

Jonathan Srock / General

All about Speaking in Tongues Life Group

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## Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

## Teaching (45 minutes)

### What Spirit Baptism Is Not

- A Separator between Christians
  - When we talk about the importance of being baptized in the Spirit, how powerful it is for witnessing and ministering to the Church, our zealous talk and passion could come out so that some Christians think if they are baptized in the Spirit that they are second-class Christians.
    - This is not the case. Passion for Jesus, the Bible, and ministry to others is not predicated on having to have the baptism in the Spirit.
    - It is true that having this experience makes you even more passionate in ministry, empowers you to minister in more effective ways, and gives you a closer walk with the Spirit.
    - But there are many Christians who are not baptized in the Spirit (as we have described in Part 1) but have honed their gifts and abilities to be effective ministers to others around them.
  - We must avoid making people think that they are “less than” because they have not had a Spirit baptism experience.
  - Jesus has made every Christian effective with tools for ministry, gifts to serve others, and an identity in Him that serves us well in ministry.
- A Spiritual Badge of Honor

- Similarly, we must not think we have climbed the rungs of the ladder of Christian maturity and think that we have “arrived.”
- Spirit baptism is an important step in growing into the unity and maturity of Christ. But, you can be a Spirit baptized Christian and still be immature.
- You can lack spiritual wisdom, grace and kindness, the ever growing fruit of the Spirit, and any other number of marks of Christian maturity.
- Like the believers in Corinth, if you elevate speaking in tongues above other gifts of the Spirit, you will actually be one of the most immature Christians in the Church.
- You can speak in terms that be one of the meanest, most small minded Christians in the Church.
- Keep your priorities straight as you grow in Christ. Speaking in tongues must fit within the other categories of spiritual growth and Christian maturity.
- To Elevate You above Others
  - People with the prayer language and gift of speaking in tongues are not more spiritual than others. Too often in the Church, we act like the world, comparing ourselves to one another.
  - Plus specifically forbade us from content ourselves with one another ([Galatians 6:1-3](#)). No one person should be elevated above others because of speaking in tongues or any other marks of Christian maturity.

**Galatians 6:1-3 ESV**

Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression, you who are spiritual should restore him in a spirit of gentleness. Keep watch on yourself, lest you too be tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ. For if anyone thinks he is something, when he is nothing, he deceives himself.

- The moment we think more of ourselves than we ought, we show our immaturity. The Holy Spirit has no problem knocking us down the peg and working with us on our pride again.

- While every Christian can be baptized in the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, the gift of tongues is given to a few Christians to operate as part of the body of Christ.
- Having the gift of speaking in tongues is no higher-or lower than Christians with other spiritual gifts and abilities. Paul taught against thinking one gift was better than another ([1 Corinthians 12:15-20](#)).

**1 Corinthians 12:15-20 ESV**

If the foot should say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear should say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would be the sense of hearing? If the whole body were an ear, where would be the sense of smell? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose. If all were a single member, where would the body be? As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.

- Let us avoid elevating one thing over another. We need not compare ourselves to one another since Jesus has made us unique even in our gifts and abilities.

## What Spirit Baptism Is

- A Deeper and Closer Relationship with the Spirit
  - Through your prayer language of speaking in tongues, you get to know the Holy Spirit dwelling in you. It goes beyond a theological point to experiencing the Person of the Spirit.
  - Your personal knowledge and experiential knowledge of the Spirit gives you a front row seat to learning more about Him, and Jesus through Him.
  - You can know your Bible and your doctrines very well, but speaking in tongues in prayer and in your gift gives you a heart knowledge because it takes away the mental aspects of your walk with Jesus. When you pray in speaking in tongues, Paul says your mind is unfruitful ([1 Corinthians 14:14](#))

- Speaking in tongues in your prayer time is good food for your spirit. Empowerment for Bold Witnessing
- Immersion in the Spirit
  - There's nothing like experiencing the fullness of God's presence in the dwelling Spirit in you. In the Old Testament, only prophets, priests, and kings experience the Spirit coming upon them.
  - Today, every Christian believer has the Spirit dwelling in them. But immersion into the presence and power of the Spirit is a way to experience how God ministers to others through you.
  - It's amazing thing to partner with the Spirit as He ministers to you and through you. He is the four takes out what it will be like to be in God's presence physically all the time for all eternity.
- Empowerment for bold witnessing
  - Another reason for the baptism in the Spirit in Acts was to be Jesus's witnesses ([Acts 1:8](#)).

