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# POWER

*"Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you" (Acts 1:8).*

## **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit:**

Key to miracle power

Gateway to spiritual gifts

Pattern for worldwide evangelism

**By William A. Caldwell**

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Adapted from the book, *PENTECOSTAL BAPTISM*, By William A. Caldwell.

While preparing this booklet, the author and his wife were engaged in an overseas evangelistic meeting during which more than 2,000 were baptized in the Holy Spirit, speaking in other tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.

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*Do you believe in Jesus Christ? Have you received Him as your Savior?*

*Then you should proceed promptly to the Christian experience which is next in order...*

## **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit**

This baptism is of immense importance. It offers a wealth of benefits and blessings.

It will help you to be a successful soul-winner, with dynamic power and desire. Jesus said, 'Ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you, and ye shall be witnesses unto me...unto the uttermost part of the earth" Acts 1:8).

It is your introduction to a mighty personal ministry with divine credentials: "Signs and wonders...miracles and gifts of the Holy Ghost" (Hebrews 2:4).

It is the key to revival in the church.

It is the gateway to world evangelization.

"It shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh. Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy. I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath. And whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Acts 2:17-21).

The refreshing, life-giving spiritual showers of a worldwide Holy Spirit outpouring will help prepare the way for "the coming of the Lord" (James 5:7).

## **HOW IT STARTED**

*In the New Testament church, beginning with the Day of Pentecost, every Christian received the Holy Spirit promptly or was expected to do so.*

Peter declared that the gift of the Holy Spirit is for all believers. "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" (Acts 2:39).

In Samaria all the believers received the Spirit as Peter and John prayed and laid hands on them (Acts 8:14-17).

When hands had been laid on blind Saul, he was healed and received the Holy Spirit (Acts 9:17). Years later, as the godly Apostle Paul, he was still rejoicing in his charismatic experiences: "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all. Forbid not to speak with tongues (I Corinthians 14:18, 39).

The people in the home of Cornelius received the Holy Spirit while listening to the first Christian sermon they ever heard. "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word."

They knew they had received the Spirit, "for they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God" (Acts 10:44-46).

The eloquent Egyptian evangelist Apollos had known nothing of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit until he met Aquila and Priscilla in Ephesus. This deficiency was corrected when they "took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly" (Acts 18:24-26).

Paul asked the Ephesian believers, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?"

They had not, but all proceeded to be filled with the Holy Spirit immediately after hearing of the Spirit for the first time. "And they spake with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:1-6).

Jesus *commanded* His followers to receive "the promise of the Father," namely, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:4-5).

Appropriately, He instructed them in how to anticipate and identify the Holy Spirit baptism. If anything was not clear, they had many opportunities to ask questions.

## **THEY EXPECTED TONGUES**

*On the Day of Pentecost, the disciples were not surprised when they spoke in tongues.*

Jesus had told them they would do so. "These signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues" (Mark 16:17).

Then, in His final instructions before He ascended to heaven, Jesus told them to return to the city and remain there. They were to allow nothing to prevent them from

receiving the Spirit. “They should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4).

Some people may have other ideas as to how to receive the Holy Spirit, but nobody has ever received the Spirit more perfectly and effectively than they.

## **THEY KNEW WHAT TO DO**

*Their orders were clear. There was no possibility of any misunderstanding.*

As soon as Jesus had ascended from their midst, they began to do that which they understood they must do in order to receive Holy Spirit.

There was no discord, nor diversity of opinion as to how to proceed. “They were all in one accord” (Acts 1:14; 2:1). They all knew exactly what they should do.

What did they do and how did they do it? “They worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually the temple, praising and blessing God” (Luke 24:52-53).

## **AND THEY DID IT**

When the Day of Pentecost arrived, their meeting place was resounding with the voices of about 120 obedient, worshipping believers, all praising Jesus: “Hallelujah, glory to God, praise the Lord, hallelujah!”

While they worshiped, the Holy Spirit came. He began to work a miracle with their words of praise.

One moment their voices were in the natural realm, the next moment in the supernatural.

One moment they were speaking in their own language, the next in a language of God’s choice. “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).

They were all receiving the Holy Spirit, just as they expected. They were all speaking in other tongues, just as they expected.

## **THIS WAS IT**

*As soon as they had spoken in tongues, they knew they had received the Holy Spirit.*

Peter announced that this was indeed if outpouring of the Spirit, the promise of the Father, the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:1 -33, 38).

The disciples had fulfilled the commandment of Christ. They were no longer restricted to Jerusalem.

Thus endued with divine power to be His witnesses, "they went forth and preached ever' where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following (Mark 16:20).

## **AND NOW**

*When believers today come to the Lord as Bible Christians did ... earnestly and sincerely desiring to obey Christ and receive the Holy Spirit... worshiping Him wholeheartedly and joyously... the results will be the same as then.*

As their offering of praise ascends before God, He will fill them with his Spirit, lifting away their own words and guiding their voices in a language they have never learned.

***At this point all can, and should start right out speaking clearly in the new language under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.***

If anyone hesitates or doubts, the result may be that he will only stammer with a mixture of his own language and the language of God's choice.

