



How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

*"...You shall
receive power
when the
Holy Spirit has
come upon you."*

Acts 1:8

By Mark & Patti
Virkler

How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

**Have you experienced all three
workings of the Holy Spirit in your life?**

- ❖ Indwelt by the Holy Spirit – salvation
- ❖ Filled with the Holy Spirit – ongoing sanctification
- ❖ Baptized in the Holy Spirit – empowered for ministry

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Mark and Patti have been writing books together for nearly thirty years. Sometimes Mark is the main author and researcher, and sometimes Patti is. Whichever of them does the actual writing, they are both wholly involved in each project, discussing, analyzing, adjusting, confirming, correcting and editing. They therefore consider all of their books as joint ventures, and list themselves both as authors.

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By Mark and Patti Virkler

How I Received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

It started with a hunger: During my senior year of high school, my hunger to live the book of Acts was kindled by reading an extended novel on the life of Paul. I wanted to be like Paul. I wanted to do miracles, hear the voice of God and move in the anointing of God. But my church was telling me this lifestyle was no longer available to Christians today.

A year later, my Bible college professors assured me of the same thing. The age of miracles was past. My Greek professor even went so far as to make extensive use of class time to mock and ridicule “tongue speakers.” So I settled down and accepted the fact that the Church Age was a dispensation in which the power of God was not present to do great and mighty miracles.

This worked all right until my senior year of college. Patti, my new wife, had been trained as a teacher. Part of her final year was devoted to doing student teaching in an elementary school setting. The woman she taught under just happened to be a charismatic who was extremely wise. She never let on to me that she was a charismatic, but instead invited Patti and me over every little while for an evening meal with her and her family. There she told us stories - stories of how she and her family used to be quite sickly and had to go to the hospital every winter with a variety of illnesses. Then, a few years ago, she learned how to pray for them for healing and none of them had been sick for the last two or three years.

Well, of course, this didn't jive with any theology I had been taught, but what was I to do with it? It was a living story in a real person's life, and it happened. How could I say it didn't?

[The power of story: Even then, God had chosen to get through to me with a story, with an experience that would by-pass all my theological hang-ups. I was experiencing the power of story to affect one's life, even though it would take me another ten years to come into an understanding of the power of narrative theology (as contrasted to systematic theology).]

God's providence: I love God's providence. He always places in our path exactly what we are ready to receive, when we are ready to receive it. I call it "divine serendipity." Serendipity means a happy, chance encounter, and I have learned to expect God in these divine "chance" encounters of life. They come often to the prepared individual.

The chance encounter in this instance was God's leading me to a charismatic cassette lending library of perhaps 1300 teaching cassettes. There I found Derek Prince, a charismatic theologian, who could teach Hebrew and Greek on the graduate level and who had written his graduate thesis on logic.

Now tell me, isn't he perfectly suited to speak into the heart and mind of this left-brain thinker who had been trained in rational Christianity? Derek Prince was exactly what I needed. I listened to several hundred of his teaching cassettes, and through them I radically reversed my theology, realizing that God is still alive in the midst of His Church and still doing miracles and healings, and speaking and prophesying, and casting out demons, and doing everything He has always done throughout the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. There was no need to dispensationalize the power of God away just because our culture believed in rationalism. The Bible could still stand, and our culture could be challenged by it - by those who would believe it was still so, and who would demonstrate in and through their lives that it was so.

I had both theological and experiential blockages that made it difficult for me to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues, and actually thwarted me for several years. Let's examine both and see how God resolved them and brought me into a wonderful new intimacy with Himself through the Holy Spirit.

Overcoming my theological blocks

1. *I was taught that speaking in tongues was for baby Christians.*

Well, that couldn't be true because Paul said, "I thank God I speak in tongues more than you all" (I Cor. 14:18), and obviously Paul was no baby Christian! To line up with my false belief, I would have had to rewrite that verse to say, "I am embarrassed to say that I am still speaking in tongues a lot, since I am an apostle, and am a recognized leader in the Church."

2. *I was taught that tongues disappeared when the Bible was canonized.* The verse used to prove this was, "...but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away" (I Cor. 13:10). The perfect thing that was coming could not have been referring to the Bible after all, because knowledge was also going to disappear when the perfect came (I Cor. 13:8) and I sure did not think that knowledge had left the planet – although some days I might wonder whether it has or not.

Paul goes on to describe what it will be like when the perfect comes. He says, "Now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face" (I Cor. 13:12). The Bible is great but I do not think it is the face-to-face encounter Paul is referring to. The face-to-face encounter will come when Christ returns and we are caught up to meet Him in the sky and spend eternity with Him. As you are reading this booklet I have written, you are not having a face-to-face encounter with me. But if you come to my offices or my home and meet me, then we will be having a face-to-face encounter.

I decided that that which was perfect was Christ Himself at the second coming, and that it was still in the future. Thus, speaking in tongues and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are still for today.

3. *I was taught that tongues was a lesser gift and was to be despised.* God doesn't give any gifts worthy of my disdain; God only gives good gifts. So I repented of my contempt and began seeking Him for all He wanted to give to me.
4. *I was taught that love was better than tongues* (I Cor. 13). That is probably true, but where in the Bible does it say I can only have one of them? Can't I have them both?
5. *I was taught that tongues was not for everyone.* The Bible says, "All do not speak with tongues, do they?" (I Cor. 12:30). So you see, tongues is not for everyone. However, just two chapters later, Paul says that everyone does speak in tongues: "...each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue..." (I Cor. 14:26). If your Bible puts the word "or" between the various items in this list, it is mistaken, for in the Greek there is simply a list of items with no "or" anywhere in the list.

Consequently, we have a verse saying we don't all speak in tongues and a verse saying we do all speak in tongues. My understanding of the solution to this dilemma is that even though we can all speak in tongues in our own personal prayer lives, when we are in the public worship service, not all of us will speak in tongues dominating the church service. Only a few will speak in tongues, and they will need to be interpreted so that all may benefit.

6. *I was taught that you don't have to speak in tongues.* No, you don't *have* to. You *get* to, assuming you are hungry to receive all that God has for you.
7. *I was taught that tongues was disorderly and would confuse the non-believers who attended services with tongue speaking in them.* Well, guess what: The fastest growing segment of the Church today is that part which allows for the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their services. Approximately one-third of today's Christians are seeking the operation of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Those hungering for spiritual reality and spirit encounter in the United States often have not found it in traditional churches and have gone to the New Age in their continuing quest. Cults are the unpaid bills of the Church.

One day, when I was complaining to God that a service I was attending seemed to be very disorderly, He spoke back to my heart and asked me: "How does one get drunk decently and in order?" (Acts 2:15). You know, I had never asked myself that question. Obviously when the Holy Spirit was poured out in Acts 2, it appeared to the natural mind to be so disorderly that they were believed to be drunk, but in God's eyes, it was fine. Perhaps I needed God's perspective on these things, not mine.

8. *I was taught that I had already received the Holy Spirit at salvation, and that **was** the baptism in the Holy Spirit.* While it is true that the Holy Spirit does indwell us at salvation (Rom. 8:9), the Bible teaches that in addition to this initial experience, we can be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18), and baptized in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5,8).

So I became a charismatic, theologically speaking. I became convinced in my mind and in my heart that the gifts and callings of God are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29 NASB), and that we could operate the gifts of God in our lives today.