**Acts 1:8 ESV**  
But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

  - the Holy Spirit speaks for us when we must witness about Jesus ([Matthew 10:19](#); [Mark 13:11](#); [Luke 12:12](#)).

**Matthew 10:19 ESV**  
When they deliver you over, do not be anxious how you are to speak or what you are to say, for what you are to say will be given to you in that hour.

  - The Holy Spirit tells us what to say, and what better way than to speak through us in speaking in tongues?
- Empowerment to live the Christian life
  - When we are connected to the Spirit dwells within us, we see His plan for our sanctification and growth into Jesus.

- The Spirit of Jesus connects with us and shows us the way to holiness.
- The Holy Spirit is in charge of the Father's pre-planned program to conform us to the image of Jesus ([Romans 8:29-30](#)).
- Speaking in tongues could be part of the Spirit's interaction with the rest of the Godhead during prayer, helping our requests to be within the Father's will ([Romans 8:26-27](#)).
- Speaking in tongues as a spiritual gift allows us to minister to the members of the body of Christ, sharing prophetically with the whole body.

## The Purposes of the Baptism

- Spirit Employment for Witnessing
  - As we have already seen, the chief purpose of the baptism in the Spirit is to empower you to witness for Christ ([Acts 1:8](#)).
  - The Spirit speaks through you in the baptism, and so He will speak through you or give you the words to say as you witness for and about Jesus.
- Spirit-to-Spirit Worship and Engagement with God
  - After receiving the baptism in the Spirit with speaking in tongues, through our prayer language we can experience a new intimacy with God and our spirits can be encouraged and nourished as we worship God and talk about Him with this spiritual language.
  - Beyond our ability to logically reason and extolled God in worship in our natural language, we our spirit to worship God in new ways that we do not understand, but our spirit is edified as it has the freedom to express worship beyond our logic and language allow.
- Empowerment for Serving the Church
  - We've already seen, and will see in more detail later, that the gift of speaking in tongues coupled with the gift of interpretation gifts God and

audible voice to speak to His people, to encourage and prophetically speak to us.

- Beyond that, the Spirit can't give you impressions on the needs of others, give you a boldness to use your other gifts, and teach you through sensing His presence when you pray on winter cents and act on His prompt and in other situations.
- You may not know how to pray for the needs of others, so praying in tongues allows the Spirit to make the right application of your heartfelt desire to minister to others in prayer match what needs to happen in the spiritual realm and God's will for your prayer to be answered.
- Spirit Control over You ([James 1:26](#); [3:2](#), [5-8](#))
  - One possible reason baptism in the Spirit happens by speaking in tongues is a way for the Spirit to show He controls you.
  - James sheds light on the one thing we can't control. No matter how hard we try, our tongue gets us into a whole heap of trouble. Let's look at what he says.

**James 1:26 ESV**

If anyone thinks he is religious and does not bridle his tongue but deceives his heart, this person's religion is worthless.

**James 3:2 ESV**

For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body.

**James 3:5-8 ESV**

So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things. How great a forest is set ablaze by such a small fire! And the tongue is a fire, a world of unrighteousness. The tongue is set among our members, staining the whole body, setting on fire the entire course of life, and set on fire by hell. For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by mankind, but no human being can tame the tongue. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

- Although we cannot control our tongue, when the Holy Spirit takes over our tongue through speaking in tongues, He can control the one thing we

can't. Showing His control over the one thing we can't control shows His power in us, that we are truly yielded to the Spirit.

- Our thinly veiled thinking that we control ourselves and everything in our life shows us who is really in control.
- It makes it easier for us to give control over to God and trust Him with our lives and everything that happens in our day.
- Spirit Empowerment for Christian Living
  - The Holy Spirit empowers you to live the Christian life. When He takes control, and you obey Him in everything, He leads you into holy living that pleases God.
  - He shows you all the parts of your life that you have not given over to Jesus. Through sanctification, the Spirit takes over more control of your character and behavior.
- A Gateway to the Gifts of the Spirit?
  - Early Pentecostals. The baptism in the Spirit was the gateway to all the gifts. They believed that without Spirit baptism a person could not use their gifts powerfully and effectively.
  - Especially the spiritual gifts of [1 Corinthians 12:8-10](#) seemed to require the initial experience of speaking in tongues by the Spirit's power.
  - But there are many Christians who have not received Spirit baptism yet operates in the spiritual gifts. The Holy Spirit cannot be held in a box. When He wishes to use a person in the gifts, He will do what He wishes.
  - Perhaps the only gifts that require the baptism in the Spirit would be the gift of speaking in tongues.

