you another comforter." This is that! Peter preached with such power and authority to the extent that at the conclusion of his message 3,000 souls confessed Christ as Lord and Master of their lives and a great revival broke out in the city of Jerusalem. This was the entrance of the Holy Spirit into the world on the Day of Pentecost and it takes

place in the year approximately 33 AD. Keep that date in mind because it is very important. I believe this was the beginning of the period of time when the Holy Spirit would operate as the active agent representing God and also Jesus Christ. Furthermore, keep in mind that we are still living in the same time period when the Holy Spirit dwells within the life of every believer.

## CHAPTER II

# Tongues

### *Tongues as Evidence:*

Many of you believe and agree that every word I have stated thus far is true and indeed scriptural. However, we enter into the area of controversy when we suggest that the ability to speak with tongues is the initial evidence that a person has been baptized in the Holy Spirit. May I remind you that every Bible-believing, Bible-teaching church will insist that every born-again believer should experience a special anointing or even a baptism in the Holy Spirit. The disagreement appears when we mention tongues as the evidence that a person has received such an experience. There are those who do not understand why it is necessary for an individual to speak in tongues as a sign that a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit. May I say at this point, very emphatically, that speaking in tongues is not by any means the only evidence; however, I believe the Bible teaches that speaking in tongues is indeed the initial evidence. Let's consider some scriptural truths concerning tongues as evidence that a person has been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

### *Tongues on the Day of Pentecost:*

Firstly, the objection is often raised by some that the 120 who were baptized in the Holy Spirit on the Day of

Pentecost spoke in different foreign languages in order to witness to the people who were watching what was happening. However, I remind you that the Feast of Pentecost was a Jewish Holy Day. The crowd that converged upon Jerusalem for this occasion was not Gentiles but Jews that more than likely understood the language of the Galileans perfectly well. It would have been extremely odd to endeavor to communicate with these people using their foreign tongue. Therefore, we must conclude that the different foreign tongues were spoken to get the people's attention so they would realize that something unusual and supernatural was happening. Afterwards they heard what was happening from the Apostle Peter who stated in his message, "men and brethren" and spoke in the Galilean language to everyone present in simple terms in such a way that all the people could understand. Therefore, it is obvious that the 120 did not witness for Christ in small clusters as much as they were praising and magnifying God. Let me illustrate.

Several years ago I took my mother back to Italy for the first time in 53 years. Mom was born and brought up in the old country for the first 16 or 17 years of her life. During all the time Mom has lived in America she has continued to communicate in the Italian language. Especially since Mom's 11 children have come along we have always encouraged her to speak in her native tongue so that we could learn and retain the language. Now when Mom speaks to her children it is normally a broken English/Italian mixture of communication. When we arrived in Italy she did not try to speak through an interpreter because she could understand and speak their language. Of course Mom did the same thing there that she does here in America only she would speak mostly in Italian and drift into English from time to time. I had to constantly remind her that she was not communicating with her children. I made sure she spoke in the correct language while we were in Italy. It was just a matter of days and Mom was right back in the groove talking in her native tongue just as rapidly as the best of them.

The point I am making is this: It would have been totally unnecessary for Mom to communicate with the help of an interpreter just as it was unnecessary for the 120 to witness to the great crowd that gathered on the Day of Pentecost by becoming divine interpreters, as it were, speaking in the foreign tongue of these people who had come from other parts of the world. These people had come back to their homeland and they could understand the language of the Galileans perfectly well and all that was necessary was for Peter to address the people in his own language to explain the marvelous outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to the crowd that had gathered for this occasion.

*Cornelius Spoke in Tongues:*

Turn your attention with me further into the book of Acts, Chapter 10. Here you find a man by the name of Cornelius who the Bible describes as a devout man, and one who feared God with all his house who gave much alms to the people and prayed always. He began to seek God and as he did God revealed Himself to Cornelius and told him what he should do. He sent two of his servants and one of his finest soldiers to the home of Simon the Tanner in the city of Joppa where the Apostle Peter was staying. At the moment they arrived Peter was on the housetop praying and God was revealing to him that the blessings of God were not to be given solely to a certain class or race of people, but to everyone that would believe, to Gentiles as well as the Jews. Consequently, when the invitation was extended, Peter readily accepted and the next day he went with them and took several members of his church to the home of Cornelius. When Peter and his party arrived Cornelius was waiting and prepared for he had called together his relatives and close friends to hear what this man had to say. Peter began to expound the Word and the will of God, and suddenly something happened. The story is found in Acts 10:44-46. "While Peter spake these words the Holy Ghost fell on all them that heard the word and they of the

circumcision that believed were astonished. As many as came with Peter because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost because they heard them speak in tongues and magnify God." Surely this experience was not salvation alone, otherwise it would be obvious that at least some of the time a person would be expected to speak in tongues as a response to being saved or born of the Spirit of God. We all know this is incorrect, for all that is necessary for a person to experience salvation is:

1. Confess with your mouth
2. Believe in your heart

Romans 10:9-10 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." Therefore, we must conclude that somewhere between verses 44 and 46 Cornelius was converted or saved. Then somewhere between verses 44 and 46 he was baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and magnified God in a prayer language of praise. (We will discuss the difference between being born of the Spirit and baptized in the Spirit in a later chapter.) This incident takes place in the year AD 41. Approximately eight years after the Day of Pentecost men again spoke in tongues as the initial evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit. Allow me to insert this challenge at this point. If a person will adopt the same attitude as Cornelius, begin to seek God sincerely, earnestly and with faith, I guarantee, upon the authority of God's Word, that you will receive the same experience that Cornelius openly received.

