

Pentecost 2020

Jesus said: John 6:44 “No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 14-16 Jesus tells of the Promise of the Father He will pray and ask the Father to send to His followers as the Helper-Comforter – who will minister to them and bring them into relation with the Father.

Benefits of the Holy Spirit

1. You know your spirit is speaking directly to God

I Corinthians 14:2, 14- “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.”

“For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful.”

- Paul establishes one of the purposes for tongues is for private worship.
- It is a God-ward gift; not man-ward, unless it is interpreted so the hearers may also understand – v.5
- Tongues are intended for **personal** prayer and praise to God – vv. 14, 17.
- Tongues operate from the spirit of the person and not the mind [intellect] of the person.
- Tongues are an enablement of the Spirit for a believer to have direct communication with God – who is Spirit –John 4:24.

2. You Know you are praying according to the will of God

- Romans 8:26, 27 “Likewise the Spirit helps in our weaknesses [humanness]. 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.

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

- We come to the end of our human vocabulary and expressions to the Lord with our prayer life.
- “**Helps**” = this does not indicate the Holy Spirit prays instead of us praying, but that the Holy Spirit takes part with us and makes our weak prayers effective.
- “Which cannot be uttered” = does not mean silent prayer, but prayers not able to be put into words.

- Our prayers are taken by the Holy Spirit and made into effectual intercession before the throne of God.
- This is the “Helper – Comforter” Jesus said He would send to His followers to assist us in doing the will of God.

3. **When praying in tongues, you bring your tongue into subjection**

- James 3:8- “But no man can tame the tongue. It is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”
- When we pray in the Spirit or tongues; you are bringing this unruly member of your body into submission to God and the will of God.
- Perhaps this is why God chose the tongue as the member which comes under the influence of the Spirit of God.

4. **When you pray in tongues, you are being Edified**

- I Corinthians 14:4, 18- “He/she who speaks in a tongue edifies him/her-self, but he/she who prophesies edifies the church.”
- **Edifies**= “to build a house – to build up/encourage” promoting spiritual growth of an individual in regards to him/herself.
- The use of tongues is a means of private self-edification. It is for **spiritual strengthening**.

5. **You know you are giving thanks well to God**

- I Corinthians 14:15-17 “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. 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, but the other is not edified.”
- When you speak in tongues, even if no one around you understands what you are saying you “give thanks well to God.”

6. **Your Faith is stimulated**

- Jude 20- “But you beloved, **building yourselves up** [edifying yourself] in your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.
- Jude **exhorts** [encourages] us to **edify** [build up] ourselves with praying in the Holy Spirit – tongues.

- It's praying as directed by Paul in Romans 8:15 – “Praying with groanings which cannot be uttered and praying in unknown tongues.
- When you find yourself struggling with doubt, fear, and unbelief – draw aside and pray in the Spirit and your faith will be stimulated.

Tongues:

- Many today fight Tongues as being a part of the Infilling of the Holy Spirit or proof of His Presence in the life of a believer.
 - The Holy Spirit is present in the life of a believer as they receive the Lordship of Christ into their life – based on their faith in Jesus as Savior.
- Tongues does function as a Biblical **SIGN** of the Holy Spirit's presence:
 - **Jesus** said it would be a sign of those who follow Him – Mark 16:17 “These signs shall follow those who believe. In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues...”
 - **Paul** referred to tongues as a sign – I Corinthians 14:22 “Therefore tongues are for a sign...”
 - **Peter** noted that tongues were a common sign with both the Jews and the Gentiles of God's presence and Pentecost blessing. Acts 10:45-46 “Then those [Jews] of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God...”

Prerequisites to Receive the Holy Spirit

If those 1st century believers needed the Promise and Power of the Father to reach their world, how much more do we need the same Promise and Power to reach our increasingly pagan and hostile world today?

