

# Understanding the Power of the Holy Spirit

by  
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To all those searching for truth:

Jesus came to planet earth to reach a world that was lost in sin. “For the Son of Man (Jesus) is come to seek and to save that which was lost.” (Luke 19:10) The heart of God is people. When Jesus fulfilled His earthly ministry, He ascended on high (Mark 16:19). He then sent the third person of the Godhead, the Holy Spirit, to continue the work of God (John 16:7). God’s kingdom business is precious people. “But when the comforter (Holy Spirit) is come, whom I (Jesus) will send unto you from the Father even the Spirit of Truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me (Jesus).” (John 14:26; 15:26) Jesus has passed the baton, so to speak, to the Holy Spirit for God’s present day ministry on earth. The Holy Spirit is omnipresent (everywhere) on earth. He is reproofing the world of sin, righteousness and judgment (John 16:8). Simply put the Holy Spirit convicts and empowers. ***This is the power that changes our lives and the power that keeps us.*** We must understand that wherever He is, there is power. He is here to save people, heal people, deliver people and to set people free.

We must reach out and access this power by

faith, believing God's Word. As we step out by faith, we plug into God's power, the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is our helper, comforter, strengthener, intercessor, partner, advocate; He leads by the conviction of truth. He brings all things back to remembrance (John 16:7-15). The Holy Spirit's fruit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and temperance (self-control) (Galatians 5:22-23). The Holy Spirit operates in cooperation with our free will. We are not robots and the Holy Spirit will not override our will.

***“And the spirits of the prophets  
are subject to the prophets.”  
1 Corinthians 14:32***

So how does faith come to access the power of God? So glad you asked. Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. (Romans 10:17) So what makes faith arise and come alive in me so that I can access the power of the Holy Spirit? As I read the Bible and believe God's Word, I release the supernatural power of God. You cannot see God work or move without faith.

Without faith it is impossible to please God.

(Hebrews 11:6) You cannot be saved until you hear about Jesus. Believe on Him and act by receiving Him as Lord and Savior. That is how faith works and that is how you access the power of God. YOU must do your part by operating in authority and dominion. If you don't stand up and act on God's Word by releasing the power of the Holy Spirit, you will never see God's power. God the Father has made provision for every need and every victory through Jesus Christ. He has sent the Holy Spirit, the power of God. Tap in, plug in and release God's power. Nothing will ever happen until you step up to the plate and hit the ball. Jesus has already done the work.

He said, "It is finished." (John 19:30) In Christ we are saved, healed, delivered and set free. Christ has already won the war. ***The Holy Spirit is here on earth to carry out the victory of Jesus Christ.*** Jesus sent the Holy Spirit and He only does what Jesus says to do. (John 16:12-15) Walk in authority and act on God's Word. Do what God says you can do. You are God's person on earth with the Holy Spirit. Now, by faith, release God's power. Remember, God wants to empower you with the Holy Spirit in order to do His work. I pray that your mind will be open and that you will find this booklet helpful as we discuss the power and presence of the Holy Spirit.

God bless,

Bishop Ricky Sinclair

## Understanding the Power of the Holy Spirit

Many people are afraid of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit because of tongues. They wrongly put more emphasis on tongues rather than the power of the Holy Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is given to the believer for power to enable us to live for God and to do His work here. Tongues are simply the evidence of the Baptism. Make no mistake, the power is not in the tongues, it is in the Holy Spirit.

⇒ **Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God; He is the third person of the Godhead or Trinity.**

*“And **Jesus**, when He was baptized, went up straightway out of the water, and, lo, the heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the **Spirit of God** descending like a dove, and lighting upon Him. And lo **a voice from heaven**, saying, ‘This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.’”  
Matthew 3:16-17 KJV*

*“But Peter said, ‘Ananias, why hath Satan **filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost**, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? **Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God.**’”*

*Acts 5:3-4 KJV*

*“How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”*

*Hebrews 9:14 KJV*

⇒ **What is His purpose? Salvation, sanctification and service.**

Read on as we go a little deeper into each of these topics.

*“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”*

*1 Corinthians 12:13 KJV*

- ◆ Salvation is when a person accepts Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The Holy Spirit is there actively convicting us of sin (John 16:7-8). He is responsible for bringing forth new birth (John 3:3-6). Once saved, He teaches us and brings to remembrance the words of Christ (John 14:26).

*“But I tell you the truth: It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you. When He comes, He will convict the world of guilt in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment...”*

*John 16:7-8 NIV*

*“In reply Jesus declared, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.’ ‘How can a man be born when he is old?’ Nicodemus asked. ‘Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb to be born!’ Jesus answered, ‘I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.’”*

*John 3:3-6 NIV*

*“But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

*John 14:26 NIV*

- ◆ Sanctification is what begins after we receive Jesus Christ and are born again. It is a life-long process of following the Holy Spirit as He leads us into living a Holy life.

