

## The Spirit Life Session 5 – Tongues – The Initial Physical Evidence

### I. Review Previous Sessions

#### A. Session 1 – Another Comforter

**Comforter** – (Parakletos) – one called alongside to urge, beseech, coach, plead, pray, or train. Picture one who has come closely alongside of another for the sake of speaking to him, consoling him, coaching him, comforting him, or assisting him with instruction, counsel, or advice. *In ancient times used to depict military leaders who came alongside their troops to urge, exhort, plead with them to stand tall and face their battles bravely.*

#### B. Session 2 – Being Led by the Holy Spirit

#### C. Session 3 – The Indwelling Comforter

#### D. Session 4 – Being Filled with the Spirit

1. The distinction between being born-again and being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
2. It is possible to be born-again (The first work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer) and never receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit (Being filled with the Spirit).
3. Pastor's Example: Saved for 10 years prior to being baptized in the Holy Spirit.
4. Added example: *Receiving some benefits of my employer while rejecting others.*

### II. How do I know I have received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?

#### A. Tongues – The Initial Physical Evidence.

1. Church of God Statement of Faith – We believe in speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.  
(Over 7 Million Members)
2. Assemblies of God Statement of Faith – The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial physical sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance.  
(Membership 69,200,000)
3. The two largest Spirit-Filled/Pentecostal church organizations believe that speaking with tongues is the initial physical evidence that occurs when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit.

#### **B. Scriptural Basis to Support Tongues as the Evidence of Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

1. **The first ones to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit spoke with tongues. Acts 2:1-8 & 11-13**

**Acts 2:1-8 (KJV)** – <sup>1</sup>And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup>And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup>And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup>And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. <sup>5</sup>And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. <sup>6</sup>Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. <sup>7</sup>And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans? <sup>8</sup>And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

- a. When they were filled with the Holy Spirit, they ALL spoke with tongues. (No exceptions)

- b. The tongues (language) were a supernatural language given to these believers by the Holy Spirit.
- c. This language was heard by people of every nation under heaven, yet they all heard with clear understanding of what was being said.

**Acts 2:11-13 (KJV)** – <sup>11</sup>*We do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.* <sup>12</sup>*And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this?* <sup>13</sup>*Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.*

**NOTE:** *Things have not changed very much. There will always be those who believe and those who mock.*

- d. **The first initial sign that these believers had received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit was speaking with tongues.**
2. **The early church recognized speaking with tongues as the sign that people had received this experience.**

**Acts 10:44-48 (KJV)** – <sup>44</sup>*While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.* <sup>45</sup>*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.* <sup>46</sup>***For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God.*** <sup>47</sup>*Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?* <sup>48</sup>*And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.*

- a. Verse 46 clearly states that Peter and other leaders recognized that the Gentiles received the Holy Spirit infilling because **THEY HEARD THEM SPEAK WITH TONGUES.**
- b. They would not have known they had received if they had not heard them speak with other tongues.

### 3. The early church placed significant value on believers receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

**Acts 8:14-17 (KJV)** – <sup>14</sup>Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: <sup>15</sup>Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: <sup>16</sup>(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) <sup>17</sup>Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

- a. These were believers who had made their profession in Christ.
- b. They had not received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit at salvation.
- c. Peter and John prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.
- d. Did they speak with tongues?  
*While the scripture does not specifically state that they spoke with tongues, the context of scripture indicates that they did.*
- e. **Acts 8:18-21 (KJV)** – <sup>18</sup>And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, <sup>19</sup>Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. <sup>20</sup>But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. <sup>21</sup>Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.
  - 1) Simon saw something supernatural take place when these believers received the Holy Spirit. It was so supernatural that Simon offered money to purchase the ability to lay hands on people and impart this gift.
  - 2) Vs 21 – Thou has neither part nor lot in this matter  
*MATTER = logos = of speech – a word uttered by a living voice – what someone has said.*
  - 3) Peter actually said to Simon – “You have no part in this utterance of Word.”
  - 4) Simon heard these believers speak with tongues and desired to be able to give this gift to others – however his motives were impure.

4. **The Saints at Ephesus spoke with tongues when they received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

**Acts 19:1-6 (KJV)** – <sup>1</sup>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, <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. <sup>4</sup>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. <sup>5</sup>When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. <sup>6</sup>And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

- a. These disciples had believed upon the Lord Jesus but had never been baptized in His name.
- b. Once they believed and were baptized, Paul still laid hands upon them to receive the Holy Ghost. *Paul did not see fit to leave them with the Born-Again experience only.*
- c. When they received the Holy Spirit Baptism, they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

5. **Jesus declared that we would speak with Tongues.**

**Mark 16:17 (KJV)** – *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues*

**New** – a new kind, recently made, fresh, recent, unused, unworn uncommon or unheard of.

III. **Unanswered questions that will be addressed in the next session.**

A. **Should all believers speak in tongues?**

*There is no scriptural support to suggest that speaking in tongues is only*

*for a select group. Every Holy Spirit baptized believer should speak with tongues.*

**B. Is there really any benefit to speaking in Tongues**

*Answered in the next session.*

**C. What about interpretation? Shouldn't all tongues be interpreted?**

*The Bible makes it clear that there are different types of tongues. Some are to be interpreted while others are not.*

*Answered in the next session.*