

# SPIRIT **FILLED**

Reverend Mark Crowley



# I. Importance of being filled with God's Spirit

First, the question is, why is it important to know if you have the spirit? Is this an option for followers of Christ to be filled with the Spirit, is this an added benefit or is this a salvation issue that all Christians need to ensure they have the Spirit?

## **John 3**

- 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,  
Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit,  
he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.
- 6 That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and  
that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

In preceding scripture Jesus is talking to Nicodemus and states he must be born again. When Nicodemus is confused and wonders if he must be born naturally again, Jesus clarifies. This time Jesus states a person must be born of the water and of the spirit. If they are not born this way, then they will not enter into the kingdom of God. Jesus' very own words show the importance of being born again and that except a person is born of water and of the spirit, they are not going to make it into heaven.

## **Romans 8**

- 8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.
- 9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

First, let it be known that the book of Romans is an Epistle. The Epistles are books or letters written to Christians who have already been saved. Paul, in his letter to the Church at Rome, states if someone is living in the flesh they cannot please God. However, they are not walking after the flesh, but rather the Spirit, if God's Spirit dwells in them. At the end of his statement, he reasons if someone does not have the Spirit, then they are none of Christ's. This shows the importance of having the Spirit. In just these two instances we see that it is essential to have God's Spirit. Jesus himself stated if someone is not born of the spirit they "cannot enter the kingdom of God" and Paul wrote that if someone did not have the spirit, they were "none of his".

It is essential to have the Spirit if you desire to make heaven your home according to scriptures. This now begs the question, how do we know if we have the Spirit? Is there a biblical example that shows how someone is filled with the Spirit? In seeing the importance of having the Spirit according to scripture, it should be of utmost importance that we understand Biblically how someone receives the Spirit.

## II. How do you know if you have the spirit?

Let's go back and look at the early Church. The New Testament has 27 books and they are broken into the follow sections:

- Gospels: Life and times of Jesus Christ
- Acts: The beginning of the Christian Church and the evangelism of the gospel.
- Epistles: Letters written to Church's or individuals who were already saved.
- Revelation: The only book in the New Testament that is completely prophetic.

To go back and see what the early Church preached in regards to salvation, it is of necessity to go to the book of Acts (Actions of the Apostles) to see what they preached.

### Acts 2 – The Jews

- 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In Acts 2:1-4 we find recorded the initial outpouring of God's Spirit. In verse 4 we find that they were filled with the spirit and began to speak in tongues as the spirit gave the direction.

It goes on to record in Acts 2 the different people that were in Jerusalem at this time. The people started to question how they could hear everyone speak in their native tongue,

yet they shouldn't know that language. There were some people however who just brushed it aside and said the people were drunk. We find in verse 14 of chapter 2 that Peter begins to explain what had happened.

- 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:  
15 For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day.  
16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;  
17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:  
18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:  
19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:  
20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:  
21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

Peter explains that the people were not drunk as some were thinking. But rather it was the fulfillment of God's prophecy from Joel that in the last days God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh. What they were seeing and hearing was the effect of God in tongues as the spirit led the individuals.

Peter continued his preaching to the onlookers and told them that Jesus was the Christ and they had crucified their messiah. Upon hearing this, the onlookers were convicted

and wanted to know how to get right with God:

- 37 Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?

What would Peter respond with? When they asked what shall we do they were asking the most important question someone could ask in their life: how could they be saved? They were asking how they could come out of disobedience to God and become obedient. How could they be right with God?

Peter responded:

- 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.  
39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.

Upon responding to their question of what they could do when they realized they killed their messiah, Peter stated three things:

- Repent: Ask God to forgive you of your sins and turn away from a life of disobedience and live a life of obedience to God.
- Be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins
- Receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Spirit)

We see that Peter stated they should receive God's Spirit. He didn't tell them just to believe, just call on God, but rather take some action through repentance, water baptism in Jesus name and receive God's Spirit.