*“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, Who is in you, Whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body.”*

*1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV*

*“But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth.”*

*2 Thessalonians 2:13 NIV*

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”*

*Galatians 5:22-25 NIV*

- ◆ Service is when the Holy Spirit empowers us to witness and serve others. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit complements the work of regeneration and sanctification. In John 20:22, Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost” implying that regeneration and new life were taking place. Later He told them they must



also “be endued with power” (Luke 24:49, Acts 1:5-8). You can be born again and indwelt by the Spirit of God, yet not be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Jesus made a distinction between the two separate experiences as do many scriptures.

*“Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: ‘Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It’s only nine in the morning! No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”*

*‘Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.”*

*Acts 2:14-18, 33NIV*

*“After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.”*

*Acts 4:31NIV*

*“Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith. Now Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, did great wonders and miraculous signs among the people.”*

*Acts 6:3, 7-8 NIV*

*“While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ They answered, ‘No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.’ So Paul asked, ‘Then what baptism did you receive?’ ‘John’s baptism,’ they replied. Paul said, ‘John’s baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus.’ On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.”*

*Acts 19:1-6*

*“I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done – by the power of signs and miracles, through the power of the Spirit. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ.”*

*Romans 15:18-19 NIV*

*“My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power, so that your faith might not rest on men’s wisdom, but on God’s power.”*

*1 Corinthians 2:4-5 NIV*

The Baptism gives the believer a boldness in the power of the Holy Spirit so that we can do great things for God (Acts 1:8; 2:14-18; 4:31; 6:8, 37-38, Romans 15:18-19, 1 Corinthians 2:4, 5). The power is given to further the kingdom of God!

⇒ **The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is meant for all born-again believers.**

*“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off – for all whom the Lord our God will call.”*

*Acts 2:39 NIV*

*“Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? If you then though you are evil know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?”*

*Luke 11:11-13 NIV*

⇒ **The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidenced by speaking in tongues.**

*“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

*Acts 2:4 NIV*

*“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.”*

*Acts 10:44-46 NIV*

“Therefore, my brothers, be eager to prophesy, and do not forbid speaking in tongues.”

1 Corinthians 14:39 NIV

“I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified...I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you.”

1 Corinthians 14:5, 18 NIV

God made a promise to mankind, “*And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh*” (Joel 2:28). This promise is being fulfilled today (Acts 1:15-18). Why is God pouring out His Spirit? **The vision is to reach the world for Jesus Christ.**

“And that *repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things and behold I send the promise of my Father upon you, but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high.*”

Luke 2:47-49

What power are you talking about? Glad you asked. **It is the power of the Holy Spirit to reach souls for God’s kingdom.**

The promise of the Holy Spirit is not strictly given so that you can live for yourself, the power is not given so that you can stay home and watch television, or so you can speak in tongues for a show or so that you can be squirrely with some new revelation or so that you can believe that you are so much more spiritual than other people.

**No, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is about power and that power should be used to reach the world for Christ.** Now prophesy will manifest, but it better be building up God's Kingdom. Tongues will manifest, but they had better be edifying God's Kingdom. When someone in church speaks loudly in tongues, there must be an interpreter or how could the church be edified or helped. (1 Corinthians 14:5) But if there is no interpreter, never speak loudly in tongues but speak to God to yourself or else you are just a distraction. (1 Corinthians 14:2)

⇒ **When would be the appropriate time to speak in tongues?**

The Bible says, "Let all things be done decently and in order." (1 Corinthians 14:40) Now let me say there are times that we come together for intercessory prayer and it is appropriate to pray in tongues because it is a specific time of prayer. In Romans 8:26-27, the Bible says the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. Therefore in the prayer group

setting many people may be praying in tongues allowing the Spirit of God to pray through them. Again, this is in order because this is a time of prayer intercession. During a time of worship would be another time to sing in the Spirit. (1 Corinthians 14:15)

During a church service, God is ministering to His sheep; feeding His people. If a lot of people were interceding **loudly** in tongues it would be a distraction and would hinder the flow of God in the order of the service. There is a time and a place for everything. Be sensitive to God, His Spirit and order of service for every occasion.

Many times when I pray for a believer to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, I will ask them to raise their hands (a sign of submission and reception). I will then say, "Receive the Holy Spirit." Then I will pray in tongues softly and those around will pray in the Spirit softly. This releases the power as we are in one accord and makes it easier for the Baptism candidate to receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Cornelius' house was first filled, the Bible says, "... for they heard them speak with tongues." (Acts 2:46) When Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. (Acts 19:6) So during

intercessory prayer and while people are receiving the Holy Spirit, more than one can pray in tongues at a time without interpretation, because this is in order according to His word. Remember, we are not flaky, shaky and quaky. We are level and balanced and full of wisdom. We do not do things out of order. We understand the power of the Holy Spirit and who He is and what He is doing on earth. He is building God's kingdom and we are His vessels, allowing Him to use us. We are not ignorant, but full of wisdom.