I began by seeking the most basic and supposedly easiest gift to operate, the gift of speaking in tongues. I was comfortable with the belief that this gift could be a sign that one has been baptized in the Holy Spirit, something for which I now hungered. (Patti had been baptized in the Holy Spirit several years earlier, but was wise enough to keep it to herself, as she knew sharing it with me would only cause me to look down on her and try to talk her out of her “false experience.”)

Now I began to seek God for a supernatural manifestation of His power through my life, specifically through my mouth. I went to a charismatic prayer meeting and received prayer for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues. I received the prayer, but I didn't feel anything and I didn't begin speaking in tongues. That was disappointing, because I had fasted all day and really had high expectations that something special was going to happen to me that night.

I drove home, frustrated that God had not made Himself real to me through the gift of speaking in tongues, but I didn't give up. For months I studied, read, and prayed concerning the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues. Even though I sought it earnestly, nothing seemed to happen. I would pray for the gift of tongues, and then let my tongue hang loose and ask the Holy Spirit to move it around and give me the gift of tongues, but nothing would happen.

Finally - the gift of tongues: One Sunday morning I was too sick to attend church, so I was sitting alone in our small trailer in a rocking chair, re-evaluating everything I knew about speaking in tongues and wondering what I was doing wrong that was keeping me from experiencing it.

Hunger, divine revelation and growing faith in my heart brought me to a number of spiritual convictions (not just conceptual ideas):

1. I know that God wants me to speak in tongues (I Cor. 14:5).
2. I know that when I ask for the Spirit, God will not give me a serpent but He will give me what I have asked for (Matt. 7:7-11; Lk. 11:9-13).
3. I know that when I ask anything according to His will He hears me and I have that which I have asked of Him (I Jn. 5:14,15).
4. And now for the amazing piece - I know that in any miracle, there is a part God plays and a part I play. When Peter walked on the water, Jesus said, "Come" and kept Peter's feet afloat, but *it was Peter who was doing the walking!*

What God showed me that morning in the rocking chair was that in the miracle of speaking in tongues there was a part He would play and there was a part I must play. The two parts are recorded in Acts 2: 4: "**They spoke**" and "the **Spirit gave** the utterance." The part I must play is that I must be willing to speak, while choosing not to speak in English, my native language. Instead, I must let the Spirit within me form the syllables. I choose to articulate sounds, but I choose not to consciously form the syllables. I leave that to the Holy Spirit Who indwells me.

So, with a step of faith, birthed in revelation knowledge of the truths above which the Holy Spirit had been burning into my heart over a number of months, I prayed once again and asked God for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues. In an act of obedience to God's Word revealed to me by the Spirit, I began to speak, without consciously choosing the syllables. Sure enough, I was speaking something. But what? I received two answers to that question. My rational brain skeptically evaluated each syllable and told me I was speaking gibberish. My heart chose to believe and said this had to be tongues. I chose to listen to the voice of the Holy Spirit within me.

Being at a point where I desperately wanted intimacy with God and to experience His power, I decided to press on unreservedly for the next couple of weeks, doing the same experiment over and over. I found that when I let my rational mind evaluate the experience of

tongue speaking, it would tend to grind the whole process to a halt. It would evaluate each syllable coming out of my mouth and say, “That is stupid. That is not a language. That doesn’t edify me.” I had to remind my rational mind of several facts: First, *all* languages it doesn’t understand sound stupid to it, and it probably couldn’t recognize another language if it had to. In addition, the Bible is clear that speaking in tongues is not to edify my *mind*, but rather to edify my *spirit* (I Cor. 14:1-4,14).

So I told my left-brain to do something constructive and to think thoughts of praise and worship while I was speaking in tongues. This helped a lot, because now my brain was cooperating with my heart in worship unto the King, rather than pulling against it. And the flow of tongue speaking began to enlarge and come much more freely in my life. However, my fears and rational skepticism kept me from praying in tongues in a public setting for an entire year. Talk about being locked up in doubt and rationalism! I was surely handicapped, spiritually speaking. Seeing my bondage to rationalism should help you see why I am so against it today. Rationalism held me back from God for many years. My passion is that its power be broken in our culture so that people can freely experience God on a spirit-to-Spirit level.

The first time I spoke in tongues publicly was at the close of a home cell meeting. We had just prayed for an individual, ministering deliverance from several demons, and the group was worshipping together. As we worshipped softly and gently, I worshipped a bit in tongues. I “happened” to be taking a girl home afterward who had spent time in South America and who knew Portuguese. She mentioned that she had overheard me as I was praying in tongues that night, and, in Portuguese, I was saying, “Hooray! Long live Jesus!”

I was astounded. I had never considered the possibility that someone would hear me speak in tongues and recognize it as a foreign language that could be translated. Wasn’t God good to me? Knowing the rational doubts I had grown up with and needed to overcome, He graciously gave me this startling confirmation that, yes, these babbling syllables which I was speaking from the flow of the Holy Spirit in my heart were indeed more than baby talk. They were a foreign language that could be understood and translated.

Introducing the Principles of Faith and Flow: What had I learned as I had pressed into the Spirit world, discovering how to yield myself to God so that He could speak through me in tongues? I had applied two foundational principles to my life: the Principle of Faith and the Principle of Flow. I was using them together, purposefully, for the first time in my life.

1. The Principle of Faith

“But without faith it is impossible to please Him: for he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them that diligently seek Him.” (Heb. 11:6)

2. The Principle of Flow

“He that believeth on Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.’ But this spake He of the Spirit, which they that believe on Him should receive...” (Jn. 7: 38,39)

3. The “Faith in Flow” Principle

The gifts of the Holy Spirit operate through the one who, in faith, yields his outer faculties to the control of the river of God within him.

- or condensed to -

In faith, yield your outer faculties to flow.

For example:

- ❖ The mind yielded to the flow of the Holy Spirit = anointed reasoning, word of wisdom, word of knowledge
- ❖ The mouth yielded to the flow of the Holy Spirit = tongues, interpretation, prophecy, persuasiveness of speech
- ❖ The heart yielded to the flow of the Holy Spirit = God’s voice, distinguishing of spirits, faith, peace, unrest
- ❖ The hands yielded to the flow of the Holy Spirit = miracles, healing
- ❖ The eyes yielded to the flow of the Holy Spirit = dream, vision, divine perspective

An Introduction to the Principle of Faith: Hebrews 11:6 says that it is impossible to please God unless I choose to believe that He is and that He will reward me when I diligently seek Him. So **the thing that gives God pleasure is my choosing to believe Him** - that He is here with me and that He does love and guide and protect and deliver and interact with me. For so many years I had not given God this pleasure of believing in Him, because my belief in dispensationalism and rational theology had removed God's immediacy from my life. Now, finally, I could begin giving Him pleasure by believing that He is and that He would reward me as I sought Him.

Actually it is **God's faith** (Mk. 11:22 – in the Greek) that is born in our hungry searching hearts, not our faith. The Bible says that faith comes by hearing and hearing a word (the Greek is *rhema* meaning “spoken word”) from Christ (Rom. 10:17). This verse is referring to the fact that faith is born in your heart **when God speaks** into your heart by revelation knowledge. The result of this revelation (in the context of the baptism of the Holy Spirit), is that **you know** with a spiritual confidence, a heartfelt assurance and a divine certainty that you **should** receive the gift of tongues, and that you **could** receive the gift of tongues, and that you **will** receive the gift of tongues when you ask for it from a good God and speak forth in faith.

