

Receive ye the Holy Ghost

by
Dwight J. Davis



Receive Ye the Holy Ghost: Spirit Baptism

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Have you received the Holy Ghost since you became a believer?

This is the question Paul asked the 12 Jewish believers of Ephesus in Acts 19:2. Apollos was a messianic preacher who certainly met Jesus during the Lord's 3 ½ year ministry. Yet he did not attend Peter's inauguration sermon on the Day of Pentecost. Had he, Paul would never have had to ask this question of Apollos' converts while he was out of town.

"Have you received the Holy Ghost since you became a believer?"

In today's Church world, many people have been told that since they are a believer, they have the Holy Spirit inside of them. But what would a Jewish apostle like Peter or Paul accept as evidence that a believer has the Holy Spirit? As we learn in the New Testament, this is a very important question. For if we do not have the Holy Spirit inside of us, we do not belong to Jesus.

Romans 8:8-9 So then they who are in the flesh cannot please God.
(9) But you are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone has not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His.

Bible Evidence of the Holy Spirit inside a believer

One time I accepted an email from a local pastor where I was ministering. In Christian kindness, I agreed to meet him for coffee at a coffee shop. When I arrived, a middle aged woman was speaking to him. Obviously, they knew each other. When I approached them, the woman was finishing a sentence in her conversation with this man.

She said, "I feel Jesus in my heart."

This statement startled me but at the same time, opened a door. In a few moments, the woman left the coffee shop and I was alone with this young pastor.

I said, "I couldn't help but overhear what the woman said to you."

He replied, "Yes, I've known her for a long time, but she doesn't attend our Church."

I went further, "What is interesting to me is that what she said is a common statement. But it has no Bible proof."

This took him somewhat aback and I could see he was ready for a discussion.

He inquired, "What do you mean, Bible proof?"

"What I mean is this. People make all kinds of statements about the Holy Spirit yet they don't have any scripture to back up what they are saying."

This caused him to put his hand on his chin. Then he looked me in the eyes.

"You don't think she has the Holy Spirit then?"

I replied, "If she had said, I speak in tongues, I would concluded that she had Bible evidence."

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Our conversation continued for about an hour and eventually, this young pastor visited our Church on a Sunday Morning. But I did not move off my point and he received the Holy Spirit with a powerful expression in tongues.

In the New Testament, the episode of Peter bringing the Gentiles into the messianic faith is critical to understanding the Bible proof of infilling of the Holy Spirit. Let's revisit this history.

First, Peter was on a Joppa rooftop praying from a hill overlooking the Mediterranean Sea. Most homes in that era were built of brick and had a rooftop patio designed to give a family a cool evening sleep or a place of solitude and retreat. He was staying with a Christian leather worker, Simon the Tanner.



Another man was praying too. A Gentile centurion named Cornelius, commander of about 100 Roman soldiers in Caesarea. He was 30 miles north of Joppa in the coastal town of Caesarea, a Roman military and civilian capital built by Herod the Great. Pilate the Roman governor was a well-known resident of Caesarea as it was the military HQ designated to control Palestine.

God gave Centurion Cornelius a vision of an Angel, instructing him to send for Peter at Joppa south on the Mediterranean coast. The Angel did not preach salvation to him. Obviously, Angels do not preach salvation, much like Jesus did not for Paul on the road to Damascus. That is a believer's obligation.

What we know about Cornelius is that he was a Gentile proselyte of Judaism. He was generous and magnanimous toward the poor Jews of Caesarea. After seeing the Angel and hearing his instruction, he quickly dispatched 3 men to fetch Peter, a brisk 2 day walk.



On the second day, Jesus gave Peter a vision during his prayer time, noon. A table cloth full of animals and reptiles, unclean to kosher Jews, was let down from heaven before his eyes. The unmistakable voice of Jesus came to him audibly.

“Rise Peter, kill and eat!”

Peter replied,

“No Lord. I have never eaten uncommon or unclean animals.”

Jesus insisted,

“What God has cleansed, do not call common or unclean.”

The tablecloth vision was repeated three times for the obvious reason. (*Out of the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word is established.*¹) Awakening from the trance, two servants and one soldier sent by

¹ | Corinthians 13:1

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Cornelius stood at the porch of Simon's house, asking if Peter was staying there. Aroused out of vision, Peter heard the Holy Spirit voice of Jesus speak to him.

"Three men are looking for you. Get up and go down. Go with them and do not doubt. I sent them."

