

Lesson 20

How to Determine When One Receives the Spirit of God

Introduction:

The purpose of this lesson is to provide a more comprehensive study on the biblical teaching of **receiving the Spirit of God**, in order to effectively give a biblical answer to every challenging question or comment on this topic. This lesson will also overlap with the previous lesson on **speaking in tongues** since these two concepts are interrelated in principle and process.

Do these following experiences “cause” or “enable” us to RECEIVE the Spirit of God?

- By just **BELIEVING** in God or accepting Him as our personal Savior?
- By being **BAPTIZED** in water?
- By one’s **DELIVERANCE** from addictions?
- By experiencing great **JOY**?
- By **FEELING** God’s presence over your body?

These are all wonderful experiences that we should have “after” we have received the Spirit of God but they do not biblically prove that we are filled with God’s Spirit. Thus, our goal is **to PROVE that these are all SEPARATE experiences FROM Receiving the Holy Ghost!**

About Believing ...

John 7:38-39 ³⁸ *He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*
³⁹ *(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*

Mark 16:17 *And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;*

- These verses prove that a person does **NOT** automatically receive the Holy Ghost at **believing**.
- Tongues **FOLLOW** them that BELIEVE because these are two SEPARATE experiences.

NOTES

Insights from the City of Samaria (Acts 8):

Acts 8:5–8

⁵Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. ⁶And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the **miracles** which he did. ⁷For **unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed with them: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed.** ⁸And there was **great joy** in that city.

- The people of Samaria experienced many **MIRACLES**, such as instantaneous healings and spiritual deliverance from demonic possession.
- These powerful works of God caused them to experience **GREAT JOY!**
- **But they had NOT YET received the Holy Ghost.**
- **Thus, you CAN EXPERIENCE miracles, spiritual deliverances, great joy and powerful manifestations of God's Spirit WITHOUT first receiving the Holy Ghost!**

Acts 8:12 But when they **believed** Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were **baptized**, both men and women.

- The Samaritans believed the gospel and were baptized BEFORE they received the Holy Spirit.
- **Thus, believing and water baptism is a SEPARATE experience from receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

THEN they RECEIVED the Holy Ghost ...

Acts 8:14–17

¹⁴Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: ¹⁵Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: ¹⁶(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

¹⁷**Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.**

But it did NOT say that they SPOKE IN TONGUES!

(So let's search MORE about what the Word of God says!)

About Simon the Sorcerer ...

Acts 8:9–11

⁹But there was a certain man, called Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one: ¹⁰To whom they all gave heed, from the least to the greatest, saying, This man is the great power of God. ¹¹And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had bewitched them with sorceries.

Acts 8:18–19

¹⁸And **when Simon saw** that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, **he offered them money**, ¹⁹Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

- It is very interesting that Simon did NOT ask money for the powerful MIRACLES that he witnessed!
- But he was more amazed when he SAW **how** the people received the Holy Ghost!

It does not say that the people “spoke in tongues” after they received the Spirit BUT **Simon's reaction** strongly implies that **the people of Samaria must have received the SAME experience as those on the Day of Pentecost:**

- Simon witnessed something that was “visibly” expressed from the converts. It was not a mental or internal experience.
- Their experience was so powerfully unique and amazing in comparison with the miracles!
- This resembles the reaction of the crowd of Jews on the Day of Pentecost, who were marveled and amazed by the infilling of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 2:7*).
- Receiving the Holy Ghost was an EXTERNAL experience since Simon SAW when it all happened.
- The Word of God cannot contradict itself with other examples of how souls received the Holy Ghost by speaking in tongues AND you cannot find any scripture that can prove that the Samaritans did “not” speak in tongues after they received the Holy Ghost.

How Do We Know When One Receives the Holy Ghost?

NOTES

!. The PROPHETIC Account:

Isaiah 28:11

*For with stammering lips and **another tongue** Will he speak to this people.*

Joel 2:28

*And it shall come to pass afterward, That **I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh**; And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions:*

Argument: But the Prophet Joel did NOT say they will speak in tongues when the Spirit is poured out!

Answer: The Day of Pentecost proves that Joel's prophecy involves the manifestation of speaking in tongues!

