6. Understanding the Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

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Sub-title: How to receive the Holy Spirit & the Gift of Tongues

- We are still studying God's Word concerning:
  - The Person and the work of the Holy Spirit

Main points of previous message:

- John the Baptist announced the Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus Christ prepared the believers for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place on the Day of Pentecost
- The gift of Tongues is a supernatural Prayer Language
- Apostle Paul explains the "mechanics" of speaking in tongues
- Why do we speak in tongues?

1. Apostle Paul ministers the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to believers

Acts 19:1–2 (NLT) *While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior regions until he reached Ephesus, on the coast, where he found several believers.* ***2 "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"*** *he asked them.* ***"No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."***

- Ap. Paul travelled through Asia Minor (present-day Turkey) preaching the Gospel and planting churches
- When he came to the city of Ephesus, he found a few believers
- He asked: Have you received the Holy Spirit when you believed?
  - Notice, he did not say: Have you waited for the Holy Spirit?
  - He said: Have you received the Holy Spirit?
- Before the Day of Pentecost, Jesus said: Wait for the Holy Spirit (Acts1:4)
- After the Day of Pentecost, Paul said: Have you received the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit was poured out on the Day of Pentecost 2,000 years ago
- Now, there is no longer any need to wait for the Holy Spirit!
- All we need to do is "receive" the Holy Spirit!

Acts 19:2 (NLT) *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them.* ***"No," they replied, "we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."***

- Their reply to Paul: … we haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit
    - They had not been taught about the Person of the Holy Spirit
    - Nor had they been taught how to "receive" the Holy Spirit
- This lack of understanding about the Holy Spirit, and lack of solid teaching about how to receive Him is still very prevalent today

Acts 19:3–7 (NLT)*"**Then what baptism did you experience**?" he asked. And they replied, "The baptism of John." **4** Paul said, **"John's baptism called for repentance from sin.** But **John himself told the people to believe in the one who would come later, meaning Jesus." 5** As soon as they heard this, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6** Then when **Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. 7** There were about twelve men in all.*

- Paul inquired with them about which baptism they had experienced
- They replied saying: John's baptism
- Then they were baptised (in water) in the Name of Jesus Christ
- Then Paul ministered the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to them through the laying on of hands:
    - The Holy Spirit came upon them
    - They received the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues
    - They spoke in tongues (heavenly prayer language) and prophesied
- Therefore, the established method of getting a believer baptised with the Holy Spirit is for a Spirit-filled believer to lay hands on another believer who is seeking the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, get them filled with the Spirit, and encourage them to speak with unknown tongues
- (In Acts 10:44, the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius' household while Peter preached a salvation message)

- Question: Why had the Ephesian believers not previously received the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues?
- Answer: Because:
    a. They didn't know there was a Holy Spirit whom they should receive
    b. Until they met Paul, there wasn't a Pentecostal believer who was proficient in ministering the Baptism with the Holy Spirit to others
    c. Today, there is the added challenge where many believers have been taught against the Baptism with the Holy Spirit, saying that tongues is no longer for today (or worse, that tongues is of the devil)

2. **<u>Stammering Lips & another Tongue</u>**

Isaiah 28:11–12 (NKJV) *For **with stammering lips and another tongue** He will speak to this people, **12** To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, **"This is the refreshing";** Yet they would not hear.*

- In this context, God is speaking to the Israelites about foreign invaders (Assyrians) who would speak in another tongue (another language)
- Notice: … with stammering lips and another tongue …
- Sometimes speaking in tongues sounds like stammering or stuttering
    - Ba ba ba, la la la, shu shu shu
    - Parts of our heavenly prayer language sounds repetitive
- What's interesting is that Paul, when teaching about speaking in tongues in 1 Cor. 14:, he quotes the above verse from Isaiah 28:11

1 Corinthians 14:21–22 (NAB) *It is written in the law: **"By people speaking strange tongues and by the lips of foreigners** I will speak to this people, and even so they will not listen to me, says the Lord."**22** **<u>Thus, tongues are a sign</u>** not for those who believe but for unbelievers …*

3. **<u>Receive the Kingdom of God as a little child</u>**

Mark 10:14–15 (NKJV) *But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for **of such is the kingdom of God. 15** Assuredly, I say to you, **whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."***

- Parents tried to bring their young children to Jesus, but Jesus' disciples shooed them away, which greatly displeased Jesus
- He said:
    - let the little children come to me
    - do not forbid them, for <u>of such is the Kingdom of God</u>
    - (in other words, the Kingdom of Heaven is made up of childlike ones)
    - whoever does not <u>receive the kingdom of God as a little child</u> will by no means enter it
- Receiving the Holy Spirit and the gift of tongues is the same as receiving the Kingdom of God
- We should receive "as a little child", with child-like, uncomplicated faith
- There is something almost childish about speaking in tongues, especially when we first receive the gift of tongues
    - Ba ba ba, la la la, shu shu shu

    - When children are very small, all they can do is babble
    - Be just be like a child & receive this stammering and this stuttering
    - Don't analyse - children haven't yet learned to analyse, they just believe
- If we try to be very clever & analyse in our mind what is happening in our heart (& mouth) when we start speaking in tongues, it may hinder us from fully receiving the gift of tongues
- When we first start out speaking in tongues, it may seem like babbling
- Jesus says: Be like a child and begin to babble in tongues
- After a little while of stammering, it will develop into a full language
- Note please, we never try to teach believers the language of tongues
- We teach them <u>how to receive</u> the language of tongues

4. <u>The Refreshing Power of the Holy Spirit</u>

Isaiah said: *This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest, This is the refreshing …*

1 Peter 4:14 (WUESTNT) In view of the fact that you have cast in your teeth, as it were, revilings because of the Name of Christ, **spiritually prosperous [are you],** because the Spirit of the Glory, even **the Spirit of God, is resting with refreshing power upon you.**

- This refreshing power of the Holy Spirit flows into our lives especially when we pray in tongues

1 Corinthians 14:4 (NLT) ***A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally,*** *but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.*

5. <u>Two types or applications of Tongues given by the Holy Spirit:</u>

a. The Gift of Tongues for <u>personal edification</u> (1 Cor. 14:4)
b. The Gift of Tongues, one of the nine gifts of the Spirit, used with the Gift of Interpretation, for the <u>edification of the church</u> (1 Cor. 12:10, 14:5)

- The focus of our study has been mainly on "the Gift of Tongues for personal edification"

1 Corinthians 14:18–19 (NKJV) *I thank my God <u>I speak with tongues more than you all;</u>* ***19 yet in the church*** *I would rather speak five words with my understanding, that I may teach others also, than ten thousand words in a tongue.*