Peter had failed Jesus in his past. He was never be found disobedient again. He quickly joined the three men of Caesarea but convinced six Jews from the Church in Joppa to go with them. In two days, kosher Jewish men were in an unclean Gentiles house, an action forbidden by Old Testament law. But in reality, the Old Testament law had been fulfilled and abolished by the cross. Peter began preaching.

Almost immediately, the Holy Spirit fell on everyone in Cornelius' house. The Jewish companions of Peter were mesmerized, astonished. They in fact were shocked. Why?

Acts 10:46 For they heard them [the Gentiles] speaking in tongues.

This verse is a notice, a bill board, a neon sign on the darkest street in the world. What we have here is the only scripture, the only verse, that gives 'proof that the Holy Spirit' resides in a believer: Speaking in Tongue!

The Jewish believers of the first Church of Jerusalem, were very upset when they learned what had happened at Cornelius house in Caesarea. Consider this discourse.

Acts 11:1-3 And the apostles and brothers that were in Judaea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. (2) And when Peter was come up to Jerusalem, they that were of the circumcision contended with him (3) Saying, You went into the house of uncircumcised men and you ate with them.

Notice, that the Bible declares that 'Speaking in Tongues' is synonymous with 'receiving the word of God'. Further, Jewish law was still in the minds of the Jewish Christians including Peter right up until the table cloth vision. The law was destined to die at the cross, they just didn't understand that yet.

In explaining the story and experience to the Jewish brothers in Jerusalem, Peter reveals what he was thinking while he heard the Gentiles speaking in tongues.

Acts 11:16-17 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost [Acts 1:5]. (17) For I thought, if God gave them the like gift [Acts 10:46] as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Lest you not believe the above, Peter recounts the Cornelius testimony a second time during the first Jerusalem council held to determine kosher dietary habits and circumcision of Gentile Christians. Listen to Peter reproving the move of God in Caesarea.

Acts 15:7-9 And after much disputing, Peter rose up and said to them [the council of Jerusalem], Men, brothers, you all recognize that a long time ago God chose among us that through my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel, and believe. (8) And God, who knows the hearts, bore them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit even as He gave to us

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[Acts 2:4, Speaking in Tongues]. (9) And He put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

To continue the story of the young pastor who came and received the Holy Spirit at my Church, let me tell you that it caused quite a stir in his denomination and with his senior pastor. Soon he emailed me, sadly refuting his Holy Spirit experience. I emailed him back.

<What scripture do you offer as proof that you scripturally have the Holy Spirit resident inside you?>

I waited several days. No response. No response. No response. Then I decided to email him again.

<Brother, Acts 10:46 confirmed by Acts 11:17 and 15:8 is the only scriptural evidences we have proving the Holy Spirit. It is a blessing if you feel Jesus in your heart but the only real evidence the Apostles would accept is hearing; hearing people speaking in tongues. No feeling required.>

Preparation to Receive the Holy Spirit

God refuses to occupy a dirty house. The believer must prepare to receive the Holy Spirit. Give it some thought:

1. Would you want to live in a house with empty beer cans and cigarettes lying on the floor?
2. Would you want to live in a house with pornography photos and pictures hanging on every wall?
3. Would you want to live in a house where there is angry fighting, hate, and accusations raging every day?
4. Would you want to live in a house where the adults are committing adultery in secret?
5. Would you want to live in a house where the money deity is worshiped supreme?
6. Would you want to live in a house where the lazy head of the household refuses to get a job?

After thinking about these questions and more could be asked, it is clear that something needs to change. The Bible word for this is repentance. Here is my definition of repentance:

1. Repentance is consistent from the Old Testament to the New. It's the same. Its first definition is remorse, apology, regret for past actions and current lifestyle that disagree with God's moral law.
2. Repentance is an apology first to God then others we have transgressed against.
3. Repentance is a decision to turn around, a 180 degree turn from the old lifestyle of sin and sin enticing friends.
4. Repentance is a desire to change. A wish to be a better person. A surrendering of the human free will unto God's control.
5. Repentance is a process. It may have been churning for a long time or it may be done in an instant.

Remorse is human sorrow, but the Bible tells us that by itself, it cannot cleanse the conscience or transform the heart. Remorse is regret and emotion when one has been exposed or caught in sin. Only the Spirit of God can accomplish cleansing of the conscience as remorse alone cannot do it. So we are left with a remarkable quandary. We are dependent on JESUS.

"God must grant repentance and cleanse our conscience."

