

THE ENDOWMENT OF POWER

Part II Acts 2:4

Introduction: Subsequent to being born again (receiving Christ as your personal Savior), the baptism in the Holy Spirit (the special endowment of power) is the next greatest power asset the believer can receive from God. It consists of and inculcates the spiritual *empowerment* that God makes available to the believer to effectively live and labor for Him successfully. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the anointing of power for service. *John 14:16*. The Amplified says, “*And I will ask the Father and He will give you another Comforter (counselor, helper, intercessor, advocate, strengthener, and standby), that He remain with you forever.*”

- I. The baptism in the Holy Spirit
 - A. A following experience to salvation
 1. Day of Pentecost. All 120 believers received (*Acts 2:4*).
 2. *Acts 8:17*. Converts under Phillip’s ministry. (The prestigious, “Complete Biblical Library” says, “...these believers spoke in tongues just as on the Day of Pentecost.”)
 3. Cornelius’ household. *Acts 10:44-46*.
 4. Ephesian believers. *Acts 19:1-6*.
 5. Paul. *1st Corinthians 14:18*.
 - B. In each of these occasions, it was believers who received something more than they had before.
 1. Notice that each time a believer received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the first physical evidence was speaking in an *unknown* language.
 2. Notice that this is not the main purpose for the baptism, it is simply an indicator that the conditions have been met to receive.
 3. The main purpose for being endued with the power of the Holy Spirit is to be anointed to effectually and dynamically penetrate the planet with the Gospel.
 - C. We should note that there are residual benefits from speaking in unknown tongues after receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit (serves as a prayer language).
 1. What is the value of speaking in an *unknown tongue*?
 - a. First, when a believer speaks in an *unknown tongue*, he is speaking to God. *1st Corinthians 14:2*.
 - b. Secondly, he edifies or builds himself up. *1st Corinthians 14:4; Jude 20*.
 - c. Thirdly, his spirit prays. *1st Corinthians 14:14*.
 - d. An innovative way of singing and praying. *1st Corinthians 14:15*.
 - e. According to research done by a Christian brain specialist, it improves the immune system. (Paul’s warning. *1st Corinthians 14:39*.)
 - D. What steps must I take in order to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
 1. Ask! *Luke 11:13*.
 2. Believe. *Hebrews 11:6*.
 3. Cooperate (example, salvation). *Romans 10:9-10*.
 4. God does *His* part when we ask. You do *your* part by humbling yourself by speaking in a strange unknown tongue. *Acts 2:4*. It is an act of obedience. The reason it defies human logic is because it is spiritually discerned.
- II. Almost three quarters of a billion people of many different denominations and from many different countries have testified of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the first physical evidence of speaking in an *unknown* tongue. I was privileged to attend a worldwide Pentecostal gathering in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil a number of years ago with 200,000 people in one of the largest soccer stadiums in the world.
 - A. God promised that this Gospel, including the message of the *special endowment* of the Holy Spirit, would be preached throughout the whole world. *Matthew 24:14*.
 - B. The Great Commission Jesus gave to the church includes the experience of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the accompanying gift of speaking in an *unknown* tongue. *Mark 16:17*.

Conclusion: The success of a Christian’s walk is dependent upon supernatural help from God. When Jesus ascended on high, He promised to send another Comforter, the Holy Spirit, for the purpose of unctioining us to be successful representatives who promote Him on earth. Don’t miss out on this promise that is made to you by God.