

The Difference Between the Gift of Tongues and Speaking in Tongues as Evidence of the Holy Spirit Baptism

I want to begin this teaching by expounding on the "new and better covenant" spoken of in Hebrews 8:6-13 and Hebrews 12:24. The reason the New Testament saint in Christ has a new and better covenant is because his sins are not merely covered by the blood of bulls and goats, but are now washed away out of his conscience to be remembered no more (Hebrews 10:1-12). Since animal sacrifices could not take away sins, mankind still had sin in their hearts. That is why they could not go to heaven when they died, because Jesus first had to die in place of them on the cross as an atonement for their sins, to which he told them it was expedient for him that he go away (die), for if he went not away, the Comforter (Holy Spirit) would not come unto them (John 16:7). So these Old Testament saints had to wait in a compartment in Hell (where the righteous dead went) called Abraham's bosom (Luke 16:22, 23). It was a holding place for them until Jesus could "go down and preach to the spirits in prison" (1Peter 3:19,20) and they could be spiritually regenerated so that he could take them to heaven. Remember, blood of bulls and goats could not take away their sins, so they could not go to heaven until their sins were removed by the blood sacrifice of God's only beloved Son.

Now this is where the importance of Jesus' words come in: "It is expedient for you that I go away (die), for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you." He was telling them that once he died on the cross for their sins, the Holy Spirit could come unto them. He told his disciples, "the Spirit is *with* you, and *shall be* {future tense} *in* you" (John 14:17).

Old Testament saints, as well as Jesus' disciples, had the Holy Ghost with them or upon them providentially, but they could not have the third person of the trinity (godhead) inside of them because they still had sin in their hearts since the blood of bulls and goats could never take away sin, but only cover it. In other words, God could not dwell inside their temple (body) until the atoning work on the cross was completed.

Now, there has been some confusion as to when a born again believer is actually filled with the Holy Ghost. Remember, first of all, that when Jesus breathed on his disciples after his death and resurrection and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost," that was when they were born again, or spiritually regenerated (John 20:22). Just as when God breathed life into the first man, Adam, and he became a living soul (Genesis 2:7), so God had to breathe life into the descendants of Adam because sin had deadened their soul (the wages of sin is death, and all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, so all have died (Romans 6:23, Romans 3:23). Jesus breathed new life into their souls and they were born again. His blood cleansed their sins, but the Holy Spirit did the regenerative work in them. Titus 3:5 says, "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

People think this is when believers are baptized with the Holy Ghost, (at conversion), but I can prove it is not so. Here's how. After Jesus breathed on his disciples and told them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost" {or, be regenerated by the Spirit} he then later commanded these same disciples in Acts chapter 1 "not to depart from Jerusalem but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water, but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence" (Acts 1:4,5). If they were already baptized at their conversion, he would not have instructed them to *wait* for the baptism. But he didn't even want them to depart from Jerusalem as witnesses for him until they received the power from on high (Holy Spirit baptism). Why? Because the Holy Spirit baptism would enable them to be led by the Spirit in all they did (especially when witnessing to people), to operate in the nine gifts of the Spirit spoken of in 1Corinthians 12:8-10, to pray in the Spirit using the heavenly prayer language which Paul the apostle referred to as the "language of angels," and to be taught and guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, when the Comforter comes, even the Spirit of truth which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me (witness of me) and you also shall bear witness (John 15:26,27). Jesus promised that the Spirit of truth would guide us into all truth and show us things to come (John 16:13). He would teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance, whatsoever Jesus has said unto us (John 14:26). This is important for the New Testament saint. Having the third person of the trinity (God the Holy Spirit) living inside of our temple (body), is the new and better covenant. God doesn't want us to be deceived. He wants to teach us to rightly divide the Word so that we do not twist the scripture to our own destruction--or give heed to others who do such things. The Bible says, "You need not that any man teach you, but the same anointing which abides in you shall teach you all things" (1John 2:27). In other words, there are teachers in the Body of Christ (the Church), but it is ultimately the Holy Spirit who will be teaching us through them, and bearing witness with our spirit if their doctrine is correct. He will open our hearts to understand the scriptures--to make the Word living to us, for Christ is the Living Word. Jesus said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink; out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." This spake he of the Spirit, which they that believed on him would receive, because the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified {dead and resurrected} (John 7:37-39).

