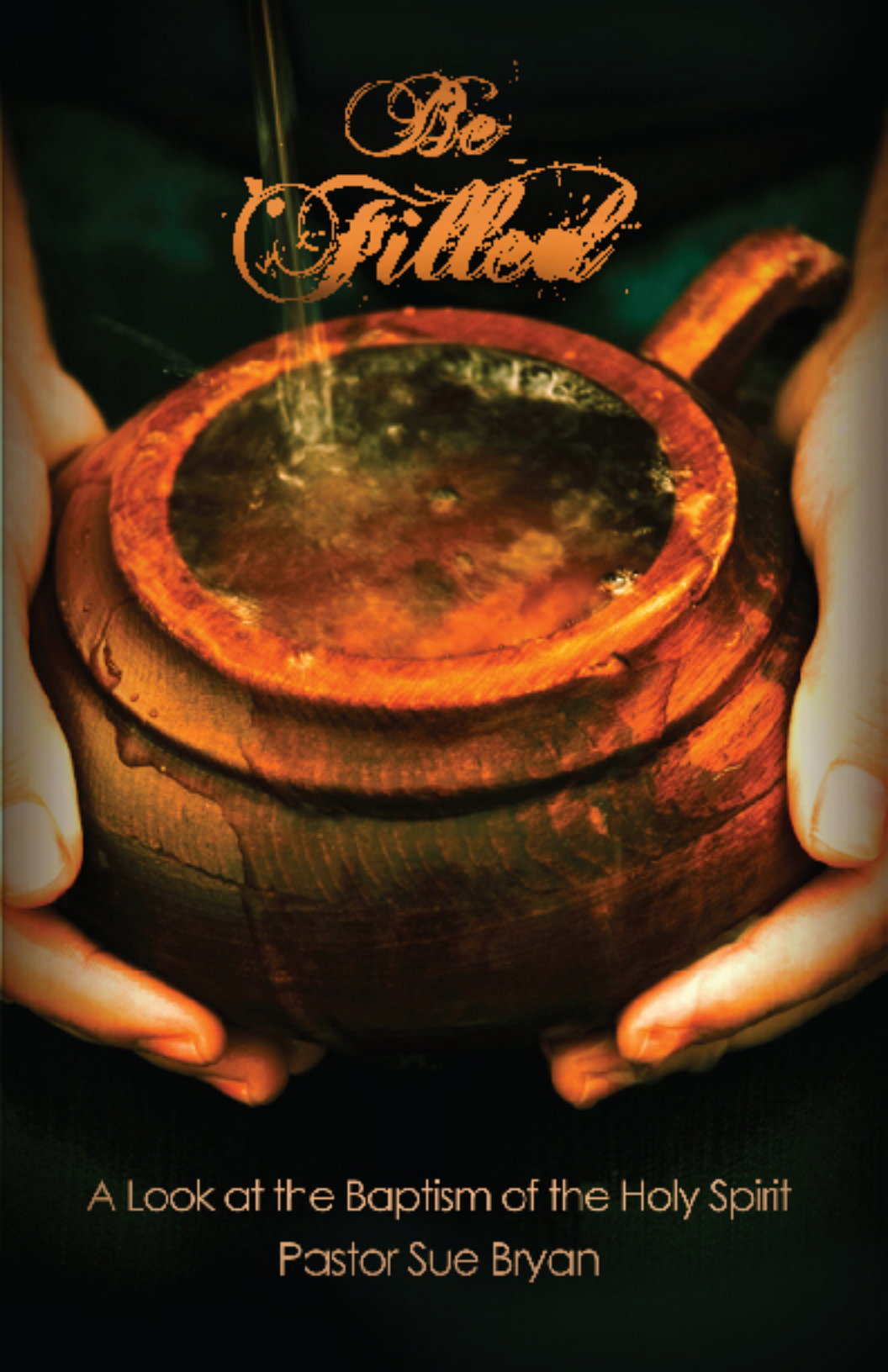




Be Filled

A Look at the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
Pastor Sue Bryan

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Once you are Born Again, it is Jesus' desire that you grow in your walk with Him, getting to know Him more each day. In order to do this, you need the power of the Holy Spirit to help you. In every area of our Christian walk, we need to always ask "What does God's Word say about this?" and then have a commitment to follow what God says about it, even if it may conflict with what we have been previously taught. There are many differences of opinions as to what it means to be filled with or baptized in the Holy Spirit. Therefore we need to look to God's Word as our final authority and allow it to be the pattern for our lives.

