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The Holy Spirit #4 – Tongues - The Gift Of The Holy Spirit

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As we begin to learn more about the Holy Spirit, who He is and what He does for us, we realize the importance of how He affects our lives. He is a real person, has emotions and feelings and He has come to abide and dwell with us forever. He is a helper, a counselor, an intercessor and a comforter. He will teach us and bring to our remembrance things that we need to know.

John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you." KJV

The Holy Spirit always points to Jesus, He always glorifies Jesus. He will reveal to us what was given to Jesus, leading and guiding us into all truth and show us the things to come. He came to reprove the world to righteousness and reprove the world to sin.

In the 40 days following the resurrection of Jesus, Jesus appeared to the disciples and to the 500 and to Peter. In the following scriptures, Jesus began to teach His disciples what they would be doing, but He also told them to tarry or wait for the promise regarding the Holy Spirit. This would be the entrance into the supernatural victorious life. These keys have been given in order that we can walk in the purpose that we have been called into.

Luke 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." KJV

Matt 28:18-20 "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen" KJV

Acts 1:4-8 "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 6 When they therefore were come together, they asked of him, saying, Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the kingdom to Israel? 7 And he said unto them, It is not for you to

know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8 But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." KJV

Jesus kept telling the disciples in John chapters 14-17 about the promise of the Father, that being the Holy Spirit and that they would be receiving this promise after He was gone. He wanted them to know the Holy Spirit and all that He would be doing for them, they would be equipped and given power.

There are seven baptisms mentioned in the scriptures, but there are three for the believer or those who will be followers of Jesus. The first is being born again, or baptized into the body of Christ.

1 Cor 12:13 "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." KJV

The second is being baptized in water. The disciples understood water baptism. John emphasized that Jesus would be baptizing with the Holy Ghost, which was different from what he, John had done.

Mark 1:8 "I indeed have baptized you with water: but he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost." KJV

Luke 3:16 "John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire:" KJV

The third being baptized with the Holy Ghost, being filled and speaking with other tongues, receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. There will be a refining, a purifying process, learning to take on the life style of Jesus. They would receive power and be equipped to do what God had called them to do. These same things apply to us today; it will enable us to take on whatever God wants us to do, whatever our calling in life may be. God will use us to advance His Kingdom; we will be an influence on people and be equipped to do so successfully.

The book of Acts is approximately a period of 40 years of the early church. The following scriptures are examples of different people receiving "the gift of the Holy Spirit" or speaking in tongues. They were waiting for the day of Pentecost, Pentecost meaning 50. All the apostles, Mary, Jesus' mother and others, approximately 120, tarried for 10 days in the upper room for one purpose. On the 50th day, they received what they had been tarrying for.

Acts 2:1-4. "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." KJV

The unusual thing about those receiving the Holy Spirit and those hearing was the fact that they were hearing languages in their native tongues. That would have been the gift of interpretation in order for them to understand what was happening. Those hearing began to question what was happening, were those speaking drunk or what? It changed their behavior. However, Peter explained what had happened.

Acts 2:12-14 "And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? 13 Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. 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:" KJV

Every book in the New Testament was written by someone that spoke in tongues. Depending on what we have been taught or experienced earlier in our lives, it will have an effect on our receiving or believing what the Holy Spirit is all about. Speaking in tongues is for the church today.

Eight to ten years after the day of Pentecost, many were being added to the church, there were many manifestations, healings and etc. However, someplace along the way the disciples didn't believe that the Holy Spirit was for the Gentiles. In the beginning, all nations had heard what happened. The following scriptures are Peter speaking to this problem, and that all were entitled to receive, telling them that God was "no respecter" of persons. Peter had a vision to show him that all, Gentiles included, were to receive salvation and the Holy Spirit. The outward manifestation of receiving the Holy Ghost is speaking in tongues. We receive the Holy Spirit at salvation, but "the gift" of the Holy Spirit is with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Acts 10:44-47 "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. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" KJV

Acts 19:2-6 "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. 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. 6 And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied " KJV

John's baptism was of water and repentance. Water cannot wash away sin, it is the blood of Jesus that does that. True ministry always points to Jesus; the Holy Spirit is a spirit of truth. Speaking in tongues is the outward evidence of what happens on the inside.

The apostles in the early church realized the importance of new converts receiving the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:14-17 "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.) 17 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost." KJV

The following scriptures show how sometimes unclean spirits will manifest in someone not born again. Simon being a type of "witch doctor" saw what was happening and asks to buy what the disciples demonstrated. Peter rebuked him and explained to him that his heart was not right. The gift of the Holy Spirit is not for sale, it is a free gift to a born again believer, who is seeking what the Lord has for them.

Acts 8:18-22 "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. 20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. 21 Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee." KJV

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How do we receive the Holy Ghost? We must be seeking and asking as Luke chapter 11 teaches us. Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is not something that can be done with works, it is a heart thing and our motives must be right. It cannot be bought with money. You must be born again!!