Pray for God to pour revelation into your heart. Ask God to give you spiritual understanding of the verses that deal with the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues. Then prayerfully meditate on them. Also ask Him to impart the gift of faith for the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues into your heart. Then step out of the boat in faith, believing God will meet you with a divine miracle.

An Introduction to the Principle of Flow: In John 7:38,39, Jesus defines the Holy Spirit within us as a river that we experience as “flow.” I had never honored the flow within me. I had never had a course on flow, or weighed or considered the theological implications of flow. In the course I took in college on systematic theology, we did not cover flow as one of the doctrines. I missed the concept of flow completely, until 1979 when God taught me that “flow” or “spontaneity,” as I have come to call it, is the way we experience the river of God within us, and is one of the four keys which I needed to learn in order to begin clearly hearing His voice within my heart.

When I speak in tongues, I speak, but I do not consciously guide the formation of the syllables. I tune to flow and speak syllables which are not consciously formed by my mind, but which come spontaneously according to the dictates of the flow of the Holy Spirit within me. Syllables just flow out of my mouth. I speak in simple childlike faith. A spiritual conviction grows that this flow of syllables is coming from the river of the Holy Spirit within me. God's grace moves directly upon my heart, imparting divine faith without which it is impossible to receive anything from Him (Jas. 1:6,7)

Since grade school, high school and college taught me to scorn flow, I had a hard time honoring and believing in and operating the gift of tongues during those first months. By God's grace, I have gradually come to the point where I know that flow is the Holy Spirit within me, and my current confession is, "I honor flow, for it is the river of the Spirit of God within my heart." I encourage you to affirm these same beliefs and make this your own confession. Confess it now, several times.

It doesn't hurt to also repent of your sin by saying, "I repent of my belief that flow is nothing and that it is to be disdained and set aside. I turn from that belief and I confess the truths of God's Word that the river of God flows within me, and that when I fix my eyes on Jesus and tune to flow, the stream of thoughts and pictures I receive is coming from the indwelling Spirit of God." Make this your prayer and your confession, and let it set you free from the god of rationalism that has controlled the western world for the last 500 years.

Twenty-three years of experience before being able to clearly define the principle: Unfortunately, I was not able to state or fully understand this principle of Faith in Flow at the time I first used it for speaking in tongues in 1975. It would take 23 more years before I would be able to put it down on paper and grasp its universal application to the operation of the other gifts of the Holy Spirit, for this same principle of Faith in Flow is what is used to operate all the gifts of the Holy Spirit in one's life.

Oral Roberts has taught this "Faith in Flow" principle for years, encouraging people to first pray in tongues and then pray in English. He believes that the English that you pray is the interpretation of the tongues. I would say that if, when you switch from tongues

to English, you continue to speak out of the flow which has been established within as you speak in tongues, then the English will be the interpretation of the tongues, and thus equivalent to prophecy.

Take a few minutes to ponder what has been said, for you *can* press in and learn to operate the gifts of the Holy Spirit if you will but yield your outer faculties to the river of God within you. Once God gives you revelation concerning this, you will begin operating in the supernatural. Don't put it off. Stop and ponder and meditate and receive this revelation. Your life will go on whether you operate in this revelation or not. But, if you will receive it and live in it, you will be a supernatural manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit in the world today. If you don't, you will be a manifestation of yourself. The world needs Christ much more than it needs you.

Some theological understandings of what happens when you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit

I understand the following three phrases to be interchangeable: baptism **in** the Holy Spirit, baptism **with** the Holy Spirit, and baptism **by** the Holy Spirit. "In," "with" and "by" are all acceptable translations of the Greek preposition *en*.

In this experience, several things are happening. First, it seems evident that you are also filled with the Holy Spirit at the same time that you are baptized in the Holy Spirit. This was true in Acts two. Acts 1: 5 declares that they would be *baptized* with the Holy Spirit, and when it happened in Acts 2:1-4, it states that they were *filled* with the Holy Spirit. I believe that when you are baptized in the Holy Spirit, you are at the same time filled with the Spirit. Now, this filling can and should happen numerous times in your life, whereas you are only baptized in the Holy Spirit once. Note that the same group of people that were filled in Acts 2:4 were filled again in Acts 4:31. However, it is not recorded that they were ever baptized again in the Holy Spirit.

Following are all the references in the Bible to being **filled** with the Holy Spirit:

Exodus 31:3-5; 35:31-35; Deuteronomy 34:9; Micah 3:8; Luke 1: 15,16,41,42,67; Acts 2:4; 4:8-12,31; 9:17,18; 13:9,10,52; Ephesians 5:18-21.

These verses demonstrate that the **fullness of the Holy Spirit provides**: divine wisdom and understanding; anointing in your craft; ability to prophesy under the Holy Spirit's direction; anointed heart motivations (e.g., passion concerning your trade); anointed heart character traits (e.g., courage, faith) and anointed heart attitudes (e.g., joy, thankfulness).

You are filled with the Holy Spirit when you are tuned to and releasing the flow of the indwelling Holy Spirit Who is saturating and invigorating your heart and is anointing your mind, will, emotions, speech and hands as you yield them to the flow of the river of God within.

The **baptism in the Holy Spirit takes you one step further by adding** the following to the list of things you experience when filled with the Holy Spirit: speaking in tongues, interpretation of tongues, gifts of healing, and effecting of miracles.

In the filling of the Holy Spirit you have **begun** to learn how to yield the outer functions of your soul to the control of the indwelling Holy Spirit, whereas in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you go **one step further** (i.e., going thoroughly to the wild and woolly side of life – as far as rationalism is concerned!) and purposely yield your tongue to receive the gift of speaking in tongues. This utter release of yourself from rationalism, and abandonment to divine flow or revelation knowledge is the point where God realizes that you have learned His ways sufficiently to be entrusted with an increased endowment of power. So the Holy Spirit comes and rests upon you with a special supernatural anointing for ministry.

I found that two wonderful miracles took place in the baptism in the Holy Spirit. First, my outer shell went through a deep death and resurrection, and second, God endued me with power from on high. You see, I grew up maintaining self-control over my soul's faculties. I controlled my thinking, my speech, my emotions, etc. However, the Bible says that unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone. Once it has died, it can bear much fruit (Jn. 12:24). Once the outer shell dies, the life of the Holy Spirit within can spring forth.

Until I died to my own personal control of my soul's faculties, I remained alone and unfruitful. Once I yielded from self-control to Spirit-control, I immediately became extremely fruitful. The baptism in the Holy Spirit constituted a major breakthrough as I turned full control of my tongue to the Holy Spirit, asking Him to give me the gift of speaking in tongues.

Jesus Himself died to self's control over His actions. He did nothing of His own initiative, but only what He saw or heard the Father doing (Jn. 5:19,20,30; 8:26,28,38).

Jesus also demonstrated the other aspect of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. At His baptism in water by John, the Holy Spirit descended in the form of a dove and rested upon Him (Mk. 1:8-11; Jn. 1:32,33).

I believe the abandonment from self-control to Spirit-control is one side of the coin, and the Holy Spirit resting upon and enduing one with power is the other side of the coin.

On the one side, the Spirit flows out from within in a special new way as we release control of our tongues to the indwelling Spirit, stepping from the god of rationalism to the God of revelation knowledge. On the other side, there is a new divine enabling that now begins resting upon the believer. I wonder if it is God saying, "Now that I see that you are learning to abandon yourself to Me more completely, I am going to grant you an enhanced level of power and authority and anointing in all you do." That is what I suspect is happening.

