

# Seven Steps to Receiving the Holy Spirit

I Corinthians 14:39 – “Wherefore, Brethren, covet to Prophecy (desire the Gift of Prophecy), and forbid not to speak with Tongues. (This proclaims the fact that all the instructions he has given are not meant to disallow Tongues, but rather to put them in their rightful order. So where does that put the so-called religious leaders who ignore this particular statement, which is actually a ‘Commandment of the Lord’?)”

There is much confusion among non-Pentecostals regarding I Corinthians, Chapter 14. Paul wrote this chapter to regulate and give instruction as it regarded the three Spiritual Gifts: “Prophecy,” “Tongues,” and “Interpretation of Tongues,” which are called the “Vocal Gifts,” a part of the nine Gifts of the Spirit.

Next, are the three Revelation Gifts, which consist of: “Word of Wisdom,” “The Word of Knowledge,” and “The Discerning of Spirits.”

And last, the three Power Gifts: “The Gift of Faith,” “The Gift of Healing,” and “The Gift of the Working of Miracles.”

There is a difference in the Gift of Tongues and the Tongues one receives at the moment of their infilling. All who are filled with the Spirit Baptism will speak in Tongues, but not all who speak in Tongues have the Gift of Tongues. Just as one who has the Gift of Prophecy does not mean that person is a Prophet.

There was no regulation or order given to the Early Church regarding Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues. The gist of Paul’s command is very simple: a message in Tongues does the Church no good if there is no one to interpret it. Therefore, Paul states that the Gift of Prophecy would be of greater benefit to the Body as all in attendance would be able to understand. He is by no means denigrating or dismissing Tongues as the Chapter will clearly bear out.

## SPEAKS UNTO GOD

I Corinthians, Chapter 14, Verse 2 says, “For he who speaks in an unknown Tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands him; howbeit in the Spirit he speaks mysteries.”

The phrase, “For he who speaks in an unknown Tongue speaks not unto men, but unto God,” tells us the following:

1. The word, “unknown,” was supplied by the translators, as it was not in the original Text. It actually means that it is unknown to the speaker and most of the time to the listeners as well, but not unknown as far as a language is concerned. “Tongues” are always a language known somewhere in the world. It is not babble or gibberish as some detractors say. There are many languages, actually, the Bible has been translated into 2,179 different languages, but there are many more than that spoken in the world. Linguists state that there are 6,809 distinct languages.
2. The term, “speaks not unto men,” means that if the Lord is speaking to men, He will speak to them in the language they understand. Tongues are not meant to be understood by men, unless it is intended by the Holy Spirit to be interpreted.
3. The phrase, “But unto God,” is meant to say that one can speak in Tongues silently or in praise and worship because it is only to God to whom one is speaking. The phrase, “Howbeit in the Spirit he speaks mysteries,” is to be understood in this fashion. “Mysteries” in the Greek is “musterion” and means “a secret.” A secret between God and man.

#### THE BIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

There are five recorded instances of people receiving the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts, they are: Acts 2:1-4, Acts 8:14-18, Acts 9:17, and Acts 10:44-46.

The verses given record the five instances of people being filled, covering a period of about 20 years, and involved from one to many individuals. Three times out of the five it is recorded they spoke with Tongues and the other two instances infer they spoke with Tongues.

Paul himself said in I Corinthians 14:18, “I thank my God, I speak with Tongues more than you all.”

#### IS IT NECESSARY TO SPEAK IN TONGUES?

For Salvation, no, but if one wants the true New Testament experience, then one should want to speak with other Tongues exactly as the Bible says. Don’t make the mistake of seeking Tongues, we don’t seek Tongues, we seek the infilling of the Holy Spirit with Tongues being the initial physical evidence one has been filled.