## How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

- Tarrying for the Baptism
  - For the original apostles and disciples gathered together, Jesus told them to wait until they receive the promise of the Father before they ventured into ministry ([Acts 1:4-5](#)).

### **Acts 1:4-5 ESV**

And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

- Some scholars believe you did not have to wait for the baptism as these first believers did. They say that once Jesus baptized these first believers baptism is available without the waiting period.
- However, some people wait for a long time before they receive the baptism in the Spirit. If you are in that boat, you are not doing anything wrong.
- Some people wait for a long time while others receive quickly. There are records of people receiving Spirit baptism with the moment they are saved like the Gentiles in Cornelius’ house ([Acts 10:44-48](#)).
- If you are still waiting, continue to be open to Spirit baptism and seek everything Jesus and the Spirit have for you.
- Be patient and allow Jesus to do what He wants to do when He wants to do it. Receiving the baptism with the evidence of speaking in tongues is something God does in you. You cannot make it happen on your terms.
- What Not to Do
  - If a person praying for you tells you to repeat syllables or phrases, that is not how you received the baptism. Jesus baptizes you in the Spirit. It is a divine work, not a man-made approach.
  - People have clever ways of making a sound like you’re speaking in tongues, and they use these man-made approaches. Avoid them at all costs.
  - Don’t give up on the baptism in the Spirit. People give up on the baptism too quickly.
  - Don’t try to force yourself or use any other human means to receive the baptism. It comes in Jesus’s time and He knows best when you should receive it.

- Don't get hung up on speaking in tongues or make that your focus of your request. Allow Jesus to do whatever He wants to do His way in you.
- Receiving through Worship
  - Some scholars and pastors teach you to not speak English when you are seeking the baptism because you cannot speak another language while you are speaking English. This works sometimes and other times people receive the baptism as they worship in English.
  - When we are in a state of worship, we are open to the Spirit, and receptive to what Jesus wants to do in us.
  - When the apostles and disciples were baptized in the Spirit, they were declaring the wonders of God in other tongues ([Acts 2:11](#)).
  - When baptized, these believers declared the wonders of God, worshiping Him in other languages. It makes sense that when we worship God, whether in English or not,, we are doing with the disciples did. It's not impossible to see Jesus baptize us storing worship where we switch from English to speaking in tongues.
  - Worship is a powerful way to open ourselves up to Jesus baptizing us with the evidence of speaking in tongues,, where we declare God's glory in whatever language the Spirit chooses.
- Other Helpful Ways to Receive
  - If you are not receiving even though praying for the baptism, examine yourself to make sure there is no sin in your life. Sin is the spiritual barrier to all of God's work in our lives.
  - Have you been obedient to the Holy Spirit, doing everything He puts before you and following God's will to the best of your ability?
  - Openness to Jesus and the Spirit is key to receiving the baptism and everything Jesus has for us through the Spirit.
  - Ask Jesus to receive whatever He has for you. Instead of focusing on the baptism the Spirit, focus on the Baptizer,, Jesus. Seek Jesus, and he will receive the baptism and whatever else you seek from Him.

- The mind and the Spirit are sometimes at odds with one another. Paul described praying in the spirit as unfruitful for his mind. But he then said that he would pray in the Spirit and pray with his mind ([1 Corinthians 14:14-15](#)).

**1 Corinthians 14:14-15 ESV**

For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays but my mind is unfruitful. What am I to do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will pray with my mind also; I will sing praise with my spirit, but I will sing with my mind also.

- Allow Jesus to “figure out” the logistics of worshiping God with your mind and allowing the Spirit to work in spite of your reasoning skills. Every gift from God is a mysterious thing. We never fully comprehend exactly how the Spirit interacts with us. Mystery is not a bad thing.
- What your mind cannot comprehend the Spirit fully understands. Trust the Holy Spirit that as you worship Jesus, Jesus will baptize you and the language you speak our glorifying Jesus, because Jesus has said that the Spirit glorifies Him, and Paul reminds us that the Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God ([1 Corinthians 2:10](#)). The Holy Spirit is an expert at using language and any other means to make us the best worshipers of Jesus we can be.

## Discussion (30 minutes)

## Application (10 minutes)