Ephesians 5:18 says, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (KJV). "Be filled" is a command! The original Greek indicates that this is an ongoing process. God wants us to continually be filled with His Spirit so that we are empowered to serve others in a mighty way!

Waiting for Power

When talking to His disciples following His resurrection, Jesus told them to wait in Jerusalem until they were empowered by the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49). Many times young Christians are encouraged to witness to their friends about their conversion to Christianity, but Jesus advised His first followers not to tell anyone about Him until they were first empowered to do so. Jesus said, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

A Separate Act

In Acts 8:1, Philip went down into Samaria and preached Christ to the Samaritans. They believed what he preached and were Born Again and baptized in water. Then it says that Peter and James came down from Jerusalem and laid hands on them to be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17). Clearly we see two separate things taking place here: they were Born Again first, and then filled with the Holy Spirit.

To be born of the Spirit is one thing; to be filled with the Spirit is another thing. The first is for salvation, to receive Eternal Life; the second is

for power to equip you in your service to the Lord and to lead a strong, successful life for Him here and now. It is the same Holy Spirit, but the difference is in the dimension or measure.

The Baptismal Measure

John 4:14 says that salvation will be like a well of water, springing up unto everlasting life. From a well, you can freely drink and your thirst is quenched—you have Eternal Life. John 7:38 says that when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, that out of your heart, or the very core of your being, will flow rivers of living water. From a river you can generate enough electricity to light a whole countryside. The same type or symbol of water is used when describing the Holy Spirit; the difference is in the dynamics of that water—a river rather than a well.

In John 3:11, John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. The Greek word there is, “baptizo” which means to be totally submerged or immersed. In connection to water baptism, it means to be totally submerged in water—buried as He was, then raised up to walk in newness of life. In relation to the baptism of the Holy Spirit, it means to be totally submerged or immersed in His power.

In John 20:22, Jesus breathed on His

disciples and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." We know that at this point, they were Born Again. If this was to receive power (that which comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit), then He would have not told them to "wait in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

Why Do We Need Power?

We need the power of God to do the works that Jesus did. Jesus said in John 14:12, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father."

Even though Jesus was God manifested in the flesh, in His earthly ministry, He did what He did as a man, anointed by the Spirit of God. In Luke 4:18 it says, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor..." He submitted to water baptism, then the Spirit of God descended upon Him in the form of a dove (Luke 3:22). It was not until after this happened that His earthly ministry began at the marriage in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11).

Jesus told the early disciples to wait in the city of Jerusalem until they received the power of the Holy Spirit. He had just resurrected from

the dead; they no doubt wanted to proclaim this to all, but He told them to wait to minister to others until they had received power. We need this same power in order to be effective in our ministry to others.

What to Expect

You've received Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior and perhaps you've been baptized in water. But what should you expect to happen when you are filled with the Holy Spirit?

Once again, if we want our lives to be governed by what God wants, we need to constantly go to His Word, the Bible, for our guide. What happened to the first Christians when they were filled with the Holy Spirit? What happened to them should be the same pattern for us today. Acts 2:4 says that when they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them the language. On the day of Pentecost, they spoke languages that visitors in Jerusalem from other parts of the world understood, and yet those doing the speaking did not have a previous knowledge of those languages. God supernaturally gave those visiting in Jerusalem the ability to hear their own languages and it was a sign to them that God was doing a miracle in their midst. Because 1 Corinthians 13:1 says, "though I speak in the tongues of men and of angels...", we see that there are two types of unknown tongues mentioned in the Bible:

those unknown to the one doing the speaking, yet languages of the day and those unintelligible to others (tongues of angels).

1 Corinthians 14:2 says, "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understands him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries." When we pray in other tongues our knowledge is "unfruitful," or in other words, we don't know what we are saying. "In the spirit" we are speaking "mysteries" that only God can understand. Either of these types of tongues or languages can come forth when you are filled with the Holy Spirit. One can be a sign to an unbeliever, to hear someone speak a language they know that person doesn't know; the other can be strictly for the purpose of strengthening the one doing the speaking. 1 Corinthians 14:4 says that when you pray with a tongue you edify yourself, that means you build yourself up in your spirit, causing you to be very bold to speak and live for Christ. This is what happened to Peter after he was filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2). About a month and a half earlier he had yielded to fear and denied that he even knew Jesus; now after being filled with the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, he is bold and fearless.

Why Tongues?

In 1 Corinthians 12:11 we see a list of nine gifts that the Holy Spirit gives when one is filled with the Spirit.