#### *Revival at Samaria:*

There are several additional incidents recorded in the book of Acts that very clearly establish that speaking in

tongues is indeed the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. Let's revert our attention back to Acts 8 and discover a marvelous revival in progress at the city of Samaria where many were saved, many were healed, many were delivered from demon possession, still the Holy Spirit had not fallen upon them. We must conclude that apparently the people of Samaria received the baptism of the Holy Spirit when the Apostles laid hands upon them and prayed. The accompanying sign was obviously something so unusual and unique that Simon the Sorcerer wanted to purchase this special power that the people received. I believe that the accompanying sign was the ability to speak in tongues. This experience was obviously not salvation for the Samaritans were already believers and many had followed the Lord in water baptism. It seems very difficult to make this experience anything other than the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the accompanying sign of speaking in tongues.

#### *12 Ephesians:*

Looking further into the book of Acts we find in Chapter 19 an incident concerning the 12 Ephesians. Paul asked them a question, "Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?" They replied, "We have not so much as heard if there be any Holy Ghost." Now again we must understand the experience Paul was referring to. These 12 men were converted under the ministry of John the Baptist. It was probable that they were not present when John mentioned the Spirit baptism in Matthew 3:11 and as a result they were unaware of an additional experience. Let's keep in mind these Ephesians lived during the overlapping of covenant or dispensational times when the Old Testament was being fulfilled and the new covenant or dispensation was being established. During this time these 12 Ephesians were saved in the same manner the 12 disciples were saved. No one would question the fact that the disciples were saved before the Day of Pentecost. Similarly,



these 12 Ephesians had received salvation years before this time through the ministry of John the Baptist and on this occasion they were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke with tongues. "And when Paul had laid his hands upon them the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:6). Surely it is understood that what occurred was not salvation alone but the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

*Why Speaking in Tongues Is Rejected by Many:*

I must be very honest with you. It is beyond my comprehension to understand why some very schooled and learned scholars and theologians can study the Word of God and discover the many incidents that refer to men speaking in tongues during Bible days and then insist that men who speak in tongues today are identified and associated with the devil. The entire 12th chapter of I Corinthians deals not with the annihilation or elimination of tongues but the regulation of tongues, and the related gifts of the Spirit. Paul himself said, "I speak in tongues more than you all." It appears to me that many intelligent people are simply locked into the tradition of their denomination or upbringing and refuse to break that tradition in order to accept and apply the entire teaching of the scripture to modern times.

*Tongues, a Scientific Evidence:*

Many of you may be asking: Why is it necessary to speak in tongues. Why has God selected tongues as the initial evidence revealing to our own intellect and to the understanding of others that we are potentially owned and operated by God. Actually there is a scientific explanation. Science teaches us that the mind is the computer control center of the body. You do not take one step unless first your mind dictates to your physical members and you begin to walk as you have learned to walk. You do not say

one word or present one thought until first every word, every sentence is premeditated and your mind dictates to your lips and tongue and you begin to speak as you obey the impulses of your mind. You must understand that when God controls your mind, He can control you, every area of your life. Now what is the greatest means of expressing your mind. If you experience sadness what is the most effective method of communicating your sadness? If you are full of joy and ecstasy what is the greatest means of expressing how you feel or what is happening? Naturally, by speaking in the language you have learned.

Can you see that when God controls your mind He can control you, and the greatest way He can express to you that you have received the mind of Christ is to allow you to speak in a language you have neither studied nor learned but a supernatural language of the heavenly world. The Spirit actually speaks through the believer. As the mind, the body computer control center, is yielded to Him the Spirit supplies the language and it becomes the believer's responsibility to surrender his mind and will to the Holy Spirit in order to speak in the language of the Spirit. At the point of total submission to God the believer begins to speak in tongues as a sign that he is potentially dominated and controlled by the Spirit of God. (Pay particular attention to the word potential and we will discuss its importance later.)