Even Jesus himself before beginning his earthly ministry was baptized with the Holy Spirit. After he came up out of the water (water baptism), the Spirit of God lit upon him in the form of a dove (Matthew 3:16). He didn't need to be converted or regenerated because he never sinned, but he was baptized in order to "fulfill all righteousness" (Matthew 3:13-15). Note that the word *Christ* in Greek means *anointed*. After his baptism (anointing) in the Holy Spirit, he was then "led by the Spirit" into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil (Luke 4:1). After passing these tests, he then began to perform great signs and wonders for God: healings, exorcisms, teachings, preachings, words of wisdom and knowledge, etc. These all were possible because he was endowed with the power from on high. He told his disciples that "greater works than he would they do"

(John 14:12). Of course, he expected that they also would receive the anointing, endowed with the same power to do these things as he was. Again, though he providentially poured out the Spirit on his disciples prior to them being spiritually regenerated, he reminded them that he had to die in order to send the Comforter to be *in* them rather than just *with* them. Then he instructed them to wait for the Holy Spirit baptism, as I stated earlier.

Now this does not mean that a person cannot get born again and baptized (or filled) with the Holy Spirit all at once. In the Bible, we see accounts where some were born again and Holy Spirit baptized, then water baptized later. Some were born again, then hands had to be laid on them for the baptism of the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking in tongues. You might be saying to yourself, but scripture clearly states, "Do all speak with tongues, do all interpret?" (1Corinthians 12:30). And I will explain the meaning of this scripture later. But first, how do we know that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by speaking in tongues?

In the initial incident of the Holy Spirit baptism, when the disciples were gathered together on the day of Pentecost, the Bible says they were filled with the Spirit, and ***began to speak with other tongues*** as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4). Yes, these were the tongues of men, (other earthly languages not known to the speakers), but remember Paul the apostle said he spake with the tongues of men *and of angels* (1Corinthians 13:1). So there are two different kinds of tongues being referred to here. One is earthly. One is heavenly. On the day of Pentecost, the believers were baptized in the Holy Ghost and began to speak in tongues and prophesy. This was a sign to the unbelievers who did not know Christ. Why? Because God was fulfilling His Old Testament prophecy spoken of in Isaiah 28:11,12: "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people, saying this is the rest, this is the refreshing, yet they would not here." Peter elaborated on the Holy Spirit baptism at Pentecost when the unbelievers were questioning how these Galilaeans spoke to every Jew present in his own native language, though they had never learned it. He let them know it was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit prophesied by the Old Testament prophet Joel: "In the last days 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," etc. (Acts 2:5-21) Later, Apostle Paul quoted Isaiah's prophecy saying, "With men of other lips and other tongues will I speak to this people, and yet for all that, they will not hear me" (1Corinthians 14:21). He went on to explain, "Wherefore tongues are a sign for those who believe not" (1Corinthians 14:22). In other words, God prophesied that this is how the Jew would know when Messiah came: he would see and hear the physical manifestation of speaking in tongues, as a sign that God now dwells in His people because the sin has been removed by the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. But Jesus taught, "These signs shall follow those who believe...they shall speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17). So although tongues are a sign to unbelievers, they are also a sign to believers (those who accept Christ as their Lord and Savior); the Jew would know Messiah has indeed come in the person of Jesus Christ through the sign of tongues, and the converted believer would have

the sign following: tongues.

When Simon the sorcerer was converted, he followed Philip around, beholding the wonders that were done. When he saw that through laying on of hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered Peter and John money, saying, "Give me this power, that on whomsoever I lay my hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:9-24). Now I ask you, how did he know people were baptized in the Holy Ghost if there was no physical evidence? Remember, he offered money for the power to give the Holy Ghost, so there must have been some miraculous sign that followed the Holy Spirit baptism. And there was: tongues!