These are nine supernatural gifts or ways in which the Holy Spirit can manifest through you, as He wills, once you are filled. These gifts are: a word of knowledge, a word of wisdom, working of miracles, special faith, gifts of healings, discerning of spirits, prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Each one of these gifts is for the purpose of equipping you supernaturally to minister to others, all except “tongues.” 1 Corinthians 14:4 says that the primary purpose for speaking in tongues is to speak mysteries or Divine secrets to God. In turn, it says that we edify ourselves, but not others; the gift of prophecy is for the purpose of edifying others.

The “First Fruit” Principle

God commands us to love Him with all our heart, soul, and mind. He wants us to give Him, the first part of our week, the first part of our day and the first part of even our finances (the tithe). When you speak in tongues, 1 Corinthians 14:2 says that your spirit speaks mysteries to God that “no man understands”. You are not speaking to you, or any person; your spirit is speaking mysteries or “divine secrets” (as another translation says) to God. Perhaps the reason that we see tongues as the first gift of the Spirit in manifestation in the book of Acts is because God wants us to speak to Him first, allowing the Holy Spirit to pray through us, therefore edifying ourselves. We are then empowered to minister to others, by allowing the other gifts of the Spirit to operate through us.

If the primary purpose for us to speak in tongues is to speak mysteries to God, and in turn edify or build up ourselves, it stands to reason that He would want us to do that before we go out and minister to anyone else, enabled by the other gifts of the Spirit.

Other Benefits of Speaking in Tongues: **You can edify yourself.**

We get our word “edifice” from the same Latin word that we get our word “edify”.*An edifice is a large massive building like a fortress or castle. When we pray in the spirit or in tongues, the Bible says we edify or build ourselves up, like a mighty fortress on the inside.

1 Corinthians 14:4—“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church.” The apostle Paul was not saying that we should only prophesy because it is better for edifying the church, he was also saying that when we speak in a tongue we edify (build up) ourselves. We need to be built up and strengthened like a mighty tower!

You can make intercession for others.

Romans 8:26 says, “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.

For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered."

In the original Greek, the rendering there is not that there will be no sound made, but rather that the groanings will not be in articulate [known] language, a language understood by the one doing the speaking. Because you are speaking mysteries to God (1 Corinthians 14:2), the Holy Spirit is making intercession through you in the spirit with wisdom and understanding far beyond your knowledge of the situation.

You can give thanks well.

According to 1 Corinthians 14:16-17, when you pray in the spirit, or in tongues, you "give thanks well." (1 Corinthians 14:14)

"Otherwise, if you bless with the spirit, how will he who occupies the place of the uninformed say 'amen' at your giving of thanks, since he does not understand what you say? For you indeed give thanks well..." 1 Corinthians 14:16-17a

You will have strength to walk in love.

"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy

Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.” Jude 20-21

When we pray in the spirit, or pray in tongues, we are edified or strengthened in the spirit. The Holy Spirit would have us always to walk in love toward others. When we are strengthened in the spirit, we find we are strengthened to long-suffer with the short-comings of others and therefore able to respond to them with the love of God.

Isn't it Better to Prophecy?

The Church at Corinth was speaking in tongues in the public assembly without regard to unbelievers that were coming to visit. It looked very chaotic to them and they did not know what anyone was saying because there was no one interpreting. So the Apostle Paul was writing to give instruction as to how many tongues should be spoken and the fact that there needed to be interpretation so that people would know what was being said.

1 Corinthians 13:1 says, “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.” He was making the point that our motivation should always be what would promote the love of God. If I preach under the anointing of God in a language that others understand, they will be edified and strengthened. But he was not saying that one

should not speak in tongues to edify himself or to speak to God. Review the following scriptures and you will see that Paul was not saying that we should not speak in tongues, especially in our own private devotional time:

1. "For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God, for no one understand him; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries [*Divine secrets*]." (1 Corinthians 14:2)
2. "He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church." (1 Corinthians 14:4)
3. "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding." (1 Corinthians 14:14-15)
4. "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all..." (1 Corinthians 14:18)
5. "Therefore, brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak with tongues." (1 Corinthians 14:39)

These do not sound like the words of a man that is telling people that they should not speak in tongues.

