



Who Has The Holy Spirit?

By Michael J. Burns

Several years ago I received an unusual phone call from a gentleman in North Carolina. He was registered to attend Duke University and had enrolled in their School of Divinity. I do not remember how he got my number but he was just about to begin his divinity studies and wanted to ask me some questions.

The conversation turned to the *Holy Spirit* and our need for his supernatural help in life and ministry. As I began to speak about the two fold work of the *Holy Spirit* in the life of a Christian I started to bring up the baptism of the *Holy Spirit* with the initial evidence of *speaking in tongues*.

I soon discovered that his spiritual journey was quite different from mine as he had been exposed to traditional teaching that said that *speaking in tongues* was not for today. Although I was clear that ALL Christ follower's, who have been born again had the *Holy Spirit* living in them, he somehow got hung up on the thought that there was more available to him. He told me that he believed he had ALL of the *Holy Spirit* there was and disagreed that there was more.

Obviously there was some truth to what he believed but his understanding was incomplete. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior the *Holy Spirit* baptizes us into the Body of Christ or the Church Universal (**1 Corinthians 12:13**). The *Holy Spirit* comes to live inside of us and makes us a new creation in Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:17**).

People who have rejected the baptism in the *Holy Spirit* with the initial evidence of speaking in other tongues have wrongly believed or it has been wrongly stated to them that they are lacking the fullness of the *Holy Spirit*! THIS IS UTTERLY FALSE! Where this gentleman was missing it was in the fact that he already had the *Holy Spirit* living IN him by virtue of the new birth, but had yet to experience the work of the *Holy Spirit* coming **UPON** him.

Acts 1:8 - *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come **UPON** you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.* NKJV

Have you ever thought about what the term, **UPON**, means? It is a contraction of the words **UP** & **ON**. When you think of it in these terms it brings a whole new understanding to what Jesus was saying in this verse. The *Holy Spirit* who comes to live IN us is the same *Holy Spirit* who comes up from within us and then comes upon us in the *Holy Spirit* baptism! We already know that in **John 20:21-23** Jesus had risen from the dead after his crucifixion and appeared to the remaining disciples. **Look at what Jesus said...**

21 Then said Jesus to them again, *Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*

22 And when he had said this, *he breathed on them, and saith unto them, **Receive ye the Holy Ghost:***

23 *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.* KJV

This receiving of the *Holy Ghost* was where the disciples were **born again**. You cannot be **born again** without the *Holy Spirit* working within you. Certainly some will say, 'No Pastor! A person **MUST** receive Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior!' I agree, but after the confession of **Romans 10:9-10** is made the *Holy Spirit* recreates their human spirit and places them in the body of Christ!

These verses in **John 20:21-23** are speaking specifically about the work of the *Holy Spirit* WITHIN the believer in Christ in the new birth. **Once you receive Jesus Christ as your Lord you have ALL of the Holy Spirit living within your human born again spirit.** Yet there is more that God wants to do in your life. Else why would Jesus have appeared to His disciples in **Acts 1** and then talk to them in **verse 8** about a 2nd work of the *Holy Spirit* coming **UPON** them? He makes this clear in the following verses in **John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13-15.**

**John 14:16 - And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever;
17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.** KJV

Notice Jesus said the *Holy Spirit* cannot be received by the world or non-Christians. He also said that the *Holy Spirit* is **WITH YOU** and shall be **IN YOU!** I want to emphasize this point that EVERY CHRISTIAN has the *Holy Spirit* living inside of them ever since Jesus arose from the dead and the church began on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2:1-4.** Yet I would also like to emphasize that NOT every Christian has experienced this 2nd work of the *Holy Spirit* that Jesus spoke about with evidence.

It is equally important to say that **a Christian DOES NOT have to speak in tongues in order to go to heaven.** You cannot find a single verse in the Bible that says so. Nonetheless this is an experience that God wants you to have. I liken it unto driving a car. You don't have to get a driver's license to be an American citizen. Though I can assure you that those of us who have been licensed to drive have an advantage over those who do not!

The same is true of those who are born again but do not speak in tongues. You will still go to heaven one day but life will be more challenging for you then for someone who has received the baptism of the *Holy Spirit* with the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues. Many who have never spoken in tongues claim that they are

baptized in the *Holy Spirit* but they are unknowingly acknowledging the redemptive fact that they have come alive unto God in their human spirit by receiving Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior! Again this is the work of the *Holy Spirit* WITHIN but there is also a secondary work of the *Holy Spirit* UPON them that God wants them to receive as well!

John 15:26 - "But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, *the Spirit of truth* who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me..." NKJV

John 16:13-15 - Howbeit when he, *the Spirit of truth*, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will show you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall show *it* unto you.

15 All things that the Father hath are mine: therefore said I, that he shall take of mine, and shall show *it* unto you. KJV

The *Holy Spirit* is called our *Comforter*. **The Amplified Bible** expands on this with the terms; *Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners* and *Standby*. I am so glad that the *Holy Spirit* is all this to us and more before and after the UPON experience!

The Evidence

Some say that the Lord Jesus never spoke in tongues so why should I? While it is true Jesus never spoke in tongues there is a very good reason WHY? Speaking in tongues is unique to our dispensation. The dispensation or time period that the Lord Jesus lived under was the Time of LAW. How can this be? After all His life and ministry is recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

The gospels are really a part of the Old Testament in part because the New Covenant did not begin until Jesus Christ was risen from the

dead which began a new dispensation known as the dispensation of Grace or the Church Age! We have been living in that time period for the past 2021 years!

