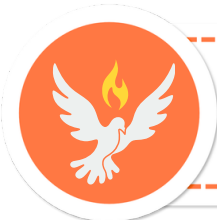




UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY GHOST



Filled with the Spirit

- There are few doctrines that have generated more questions than HOLY GHOST BAPTISM...
- Being "Filled with the Spirit", has become one of the most divisive topics in the Church.
- Nowadays, even some "Pentecostal Churches" are dividing over the issue of what it means to be FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.
- Some... even in the **CHURCH OF GOD**... Are now debating *speaking in tongues* as the initial evidence.
- Regardless... we must understand WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES concerning the Baptism of the SPIRIT and its INITIAL EVIDENCE...

In the Church of God our Declaration of Faith states:

We Believe in speaking with other tongues as the SPIRIT GIVES utterance, and THAT is the INITIAL EVIDENCE of the baptism in the HOLY GHOST.

1. The Holy Ghost Baptism is DISTINCT FROM SALVATION

- One of the greatest misconceptions surrounding the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is the belief that it is automatically received at Salvation, and that there is no subsequent experience available to the believer.
 - The Holy Spirit is active in SALVATION.
 - Every true believer has the Spirit of Christ dwelling within them.
 - Paul said in... **Romans 8:9**
 - *Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
- Salvation is IMPOSSIBLE without the WORK OF THE HOLY GHOST!
 - Therefore, we DO NOT TEACH that believers are without the Holy Spirit until they speak in tongues.

- We believe THERE IS MORE OF THE SPIRIT'S WORK AVAILABLE **AFTER SALVATION**...
 - There is MORE POWER...
 - There are MORE GIFTS...
- And this DISTINCT WORK of the SPIRIT is AVAILABLE TO EVERY BELIEVER...
- The New Testament is clear:
 - THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST is a **SEPARATE** and **DISTINCTIVE** experience that FOLLOWS CONVERSION and empowers believers for service.
- **The Disciples of Jesus were BELIEVERS BEFORE they were FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**
- That is why Jesus commanded... in **Acts 1:4-5**
 - *...they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.*
- If **SALVATION** and **SPIRIT BAPTISM** were IDENTICAL EXPERIENCES, Jesus would not have instructed these SAVED DISCIPLES to WAIT in Jerusalem for another work of God.
 - We see this over and over in the NEW TESTAMENT.
 - Jesus did not tell sinners to gather in the Upper Room... HE TOLD BELIEVERS!

In the Church of God our Declaration of Faith states:

We Believe in the baptism with the Holy Ghost is subsequent to a clean heart.

- Sinners cannot be filled with the Spirit and speak in other tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance.
 - Only those who have 1st PASSED THROUGH THE BLOOD OF JESUS... and HAVE BEEN SAVED BY HIS GRACE...
- This is why Pentecostals used to say:
 - **"I'm SAVED, SANCTIFIED, and FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST"**
 - Because that's the BIBLICAL ORDER OF OUR SPIRITUAL GROWTH.
- The 120 in the Upper Room were not seeking CONVERSION... they were seeking EMPOWERMENT.

UNDERSTANDING THE HOLY GHOST CONTINUED...

- The early Church EXPECTED believers to receive BOTH EXPERIENCES... *AND WE SHOULD TOO!*
- All throughout the New Testament, the apostles expected ALL BELIEVERS to receive the Holy Ghost AFTER CONVERSION!
- Paul said in Ephesians 5:18...
 - *And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess, but BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.*
- Both commands carry the SAME AUTHORITY!
 - In Acts 8, Peter and John were praying for believers to receive the Holy Ghost.
 - *16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them, they were only baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.*
 - *17 Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost.*
- In Acts 19:2, Paul encountered a group of believers at EPHESUS and immediately asked them,...*Have ye received the Holy Ghost... SINCE... YE... BELIEVED?*

2. THE HOLY GHOST BAPTISM COMES WITH EVIDENCE

- There is a DISTINCT PATTERN OF BEING FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT all throughout the NEW TESTAMENT.
- Luke said in... Acts 2:4
- *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*
 - This became the FIRST, REAL, BIBLICAL EXAMPLE of what happens when believers are baptized in the Holy Ghost.
- **BUT WHY TONGUES?**
 - James 3:8
 - *But the tongue can NO MAN TAME... it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison...*
- James teaches that the tongue is the most difficult part of the human body to control.
 - Jesus said... in Matthew 12:34
 - *For out of the abundance of the heart... the mouth speaketh...*
- The TONGUE is connected to the HEART.
 - When the Holy Ghost takes full possession of a believer, the first outward evidence is through the TONGUE... the very member that man struggles most to surrender...
- This is why its SO HARD FOR SOME PEOPLE TO BE FILLED!

- In Genesis 11, Humanity was UNITED IN PRIDE to BUILD A TOWER OF BABEL TO HEAVEN... To be equal with God.
 - So... God CONFOUNDED their language and scattered the people.
- At Pentecost, God BEGINS gathering humanity back together THROUGH THE POWER OF THE SPIRIT.
 - NOW... these DIVERSE TONGUES... become a sign of the gospel going to every nation that was divided.

THE TONGUE REVEALS THE HEART



Matthew 12:34

"Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh."

James 3:8

"The tongue can no man tame."

The hardest member to surrender is the **TONGUE**.

BABEL vs PENTECOST

GENESIS 11

- Pride
- Scattered Nations
- Confused Languages



What Babel scattered, Pentecost **GATHERED**.

ACTS 2

- Holy Ghost
- Gathered Nations
- Spirit-Given Languages

THE TONGUE IS CENTRAL TO WITNESS



Acts 1:8

"Ye shall receive power... and ye shall be witnesses unto me."

The same mouth used in tongues will be used to testify, preach, pray, teach, and share the gospel.

SPEAKING IN TONGUES



- The pattern of Speaking in Tongues as the initial evidence is repeated in:
 - **Acts 2 at Pentecost**
 - **Acts 10 in the House of Cornelius**
 - **Acts 19 in Ephesus**
- **Three major Holy Ghost outpourings...**
- **Three different groups of people....**
- **Three different geographical locations...**
 - Yet the **SAME EVIDENCE** appears each time... **SPEAKING IN TONGUES as the SPIRIT GIVES THEM UTTERANCE.**
- Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?
 - If so, what is hindering you?
 - **Unresolved Sin? Fear? Unbelief?**
 - **Pride? Tradition? Spiritual Apathy?**
- If you have been filled with the Spirit, how long has it been since you have spoken in tongues?
- How often does the Spirit minister through you?