How the Early Christians Received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Initially, the Holy Spirit was poured out on the day of Pentecost, on “all flesh.” He was poured out again on the Gentiles in Acts 10:44. But other than that, the book of Acts shows us that believers laid hands on other believers to be filled with the Holy Spirit. And every time it says that those new believers “spoke in tongues,” it is before we see any other gift of the Spirit in manifestation. Only in one place (Acts 8:4-22), it does not say that they spoke in tongues, but it says that Simon the Sorcerer wanted to buy the power to lay hands on people to empower them, so he obviously saw something in manifestation. We can only assume because of the other places mentioned in the Book of Acts, that they were demonstrating the same gifts of the spirit, and speaking in tongues was exercised first

How We Should Receive Today:

Ask in faith.

Luke 11:9-13 says that if we being natural humans, give our children exactly what they ask for and not something that would harm them, how much more will our Heavenly Father

give the Holy Spirit to those who ask for Him. If we ask God for His Holy Spirit, He is going to baptize us with the Holy Spirit and we can expect the same thing to happen to us, as happened in the book of Acts when the early Christians first received. We do not have to fear that it will be a wrong spirit or something from the Enemy. When we ask our Heavenly Father in faith, He gives us just what we ask for. We need to come in faith, asking Jesus to baptize or fill us with the Holy Spirit.

Have a believer lay hands on you.

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), the Holy Spirit was poured out "on all flesh." The Holy Spirit fell on all those that were awaiting His presence in the upper room. Again, He fell on the Gentiles, signifying to the Jewish Christians that God had accepted all races to be in union with Him (Acts 10:44-46).

The general pattern that we see in the book of Acts is that other believers laid hands on Christians to be filled with the Holy Spirit. At first, it was the twelve apostles of the Lamb that laid hands on believers; they were the "founding fathers" of the church. But Ananias who was a disciple, a follower of Christ, but not an apostle, laid hands on Saul for him to receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:10,17). So we see that the general way that believers received the infilling of the

Holy Spirit was through the laying on of hands by other believers.

Receive by faith.

Mark 11:22-24 teaches us that faith is believing that we receive when we ask. Once hands are laid on you, believe that you receive the Promise of the Father, and then begin to act on your faith. If Christians in the Early Church spoke in tongues when they were filled, we can expect the same thing to happen to us when we are filled.

Expect to speak in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:14 says that when you speak in tongues your “understanding is unfruitful.” So begin to speak the language that the Holy Spirit will give you rather than any language that is your native tongue. Paul went on to say, “What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding...” (1 Corinthians 14:15). Just like you decide or “will” when to talk in your native tongue, you will need to “will” or decide to speak in other tongues. The Holy Spirit is your Helper, but He will not do it for you! On the day of Pentecost, “[they] began to speak...” (Acts 2:4); their will was involved. As they began to speak, the Holy Spirit gave them a language. What He did for them, He will do for you!

Do I have to speak in tongues?

No, you don't have to speak in tongues, but you can and should. You're filled with the spirit by faith, because you asked for the Holy Spirit (Luke 11:9-13), but then once filled, you can expect the same gift to operate through you as the early church believers did. But certainly, the Father will not make you do anything that you do not desire to do. The Holy Spirit is a gentleman! Trust that "every good and perfect gift" is from above. (James 1:17)

Be filled to overflowing!

Then according to John 7:38-39, out of your heart or the very core of your being, will flow "rivers of living water." You will sense the mighty power of the Holy Spirit unleashed in your life. Jesus said that you would receive "power" when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. The Greek word used here is "dunamis." This is where we get our word, "dynamite." Receive the "dynamite" power of the Holy Spirit and "blow up" the works of the devil in your life! Then let God's love overflow from you to others!

Let us hear from you!

If you would like to be filled with the Spirit

with the evidence of speaking in other tongues or would simply like more information, please call The Rock Church office (909) 825-8887 or email@rockchurch.com. You are a valuable part of the plan of God in the world today and we as a church want to do all we can to make sure that you come into your destiny. God bless you richly as you endeavor to walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Service Times:

Saturday Sabbath Service:

10:00 a.m. ♦ ▲

Sunday Morning Services:

9:00 a.m., ♦ ▲ ★ 11:00 a.m., ♦ ▲ ★ 🖐️ ★

Iglesia La Roca (Spanish service) Sunday & Youth Service:

1:30 p.m. ♦ ★

Sunday Night Service: Overflow & Youth Service

6:00 p.m. ♦ ● ★

Wednesday Night Service:

7:00 p.m. ♦ ● ★ 🖐️ ★

Thursday Women Rock (Women's Bible Study):

9:30 a.m. ■ ❖ ★ 🖐️ ★

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🖐️ Deaf Interpretation provided

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