As I mentioned earlier, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is promised to all believers. (Matthew 3:11; John 1:31-33; John 7:37-39; John 14:12-17, 26; John 15:26; John 16:13-15; Acts 1:4-8; Acts 2:1-21,33, 38-39; Acts 5:32, 10:44-48; Acts 11:14-18, 15:7-12; 19:1-7) It is the full empowerment from on high to do the works of Christ. Anyone clothed with this power will be able to confirm what he preaches.

This is the only normal mode for the New Testament. (Mark 16:15-20; John 14:12)

The Greek word Dunamis means inherent power or the power of reproducing itself. The word power



here means power to do the works of Christ. (Mark 16:17-18; John 14:12; Acts 1:4-8) If you want to be all that you can be for God and manifest the works of Christ you need the Dunamis power in your life. **It's not about you; it's about winning souls for Jesus Christ.**

The way you will know you are filled with the Holy Spirit is with the evidence of the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 – Signs and wonders, power and demonstration. The gifts of the Holy Spirit will be manifested in your life. You will see miracles, people saved, healed, delivered, filled and demons cast out. This is the power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit before He went into the ministry. (Isaiah 61:1-3; Matthew 3:16; Luke 4:18-21) Then He told His followers to be filled with the promise of the Father. (Matthew 3:11; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-8) All throughout the New Testament you see the power of the Holy Spirit manifested through men and women to build God's Kingdom.

**How will we build the kingdom of God without the power?** We must have the Holy Spirit; this is God's provision and program.

Many people just get caught up with the tongues issue. Well then, show me where it says in the Bible "don't ever speak with tongues" and I'll show you

where it says to be filled. Don't get hung up on tongues, but rather get hooked up with the power.

Don't worry about tongues, just let God flow. He wants to use you with power and might. I'll never forget the first time I heard the word "Satan" in a Baptist Church. The church I was used to didn't teach like that and it scared me. I ran for years from teaching out of the Bible because I didn't understand. **But finally I got myself in so much trouble, that I started looking for answers in the Bible.**

In 1986, a SWAT team entered my home and later I heard that they were there because I had sold an ounce of marijuana. That evening, I picked up my wife and son and we went on the run. While running from that charge, I began dealing drugs in the New Orleans area. After only a couple of months on the run, the police busted me, finding fourteen pounds of marijuana and one ounce of Ecstasy. When I was eventually transported back to St. Francisville for court on the original charge, the judge set such a ridiculously high bond on me that I decided to bond myself out. In official terms, when an inmate decides to bond himself out it is called escape. After fifty-six days in the woods, eating raw armadillo and frogs and thistles, I was captured and returned to jail. I found myself looking at a potential life sentence as a habitual offender. It was at this time that God opened the eyes of my understanding and

I became born-again and ultimately became filled with His Spirit.

Now, through seeking Him and the truth of His Word, I understand. So take all the scriptures that I've given you and study for yourself. Remember, this is a spiritual battle. We are fighting the forces of darkness. The devil does not want anyone walking in the power of the Holy Spirit. He will do everything he knows to keep you from the power and the truth. He is a liar and the truth is not in him. (John 8:44) May God fill you and use you for His glory.

*“Redeeming the time,  
because the days are evil.”  
Ephesians 5:16 KJV*

Small recap of our text:

- ⇒ You can be filled with the Holy Spirit at the time of your salvation experience or after. (Acts 19:1-6)
- ⇒ You may receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit by someone laying hands on you, but it is not necessary. (Acts 2:3-4, 19:6)
- ⇒ Tongues and Interpretation of Tongues as seen in 1 Corinthians 12:10 are considered two of the Gifts of the Spirit just like healing, prophecy and the working of miracles. Not everyone will have this gift to publicly speak out in this type of tongue with an interpreter.
- ⇒ The above is different from a personal Baptism in the Spirit experience. We all may have a prayer language for our own edification. (Acts 2:33, 39; Jude 20)
- ⇒ Baptism in the Holy Spirit can happen before or after Baptism in Water. (Acts 2:38, 10:46-47)

Lord Jesus,

Right now I want to ask you to forgive me of any sin in my heart and life. Loose me from anything that would hinder me from receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. Cleanse me and prepare me to receive the promise of your Holy Spirit. I am not afraid to ask or receive; Your Word says in Luke 11:13 that if I ask for the Holy Spirit that is what I will receive. You are faithful and I know that you would not allow me to receive anything that isn't right. With my heart open and full of trust, I ask you to baptize me with your precious Holy Spirit so that I can boldly fulfill the plan you have for my life. I love you and appreciate you, Lord – in Jesus' name – Amen!

Now close your eyes and speak those words you hear. You can't speak two languages at once, so only speak what the Holy Spirit gives you. In your spirit you will hear words that you don't understand so your tendency is to think that this is stupid or unreal, but you must speak those words and as you do, you will find your supernatural prayer language coming out. Now thank God for filling you and keep speaking your new prayer language often.

God bless you.