So let's talk about this second half of the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit – this enduement of power from on high as the Holy Spirit rests "upon" you in a new and special way.

"I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are **clothed with power** from on high." (Lk. 24:49)

This empowerment produces several important results in our lives.

"The Spirit of the Lord is **upon** Me, because He anointed Me to preach the gospel to the poor, He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free

those who are downtrodden, to proclaim the favorable year of the Lord.” (Lk. 4:18,19; see also Is. 61:1-3)

“You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God **anointed Him** with the Holy Spirit and with power, and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.” (Acts 10:38)

“But you have an **anointing** from the Holy One, and you all know...His anointing teaches you about all things.” (I Jn. 2:20,27)

This divine empowering was passed on from Jesus to His followers in numerous instances (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:17-19; Lk. 9:1,2; 10:17,19; Acts 1:5,8; 2:1-4).

So the divine endowment with power allows us to demonstrate anointed preaching and teaching, divine healing of both emotions and the physical body, and the casting out of demons, and also provides an inner witness as to what is true and what is not.

I have experienced these things over the years and so will all who have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I believe the building blocks which the Spirit gives us that allow us to do these things are listed for us in I Corinthians 12:7-11 and are called the “manifestation of the Holy Spirit.” They are nine ways the Holy Spirit manifests Himself through us, once we learn how to yield control of our faculties to Him.

The nine manifestations are (with working definitions):

Word of wisdom - wisdom coming from flowing thoughts

Word of knowledge - knowledge coming from flowing thoughts

Faith - an impartation of a divine essence within our hearts

Gifts of healing - a release of supernatural power through the anointing

Effecting of miracles - a release of supernatural power through the anointing

Prophecy - spoken words guided by the flow of the Holy Spirit

Distinguishing of spirits - an inner witness concerning demonic presence

Kinds of tongues - spoken non-learned words guided by the flow of the Holy Spirit

Interpretation of tongues - spoken words guided by the flow of the Holy Spirit

These abilities are available for every Christian who is maintaining a humble heart, and has his eyes fixed on Jesus (Matt. 5:5; Heb. 12:1,2). If you read carefully through the book of Acts from Paul's conversion onward (Acts 9 - 28), you will discover that Paul demonstrated all nine of the above manifestations of the Holy Spirit. I believe we can also, as we learn to yield our outer faculties to the indwelling promptings of the Holy Spirit. Tongue speaking and the baptism in the Holy Spirit are but the initial step into a wonderful life of Spirit-anointed living. Press in until you manifest the Holy Spirit fully and completely through your life, and you have become spiritually fruitful, providing healing for the nations.

Finally, if you care about what science has learned concerning speaking in tongues, here are a few interesting insights.

Studies in scientific laboratories have revealed that when one speaks in tongues, brain wave activity is registered on the right side of the brain. Other right brain activities include vision, intuition, art awareness and music. I can personally verify that praying in tongues opens me up to visions, God's gentle inner voice, peace, and power.

Scientific studies have also discovered that speaking in tongues builds the immune system. Not a bad side effect, especially at a time when the average American's immune system has registered a 30% reduction from twenty years ago. This may be one of the ways God maintains His covenant of health with His Church.

A summary of the three workings of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life:

You are saved when you repent of your sin and welcome Jesus as Lord and Savior, receiving a new heart and a new spirit that displaces your former evil desires with a passion for truth, love and righteousness.

You are filled with the Holy Spirit when you are tuned to and releasing the flow of the indwelling Holy Spirit Who is saturating and invigorating your heart and is anointing your mind, will, emotions, speech and hands as you yield them to the flow of the river of God within.

You are baptized in the Holy Spirit when you are able to operate in the gift of speaking in tongues and receive an enduement of power from the Holy Spirit that allows you to successfully pray for others for healing, miracles and deliverance.

Some might want to argue that the baptism of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit are one and the same experience. I can accept this as a possibility. That would mean that all I have said concerning these two experiences could be lumped into one occurrence, rather than two. I have no need to fight to distinguish them as two separate experiences. The important thing is that all the manifestation, power and gifts of the Holy Spirit are operational in your life. That is what I care about.

Now YOU get to explore Scripture concerning the three workings of the Holy Spirit in the believer's life.

1. At salvation, the Holy Spirit indwells the Christian's heart and you are born again, receiving a new heart. The power of God comes to live within man. Record what the following verses teach concerning this.

Ezekiel 36:26,27

I Corinthians 6:17

Romans 8:9

Romans 8:15

At salvation, a mighty change takes place in your heart. You receive the divine nature deep within your spirit through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (II Pet. 1:4), and “the Spirit Himself bears witness with [your] spirit that [you] are [a child] of God” (Rom. 8:16). You may experience an instantaneous divine transformation of heart attitudes at the point of salvation. Your desire to sin may simply melt away.

However, this indwelling is just the beginning of the Holy Spirit’s work. This seed, buried deep within, wants to grow until every particle of your being is controlled by it. Thus, you begin the process of allowing the “inworking power” to work its way out (Phil. 2:12,13). That brings us to a second way the Holy Spirit wants to work in your life.

2. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a door-opening experience where, in a prayerful step of faith, you entrust the functioning of the capacities of your soul to the gentle, intuitive, spontaneous impressions of the Spirit within you, linking the power in your spirit to the faculties of your soul in new and exciting dimensions. This opens the door for indwelling power to flow out, and therefore is called an empowering experience. It is known as the baptism in the Holy Spirit because God causes the Holy Spirit to rest upon you, enduing you with a special power for ministry. Record what the following verses teach in regard to the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Luke 3:16

Acts 1:8

We see that Jesus was going to clothe His disciples with power by baptizing them in the Holy Spirit, making them effective witnesses, which the rest of Acts 2 proves was accurate. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is an empowering experience, equipping you for ministry. It is not the same as the indwelling, which occurs at salvation as we see in the following biblical example.

In John 7:38,39, Jesus tells of the rivers of living water that were to flow from the hearts of believers after Jesus was glorified. Jesus said that this river was the Holy Spirit. The day after Jesus received His glorified body, He met with His disciples and breathed on them, commanding them to receive the Holy Spirit (Jn. 20:21,22). At that point the disciples were born again. The rivers of living water began to flow in their hearts. Salvation had come to mankind. Forty days later (Acts 1:3) Jesus gathered the disciples together to wait for the baptism in the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5), which occurred ten days later in Acts 2:1-4. Thus we see that the indwelling of the Spirit and the baptism in the Spirit are not the same experience.

We see the baptism in the Holy Spirit is often connected with tongue speaking, as occurred in Acts 2:1-4. Speaking in tongues is one of the nine manifestations of the Holy Spirit mentioned in I Corinthians 12:7-11. It is the God-given ability to speak supernaturally in another language.

Now, let me repeat and expand on a statement I made earlier: The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a door-opening experience where, in a prayerful step of faith, the devout believer entrusts the functioning of the capacities of his soul to the gentle, intuitive, spontaneous impressions of the Spirit within him, thus linking the power in his spirit to the faculties of his soul in new and exciting dimensions. Every part of the above statement is significant.

- a. It is a door-opening experience, not the end-all.
- b. It is done in prayer and faith.
- c. It requires piety.
- d. You must be saved.
- e. You are relinquishing soul control to Spirit control.
- f. Thus a new dimension of living is being opened up.
- g. The Spirit guides through gentle, intuitive, spontaneous impressions.