Conditions that are necessary

1. The New Birth of **repentance** and **confession** of faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior is the pre-requisite to receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - Acts 2:38- “The Peter said to them, **Repent** and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit.”
2. Response of Faith-
 - Galatians 3:3- “Are you so foolish and senseless? Having begun your new life by faith with the Spirit, are you now reaching spiritual maturity by your own works and efforts to keep rules and regulations?”

- **Faith** is the condition by which a person receives **everything** from the Lord.
 - **Hebrews 11:6** “Without faith it is impossible to please God, for everyone who comes to Him, must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.”
 - **James 1:6-8** “When you ask of God, you must believe. Don’t doubt Him. Whoever doubts is like a wave in the sea that is blown up and down by the wind. People like that are thinking two different things at the same time. They can never decide what to do. So they should not think they will receive anything from the Lord.”
 - Man’s tendency is to lean on his senses and emotions. This causes one to close themselves off from God if they don’t feel righteous or worthy.
 - **Acts 2:38-** “...you will receive the **GIFT** of the Holy Spirit.”
 - You cannot buy or earn this gift from God; you simply receive.
3. There should be heart preparation
- This involves being hungry and seeking and asking for the Holy Spirit. This means the person is not to take a neutral position, but seek after the Lord.
 - **Luke 11: 9-13** “I say to you, **Ask** - and it shall be given to you; **Seek** - and you will find; **Knock** – and it will be opened to you. For everyone that asks receives, and he that seeks will find; and to him that knocks it shall be opened. If a son asks bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
If you then, being natural, know how to give good gifts to your children; how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him?”
 - Jesus’ instructions are to **ask**, **seek** and **knock** when desiring to receive the Spirit.
 - **Matthew 5:6-** “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled.”
4. Have elders or believers lay hands on you to receive
- **Acts 8:17-** “Then as Peter and John placed their hands on them, they received the Holy Spirit.”
 - **Acts 19:6-** “...when Paul placed his hands on them; the Holy Spirit came upon them, so that they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.”
5. The person should respond in **faith and obedience** to receive the Holy Spirit
- It is both a supernatural and natural experience; it is the moving of the Holy Spirit combined with human yielding and responding in faith.

- The Spirit gave the **utterance** on the Day of Pentecost – and **they spoke** Acts 2:4.
- **Utterance** = “A speaking forth, to declare plainly.”
The words are not from the human mind, rather they come from the person’s spirit.
Acts 5:32 “...God has given His Spirit to all those who obey Him.”
John 7:38, 39- “...rivers of living water will flow from his inmost being!
He said this about the Holy Spirit, whom those who trusted in Him were to receive later – the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.”
- There is cooperative action between man and God.
- It is more than thirsting – it is drinking.
- It is more than asking – it is receiving.
- It is not only offered as a gift – He must be received.
- **Other helpful keys:**
 - We are seeking the Lord to dedicate more of ourselves to His purposes, not just to an experience with Him. Don’t just seek for the tongues experience – pursue relationship with the Lord.
 - We don’t have to be fearful we will receive something evil or a counterfeit gift. God is good and willing to give His good gifts to them that ask.
 - We don’t have to work up emotions – we need to learn to yield and worship Him and receive.
 - The principle of **Psalm 22:3** needs to be applied-
 - “You are holy, O Thou that inhabits the praises of Israel.”
 - An atmosphere of worship and praise always makes a place for the presence of God.
 - We should openly, freely worship God and be thankful to Him for His goodness.
 - Once we are filled; speaking in tongues daily is a key to building ourselves up in the faith and recharging our spiritual lives.
 - **Jude 20-** “You, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.”
 - **I Corinthians 14:4-** “He that speaks in an unknown tongue **edifies** [builds up, strengthens] himself.”
 - **I Corinthians 14:18-** “I thank my God; I speak with tongues more than all of you.”
- This experience is not an end; but is the beginning of a Spirit filled life journey with the Lord Jesus Christ.
- It should be considered as the doorway opening before us the treasures of the Spirit and the Kingdom of God.

-0-