#### *Human Tongue Uncontrollable:*

I believe this explains James 3:8 when he said: "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison." The human tongue can be tamed only by the Holy Spirit and this is achieved as the individual yields his mind, the computer control center, to the Spirit's control. It has been said we only speak forth with our tongue what we have fed our minds. This explains why the natural man is capable only of speaking forth a deadly poison as James 3 mentions. The natural man is constantly obeying the

desires of the flesh which is continually subjected to evil which means that the fleshly desires and actions of the unregenerate individual constantly feeds the mind computer a program that is sinful and immoral. However, when the flesh is subjugated or conquered by the Holy Spirit a different concept prevails and a regenerated Spirit-baptized individual is programmed to live according to the Spirit rather than the flesh. He must then discipline himself to feed his mind on facts which are good and wholesome. The Apostle Paul said in Philippians 4:8-9, "Finally brethren whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of a good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise think on these things and those things which ye have both learned and received and heard and seen in me do and the peace of God shall be with you." The only way possible to follow this admonition of the Apostle Paul is to accept the challenge of James to tame the human tongue, to receive the mind of Jesus. Then you will have the capacity to think and speak of the good things of life. Expression of thought with the tongue represents the power of death and life. "A man's belly or spirit can be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. Death and life are in the power of the tongue" [Proverbs 18:20-21].

I believe all of this is the reason why God selected tongues as the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

#### *Restored Communication:*

Let me consummate all I have said thus far concerning tongues as evidence. I believe speaking in tongues is God's method of restoring communication. When God first created Adam and Eve He would come to earth and walk and talk with them in the garden. There was divine relationship, fellowship, companionship, and communication

He shared with His creation. When Adam and Eve failed their test and disobeyed God several things happened, one of which was the destruction of perfect communication that they enjoyed with God. Throughout most of the history of man that we study about in the Old Testament scriptures the only communication man experienced with God was on rare occasions when He would appear through an angel or another disguised method we call theophanies. A little later on God initiated and implemented the priestly function when the high priest of God's chosen people would enter into the Holy of Holies within the tabernacle or the temple once a year and represent the people to God. Afterwards he would come out of the Holy of Holies and represent God to the people. God apparently decided that there had to be a more efficient method of communication. Since the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, then the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, man can experience restored communication with God the Father. The greatest expression or revelation of this fact is the God-given ability to speak with tongues as the Holy Spirit provides the evidence. We as recreated individuals have immediate, instant communication with God through the language of the Spirit.

*Triangle of Prayer:*

There is a divine triangle of prayer when we speak in tongues. The Spirit as our earthly Paraclete, helper or counselor, speaks through us presenting our worship, our praise and our petitions to Jesus Christ the Son. Jesus as our heavenly Paraclete, helper, counselor, and great high priest receives and offers our worship, praise and petitions to God the Father. God the Father dispatches the response from Heaven by using the ministry of angels or the ministry of the same Holy Spirit that indwells our lives and we are immediately edified, strengthened and encouraged by God's own method of restored communication.

### *Tongues as Evidence is Prayer Language:*

Consequently, tongues as the initial evidence that a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit is prayer to God. "Likewise the spirit also helpeth our infirmities, for we know not what we should pray for as we ought but the Spirit Himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered, and he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God" (Romans 8:26-27). Have you ever approached God and knew within yourself you were simply unable to properly worship Him? You did not know exactly how to pray or how to find the right words to approach Him. That is the precise moment you can yield to the Holy Spirit and He will bypass your own intellect and understanding and present your worship, praise and petitions to God in a higher form or greater manner than you would ever be capable of doing by using the language you have learned. As you begin to pray in the Spirit you allow Him to intercede through your life on your behalf in an unknown tongue.

### *When May We Speak in Tongues:*

You may ask, if tongues as evidence is prayer, "Can one pray in tongues at any time?" Let me answer that question by asking, "Can a person pray in English at any time?" For instance, I am capable of speaking in a very limited way in a foreign language. At any moment I can make the transition from the English language to the foreign language. This same principle is applied to the Spirit language. Any person that is Spirit-baptized should be able to move immediately from the natural to the supernatural by simply allowing the Spirit to pray through you. You will then discover a personal sense of edification each time you speak to God in tongues for this is the highest form of communication or fellowship we can know with God the Father.

### *Defensive and Offensive Weapon:*

Speaking in tongues is considered by some to be a very necessary defensive weapon to be used in fighting the fight of faith. However, I have discovered that praying in tongues is the greatest offensive weapon used against the enemy. Someone asked me recently, "Do you suppose the devil can understand what we are saying when we pray in the prayer language?" Some of you have already answered that question in your mind with an emphatic "no." However, analyze this possibility with me for a moment. I personally believe that speaking in tongues is more than anything else the language of the angelic world. My scripture for believing this is I Corinthians 13:1, "Tho I speak with the tongues of men and *angels*." If this be true it is very possible the enemy can understand every word you pray in the Spirit. You must remember that the devil was at one time the very highest order of angel. He rebelled against God along with one-third of heaven's angels, and they were cast out of the presence of God. This being true it stands to reason that he can certainly understand angelic communications, therefore, I believe the enemy understands what we say when we pray in the prayer language. If you will look at this truth with me, you must accept the fact that if the enemy could not understand the prayer language he would continue to harrass you and accuse you without much reaction because he would not know what was being prayed through you. He could perhaps sense the spirit of your praying but it would have little effect upon him. However, if he *can* indeed understand what the Spirit is praying through you yet he cannot change it, dilute it, or alter it in any way, shape or form and he must listen to and accept and receive that prayer that is offered to our great high priest and intercessor Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, and he understands that the prayer being prayed spells his defeat, ladies and gentlemen that is enough to blow even the devil's mind and produce immediate edification, victory and deliverance for the child of God.