But he should not be content to merely stammer. He should stop trying to speak in his own language. He should proceed to the fullness of the experience and speak clearly the words God is guiding him to say.

## HOW LONG?

When one begins to receive the Spirit, he should continue to speak in tongues for a time, at least several minutes, gaining confidence, speaking more and more clearly, allowing God to add new words to his new vocabulary.

He may continue speaking in this manner as long as he wishes. "The spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets" (I Corinthians 14:32). He can continue receiving the Holy Spirit as long as he desires.

*God will not cut off His power as long as the person is receiving it.*

God does not need to dole out his blessings sparingly. He is "able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

## AGAIN AND AGAIN

Then, when one has been satisfied for the time, he may return to his own language. He knows he can come the same way, again and again, whenever he desires or has the need, for a fresh infilling of the Spirit.

The same persons who were "all filled with the Holy Ghost" on the Day of Pentecost, were again "all filled with the Holy Ghost" some time later (Acts 2:4; 4:31).

With each refilling one may increase his vocabulary in the new language, or he may venture into other languages, gaining fluency and confidence.

He will avoid the pitiful error of some who fail to develop spiritually, repeating the same few little words every time they speak in tongues.

He will be able to pray and worship in other tongues, as well as the language he understands, "with the spirit and...with the understanding also" (I Corinthians 14:15).

He may be used by the Spirit to be a blessing in the church by giving forth messages in tongues, interpretations and prophecies. "Whenever you meet let everyone be ready

to contribute a psalm, a piece of teaching, a spiritual truth or a tongue with an interpreter" (I Corinthians 14:26, *J. B. Phillips*).

He will lead others into the Holy Spirit baptism, by his own joyous freedom in spiritual worship.

The Lord will work with him "confirming the word with signs following" (Mark 16:20).

"With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus" (Acts 4:33). You, too, can produce miraculous evidence that Jesus is alive.

"Be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18).

## **YOUR BAPTISM**

The Holy Spirit comes where He is wanted.

Do not look for God to force his Spirit upon you. You must *receive* Him.

He will come to you anywhere and any that He is welcome.

It may be in church or at home, at bedside or in meditation, while going to a service or returning, while praying, worshiping, reading the Bible or listening to a sermon.

It may be with the laying on of hands or without, while standing, kneeling, lying or sitting.

It is a matter of your faith and your desire.

"What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them" (Mark 11:24).

Do not strain nor struggle. Do not become fearful or nervous or tense. Relax. Trust God. The words you speak will be from Him.

"If ye then...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" (Luke 11:13).

Decide that this is your time to receive.

"Ask and it shall be given you...for everyone that asketh receiveth" (Luke 11:9, 10).

Expect the Spirit to come upon you now. Welcome Him with hallelujahs and joyous words of praise in your own language. Believe that He will guide you into an utterance other tongues.

Be prepared to take the step of faith and to follow His prompting.

Expect to speak in tongues as you pray and worship now.

## **A PRAYER**

Lord Jesus, I am obeying you. I am worshiping you with joy. Hallelujah! I am receiving the Holy Spirit. He is suggesting other words for me to utter. He is prompting me to speak. I will refrain from saying anything in natural language because I am expecting speak in tongues.

And for a little while I will not even say “Hallelujah” or “Praise the Lord” or “Glory.” I will not permit my natural speech to crowd out the supernatural.

I will follow the guidance of the Holy Spirit. I will boldly give my voice over saying the words He is giving me to say. I will not doubt. I will not be afraid.

I will trust God. I am ready to take the step of faith. I open my mouth to speak. I will speak out these strange, but wonderful words that are in my heart, upon my lips, flooding my soul, even now!

## **THE REFILLING**

Thank God, I have received the Holy Spirit according to the Scriptures.

I have spoken with tongues, according the Scriptures.

Rather, I have *begun* to speak in tongues for this is not the goal, but only the beginning of my Spirit-filled life.

Praise the Lord. Glory to God. Thank Jesus. Hallelujah!

Now, bless me and fill me again!

And again!

## **AFTERWARD**

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit brings an increase in responsibilities and opportunities.



You have entered a great new field of Christian service.

You have been baptized to be a witness. Preach Christ both by word and example. Introduce Him everywhere as Savior, Baptizer in the Holy Spirit, Healer and soon-returning King. Someone will listen. Begin today.

Assume your share of responsibility for support of the church. "For we are laborers together with God" (I Corinthians 3:9).

Make the Bible the book of your life.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Timothy 2:15).

"Desire spiritual gifts...the word of wisdom...the word of knowledge...faith the gifts of healing...the working of miracles...prophecy...discerning of spirits...divers kinds of tongues...the interpretation of tongues" (I Corinthians 14:1; 12:8-10).

Be as zealous for the fruit of the Spirit as for the gifts. "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" (Galatians 5:22-23).

"Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). Let your life demonstrate the *holiness* of the Holy Spirit.

Keep clean in spirit, mind and body. "Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's" (I Corinthians 6:19 20).

Be pure in thought, word and deed.

## IT'S HERE

"As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:14). As a mature son or daughter of God, be ready assume a responsible, though perhaps humble position in helping lead your generation into this which is already beginning to happen, the greatest spiritual awakening of all time.

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