

The Gift That Keeps on Giving

There was a question asked in The Bible that is still a valid question today:

Acts 19:1-2

'And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.'"

So the question is:

- Have you received The Holy Ghost?
- Been Baptized in The Holy Ghost?
- Filled with The Holy Spirit
- Have you heard that there is a Holy Spirit?
- If not, that all changes today....

It's not about what I say, or what other people say...

- The most important thing is what The Bible says...

John the Baptist said:

Matthew 3:11

'I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. '

Jesus promised:

Acts 1:5

'for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.' '

The Holy Spirit delivered:

Acts 2:1-4

'When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.'

Here's this thing about speaking in tongues....

- A Spiritual Language
- It's an evidence of being filled with The Holy Ghost

Other:

Heteros (Strong's G2087)

- another: i.e. one not of the same nature, form, class, kind, different

Tongues:

Glossa (Strong's G1100)

- the language or dialect used by a particular people distinct from that of other nations

Utterance:

Apophthegomai (Strong's G669) (Op-a-fig-a-ma)

- to speak out, speak forth, pronounce
- not a word of everyday speech but one "belonging to dignified and elevated discourse"

The Bible clearly states here that this is a Spiritual tongue

- not a known language
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What happened to these disciples who had never heard of The Holy Spirit when Paul revealed the truth to them?

Acts 19:3-6

'And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. '

- Again, we see an evidence of the Holy Spirit Baptism with speaking in unknown tongues

But please don't get so consumed by the "speaking in tongues" that you lose focus of the bigger picture....

- The Holy Spirit is given that we may receive Power...

Acts 1:8

'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.'

**Power to effectively evangelize the world for Jesus Christ!!
Power to fulfill The Great Commission...**

Mark 16:15-20

'And He said to them, **"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: **In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover."** So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and **confirming the word through the accompanying** signs. Amen.'

These are not natural things....

- They are supernatural

It is going to take Supernatural (Holy Ghost) Power to win this world for Christ!!

- We need Supernatural abilities in the form of Spiritual Gifts...

Now before I go any further...

There is a mindset, even a doctrine...That believes that these gifts and the infilling power of The Holy Ghost were only for the Apostles...

And was taken away with the printing of the New Testament Bible....

That just doesn't make any sense to me....

Why would Jesus put an expectation on His church to continue to grow and influence people until He comes back... Then take that power away?

- He wouldn't
- And He didn't

Acts 2:38-39

'Then Peter said to them, **"Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."**

This powerful gift is still available to all who believe today!!

- And this gift keeps on giving...

With this Spiritual power, He gives us Spiritual Gifts...

- Supernatural tools equipping us for our individual and collective purpose...

These Gifts are given to:

1. Empowers the believer to live a fulfilled life in Christ
 - A. An abundant life
 - B. A Holy Life
 - C. An empowered life
2. Signs to confirm The Word of God (as spoken in Mark 16)
3. To build the church and expand The Kingdom of God

Now, if someone asked you to build a church and said, "Here's your tools"

- And hands you this (Screwdriver picture...)
- You would say no way!!!

No, to build a church, Jesus gives us different tools...Spiritual Gifts
And He gives people to use their specific gifts

I Corinthians 12:1

'Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, **I do not want you to be ignorant:** '

I Corinthians 12:4-11

'There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the **word of wisdom** through the Spirit, to another the **word of knowledge** through the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healings** by the same Spirit, to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another **discerning of spirits**, to another **different kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.'

These 9 distinct Powerful Gifts of The Spirit along with the Five Fold Ministry, are necessary elements for the effective working of the church in the world today...

- But something is trying to remove them from the church...
- I wonder who (the devil)
- I wonder why (to deceive the church from operating in power)

We are The Church...And it's time for believers to be filled with The Holy Ghost and start walking in power and operating in your gifts!!!

What's your gift?

- word of wisdom
- word of knowledge
- faith
- healings
- working of miracles
- prophecy
- discerning of spirits
- different kinds of tongues
- interpretation of tongues

Your gift is not for your glory...

- it's for someone else's benefit

It takes all of these gifts working together to make the church complete

To get your gift...you must first receive "The Gift"

- **Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed**

No more excuses...

- You have heard The Word of God...
- I have presented the evidence...
- Put away doubt and open your heart to Jesus...
- It's time to be filled with The Spirit and start operating in your gift!!!

Closing