Now we shall examine tongue speaking as the simplest of all expressions of moving from soul control to Spirit control.

You may have noticed that often in the book of Acts, the laying on of hands transmitted the baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues. While it may be helpful to have the encouragement of the faith of another with you when you ask God for this gift, it is not absolutely necessary. God wants to meet you whenever and wherever you are ready to receive.

As a devout believer, earnestly seeking to enlarge the flow of the Spirit's power out through me, I seek the breakthrough of allowing the spirit to control the soul. I know that when I ask for the enlarged moving of the Holy Spirit through me, He will not give me a fish (the work of my hands) or a snake (a satanic counterfeit) (Lk. 11:11-13).

Thus, in faith I seek Him. I know I am to "earnestly desire spiritual gifts" (I Cor. 14:1), and that it appears that the easiest and most immediate gift, as expressed at Pentecost, is speaking in tongues. So, I request from God this gift. I remember that when Peter walked on the water he had to cooperate with the supernatural power of God by getting up and stepping over the side of the boat, providing an opportunity for the miracle to happen. Then he had to continue walking, allowing the miracle to continue.

So, in faith, I yield control of my speech to my spirit, while continuing to walk (i.e., talk), supplying a space for the miracle to fill. I am at a crucial juncture in my Christian experience, an occasion that will open many other doors in my spiritual life. I am believing in faith that the indwelling power of God can and will flow forth in supernatural manifestation as I yield my capacities to Him. In this moment of faith, either He will meet me and be who and what He says He is, or I will

be a fool, simply speaking baby talk. In faith-filled surrender, I yield control of my tongue from my soul to my spirit, and in faith continue speaking, believing that since *I* am not controlling the formation of the syllables, but instead am looking to Him, *He* will take over and form them with gentle guidance. I hardly perceive that He is actually there, but as I continually set aside the soul's control and regularly give control of my tongue to my spirit, I find growing within my consciousness a sensing of spirit movement and spirit strength. "For one who speaks in a tongue...speaks to God...in his spirit he speaks mysteries...edifying himself" (I Cor. 14:2,4).

So tongue speaking, which may begin as a sheer act of faith, is now led on by the gentle moving of the Holy Spirit within. Once this breakthrough is established in the relatively simple area of tongue speaking, it can be continued and developed in the other nine manifestations of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:7-11). This is not the end, but really only the beginning of a new dimension in your life, which is maintained by the constant filling of the Spirit (Eph. 5:18).

You will recall that the Spirit indwells you at salvation, rests upon you in the baptism and now in a final experience, continuously fills you.

3. The continuous filling of the Holy Spirit

Write Ephesians 5:18.

In the Greek, this statement is in the imperative mood, which makes it a command, not an option. It is in the present continuous tense, which makes it continuous or repetitious action. It is in the passive voice, which means it is something being done to you (i.e., being filled).

This experience of being filled with the Holy Spirit is the commanded, repetitious experience of allowing yourself to be acted upon by the Holy Spirit. In context with the earlier part of the verse, instead of yielding yourself to the control of wine, you are yielding yourself to the control of the indwelling, radiating Spirit. Thus, we find the term "filled" also used to describe the Pentecostal experience (Acts 2:4). However, when the Bible speaks of either salvation or of the baptism

in the Holy Spirit it uses the aorist tense (Jn. 3:3; Acts 1:5; 10:45). The aorist tense means that the “action happened at a point in the past with the results of that action carrying into the future.” For example, in salvation you are born again once and that action carries on throughout your life. This is also true of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. You are baptized once and that breakthrough carries on throughout the rest of your life. However, the moment-by-moment yielding (“filling”) is a continuous on-going action. This is demonstrated in Acts 4: 31, as Peter and John were filled again, receiving fresh power for the need at hand.

Therefore, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is only one of three experiences of the Holy Spirit in your life, and if not united with constant fillings, leaves you in an unfinished spiritual position. Fullness of power is realized as you walk in all three experiences of the Holy Spirit.

Living filled by the Holy Spirit on a moment-by-moment basis means that you are tuned to and sensing the divine flow of the river of God within you, connecting to Him – the Holy Spirit - and releasing Him through your outer faculties as you walk through life. Your eyes are on Jesus. You are Christ conscious. You are humble of heart, believing in Jesus’ power, might and wisdom within, rather than in your own, and releasing the divine river of the Holy Spirit through your life, demonstrating faith, hope, love, joy, peace and all the rest of the fruits of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 5:22,23).

As mentioned earlier in this booklet, when you are walking in the fullness of the Holy Spirit you will demonstrate divine wisdom and understanding; anointing in your craft; ability to prophesy under the Holy Spirit’s direction; anointed heart motivations (e.g., passion concerning your trade); anointed heart character traits (e.g., courage, faith) and anointed heart attitudes (e.g., joy, thankfulness).

For further teaching on the fullness of the Holy Spirit, please see *A Plain Account of Christian Perfection* by John Wesley, *Abide in Christ* by Andrew Murray, or *Naturally Supernatural* by Mark and Patti Virkler.

Write where you are in regard to these three experiences and what God is saying to you.

Baptized in Power

Even though the Church was created in John 20:22, Jesus instructed His disciples to **wait** for empowering from on high before they began ministering (Acts 1:4,5). They received that promise in Acts 2:1-4 in the baptism and the filling of the Holy Spirit and became a tremendous source of spiritual power to the world around them.

Three Works of the Holy Spirit	Salvation	Holy Spirit Baptism	Filling of the Holy Spirit
The experience	Holy Spirit indwells person	Holy Spirit comes upon person	Person constantly yielded to Holy Spirit
Key word describing placement of the Holy Spirit	"IN" (Jn. 7:38,39)	"ON" (Acts 1:8)	"FILLED" (Eph. 5:18)
Texts	Rom. 8:9 If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.	Lk. 3:16 He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.	Eph. 5:18 Do not be drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit.

Three Works of the Holy Spirit	Salvation	Holy Spirit Baptism	Filling of the Holy Spirit
Major emphasis of various denominational groups	Baptists	Pentecostals	Methodists
Various names given to the experience	Salvation (Rom. 10:9,10); Indwelling (Jn. 7:38,39); Born Again (Jn. 3:3); Baptism into the Body of Christ (I Cor. 12:13)	Baptism in Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5); Endued with power (Lk. 24:49); Baptism of power (Acts 1:8)	Filled with Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18); Sanctification (I Thess. 5:23); Abiding (Jn. 15:4)
An example of these three works in Peter, John and other disciples	Jn. 20:22 Receive the Holy Spirit.	Acts 2:1-4 Filled the house... rested on each one.	Acts 4:31 They were all filled and began to speak....