### *Tongues as Public Ministry:*

Tongues as evidence is not to be confused with tongues as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit as outlined in I Corinthians 12. Speaking in tongues as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit is totally separate from speaking in tongues as evidence. They are only united in the sense that they are both a manifestation of the same Holy Spirit. Many quote the Apostle Paul to refute speaking in tongues as a personal prayer language for every believer today. "Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?" (I Corinthians 12:30). However, it is clear here that Paul is referring to tongues as one of the nine gifts of the Spirit. Tongues as evidence is given to edify the individual. Tongues as the gift of the Spirit is given to edify the church, or the body of believers and always necessitates an interpretation or is followed by a word of prophecy. The ability to speak with tongues as evidence is not necessarily one of the nine gifts of the Spirit as much as it is a manifestation of the Spirit. For this reason Paul says: "Tho I speak with the tongues of men and angels and have not charity I am becoming a sounding brass and a tinkling cymbal" (I Corinthians 13:1). Notice that Paul says I speak with the tongues of men (here I believe that Paul was referring to the gift of tongues) and the tongues of angels (here I believe that Paul was referring to tongues as evidence). Tongues as evidence is a private prayer language for the explicit purpose of personal communication with God the Father as we have already discussed. This personal edification is actually forbidden in public lest the unlearned and unbeliever would become confused. "If therefore the whole church would come together into one place and all would speak with tongues and there comes those that are unlearned or unbelievers will they not say ye are mad?" (I Corinthians 14:23). Paul deals with the misuse of tongues in this entire chapter. He states in verse 4 that one who speaks in an unknown tongue edifies himself but in verse 5 he makes it crystal clear that tongues as a public

ministry becomes permissible and complete when there is an interpretation or a word of prophecy that follows which edifies the entire church. Tongues plus interpretation equals prophecy, and this constitutes tongues as public ministry in its proper setting.

#### *Are We Made to Speak in Tongues:*

Speaking in tongues is done through immediate inspiration very similar to the Spirit speaking through the prophets. Acts 2:4 says, "And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance." This scripture very clearly indicates that *they* began to speak. The 120 were not made to do anything. Only the devil makes you or drives you to do something, the Holy Spirit gently leads or guides you into all truth. Still, some people expect to swallow a radio contraption that suddenly turns on and they can neither stop nor control it. Paul said, "And the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (I Corinthians 14:32). We can control the Spirit and there most definitely is a time to pray (in the Spirit) and a time to be silent. It is totally unscriptural to think we must speak in tongues whenever we sense the urge whether it be tongues as evidence or tongues as a gift. The misconception that we cannot control our actions when we become Spirit-baptized has confused many sincere seekers and prevented them from accepting the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

#### *Has Tongues Become Outdated:*

The one verse of scripture that is used most often attempting to disprove the validity of speaking in tongues is I Corinthians 13:8. "Whether there be tongues they shall cease." This is, of course, due to the lack of understanding of what Paul is saying here. It simply means that tongues will be superseded by a more complete means of communication when Jesus returns to earth and believers enter into a new era. The Bible does not teach a dispensational



gospel when certain truths would no longer be available to men. If that were true, most teachings in regards to salvation would also be dispensational. This same verse I Corinthians 13:8 also says that knowledge shall cease. Has knowledge disappeared? Tongues along with other new covenant privileges is as real today as it was to the Apostles and members of the first church that we read about in the New Testament.

Peter said: "For this promise is unto you (referring to the people he was speaking to), and to your children (referring to the next generation), and to all that are afar off even as many as the Lord our God shall call (referring to all succeeding generations)" (Acts 2:39). The scope of that promise includes every person that lives on the face of the earth today that is willing to believe.

*Additional Evidence:*

I believe that speaking in tongues is indeed the initial evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. However, speaking in tongues is by no means the only evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit. The Bible speaks in Acts 1:8: "But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost has come upon you and you shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth." The Spirit-filled believer is challenged to become an effective witness and is promised power to propagate the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people who have received this experience are misled to believe that being Spirit-baptized is a hilarious personal fun trip. Surely it is true that a person is edified to the extent that he knows and feels the presence of God is with him, but this should only serve to make the individual a deeper Christian with a sense of mission to be useful as a witness for Christ.

*Another Evidence — Love:*

Also another evidence of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is that of producing the fruit of the Spirit. It is

generally accepted by every student of the Bible that love is the essence of the fruit of the Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is more than anything else a baptism of love. The believer receives the agape love which reaches up toward God and also reaches out toward mankind. This Spirit love fills the heart with concern and passion and care that should touch every person we come in contact with in our world filled with desperate needs.