The interesting thing about Peter's response is it coincides with Jesus talking to Nicodemus that he must be born again:

Born of Water = Baptism in Jesus Name  
Born of the Spirit = Receive the Holy Ghost (Spirit)

In Acts 2 we find that the initial outpouring was followed by the sign of speaking with tongues. Let's look further and see if this is a continual manifestation.

Peter was called by Cornelius to come to his house and tell him words by which he should be saved. Peter arrived and preached to Cornelius and his household. We find they received the Holy Ghost starting in verse 44:

### **Acts 10 – The Gentiles**

- 44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.
- 45 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.

The Jews (circumcision) which came with Peter were amazed as the gentiles received the Holy Ghost. Up until this time the gentiles were viewed as unclean and salvation was only for the Jews. How did they know they received the Holy Ghost?

- 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

They heard the Gentiles speak in tongues which led them to believe they had received God's Spirit. This is the same manifestation that happened in Acts 2.

- 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Peter then commands them to be baptized in Jesus name as they had received God's Spirit. He preached the same message he told the onlookers in Acts two. They received God's Spirit and were to be baptized in Jesus name. In turn, they were born of the water and the Spirit.

### **The gentiles received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues.**

We have seen this twice recorded in the book of Acts where the Holy Ghost has led to individual's speaking in tongues. Are there any other examples?

### **Acts 19 – John the Baptist's Disciples**

- 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,
- 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Paul, while at Corinth, found certain disciples and his question was had they received the Holy Ghost since they became followers? We see again the importance of being born of the Spirit because Paul asks the question immediately. They answered they had not.

- 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.
- 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

- 5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Paul then asks how they were baptized and finds out they were disciples of John the Baptist. Paul explains that John preached to follow the one who comes after him. When Paul was done preaching they were baptized in Jesus name (born of water).

- 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.
- 7 And all the men were about twelve.

After they were baptized Paul laid his hands on them to pray and they received the Holy Ghost (born of Spirit) and spoke in tongues. We see the importance the early Church put on being born of the water (baptism in Jesus name) and being born of the Spirit (receiving the Holy Ghost).

Some people have stated that tongues was just for the day of Pentecost because there were people who didn't speak the native tongue. Therefore God gave them the ability to speak the onlookers language to further the gospel. If this is true, why did the Gentiles in Acts 10 and John the Baptists disciples in Acts 19 speak in tongues?

### **Acts 8: The Samaritans**

- 5 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them.
- 6 And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.
- 7 For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.
- 8 And there was great joy in that city.-

We find that Philip went to evangelize Samaria. There were many signs happening and joy was in the city. Many people have stated they knew they received God's Spirit as they had joy. If this is true, then the city of Samaria had received the Holy Ghost as there was joy.

- 9 But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one:
- 10 To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God.
- 11 And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.
- 12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.
- 13 Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.

We read here that Simon, who practiced witchcraft, had deceived the people into thinking he was someone from God. We find him being baptized along with the others as he too believed the things which were being preached.

- 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:
- 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:
- 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

What do we find out? We find that Peter and John came to pray for the Samaritans as they hadn't received the Holy Ghost. They did have joy, but according to scripture, not the Holy Ghost. They had only been baptized in Jesus name (born of water).

- 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.
- 18 And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,
- 19 Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Once Peter and John pray for the Samaritans we find they received the Holy Ghost. We don't read that they spoke in tongues in this discourse; however, there was some manifestation that took place as Simon offered the Apostles money to have the power to give out the Holy Ghost. In having read 3 other instances (Acts 2, 10 & 19) that they spoke in tongues when they received God's spirit I would say that they spoke in tongues as the evidence they were filled.

To answer our question: how do you know if you have received the Spirit? We can definitely say, according to scripture, you will have spoken in tongues.

## III. Naysayers to tongues as the evidence of the Spirit

### John 20

- 21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.
- 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:
- 23 Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.

Some people try to use the preceding scriptures to show the disciples received the Holy Ghost and did not speak in tongues. Remember, the disciples were in the upper room in the book of Acts (Acts 1 – 2) where the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost took place. Also, we find in Luke and Acts that Jesus told them to tarry in Jerusalem until they receive the promise of the Father. The promise of the Father is the Holy Ghost. If they had already received it, why would Jesus tell them to tarry until they received it?