Three Works of the Holy Spirit	Salvation	Holy Spirit Baptism	Filling of the Holy Spirit
<p>Greek insights: It is interesting to note that in all three workings of the Spirit, you are passive.</p>	<p>“Born” (Jn. 3:3)</p>	<p>“Received” (Acts 10:47)</p>	<p>“Be filled” (Eph. 5:18)</p>
	<p>Aorist Tense: action happened at a point in the past</p>	<p>Aorist Tense: Acts 1:5 “baptized”</p>	<p>Present Continuous Tense: continuous or repetitious action</p>
	<p>Passive Voice: action done to you</p>	<p>Passive Voice: obtainment not attainment</p>	<p>Passive Voice: be being filled</p>
<p>Some considerations</p>	<p>Salvation gets you to heaven.</p>	<p>Baptism in the Holy Spirit opens the door to direct on-going experience with God.</p>	<p>It is only through walking in constant yieldedness that the power within begins flowing out.</p>
	<p>Your spirit is fused to His Spirit.</p>	<p>Your soul is reconnected to your spirit.</p>	<p>Your total being (spirit, soul, body) is sensitized to His Spirit.</p>

Three Works of the Holy Spirit	Salvation	Holy Spirit Baptism	Filling of the Holy Spirit
Personal preparation for receiving	Repentance of sin and belief in Jesus (Acts 2:38)	Wait quietly (Acts 1:4; Ps. 46:10)	No confidence in the flesh (Phil. 3:3)
	Confession of Jesus as your Lord (Rom. 10:9,10)	Yield yourself, especially your tongue, your most unruly member (Jas. 3:1-8; Acts 2:4)	Only goal: to be found in Christ (Phil. 3:8,9)
	Sensing deep within that you are a child of God (Rom. 8:9, 14-16)	Speak in faith, trusting the Spirit to give you utterance (Acts 2:4)	Constantly attuned to the voice and presence of God within (Rom. 8:14)
Final thought: The Spirit-empowered ministry of Christ and the early Church will only be regained as one walks in all three experiences of the Holy Spirit.			

Sorting Out Three New Testament Baptisms

	Baptism into the Body of Christ	Baptism into Water	Baptism into the Holy Spirit
Key text	I Cor. 12:13 For by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.	Acts 2:38 Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ.	Lk. 3:16 He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. Acts 1:5 You shall be baptized in the Holy Spirit.
Time of occurrence	Point of salvation	Immediately following conversion	Following salvation (may be before or after water baptism)
Baptizer	Spirit	A disciple of Jesus	Jesus
Medium of baptism	Body of Christ	Water	Holy Spirit

Four Views of the Value of Tongues

1. *Tongue speaking is a gateway* providing a means of direct contact with God, helping you experience meaning and vitality as it connects you more closely to the center of all meaning: Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.
2. *Tongue speaking itself becomes the center of the Christian life.* Christ, Who is to be the center of life, is displaced by an experience and Christian growth is set back.
3. *Tongue speaking is a deliberate abandonment of yourself* to the irrational, and therefore meaningless, or to the outright hostile forces of the spiritual world, and therefore dangerous, resulting in personal disaster.
4. *Tongue speaking was an experience of direct on-going encounter with God.* Christians in the past enjoyed this supernatural gift, but it is no longer available for the Church today.

What do you understand is the Bible's view of the value of tongue speaking?

A Thought Worth Considering

You may sometimes wonder how doing something you do not understand can possibly transform your being, as Corinthians promises tongues will. Psychologists have found that dreams affect you without your conscious awareness or understanding of them. If you are consistently deprived of dreaming, it will contribute to a mental or emotional breakdown. If dreams speaking from your heart can provide healing and health, is it not also easy to believe that tongues coming from your spirit joined to the Holy Spirit may bring you spiritual, mental and emotional well-being?

Steps to leading a group into the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- ❖ Go through this booklet with the group, allowing for times of discussion, questions and answers. Seek to impart revelation knowledge that God *wants* to baptize them in the Holy Spirit, He *will* baptize them in the Holy Spirit when they ask, and they *will* speak in tongues as they step out on the water trusting God. Faith births miracles.
- ❖ Have those desiring to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit come to the front. Invite those who have already received to gather around each one seeking and lay their hands upon them.
- ❖ Pray, welcoming the Holy Spirit's presence.
- ❖ Thank Him for being present, answering your prayers.
- ❖ Have the participant(s) pray, asking for the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues (perhaps repeating a prayer after you).
- ❖ While laying hands on the participants, pray that they receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit and the gift of speaking in tongues.
- ❖ Encourage everyone to begin worshipping God and thanking Him aloud, in their native tongue.
- ❖ Then instruct everyone to switch their praise and worship from their native tongue to speaking forth any syllables that come from the flow of the Spirit of God within them (Acts 2:11). Instruct each one to continue to pray and worship without consciously controlling the formation of the syllables they are speaking, but letting the flow of the Holy Spirit control them. Affirm the belief that when the Christian's heart is fixed on the Lord Jesus Christ, and he tunes to the river within, the flow that comes will be from Jesus.

- ❖ Continue until all have received. From time to time put your ear next to the mouth of those you are praying for and encourage them as you hear them begin to speak (often faltering) in a new tongue. It is faltering because they are letting go of rationalism and encountering revelation, which is a huge step for one in the western world to take.

The biggest blocks to overcome:

- ❖ Participant will not quit praying in his native language.
- ❖ Participant quits praying altogether and stands silent.

The solutions:

- ❖ Have the participant renounce rationalism again, and confess, “I honor the flow of the river of the Holy Spirit within me and I **will** tune to flow and I **choose** to speak from this flow.”
- ❖ Encourage him to step out in faith, believing that God rewards those who seek Him, and to state, “I choose to speak, in simple, childlike faith, any syllables which the flow of the Holy Spirit gives.” Then support him as he does so, even if he begins in a faltering way. Generally when we try something new, we are hesitant and tentative, and this includes learning to walk by faith and learning to speak in faith. To encourage the process, instruct him to fix his (inner) eyes upon Jesus and worship Him in his native tongue **in his mind**, while with his lips he worships Him in tongues. Discourage him from allowing his mind the luxury of analyzing and critiquing his spiritual experience while he is having it. If he does, analytical doubt will grind the spiritual experience to a halt. It is those who believe who receive, not those who analyze (Mk. 11:24). He must be a believer, because if he doubts he will not receive anything from the Lord (Jas. 1:6,7). Exhort him to choose to believe and step out in faith believing that when he does, God meets him and a miracle happens. It does!
- ❖ Realize that no miracle will happen if he continues to speak in his native language or quits speaking altogether. Clarify that he must speak in faith syllables he is not consciously controlling with his mind. Then he will be walking on the water, and experiencing a miracle of grace and faith. These are the rules of faith.

Four Keys to Hearing God's Voice

I tossed and turned in bed, unable to fall asleep. The thought kept going through my mind: "What if I died tonight? I'm not ready to go to heaven." Since I could not shake the thought, I got up, went downstairs and waited for my parents to come home from their meeting. When they did, I announced that I wanted to get saved, and they took me straightway to the pastor's home where he explained the plan of salvation and led me in the sinner's prayer. I was 15 years old when I accepted Jesus Christ into my heart as my Lord and Savior.

It was God's voice that was speaking to me that night, calling me into His kingdom. His voice came as a spontaneous thought inside my head. However, I didn't define this as the primary way God's voice is heard until I had completed a desperate 10 year search to hear Him clearly.

Christianity is unique among religions, for it alone offers a **personal relationship** with the Creator beginning here and now, and lasting throughout eternity. Jesus declared, "This is eternal life – that they may *know God*" (Jn. 17:3). Unfortunately, many in the Church miss the great blessing of fellowship with our Lord because we have lost the ability to recognize His voice. Though John 10:27 promises us that "My sheep hear My voice," too many believers are starved for that intimate relationship that alone can satisfy the desire of their hearts.

