

The Holy Spirit

This Bible Study will explore the Holy Spirit and its role in the Pentecostal faith. Supporting scriptures from the gospel of Luke and the book of Acts (same author) will be referred to as well as what underpins the desire to seek the Holy Spirit to become an even greater witness for Christ. (11 Books researched plus the gospel of Luke and Acts)

Our Approach

- Background
- The Pentecostal Movement
- Empowered by the Holy Spirit
- Initial Evidence
- Conclusion
- A few words of Caution

But before we start – some background

The Trinity

- God the Father
- Jesus the Son – Salvation – can be obtained by no other
- **Holy Spirit – the Comforter**
- Three individual persons but one God

Where and why have the Holy Spirit

- Started in Jerusalem
- To enable the spread of the Gospel – the good news – the great commission
- Provides Power
- Day of Pentecost

But First - The Ascension

- ⁷ He said to them: “It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority. ⁸ But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”
- ⁹ After he said this, he was taken up before their very eyes, and a cloud hid him from their sight.

The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost

When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ **All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a]** as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts Chap 2

The Pentecostal movement (AoG and the Charismatics)

- How did it all start
- What happened in 1904 and 1906
- How does it impact us today
- Is it for you, are you excluded !!
- The AoG statements of Faith regarding the Holy Spirit

- **Welsh Revival** – Evan Roberts -He was allowed to speak after the prayer meeting on 31st October 1904 – Evan Roberts – he was a revived man (a Revived Christian) and took the word of God to people who were willing to listen – Loughor near Swansea (is that where we stand !!)
- **Interestingly** - Halloween - dedicated to remembering the dead

Azura revival Los Angeles- On the night of April 9, 1906, **Seymour** and seven men were waiting on God on Bonnie Brae Street, "when suddenly, as though hit by a bolt of lightning, they were knocked from their chairs to the floor," and the other seven men **began to speak in tongues and shout out loud praising God.**

Resulted in

The news quickly spread; the city was stirred; crowds gathered; **services were moved outside to accommodate the crowds who came from all around;** people fell down as they approached and attributed it to God; people were baptised in the Holy Spirit and **the sick were said to be healed. (Question- Compare with outreach Programmes)**

Question

- Where has the Holy Spirit been since 2000 years ago The day of Pentecost and the Welsh, Azura revivals ?

Both the Welsh and Azura Street Revivals led to the forming of the Assemblies of God (AoG) - 1924

Charismatics started in the 1960's (who are they ? (we will have a look at the fundamental difference))

AoG - Statement of Faith number 8

We believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit as an endowment of the believer with power for service, the **essential, biblical evidence** of which is the speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance. **(Initial Evidence !)**

AoG - Statement of Faith number 9

We believe in the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of Christ in the Church today. **(shown in the next slide)**

Given by Jesus to enable

⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines. (Not determined by us)
Question – which one would you like, but how would you receive it – can you imagine a church that has all the gifts.

1 Corinthians 12 vs 7 - 11

Question

Can you be baptised in the Holy Spirit but not speak in tongues

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Luke's gospel provides some important scriptures relating to the baptism of the Holy Spirit and considering that Luke also wrote the book of Acts allows a comparison to be made between the two books. John the Baptist says that the Lord will “baptise you with the Holy Spirit and with fire, recording that the Holy Spirit did descend on Jesus, equipping Jesus to fulfil his Father's task. This provided a model of baptism to the disciples comparing that “Pentecost was for the disciples what the Jordan was for Jesus.”

For Pentecostals they believe that there are **two baptisms, one for conversion at the New Birth, and the second for mission for service.** Concluding that there **is a difference** in being **saved by the Holy Spirit and Baptised in the Spirit,**” and that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is not for the purpose of cleansing from sin, **but for the purpose of empowering for service.**” Even for the disciples, baptism in the Holy Spirit **didn't make them perfect** but enabled them to be a bold witness for Jesus even though they faced many trials and tribulations.

Jesus made it very clear about receiving the Holy Spirit to spread the gospel, they **received the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues** and did indeed successfully spread the gospel. Today, this highlights the **number one reason** to be baptised in the Spirit and to **become effective evangelists**. Thankfully the Pentecostal movement has been successful in this area. As recorded in the Old Testament the Spirit was poured out on the Elders to assist Moses, similarly the pouring out of the spirit on the disciples also helped them. **The benefits were effective and dramatic.**

Just as Jesus and his disciples need the Holy Spirit, then so too does every believer, they must recognise that they have it because “It is the Personal Spirit of Christ making Him present within us.” A worthy point to take into consideration is that being baptised in the **Holy Spirit although a one-off experience should not be neglected**, but continually stirred up. It’s also important to keep your spiritual power and not lose it, one of the dangers **include pride**, where believers can so easily focus on themselves and not on God.

Andrew Murray ‘Spirit of Christ’, 1Tim 4:14, 2 Tim 1:16, 1 Pet 5:15

The Holy Spirit will give the believer power, but it's equally important to know **that the believer can't just assume that they will automatically be a natural fit for the purposes of God.** Each must ensure that their 'calling' is backed up by the Holy Spirit rather than simply assuming that once they have been baptised in the spirit that they can do everything and anything.