What does this scripture mean then? I understand it as Jesus' sign to His disciples that they would be receiving God's Spirit and led of His Spirit. Barnes notes also comments on this verse that "his breathing on them was a certain sign or pledge that they would be endowed with the influences of the Holy Spirit."

Let's look at 1 Corinthians chapters 12 & 13 to see what they say about tongues:

## I Corinthians 12

- 1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren,  
I would not have you ignorant.

We find in the opening of chapter 12 that Paul is discussing spiritual gifts. It does not say “being born of the spirit”, but rather, the gifts that accompany the Holy Ghost and he wants to teach the church in Corinth about them. These are gifts that should be available to believers who are filled with God’s Spirit. Hence, they are activated, when needed, through the spirit.

- 2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.
- 3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.
- 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.
- 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.
- 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

We read that there are different gifts of the spirit, but it is the same spirit which distributes them. It is the same God that works the gifts.

- 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

These gifts are given to everyone for the profit of everyone.

- 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;
- 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

- 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:
- 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

He lists the different gifts and says, again, they are given by the same spirit. They are distributed to everyone according to God’s will.

- 12 For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also is Christ.
- 13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.
- 14 For the body is not one member, but many.
- 15 If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
- 16 And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?
- 17 If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?
- 18 But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him.
- 19 And if they were all one member, where were the body?
- 20 But now are they many members, yet but one body.
- 21 And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you.
- 22 Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary:
- 23 And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness.



- 24 For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked.
- 25 That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another.
- 26 And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it.
- 27 Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.

In the preceding verses, Paul is stating that we have the same Spirit, yet there are different gifts. Just like we have one body, yet have many different parts of that body. We shouldn't look at someone who is used in a gift as someone better, but rather, realize God uses these gifts according to how he wills for the benefit of the entire body (Church). When we are born again we are added to the body.

- 28 And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.
- 29 Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?
- 30 Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?
- 31 But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet shew I unto you a more excellent way.

Verse 30 is a common verse used against speaking in tongues. How it is written the answer should be no. Do all speak with tongues? No. We need to remember that Paul is writing about spiritual gifts, not the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. In verse 1 he stated he is talking about gifts of the spirit. His audience, being an Epistle, is to individuals who have already been born again or saved in the Corinth Church and in turn, already received God's Spirit. We read about Paul being in Corinth

in Acts 18 during his missionary journey. I would agree with Paul, do all have the gift of tongues in relation to the spiritual gifts? No. Are all used in the gifts of the spirit in relation to healing, interpretation? No. Remember though, in the scriptures from the book of Acts that we studied previously, they were not being used in spiritual gifts, but were rather receiving God's Spirit for the first time. If someone doesn't initially have God's Spirit, they are not going to have any gifts of the Spirit. It is like owning a car. The vehicle may have many options, but without the key to the car, I am unable to use any of those options. So it is with the Spirit. Until you receive God's Spirit, you will not be able to use any of the gifts of the Spirit.

### **I Corinthians 13**

- 1 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

What does he mean tongues of angels? He is referring to speaking in tongues. Tongues are just a language that is unknown to the speaker. This can be a heavenly language or an earthly language. It is just unknown to the speaker. We see they spoke in an earthly language in Acts 2 as the onlookers knew what some of them were saying.

- 2 And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.
- 3 And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing.

Paul's point is that though he may have all the gifts and be used in them, if he doesn't have love, then what's the benefit? The most important thing isn't bragging on what gift God has used you in, but rather having love. That's why Jesus stated the greatest

commandment is to love God and love your neighbor. If you don't have love, then it doesn't matter how God uses you.

- 4 Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,
- 5 Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil;
- 6 Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;
- 7 Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things.
- 8 Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

Again, this previous verse is used to show that tongues have ceased. He states prophecies will fail and tongues shall cease, even knowledge will vanish away.

- 9 For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
- 10 But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

This is where some say tongues are done away with. When that which is perfect is come, then tongues are complete and no longer necessary. I would agree, when that which is perfect is come, then yes, prophecies will be done, tongues will cease. The question is what is that which is perfect? I would say it's when Jesus Christ returns for His Church.