Acts 2:1-13

*And when the **day of Pentecost** was fully come ... **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak in other tongues** ... and there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews ... and they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying to one another, **What meaneth this?** Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine.*

Acts 2:14-17

*¹⁴ But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: ¹⁵ For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. ¹⁶ **But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;** ¹⁷ **And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:***

- Peter gives reference to Joel's prophecy in response to their reaction about them speaking in tongues, as they received the infilling of God's Spirit!

II. The Lord JESUS' Account:

John 3:8

⁸The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the **sound** thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: **so is every one that is born of the Spirit.**

- Jesus said that you can't tell where the Spirit comes from nor where it goes, but you will be able to hear the SOUND of the Spirit!

TPT: For the Spirit-Wind blows as it chooses. **You can hear its sound**, but you don't know where it came from or where it's going. So it is the **same with those who are Spirit-born!**

ERV: The wind blows wherever it wants to. **You hear it**, but you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going. It is the **same with everyone who is born from the Spirit.**

Jesus' LAST INSTRUCTIONS to His Disciples Before He Ascended:

Acts 1:4-5

⁴And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father**, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. ⁵For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

III. The APOSTLES' Account:

A. The Day of Pentecost

Acts 2:1-4

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴**And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues**, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

B. The Conversion of the First Gentiles

Acts 10:44-46

⁴⁴ While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵ And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that **on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.** ⁴⁶ **For they heard them speak with tongues,** and magnify God. Then answered Peter ...

The GENTILES experienced the SAME thing (SPOKE IN TONGUES) that the first believers experienced on the Day of Pentecost, as Peter declared in the following verse:

Acts 10:47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, **which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?**

Gods Word Translation: No one can refuse to baptize these people with water. **They have received the Holy Spirit in the same way that we did.**

Furthermore, the Gentiles' experience of speaking in tongues (after they received the Holy Ghost) was not only confirmed by Peter's account of how God filled them with His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, but he also links the experience of speaking in tongues to Jesus' words:

Acts 11:15-16

¹⁵ And as I began to speak, **the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning.** ¹⁶ Then remembered I **the word of the Lord, how that he said,** John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost.

C. The Conversion of the Ephesians

Acts 19:6

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

IV. PERSONAL Account - Share your own TESTIMONY!

Your personal testimony on how you received the gift of the Holy Ghost is very powerful because it is real and they cannot argue with your own experience!

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PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT = PRAYING IN TONGUES

Argument: Praying in the spirit does NOT mean that one is speaking in tongues. It's the same as praying in English.

Response: The Word of God clearly states that praying in the Spirit involves praying in tongues. The process is one and the same.

What is *Praying or Speaking in Tongues*?

1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

Tongues = Languages of men or angels
= these are not non-sense nor gibberish sounds
= not even just "ordinary" speech but it is very appropriate and intelligent speech

1 Corinthians 14:13–15

¹³ Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴ For **if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth**, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

Praying in Tongues:

- Praying in a language that the **Spirit is uttering** (giving you the words to say)
- Praying in a language you have never learned
- Praying in a language you don't understand
- Praying in an **UNKOWN tongue**.

NOTES

1 Cor. 14:14 (TPT):

For if I am praying in a tongue, my spirit is engaged in prayer but I have no clear understanding of what is being said.

1 Cor. 14:14 (AMPC):

For if I pray in an [unknown] tongue, my spirit [by the ^[a]Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive [it bears no fruit and helps nobody].

Romans 8:26

²⁶ Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

- We are LIMITED when we pray with our own understanding.
- Thus, we need the HELP of the SPIRIT (Who knows all things) to intercede for us.
- Groanings = God supernaturally putting into words what we don't know how to express ourselves.

When the Spirit intercedes for us, this is what happens:

Romans 8:27

²⁷ And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because **he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.**

- The body of Christ receives ministry!
- God's perfect will is done in our lives!

Not only can we receive great BENEFITS when we pray in the Spirit, but we are also INSTRUCTED to always PRAY IN THE SPIRIT!

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication **in the Spirit**, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

AMPC:

Pray at all times (on every occasion, in every season) **in the Spirit**, with all [manner of] prayer and entreaty. To that end keep alert and watch with strong purpose and perseverance, interceding in behalf of all the saints (God's consecrated people).

ERV:

Pray in the Spirit at all times. Pray with all kinds of prayers, and ask for everything you need. To do this you must always be ready. Never give up. Always pray for all of God's people.