Question – What is your calling

1 Cor 12:4.

The gift of the spirit is for everyone and every geographical place, this will enable the believer to become an **effective servant** for Jesus **receiving power** from on high. This is an incredibly sobering thought for all believers who are called into his service. However, that said all believers need to be careful **not to pursue** an agenda of miracles happening daily but rather focus on the prime task that was for “**convincing, convicting and converting.**”

.Acts 2:39. Torrey, Holy Spirit, chap.2, para.4-8.

But how do you receive the gift of the Holy Spirit

- You can expect to be baptised in the Holy Spirit when **you seek the Lord in prayer and praise**, knowing that the gift is provided to all those who ask, laying on of hands has also been used. An example was when the disciples of John the Baptist were at Ephesus, they were asked by Paul if they had received the Holy Spirit, when they answered no Paul laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. “Paul was looking for a definite yes or no to his question,” **and the initial evidence was speaking in tongues.**

Acts chapters 8 and 19 and Torrey 'Holy Spirit'

Initial Evidence of speaking in tongues(can
cause division)

But what is the initial Evidence

Pentecostals often describe 'baptism in the Holy Spirit' as the first evidence accompanied by speaking in tongues. **However, this assumption does have its dangers** as a pastor in a South African church lined up his leaders and removed them from leadership if they were not able to speak in tongues as they were perceived as not being baptised in the Holy Spirit **It has been challenged** that being baptised in the Holy Spirit isn't always accompanied by this initial sign and **some pastors have never spoken in tongues.** **Preferring to focus not on the gifts but rather on the fruit of the Spirit.**

There are some fundamental differences between charismatic movements and Pentecostals, such as they **don't believe** that speaking in tongues is the initial sign of baptism in the Holy Spirit or **“even that it's a second,** separate occurrence.” The Holy Spirit at **salvation, is agreed** but any further in filling for the “purpose of accomplishing God's assignments with God” is debated. The Charismatics will be looking for the **‘fruit of the spirit’** and the Pentecostals will be **looking for tongues.** This has caused a problem within some Pentecostal circles as if you can't speak in tongues you are either not 'born again' or you don't have the faith, resulting in the **believers seeking tongues at all cost.**

Olajide, “Pentecostal principle of faith,” 189-190

Seymour (**Azura Street Revival**) believed that “Spirit Baptism was a gift of power to the sanctified believer,” however he was concerned that speaking in tongues was the initial evidence of being baptised **when the fruits of the spirit were absent in the believer**. So much so that he never referred to ‘initial evidence’. Piper and Hayford also agreed but Bosworth and Taylor held fast to the pattern in Luke and Acts.

It’s important to note that the focus is to be on building an **even greater love** relationship with God once you are baptised otherwise you are just a resounding gong, **however the greater challenge is to identify those believers who speak in tongues “have indeed received the Holy Spirit.”**

Lk 11:13; Acts 1:5; 2:14; 8:17; 10:44-46; 19:6; 1 Cor 13:1. Kgate, “initial Evidence,” 4.

Donald Gee recognises that “baptism in the Holy Spirit is neither a substitute for the process of discipleship nor a shortcut to spiritual maturity.” Further comments have also been made that power and purity are not linked, ‘we need the first baptism but not necessarily the second.’

Baptism is said to be a second act of grace enabling you to live a holy life, and you will only know if you are baptised in the spirit when you speak in tongues. But you have to be careful that it doesn't constitute a manner of superiority over fellow believers but rather requires humility. Initial evidence isn't always true as recorded in Paul's conversion experience, but he did confirm that he did frequently speak in tongues.

Acts 9:17-19, 1 Cor 14:18. Chappell, “Pentecostal perspective,” 49.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues **can help the believer in their Christian walk**, however this should not be confused with our own words, deeds and actions that should reflect Jesus (**Fruit of the Spirit**). Myland has been quoted as saying that he believes that he was baptised in the Holy Spirit **but didn't** “speak in tongues until years later.” There are occasion where the seeking of the baptism in the Holy Spirit has just been about a single goal of speaking in tongues, **focussing on the individual** rather than the grace of God.

Conclusion

Conclusion

Baptism in the Holy Spirit is the **cornerstone** of the Pentecostal movement. The Gospel of Luke and critically the book of Acts underpins their belief that these books are as relevant today as it was in the early church. The world continues to be the mission field powered by believers who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, distinguishing them as children of God. Being Baptised in the spirit can also provide **church guidance, encouragement, wisdom, and direction to the church**, in addition to **personal guidance**. Thus not purely **limited** to “empowering to witness.”

A few words of caution

It is by the grace of God that his work continues but the believer must ensure that they keep themselves **'in check'** and give all the glory to God. Although the initial evidence of speaking in tongues has been effectively challenged **it is difficult to conclude** that you are baptised in the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues. **The real danger** is believers seeking the gift of tongues to demonstrate to others that they have been baptised in the Holy Spirit **over and above** seeking the fruits of the spirit to reflect Jesus Christ.