## What Is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a different spirit than you already possess if you are genuinely born of the Spirit of God. Dr. R.A. Torrey, a noted Baptist preacher has said, "The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit distinct from, subsequent to, and additional to his regenerating work. A man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and still not be baptized in the Holy Spirit. In regeneration there is an impartation of life and the one who receives is saved. In the baptism with the Holy Spirit there is an impartation of power and the one who receives is equipped for service." In other words Dr. Torrey is saying, when we experience salvation it is a work of the Holy Spirit. He reaches out to convict us of our sins, draws us to an altar of prayer and then performs the miracle of regeneration. We experience the supernatural change as we look to Calvary remembering that Jesus shed His blood on the cross for the sins of all mankind. "Without the shedding of blood there is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22). The Holy Spirit has the responsibility of applying the blood of Christ and we are made new creatures as we receive an impartation of life. All of this is a work of the Holy Spirit as He baptizes us into the body of Christ. The Bible clearly teaches that no man can come to God unless the Spirit provides access for him; "For through him we both have

access by one Spirit unto the Father" (Ephesians 2:18). Romans 8:9 says, "Ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ he is not his." It is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit to reach out and attract individuals to Jesus Christ. He reproves the world of sin, He uses the gospel message for a witness, as leverage against or for the person and draws the individual to an altar of repentance. He reaches in and recreates the spirit of man then takes up His residence within the framework of the human spirit and that person experiences the resurrection of the Spirit and the individual is born again. There is such a fusing together between the human spirit and the Holy Spirit that whenever the Bible speaks of the spirit of man it is very difficult to distinguish whether it is referring to the human spirit or the Holy Spirit. When a person is born again he is actually baptized into the body of Christ and as a Christian he becomes a member of the family of God. The Holy Spirit is the agent that baptizes a person into the body of believers in Jesus Christ.

In the baptism of the Holy Spirit Jesus Christ becomes the agent that baptizes the person into the fulness of the Holy Spirit. Jesus Christ is identified as the baptizer, He submerges the individual into the person of the Holy Spirit. When a person is born of the Spirit or resurrected spiritually, the Holy Spirit takes up His residence in that temple of flesh. The Spirit moves into the main area of that person's life and then as the person continues to yield (I will have more to say about the importance of being yielded later) to the Spirit's control He moves into other areas of that particular life until finally the individual yields the most unruly member of his fleshly temple, which is the human tongue, to the Spirit's control and the person receives tongues as the evidence of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The individual suddenly becomes a potential candidate for greater manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit that enables a person to achieve a place of greater effectiveness in the world.

## The Holy Spirit Is a Person

It is most important that we decide if the Holy Spirit is a divine person or an influence that God somehow imparts to the believer. If we think of the Holy Spirit as a great influence or an unusual illumination, our thought will be, "How can I have more of it." However, if we think of the Holy Spirit as a person our thought will be, "How can He have more of me." The Bible speaks of the Holy Spirit as a divine personality who is omniscient, omnipresent and omnipotent. When you consider the Holy Spirit as being a divine personality try not to think of Him as possessing a corporal body for corporality would indicate someone with hands, eyes, mouth, ears, nose and other features. However, these are not the marks of personality. The marks of personality are knowledge, will, feelings or emotions. All these characteristics of personality are attributed to the Holy Spirit in the Word of God.

### *Characteristics of the Holy Spirit:*

#### KNOWLEDGE

Firstly, He exhibits knowledge. This is what is meant by the scriptures which says; "No mere man has ever seen, heard or even imagined what wonderful things God has ready for those who love the Lord, but we know about these things because God has sent His spirit to tell us. His

Spirit reaches out and shows us all of God's deepest secrets. No one can really know what anyone else is thinking, or what he is really like except that person himself, and no one can know God's thoughts except God's own Spirit" (I Corinthians 2:9-11 The Living Bible).

#### WILL

Secondly, the Holy Spirit exhibits a will. In I Corinthians 12:7-11 we read, "For the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. To one is given the Spirit of wisdom, to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings 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. All of these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit dividing to every man severally as *He will.*"

#### EMOTION: LOVE

Thirdly, the Holy Spirit exhibits the emotion of love. "Now I beseech you brethren for the Lord Jesus Christ sake and for the love of the Spirit that ye strive together with me in your prayers to God for me" (Romans 15:30). Here Paul urgently requests the prayers of the Ephesian believers for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of the Holy Spirit. We are always very determined to underscore and emphasize the love of God the Father that He gave the supreme sacrifice of His Son to die on the cross for all humanity. Moreover, we are very careful to point out the love of Jesus the Son and how He was willing to give His life as a ransom for man. Similarly, we must recognize the love of the Holy Spirit as He seeks us out to bring us into a proper relationship with God.

#### GRIEF

Another emotion exhibited by the Holy Spirit is that of grief. Ephesians 4:29-30 reads "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth but that which is good for

the use of edifying that it may minister grace to the hearers. And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption." There is no influence that will challenge a person to live a life of righteousness any greater than knowing that there is the possibility of grieving the Holy Spirit by our actions.