- 11 When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.
- 12 For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

There is the support to my argument that that which is perfect is Jesus Christ returning for His Church. Right now we see through a glass darkly, but when Jesus comes back, then we will be face to face. There will be no more need for the prophetic ministry or for the gifts of tongues and interpretation as Jesus Christ will be here. In reading I Corinthians 12 & 13 we must remember a few things. First, this is a letter written to Christians who have already been born of the water and of the spirit. They are in a saved condition. Second, the writer is speaking of the gifts of the spirit and not the initial reception of the spirit. In speaking of the gifts, he is not talking about the initial sign of reception which is tongues which all believers received when we read the book of Acts.

## Gibberish

I've also heard an argument that the tongues of today are just gibberish and when it happened in the early Church it was a language.

First, I've heard many stories where someone was praying in tongues and another person who was present and knew multiple languages understood what was being said. Not only that, but my wife was praying for a woman one day in service and began praying in tongues. When she was done praying the woman told my wife that she was praying in a certain language that her grandmother spoke in and that she was praying the same words that her grandma would pray. My wife only knows English, so for this to happen it was obviously a manifestation of the Spirit.

Second, I was in the Navy and throughout those years we went to many different countries that did not speak English. When I would hear those people talking, I could equate it to gibberish as I couldn't understand what was being spoken. I think we all have been around someone who speaks in a language that we don't know. If we truly think of it, it does sound like gibberish, but to them who speak that language,

they perfectly understand it. This argument does not hold any merit.

## **Need an interpreter otherwise the speaker must be quiet.**

The argument that there must be an interpreter present when someone speaks in tongues is from I Corinthians 14:26-28:

- 26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.
- 27 If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret.
- 28 But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

First, recall what Paul is talking about here. He is talking about the Gifts of the Spirit. He is laying down a principle that God is a God of order. That's why in verse 26 he asks how can everyone have a psalm, doctrine, tongue, revelation and interpretation? He states when a tongues and interpretation is present it should be done by two or at the most three. Anyone who has been in a service where there is a tongues and interpretation will realize that there is usually one to three people who speak in tongues followed by an interpretation. This is the gift being used in order. That is what Paul is instructing here. He states, if there is no interpreter, then they should keep silence. There are some questions that people need to answer if they believe every time a tongue is present, there must be an interpreter. First, we don't find an interpreter among the people who heard them in Acts 2, 10, or 19 yet we don't read about any of the Apostles instructing them to be silent. Also, if there needs to be an interpreter, then Paul has created an error in the Bible.

## **I Corinthians 14:4-6**

- 4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.
- 5 I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.
- 6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

## **I Corinthians 14**

- 17 For thou verily givest thanks well, but the other is not edified.
- 18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:
- 19 Yet in the church I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.

Here we find that Paul states anyone who speaks in unknown tongues is edified. Paul also says he thanks God he speaks in tongues more than the people he is writing. Why would Paul write that if he also says to keep quiet if there is no interpreter? The answer to that is there are three types of tongues spoken of in the Bible.

- Initial evidence of receiving the Holy Ghost – Acts 2, 10, 19
- Individuals private prayer language – I Corinthians 14:4, Romans 8:26, Ephesians 6:18, Jude 20
- Gifts of the Spirit – (Tongues and Interpretation) – I Corinthians 12 & 13

## **Conclusion:**

I believe the scriptures clearly show that being filled with the Spirit is a salvation issue and without it someone will not make heaven their home. We also see that when anyone received the Spirit it was followed by speaking in tongues.

In the end, I would just like to say I'm amazed how many Churches state tongues aren't for today. They either say it was for the first century Church and not available today or that it is of the devil. These same Churches state they are believers in Christ. The scriptures states:

### **Mark 16**

- 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved;  
but he that believeth not shall be damned.
- 17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;
- 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.



NORTHWOOD'S  
• APOSTOLIC CHURCH •  
*Crivitz, Wisconsin*