#### SEVEN STEPS TO RECEIVING THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. You must be Born-Again: There is only one requirement for one to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and that is to be Saved. No other requirements are needed. Salvation now prepares one for the Holy Spirit to come and live and work in a new and dynamic fashion.
2. You must decide that it is Scriptural: You must settle it in your spirit once and for all that this great Gift is for all Believers for all time. There must not be any doubt in your heart. Don't let Satan fill your mind with all kinds of negative thoughts. Don't let those who are not believers of the Spirit Baptism influence you negatively.
3. You must have Faith: Everything we receive from the Lord is always by Faith. We are to believe what He has promised in His Word, and He has most certainly promised the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4, Joel 2:28-29, Isa. 28:11-12). Hebrews 11:6 says, "Without Faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a Rewarder of them who diligently seek Him."
4. You must not fear: Don't be afraid of opening yourself up to the spirit world, fearing that something of Satan will come upon you. Luke 11:11-13 says: "If a son ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you 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 who ask Him?"
5. What to expect: You are to expect the Holy Spirit to put supernatural words (Tongues) into your spirit, and then for the Holy Spirit to move upon your vocal organs. The Lord will not force you to speak in Tongues. He will give the utterance, but we have to speak.
6. We must yield: By yielding I am meaning that in your heart you should say to the Lord, "I am asking You Lord to fill me with the Holy Spirit and by Faith I now receive." We are not to beg, for the infilling of the Holy Spirit is a free Gift; neither are we to continually pray out loud in our own Tongue because one cannot speak in two languages at once.
7. Receive: You must understand that God has already given the Spirit and that it is a Gift and, consequently, the only thing one is to do respecting a Gift is to receive it. So you must say, "I am going to receive this Gift of God."

So now if you haven't received, then go through these steps and by Faith receive.

When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, spiritual death is taken from you and you become a new creature in Christ. And without the Holy Spirit, your new birth

wouldn't be possible. But even after you become a new creation, God's desire and plan is that you receive the *Baptism* in the Holy Spirit.

Your baptism in the Holy Spirit is received by faith. Jesus said in Luke 11:13, "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?" When you ask in faith, the Holy Spirit comes to live in you. And when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, as in the book of Acts, you speak in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is simply speaking in a language that only God understands—even you won't understand it. This happens as the Holy Spirit prays through you about things you may not know about or may not know how to pray about (Romans 8:26).

The Holy Spirit was sent to be our Helper. So when you pray in tongues, what actually happens is that the Holy Spirit searches your heart and prays through you the perfect will of God (Romans 8:26-27). You actually utter the secret truths and hidden things which are not obvious to the understanding of your mind (I Corinthians 14:2, *The Amplified Bible*).

To pray in tongues, you need to realize that speaking with an unknown tongue is the voice of your heart. Speaking in a known tongue is the voice of the human mind (unless one of the vocal gifts of the nine gifts of the Spirit is in operation). The Holy Spirit of God will give you utterance, the same as your mind gives you thoughts to speak (Acts 2:4).

To speak in tongues, you must operate with the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul said in I Corinthians 14:14, "For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive..." (*The Amplified Bible*).

Notice that it was Paul who did the speaking. Ask the Holy Spirit to take charge of your tongue, then yield your tongue to His use. You cannot speak in your own language and tongues at the same time, just as you cannot speak with English and French at the same time.

When your voice and tongue begin forming syllables around the expression that your heart desires to release, you will also speak in tongues. It will be your tongue, your breath, your vocal cords and you will be actively forming words.

You will supply the sounds, but the Holy Spirit will supply the words—words unknown to you. It may seem awkward to you at first, but continue. Like a child learning to speak, you will grow.

Finally, as you seek the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you need not wait to get a word from God about it—you already have His Word—nor do you need to wait around for the Spirit. The Spirit of God entered His ministry on the Day of Pentecost and He has been here ever since. He has never left!

Furthermore, you need not be concerned over being deceived and ending up with something that is from the devil. When you ask your heavenly Father for one of His promises—as the Baptism in the Holy Spirit—you can be confident the gift given is from God, not Satan.

Remember, Luke 11:13 says, “...how *much more* shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?” So if you want to receive your baptism in the Holy Spirit, ask Him now.

“Heavenly Father, I am a believer. I am Your child and You are my Father. Jesus is my Lord. I believe with all my heart that Your Word is true.

“Your Word says if I will ask, I will receive the Holy Spirit. So in the Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord, I am asking You to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit. Jesus, baptize me in the Holy Spirit.

“Because of Your Word, I believe that I now receive and I thank You for it. I believe the Holy Spirit is within me and, by faith, I accept it.

“Now, Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues, as You give me the utterance.”

Now begin giving sound to the expressions in your heart. Speak and hear the Holy Spirit speaking through you.

Rejoice! You’ve just been baptized in the Holy Spirit! You’ve been endued with power—hallelujah!