#### HELP; PARACLETE

Finally the last mark of personality that we must consider is the ability of the Holy Spirit to provide help. Jesus said in the book of John 14:16, "I will pray the Father to give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever." The original translation of the word comforter as used in this passage is the Greek word parakletos which literally means, "called to one's side to plead another's cause." Therefore the Holy Spirit is the personality of the Trinity that demonstrates knowledge, He demonstrates a will, He demonstrates grief, He demonstrates love and He provides help for the believer. It is undeniable that the Holy Spirit is the third Person of the triune Godhead.

## The Baptism in the Holy Spirit From Within

The key word that we are dealing with in this writing is the word baptism. John said in Matthew 3:11, "I indeed baptize you in water as a sign of confession but the one coming after me will baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire." Now the word baptize means to immerse which means to plunge into anything. Plunge means submerge. Submerge means to become covered with or dive wrecklessly into. Dive means to submerge as a submarine. The original Greek word "baptism" means to be completely put under. It is very possible to be filled with the Spirit without being baptized in the Spirit. You are not to think of the Holy Spirit as being in liquid form and able to be poured into a container of some kind. However, please remember that there are several types or symbols of the Holy Spirit used in the Bible such as fire, oil, and water just to name a few. Therefore, consider this possibility. A glass can be one-quarter filled or perhaps three-quarters filled with water and yet not be baptized. The glass is not baptized until it is completely submerged or overflowing with water. This suggests that by faith you must allow the Holy Spirit to come forth from within until you are completely submerged or baptized.

The orientals became famous for their ability to turn worthless materials into a valuable item by the process that



became known as dying. They would simply baptize or submerge their material into their secret formula and the change occurred. The same can be said of the Spirit. Our lives are worthless, to a degree, void, empty of any value whatsoever but then the person of the Holy Spirit comes to change us, to revolutionize us, to baptize us.

#### *Baptism From Within*

However the baptism comes from within not from without. I have heard many people in full gospel churches speak about receiving a portion of the Holy Spirit at salvation. If, as we have already established, the Holy Spirit is a person or personality I want to ask, "What portion do we receive at salvation?" No, *I believe at the moment of salvation a person receives all of the Holy Spirit he will ever receive.* Now you that are traditional or charismatic believers hear me out before you pass judgement.

#### *Well or Spring and River:*

Jesus was talking to a woman from Samaria on one occasion and He said, "Whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:14). I believe when Jesus talked about this well of water He was referring to salvation which brings forth everlasting life. On another occasion Jesus said, "He that believeth on me as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this he spake of the Spirit which they that believe on him should receive for the Holy Ghost was not yet given because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:38-39). I believe when Jesus talked about rivers of living water He was referring to the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Now there is a vast difference between a small limited well or spring of water and a dynamic flowing gushing river that produces an unlimited supply. That is the same difference between an experience of salvation and a deep powerful experience of

the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Allow me to once again explain the progression of events as they occur. When an individual receives Jesus Christ as their personal savior it is the work and operation of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit reaches in and recreates the spirit of man. Afterwards He takes up His residence within the framework of the human spirit and that person is born again. As the individual continues to seek God for a deeper life in Him he enters into a place of submission to the authority of the Spirit at which point the person is baptized with the *Holy Spirit from within*. It is very much like someone turned a valve on from the well of living water as described in John 4, and this well is suddenly developed into a river of water as described in John 7. Coming from within, the person of the Holy Spirit subjugates or conquers the flesh and the most unruly member of the human body, the tongue, is yielded to the Spirit's control and the individual is baptized into the person of the Holy Spirit and the evidence is that *He* speaks in other tongues. Please remember, we are not to pray, "Lord, give me more of Him" as much as we should pray, "Lord, I give the Holy Spirit all of me." If you are a believer the Person of the Holy Spirit is within you. Simply surrender your mind to the mind of God and you will experience the release of the Spirit and the accompanying evidence will be the ability to speak with tongues as the Holy Spirit comes forth from within to provide the utterance.

## Potentially Yielded

When a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit he is potentially (here is that word again) owned, operated and controlled by the Spirit of God.

This word *potentially* is a very significant word that determines the difference between a weak effortless existence or a powerful, dynamic projection of the believer. In the experience of the Spirit baptism this potential is possible, however the individual's faith in the promises of God is the deciding factor. We must understand that to appropriate any gift of God we must believe the Word and claim its promises. Our entire Christian experience all hinges upon the element of faith. As we believe God for this miracle anointing to come forth from within our lives we witness the power and presence of God in action.

But is it all in a one-time experience of speaking in tongues? I do not think so. Romans 10:17 reads, "So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God." This verse tells us that it is impossible for anyone to create faith. Only God can perform that work in our hearts. We are simply unable to produce the God-kind of faith. However, we must and can go through a continual process of hearing, studying and absorbing the scriptures and then we fulfill our responsibility, afterwards it becomes God's responsibility to create within us the God-kind of faith.