Likewise, when Peter was preaching repentance to the Gentiles in Cornelius' neighborhood, the Holy Spirit fell on all those who 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." How did they know this? "**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 10:1-48).

When Paul came to Ephesus and found disciples there, he asked them whether they had received the Holy Ghost since they believed? They told him they had not heard about any Holy Ghost. He discovered they had only been baptized with John's baptism of repentance. So after he baptized them in the name of the Lord Jesus, he then laid hands on them for the Holy Spirit baptism. As a result, the Holy Ghost came on them and they **spoke with tongues** and prophesied (Acts 19:1-7).

But why speak in tongues? What is the purpose? The purpose is fourfold; one: a heavenly prayer language (language of angels) for intercession to God when praying for ourself or others, two: to edify or build up our spirit man (or woman) by utilizing this prayer language, three: to speak in another's native language in order to communicate with him when you don't know his dialect, and four: to enable God to speak to people using the language of angels followed by interpretation so that others know what He is saying. I will cover these four purposes in detail, starting with number one.

Romans 8:26 states that "we know not what we should pray for as we ought, but the Holy Spirit makes intercession to God for us with groanings which cannot be uttered." In other words, our language is limited, our knowledge is limited. But when the Holy Spirit utilizes our lips, our tongue and our voice to pray in the heavenly prayer language, he knows what to pray for according to the will of God (Romans 8:27). So we pray voluntarily, but he gives us the language by which we do so (groanings which we cannot utter—something that is not our native tongue; not learned).

Likewise, the Spirit helps our infirmities {in this case, *weaknesses/limitations*} (Romans 8:26). Paul said when we speak in an unknown tongue, we edify (build up) ourselves (1Corinthians 14:4). We can recharge our inner spirits, much like a battery gets charged. If we're having a bad day or lack wisdom for a situation, we can pray and the Holy Ghost will help our weaknesses and limitations. He will empower us. Jude says we should build

up ourselves on our most holy faith. How? By praying in the Holy Ghost (Jude 1:20).

Remember that when the disciples were filled on the day of Pentecost, they began to speak in the tongues of men: languages that were earthly, but not known to the speaker. This, as we covered earlier, was a sign to the unbelieving Jews that Messiah had come and the prophecies were fulfilled: God in us (Zechariah 2:10, 11). But as the disciples were speaking in these tongues, they were speaking about the *wonderful works of God* (Acts 2:11), which could be summed up as a teaching (doctrine), a revelation, etc. So they weren't just babbling incoherently about nothing. They were saying something important in a tongue that others could readily understand.

I know a man (I'll call him Bill) who was once led by the Holy Spirit to knock on the door of a certain house he had never been to before. He did so, unsure of what would happen as a result. An elderly man opened the door, and God told Bill to start speaking in tongues. Bill lifted up his voice and obeyed, not knowing what he was speaking. It turned out that the elderly man was Greek, and was able to hear a message of salvation in his native tongue! Bill didn't know Greek, but the Holy Spirit did! This is an example of the "tongues of men" that Paul the apostle spoke of.

Now let's get to the essence of this teaching: *the difference between the gift of tongues and speaking in tongues as the evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism*. Many people are confused because Paul asked, "Do all speak with tongues, do all interpret?" They then assume that speaking in tongues can't possibly be the evidence of the Holy Spirit baptism, because clearly not all can speak in tongues. But what they fail to understand is that Paul is not referring to the Holy Spirit baptism here. He is referring to the *gift of tongues*, when God speaks a message to His people followed by an interpretation so that they can understand what He is saying. This gift of tongues can be summed up as: God speaking to man, whereas speaking or praying in tongues as a result of the Holy Spirit baptism is summarized as: man speaking to God. One prayer is coming down from heaven, and one prayer is going up to heaven. Both are enabled by the Holy Spirit, but one is spontaneous (as the Spirit imparts it to man) and cannot be practiced all the time, whereas the other is voluntary and continuous, and can be done as often as the speaker wishes, because the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets (1Corinthians 14:32). We control it: it doesn't control us.