Jesus gave what is known as the **Great Commission** as found in **Mark 16:14-18 (Verses 19-20 intentionally not quoted here)**

14 Later He appeared to the eleven as they sat at the table; and He rebuked their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they did not believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

15 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues;

18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." NKJV

There are actually some bible versions that leave these verses out of this chapter from **Mark's** gospel. Over the millenniums there has been much debate as to whether **verses 9-20 belong in the gospel of Mark.**

*"Whether or not this piece of txt belongs in the original, the TRUTH it contains certainly accords with it. So, the bottom line is that it does not make any difference, since if it does belong here there is nothing in it contrary to the rest of scripture. And if it does not belong, there is no truth missing in the Bible, since everything taught here is found elsewhere in Scripture. This includes tongues (see **Acts 2:1-4**), baptism (**Acts 2:38**), and God's 1st century supernatural protection of his messengers unwittingly bitten by poisonous snakes (**Acts 28:3-5**). So, in the final analysis, it is simply a debate about whether this particular text belongs in the Bible, not over whether any truth is missing."*

(This excerpt is from When Critics Ask: A Popular Handbook on Bible Difficulties

The verses in **Mark 16:18** coincide with what Jesus said in **Luke 24:49**.

49 Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high." NKJV

The term '**endued**' is a transliteration from the Greek word, 'enduoo' and it means **to be clothed upon with Power!** This is precisely what Jesus was referring to in **Acts 1:8**. This POWER comes from the Greek term, **Dunamis** and means *Miracle Working Power, Inherent Power, and Explosive Power like Dynamite!*

When a believer in Christ receives this supernatural power we can learn what to expect from the scriptures. For instance there are 5 accounts mentioned in the **book of Acts**. In **Acts 2:1-4** we have the initial account where there were 120 people gathered in this rented upper room. The Apostle Paul mentions that Jesus appeared to 'above 500 brethren...' in **1 Corinthians 15:1-8** and some believe it was just before His ascension in **Acts 1:4-5**,

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to **wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."** NKJV

It is a powerful thought that the Lord Jesus appeared to *above 500 brethren* and told them to wait for the endowment of power but **ONLY 120** actually went to the upper room! In my opinion this is very telling that although the Lord is offering every believer this supernatural experience **only 120 out of 500+ actually received here**. In **Acts 2:1-4** we have the first account of believer's receiving this supernatural power.

1 When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting.

3 Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. NKJV

Is there any question that this was a supernatural experience?

In **Acts 8** Philip the evangelist went to Samaria and had a great revival that included miracles, signs and wonders. Many people were baptized in water acknowledging their faith in the Lord Jesus. The church at Jerusalem heard of this spiritual awakening so they sent Peter and John to pray for them to **receive the Holy Spirit** as stated in **verses 14-17**. This account does not specifically state that they spoke in tongues but there was something that Simon the sorcerer **saw** that provoked him to offer Peter and John money for the gift of laying his hands on people to receive the *Holy Spirit*...**Acts 8:18-19**.

What did Simon the sorcerer see? He saw that when Peter and John laid hands on people that the *Holy Spirit* was given to them. There had to be some type of visible manifestation. When Peter said to Simon in **verse 21**, ‘...*Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God*’ KJV.

The term ‘*matter*’ is the Greek Word, **LOGOS** which means **Speech or Something said!** So there is a strong indication that they had the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues.

We have 3 other accounts starting in **Acts 9** where Ananias was told by the Lord where Saul of Tarsus was praying in a house on Straight Street in the city of Damascus. In **Verse 17** Ananias came to

pray for Saul that he would receive his sight **AND be filled with the Holy Spirit!** We know that Paul did speak with tongues because he said he did in **1 Corinthians 14:18**.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:
KJV

Did you know that every writer of the New Testament spoke in tongues? This wonderful gift of speaking in tongues inspired a former Pharisee like Paul, formerly known as Saul of Tarsus, to write two thirds of what we know as the New Testament Epistles.

In **Acts 10** Peter had a housetop vision as he fell into a trance where God was preparing him to visit the Gentile home of a Roman Centurion named Cornelius. When Peter came and preached there we have this recorded testimony...

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell UPON all those who heard the word.

45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.

46A For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God... NKJV

Finally in **Acts 19** we have the account where Paul the Apostle met some of John the Baptist's followers and asked them, **'Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?** They answered Paul by saying, **'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 in Verses 2-4.**

Paul discovered that they had only knew of John's baptism unto repentance and after Paul had shared Jesus with them they were baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ. Scripture then reveals that Paul laid his hands on them and in **Acts 19:6-7** we are told...

6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the *Holy Ghost* came **ON** them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

7 And all the men were about twelve. KJV

It is my hope that if you have never received this work of the *Holy Spirit* **UPON** you that you would see that if you are born again then you have the *Holy Spirit* already within and He wants to come **UP** and **ON** you to clothe you with supernatural power so that you can BE a supernatural witness instead of just doing witnessing.

(If this teaching has helped you or if you have any questions about it, then email me personally at mjbcjf@gmail.com. PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS EMAIL FOR ANY OTHER PURPOSE.)

Pastor Mike Burns =^)