Therefore, regardless of how much one speaks with tongues unless you have a working knowledge of the Word you will live below your privileges because you do not understand what you possess or what is available. The potential is there but the realization of God's blessings will be unfulfilled. This explains why some who do not confess to accept the experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit are apparently living in more grace than others who apparently have received the Spirit baptism. Anyone can very quickly see that even though some do not believe in this experience they remain yielded to the Spirit on a consistent basis more often than those who claim to believe but fail to study the Word, speak the Word and live the Word. In many cases, inconsistency has destroyed the testimony of Spirit-filled Christians and prevented them from realizing their greatest potential.

*The Believer Receives in Proportion to the Amount Yielded:*

Every Spirit-baptized person must realize that you receive from God only in proportion to the amount you are yielded to God. This means that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not a one-time irrevocable experience. Some misguided individuals seem to think one must pray, seek and tarry until he suddenly speaks in tongues and that is the apex, the epitome, "That's it." They then consider themselves first class, full-fledged charismatic believers. My friend there is more to the Spirit baptism than a fleeting emotional sensation that happens at one time in our lives. The Apostle Paul said; "Be not conformed to this world but be ye transformed by the renewing of your minds that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Romans 12:2). Let's consider what he said. Paul knew that everything in the world deteriorates and wears out completely. It is said we are born to die. Paul warned us not to become like the things of the world. In other words, don't allow your spiritual life to deteriorate. Be transformed by the renewing of your mind. (Here we

deal with the mind again.) The inner man within must always be yielded to the Spirit's control in order to be renewed daily allowing the Spirit to create within us the mind of Christ. Some people do not understand that it is possible to be yielded and be baptized in the Spirit today and then be cold and lifeless tomorrow or next week. For this reason Paul said in Ephesians 5:18, "Be filled with the spirit." This means in the original translation to continually be filled with the Spirit. Paul is again reminding us that we must maintain a yieldedness that will bring a fresh filling on a constant basis.

## What Are the Steps a Person Must Take in Order to be Baptized in the Holy Spirit?

What must I do in order to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

*Salvation:*

Firstly, we must take the initial step of accepting Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Master, and this can only be accomplished as we decide to repent and allow the Holy Spirit to recreate our human spirit. "I tell you nay that except you repent ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). The Greek word for repent means a change of life, a change of attitude, change of conduct, a change of mind. You must change your mind about God, about Christ, and about sin. You must believe that God is the only true living God and Jesus is the only begotten Son of God and only through Him do we have access to God. The scriptural formula is found in Romans 10:9-10, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead thou shall be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation." You must admit sin is a robber, a thief, a destroyer of everything that is good, pure, decent and worthwhile. You must decide to denounce sin and rely upon the accomplished finished work of the cross of Calvary to release

you from the burden of sin. Please remember that after all is said and done the greatest sin is that of unbelief. "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

*Surrender:*

We must totally surrender to God. "And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, take up his cross daily and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus said, "If any man will come after me he must disown himself." We know that ownership signifies authority. When you own something you alone possess the power to rule, govern or control. The Bible teaches that the unregenerate person is owned and operated by sin. Jesus Himself said, "They that sin are the servants of sin." When you accept Christ you must surrender to Him as Lord of your life and disown yourself to become His disciple. When you disown something you surrender authority. This means you must become the property of Jesus. I Corinthians 6:19 says; "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you which ye have of God and ye are not your own." You must not only pray, "Christ come into my life and let me know that I am your child," you must also pray, "Jesus from this moment forth I am yours. I surrender my will to the will of the Father and I will do whatever He wants me to do, I will say whatever He wants me to say, I will be what He wants me to be, I surrender totally to God."

*Become Desperate:*

Thirdly a person must become desperate to receive the fulness of the blessings of God. "Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). What does it mean to hunger and thirst? Have you ever been extremely hungry or extremely thirsty? If so, you will remember that every part of your being cries out for food or water. There is no rest nor

contentment until you receive satisfaction. And so it is with receiving from God. You must crave the fulness of the Spirit and you must seek until you discover the reality of this experience. As long as you believe you can somehow survive spiritually without the Spirit baptism you will never receive. If you are constantly brainwashed to believe the book of Acts describes another dispensation (which is simply not true) then you will never receive the experience of the Apostles and other members of the first church.

God has blessed my ministry and as I travel across the country the Lord especially anoints me to help people receive who have been seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit for a number of years. I do not consider myself an authority or even a specialist, however, I believe the reason for my effectiveness in this particular area of my ministry stems from the fact that I personally as a teenager was a determined seeker for a number of years before I actually received. I was brought up to believe and expect the manifestation of tongues as the initial evidence of the Spirit baptism, yet I would pray for hours, day after day, week after week without any results. For several long years I sought God for this experience. One night I went to church with my mind made up. I was going to receive or else. At the moment I did not know what "or else" would mean or what it would be. I only knew I was desperate and this was the frame of mind I was in when I went to the meeting that night. I will never forget what happened for the rest of my life. I was praying as I had prayed many times before. It seemed I would reach a certain plateau and this was as far as I could go with God. Suddenly my sister leaned over and whispered in my ear, "Rich, what seems to be your problem?" I said, "Jo, I just don't know but I really want all that God has for me more than anything else in the world." At that moment the reality of the presence of God started to come forth from within me and I actually felt that I would explode if I did not find a supernatural way to praise God. I lifted my hands toward heaven and just began to love Jesus



who is the giver of tongues. My earthly language was changed to a heavenly language and I began to pour out my expressions of love for Jesus in the prayer language of the Spirit. That initial experience of the baptism in the Holy Spirit has not diminished but has instead intensified in my life. All of this took place because I searched for God with all my heart. If you will search for truth with all your heart, become desperate and desire the baptism in the Holy Spirit you will most definitely receive. "Ye shall seek me and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart" (Jeremiah 29:13).