The gift of tongues is one of the nine gifts which are divided to the believer severally as the Spirit wills, and will be followed by the gift of interpretation if it is truly from God (1Corinthians 12:7-11). That is why Paul said that all things should be done "decently and in order" (1Corinthians 14:39,40). He was correcting a problem in the Corinthian church. People were speaking in tongues without the gift of tongues being imparted to them, and there was no earthly idea of what was being said. Paul said, if there be no interpretation (if it's not Spirit led), then keep silence in the church and speak to yourself and God! (1Corinthians 14:28). He instructed that if the gift of tongues was practiced in the church, it should be by two or three at the most, and let one interpret

(1Corinthians 14:27). He said, "Forbid not to speak with tongues," and "I thank God I speak with tongues more than you all. Yet in the church I'd rather speak five words with my understanding, so that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue {meaning, without interpretation} (1Corinthians 14:39, 1Corinthians 14:18,19). This he said because again, there was no order in the church, and some people were not operating in the gift of tongues, but only in their heavenly prayer language which provided no edifying to other church members, but only to themselves.

My husband Jay has been used in the gift of tongues several times, but I never have. Still, I speak in tongues every day (my heavenly prayer language as a result of my baptism in the Holy Spirit). Jay speaks in tongues every day too, and he can tell you there is a difference between his heavenly prayer language and operating in the gift of tongues. One is continuous, the other spontaneous. One is self instigated, the other Spirit prompted. Both are very needful to the Body of Christ.

I ask you now, are you truly baptized with the Holy Spirit evidenced by speaking in tongues? If not, then you are not filled with the Spirit. He is with you, but wants to be *in* you. But God says He gives the Holy Spirit to *those who obey Him* (Acts 5:32). In order to be filled—to have God come dwell in your temple through the person of the Holy Spirit—you must have no present sin in you, for God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all (1John 1:5). He cannot live in a dirty vessel. You must first repent of your sins; confess them and forsake them. Then ask God to indwell you by giving you the Holy Spirit baptism, which will help you overcome sin, too. Read scriptures if you doubt the baptism, until you have built your faith, for faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Just as you had to have faith for salvation, you must also have faith for the Holy Spirit baptism. Now after you have asked God to fill you with His Spirit, begin to lift up your voice and utter the first sound that comes out. The devil will try and tell you it is "just you" making those sounds, because he wants to discourage you from receiving the power from on high. Why? Because it is so powerful and will advance God's kingdom as well as your spiritual walk! But trust God to give you a new heavenly prayer language. Keep practicing it until it flows "like rivers of living water" inside your belly (your spirit). You may also have someone who is baptized in the Holy Ghost lay hands on you so that you may receive the baptism.

The gift of the Holy Ghost (or Holy Spirit baptism; Acts 2:38,39) is an important part of the new and better covenant; God inside you (Ezekiel 36:25-27). This is the rest and refreshing that God spoke of (Isaiah 28:11,12); the anointing that breaks every yoke (Isaiah 10:27). You will be walking in the Spirit and being Spirit-led in all that you do for Him (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:16,18). "Not by might, nor by power{of man}, but by my Spirit saith the Lord" (Zechariah 4:6). Cease from your own works and let God's Spirit lead you in witnessing for Him. Jesus said, "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. (Matthew 10:19, 20)

And when the enemy comes in like a flood {of lies}, the Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him {because he's the Spirit of truth who will bring all things to your remembrance that Jesus said unto you} (Isaiah 59:19). May God bless you as you consider this teaching with an open heart. Remember, Jesus *commanded* his disciples to receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost (says the King James Version; Acts 1:4,5). It wasn't an option for them; it was a command. And Jesus our Lord said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

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