I was one of those sheep who was unable to identify the voice of my Shepherd. I hungered for deeper spiritual intimacy with God, but I could not find it. Then on the eleventh year of my Christian life I had the spontaneous thought that "I should take a year of my life and focus on learning to hear God's voice." I decided to act on that thought and devote a year to focused effort, learning to hear His voice. Unbeknown to me, it was the Lord calling me to invest that time.

That year the Lord revealed four simple keys, all found in Habakkuk 2:1, 2, which unlocked the treasure of His voice. Using the four keys together allowed me to easily hear God's voice on a daily basis. It was

the most transforming step I have taken in the 45 years of my Christian life! I would like to share them with you so you can try them and see if they do the same for you.

Key: God's voice in your heart often sounds like a flow of spontaneous thoughts.



Habakkuk knew the sound of God speaking to him (Hab. 2:2). Elijah described it as a still, small voice (1 Kings 19:12). I had always listened for an inner audible voice, and God does speak that way at times. However, I have found that usually, God's voice comes as spontaneous thoughts, or flowing thoughts.

For example, haven't you ever been driving down the road and had a thought come to you to pray for a certain person? Didn't you believe it was God telling you to pray? What did God's voice sound like? Was it an audible voice, or was it a spontaneous thought that lit upon your mind?

Experience indicates that we perceive spirit-level communication as spontaneous thoughts, impressions and visions, and Scripture confirms this in many ways. For example, one definition of *paga*, a Hebrew word for intercession, is "a chance encounter or an accidental intersecting." When God lays people on our hearts, He does it through *paga*, a chance-encounter thought "accidentally" intersecting our minds. We consider it chance encounter in that we didn't reason it up, however it is purposeful, because God sent it to us.

Therefore, when you want to hear God's voice, you tune to chance-encounter, spontaneous or flowing thoughts. Even Satan's thoughts come to us as spontaneous thoughts, which is why we are commanded to "take every thought captive" (2 Cor. 10:5). I am sure all of us have experienced spontaneous evil thoughts coming to us, even attacking right in the middle of our prayer and worship times. So I conclude that analytical thoughts are mine, spontaneous good thoughts come from the Holy Spirit, and spontaneous evil thoughts come from evil spirits.

God's thoughts line up with Scripture and with His various names: Comforter, Counselor, Teacher, Giver of Life, Healer and Deliverer. His thoughts edify, exhort, and comfort. They are pure, peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering (James 3:17).

Satan's thoughts line up with his various names: accuser, adversary, thief who comes to kill, steal and destroy. His thoughts condemn and bring despair, rejection, fear, doubt, unbelief and in general, misery. Satan's thoughts bring jealousy and selfish ambition (James 3:14,15).

Key: Become still so you can sense God's flow of thoughts.



Habakkuk said, "I will stand on my guard post..." (Hab. 2:1). Habakkuk knew that to hear God's quiet, inner, spontaneous thoughts, he had to first go to a quiet place and still his own thoughts and emotions. Psalm 62:5 encourages us to silence our souls before God. There is a deep inner knowing (spontaneous flow) in our spirits that each of us can experience when we quiet our flesh and our minds. If we are not still, we will sense only our own thoughts.

Loving God through a quiet worship song is one very effective way to become still. (Note 2 Kings 3:15.) After I worship and become silent within, I open myself for that spontaneous flow. If thoughts come of things I have forgotten to do, I write them down so I can do them later. If thoughts of guilt or unworthiness come, I repent thoroughly, receive the washing of the blood of the Lamb, putting on His robe of righteousness, seeing myself spotless before God (Is. 61:10; Col. 1:22).

Clear focus provides the purest flow: To receive the pure word of God, it is very important that my heart be properly focused as I become still because the intuitive flow comes out of the vision being held before one's eyes. If I fix my eyes upon Jesus, the intuitive flow is pure and comes from Jesus. But if I fix my gaze upon some desire of my heart, the intuitive flow is affected by that desire. To have a pure flow I must become still and carefully fix my eyes upon Jesus (Heb. 12:2).

Again, quietly worshiping the King, and receiving out of the stillness that follows quite easily accomplishes this. Beginning my prayer time as Jesus taught us to pray is expedient: "Our Father Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name..." Jesus taught us to begin prayer by lifting our eyes up to our Father and beholding Him. We don't start prayer with our issues. We start our prayer by gazing upon Him!

Key: Fix your eyes upon Jesus and ask to receive visions.



Habakkuk said, “I will keep **watch to see**,” (Hab. 2:1,2). Habakkuk was actually looking for a vision as he prayed. Since I believe the Bible is meant to be lived, I decided that I, too, would begin looking with the eyes of my heart into the Spirit world to see what I could see.

Do what King David did! A good way to begin using the eyes of your heart is by doing what King David did: *“For David says of Him, **I SAW THE LORD ALWAYS IN MY PRESENCE; FOR HE IS AT MY RIGHT HAND, SO THAT I WILL NOT BE SHAKEN**”* (Acts 2:25 NASB). The original Psalm makes it clear that this was a decision of David’s, not a constant supernatural visitation: **“I have set** (literally, I have placed) the Lord continually before me; because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken” (Ps. 16:8). Because David knew that the Lord was always with him, he determined in his spirit to see that truth with the eyes of his heart as he went through life, knowing that this would keep his faith strong.

We say, “A picture is worth 1000 words.” I believe that is because pictures are the language of the heart. We notice that Jesus used pictures constantly as He taught (Matt. 13:34). When I use pictures in my prayer time, fixing my eyes on Jesus, I am speaking the language of my heart and that moves me quickly into heart/spirit realities getting me beyond my mind.

Use godly imagination: So I choose to do what King David did and I develop “godly imagination,” which I define as “picturing things God says are so.” Obviously if I am picturing that Jesus is NOT with me, that would be picturing a lie, which is unwise. I can’t imagine any reason I would want to picture unscriptural things. So I see Jesus at my right hand, always. I add to this Paul’s prayer for God to enlighten the eyes of my heart (Eph. 1:17,18). Then I tune to the flow of the Holy Spirit, and He brings the scene alive. I find I can step from these godly imaginations, into a divine vision.

It is amazing, simple and child-like! Of course it would need to be, as we are told that to enter the kingdom we must become as little chil-

dren. My 6-year-old granddaughter can do this and she shares with me her journaling and the visions of the angels standing on both sides of her protecting her and watching over her. You will find your young children can do these four keys easier than you can! Try it with them and see.

From Genesis to Revelation God gave dreams and visions, and He specifically said that in the last days He would pour out His Spirit and **we would** see dreams and visions (Acts 2:1-4, 17).

We must look if we want to see! Daniel saw a vision in his mind and said, “I was looking...I kept looking...I kept looking” (Dan. 7:2,9,13). So I needed to repent for not looking, and begin presenting the eyes of my heart to the Lord, and looking. As I pray, I look for Jesus, and I watch and listen as He speaks to me, doing and saying the things that are on His heart. Many Christians will find that if they will only look, they will see flowing pictures, in the same way they receive flowing thoughts.

Jesus is Emmanuel, God with us (Matt. 1:23). It is as simple as that. You can see Christ present with you because Christ *is present with you*. In fact, the vision may come so easily that you will be tempted to reject it, thinking that it is just you. But if you persist in recording these flowing pictures, your doubt will soon be overcome by faith as you recognize that the content of them could only be birthed by Almighty God.