*Prayer — Authorization:*

Fourthly, you must definitely pray or ask for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus said in Luke 11:9-13 "And I say, ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. For everyone that asked receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh, it shall be opened. If the son ask bread of any of you that is a father will you give him a stone? or if he ask for a fish will ye give him a serpent, or if he shall ask an egg will ye 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." I have used this scripture many times in dealing with people seeking the full measure of the Holy Spirit. If this experience is unreal, or not good for you do you think God would allow you to be deceived when you are asking Him for a gift? Do you think He will give you a stone if you are asking for bread? Will He give you a serpent if you are asking for a fish? No, as you have heard many times before God is a good God. He wants to give you good gifts that will bring to you abundant life. "The thief cometh not but for to steal, to kill and to destroy. I am come that they might have life and that more abundantly" (John 10:10). What you must do is begin to appropriate the blessings of God and claim them as your very own. God's method of appro-

priation is through prayer. Prayer is authorization. When you pray you merely authorize God to perform what He has already said He would do. Appropriate this experience by authorizing Jesus to accomplish the miracle of the baptism in the Holy Spirit in your own life.

#### *Faith:*

Fifthly, one must believe to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Again we touch upon the matter of faith. James, chapter 2, tells us that faith without works is dead. Mark 11:23, 24 reads: "For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when you pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them." You must come to a decision of believing God for the Spirit baptism once and for all and then begin to confess with your mouth what He has done for you and He will baptize you. You may be asking, "Don't we have to tarry to be baptized?" No, the 120 waited in the upper room for the Spirit to make His initial entrance into the world. He has already come and if you do any tarrying it is not because you are waiting for the Spirit to come. Sometimes, however, it is essential for some to tarry for preparation and personal conditioning. However, it is not the Holy Spirit you are waiting for as much as it is for your own decision to believe God for His promise.

#### *Confession Activates:*

While I was speaking at a camp one summer a young lady came forward for special prayer during one of the services and told me that for years she had listened to all kinds of sermons explaining God's plan for being born again, and also the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Nevertheless, she was unsure of her salvation and was convinced she had never been baptized in the Holy Spirit. Immediately I thought of

Mark 11:23 and was impressed to have her speak the Word. I began to lead her in a prayer of confession and it went something like this: "Lord Jesus, I want You to come into my heart, I repent of my sins, and receive You now as my personal Savior. Cleanse me from all unrighteousness and let me know that I am YOUR child. I believe You are the Son of God and I accept You now as Lord and Master of my life. I will serve You for the rest of my life because I love You." She repeated every word of this prayer and believed as she prayed. Her entire countenance changed, a smile came upon her face. You could actually sense the glory of God. Afterwards I asked her if she wanted to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. She replied, "Yes, more than anything else in the world." Again I was impressed to lead her in another prayer which went something like this: "Thank You, Holy Spirit, for baptizing me into the body of Christ. Now Jesus, I love You and thank You for all Your blessings. I praise You Jesus for baptizing me in the Holy Spirit right now. Thank You for giving me a prayer language." Then I stopped. By this time she was completely yielded to the Spirit and I encouraged her to allow the Holy Spirit to praise God through her. Immediately she began speaking in a beautiful prayer language and continued to magnify the Lord in this manner for quite some time. Later she related to me the fact that all her life she had agreed with all the teachings she had heard but had never believed with her heart to the extent she was willing to confess her needs or desires and the Word of God with her mouth. Needless to say her life was changed.

Would you like to be changed right now? Your life can be revolutionized this moment. Reach out in faith for something that is real and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. Surrender to Him completely, allow the Holy Spirit to create within you an intense desire to become baptized in His presence. Believe and confess that Jesus baptizes you into the person of the Holy Spirit and you will receive. If you have honestly taken the neces-

sary steps that will lead you to this experience I challenge you to just begin to praise the Lord out loud if possible and allow Jesus to turn your words into a glorious prayer of praise and worship in the language of the Spirit.



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## **Some Things You Have Always Wanted to Know About the Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

- What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
- Is speaking with tongues a scientific evidence?
- Is speaking with tongues for today?
- Is a person made to speak with tongues?
- Why is tongues rejected by many?
- How can a person be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

***This is a book that answers most of  
your questions about the baptism  
in the Holy Spirit with the  
evidence of speaking in tongues.***

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