A lifestyle: Jesus demonstrated the ability of living out of constant contact with God, declaring that He did nothing on His own initiative, but only what He *saw the Father doing, and heard the Father saying* (Jn. 5:19,20,30). *What an incredible way to live!*

Is it possible for you to live out of divine initiative as Jesus did? Yes! It is called “abiding in Christ” (Jn. 15). Fix your eyes upon Jesus. The veil has been torn, giving access into the immediate presence of God, and He calls you to draw near (Lk. 23:45; Heb. 10:19-22). “I pray that the eyes of your heart will be enlightened” and you will see His visions. They are His gift to you, freely given (Acts 2:17).

Key: Journaling, the writing out of your prayers and God's answers, brings great freedom in hearing God's voice.



God told Habakkuk to record the vision (Hab. 2:2). This was not an isolated command. The Scriptures record many examples of individual's prayers and God's replies (e.g. the Psalms, many of the prophets, Revelation).

I call the process "two-way journaling," and I have found it to be a fabulous catalyst for clearly discerning God's inner, spontaneous flow, because as I journal I am able to **write in faith** for long periods of time, simply believing it is God. I know that what I believe I have received from God must be tested. However, testing involves doubt and doubt blocks divine communication, so I do not want to test while I am trying to receive (Heb. 11:6). With journaling, I can receive in faith, knowing that when the flow has ended I can test and examine it carefully, making sure that it lines up with Scripture (1 Thess. 5:21).

Remove doubt: Doubt may hinder you at first, but throw it off, reminding yourself that recording God's words and visions is a biblical concept, and that God is present, speaking to His children. In the Bible, satan is constantly casting doubt by saying, "Did God really tell you...?" (Gen. 3:1 GNB).

Learn to relax! When we cease our labors and enter His rest, God is free to flow (Heb. 4:10). Sit back comfortably, take out your pen and paper (or computer or iPad), smile, and turn your attention toward the Lord in praise and worship, seeking His face. Write down, "Good morning, Lord! I love You. What do You want to say to me?" Then become still, fixing your gaze on Jesus. You will suddenly have a very good thought. Don't doubt it; simply write it down. Later, as you read over your journaling, you will be blessed to discover that the content is *amazing* and that you *are* indeed dialoguing with God!

Hear God through illumined Scripture: Knowing God through the Bible is a vital foundation to hearing His voice in your heart, so you must have a solid commitment to knowing and obeying God's written Word. We are commanded to meditate on Scriptures (Josh. 1:8). As we pray over Scripture, we find verses leap off the page and hit us between the eyes. This is another very powerful way that God speaks to us.

Regular scriptural meditation is commanded by God and is a must for the effective Christian life.

Utilize spiritual advisors: It is also very important for your growth and safety that you be related to solid, spiritual counselors. All major directional moves that come through journaling should be confirmed by your counselors before you act upon them. The Bible says in the mouth of two or three witnesses every fact is to be established (2 Cor. 13:1). Also, in the multitude of counselors, there is safety (Prov. 15:22). So make sure you walk in meekness and seek out and receive input from your spiritual advisors. This step must not be skipped!

The four keys appear again in Revelation: John used the same four keys that Habakkuk did. In Revelation 1:9-11 we find he was in the spirit (stillness), he heard a voice behind him (tuned to spontaneity), saying, "Write in a book (journaling), what you see (vision)." So in both Old and New Testaments we find the same four keys being used to receive God's voice. Don't worry about the order of the keys. Just make sure you are using all four keys.

As a PACKAGE these four keys work (Stop! Look! Listen! Write!):

They get the job done! People hear. We guarantee that if you will use these four keys **together**, they will work for you and you will hear God's voice. Try them as a bundle, and see how they work for you. We have free downloadable music you can listen to as you journal. It is available at cwgministries.org/galilee. The first part of the recording takes you for a visionary walk with Jesus along the Sea of Galilee, and guides you into using all four keys together. We encourage you to give it a try! May you be restored to taking walks with the Lord in the garden in the cool of the day. May you experience the fullness of a personal relationship with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. May communion with God be deepened in your life, and may His healing and creative rays fill you through and through.

Go deeper: For a more in-depth teaching on this topic, visit cwgministries.org for more free articles, plus books, CD, DVD, MP3 and Video Download series on hearing God and walking by the Spirit. Call 1-800-466-6961 to order the book *4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice*. Check out our comprehensive e-Learning Module on Hearing God's Voice at www.cluschoolofthespirit.com/hear.

For further reading:

***They Speak with Other Tongues* by John Sherrill** A devotional book sharing stories of the effect of the baptism of the Holy Spirit on people's lives.

***Spirit-Filled Believers' Handbook* by Derek Prince** This includes an intensive study from the Greek on the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

***Surprised by the Power of the Spirit* by Jack Deere** This traces the steps a Baptist theologian took as he came to accept the power of God in his own personal life.

***4 Keys to Hearing God's Voice or Dialogue with God* by Mark and Patti Virkler** These two books both describe the four keys to learning to hear God's voice. The keys are: 1) quiet yourself down, 2) fix your eyes on Jesus, 3) tune to spontaneity, and 4) write what you are receiving. They will bring the reader into two-way dialogue with Almighty God.

***Naturally Supernatural* by Mark and Patti Virkler** Mark and Patti's testimony of how they learned to walk in the Spirit, releasing the power of God, rather than their own self-effort.

***Wading Deeper in the River of God* by Mark Virkler** This is the story of Mark's spiritual journey, the ways God has healed him and the truths He has taught him. As Mark shares his life, he invites you to join him in the adventure of moving ever deeper in the river of God's Holy Spirit.

More “How To” Resources from Mark & Patti Virkler

- **Weekly How-To Blogs for Spirit-Anointed Living** by Mark Virkler available at cwgministries.org/blog
- **Over fifty books** by Mark and Patti, including many free downloadable ebooks, can be found at cwgministries.org
- **Christian Leadership University** offers over 100 Spirit-anointed, college-level courses leading to degrees from Associate through Doctorate, available through correspondence. When you meditate on revelation truths in the context of a CLU course, you are assisted in fully integrating the life-changing principles. Nothing is left to chance. You will learn what you are supposed to learn and be transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Payment plans are available, making courses only about \$100 per month. For more information, visit www.cluonline.com or call 716-681-4896 or 1-800-466-6961.
- CLU School of the Spirit – **Online training modules** leading to a Diploma In Applied Spirituality. Try week one FREE: CLUSchooloftheSpirit.com/free

What others are saying about

How to Receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit

“I believe this book will be used greatly to: 1) open hearts of rational Christians to the possibility they have been deceived and kept from entering into the abundant supernatural life promised by Christ, 2) bring mature understanding regarding the work of the Holy Spirit to the charismatic and pentecostal movements, and 3) help answer the question, ‘I have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, now what?’

“I also expect it to be an excellent tool to aid in bringing seeking Christians into Holy Spirit baptism and the gift of tongues.”

Joe Allison

*CEO, Gaptek Inc. - Electronics Manufacturing Services Company
Elder with Dove Christian Fellowship - Red Lion*

“This booklet will help the average believer allow the Holy Spirit to baptize him and to release him in the gift of tongues, which is, practically speaking, a foundational gift that helps one get released in and operate in all other gifts of the Spirit. Dr. Virkler’s experience of speaking Portuguese as the Spirit released him in the gift of tongues is fascinating, and as always, the principles seen in Scripture of letting go of the rationalistic control of one’s mind and flesh and of tuning to Spirit-flow while stepping out to speak in tongues are very helpful.”

Dr. Gary Greig

Founder - Kingdom Training Network