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Repentance is not complete or effectual until God grants it. The Bible is clear about this.

Acts 11:18 When they heard these things, they held their peace and glorified God, saying, Then has God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.

When God grants repentance, He does this by a move of His Spirit into the open heart of the inner man. This transformative move is called 'Godly sorrow'. Until God grants 'Godly sorrow' a person's repentance is not complete or effectual. One confusion people have when this happens is that relief floods the soul. The conscience feels cleansed. This can be easily mistaken for salvation.

2 Corinthians 7:10 for godly sorrow works repentance toward salvation; not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world, [remorse by itself] works death.

When the Bible recounts the story of Esau, it mentions that God did not grant repentance to him.

Hebrews 12:16-17 if there be any fornicator or profane person like Esau, who for one helping of *venison stew* sold his birthright. (17) For you know how that afterwards, when he wanted *Jacob's* birthright blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears [remorse].

It wasn't Esau's past sins that prevented God from granting him repentance, it was the fact that he was unwilling to surrender his will even though he confessed his trespasses with remorse.

Difficulty in receiving the Holy Spirit is from four primary reasons:

1. Unwillingness to surrender the human will and tongue to God's control
2. Lack of faith
3. Misunderstanding of what faith is
4. Refusal to speak audibly

What is Faith and how to get more of it

Faith exists in humans in terms of being convinced mentally about what is true. Faith in the word of God is to be so convinced its truthfulness, that it should be obeyed.

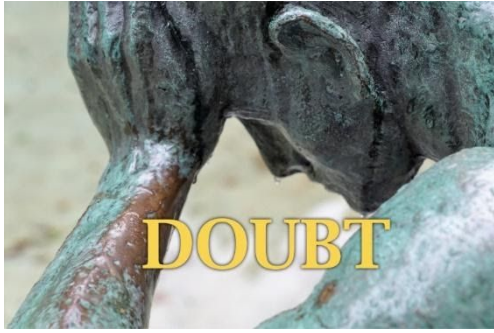
Some say faith requires a risk. But it has become clear to me that faith rests in the logical mind of man. It's a rational decision to act on God's word. The timing to act is the lone variable.

People are born with faith. Everyone has it. But here I am talking about human faith. Unfortunately for us, human faith is always a mixture of doubt and truth. That is why people call faith 'taking a risk'. This risk considers that something might not be true.

Divine faith is different than human faith. Divine faith never considers doubt. God never says to Himself,

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“I am taking a risk on My own word.”



But God so respects the human free will that He gave us, that He never forces us to believe or act as He would. It always requires a decision from us one way or another. Therefore, faith is a decision that must fight doubt. Doubt arrives from 'knowing good and evil'. To humans, our mind always has access to evil, the polluted word that came into our world from the forbidden tree.

When it comes to receiving the Holy Spirit, doubt must be pushed aside and taken into captivity.

When anointed minister comes to pray with a person seeking the Holy Spirit, Jesus transmits a 'Word of Faith' to the heart of the seeker. This is the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the 'word of God' that the human praying must speak by faith.

Some fail to speak the word because they are expecting a feeling. Some expect fire to come on them, a heat and burning sensation. Some expect tingles and chills to run up and down their spine. Some expect a windy vortex to surround them. If any of these things do occur, this is a blessing Jesus gives to help the faith of the seeker to speak. But regardless of whether a seeker feels anything or not, speaking out in faith is required.

Many do not receive the Holy Spirit because they pray silently in their minds. Silent mind prayer is actually called meditation in the Bible. Audible speech is required.

Some do not receive the Holy Spirit because they are afraid the tongues that emerge will be unintelligible or of human composition. Fear of a false tongue is another reason people will not speak out.

Finally, some do not receive the Holy Spirit because they insist on being in control. The best way to retain control is to speak in your native language and praise Jesus. Many times I have had to stop people and say,

“Jesus knows you love Him. Jesus knows you like to praise Him. But right now, Jesus wants you to stop using your native language and speak the words He gives you.”

Other times I have had to stop a seeker and say,

“You are expecting a feeling. The word 'feeling' is not found in the Bible when people received the Holy Spirit. Get with it and speak.”

What many people do not understand is the Jesus imparts His faith to our human spirit and then that 'word of faith' must travel to our mouth and be spoken.

Romans 10:8 But what does the Old Testament say [Deuteronomy 30:14]? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith to be obeyed, which we preach;

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In another place, the Bible tells us,

Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith...

Then Jesus told His disciples that His words were in fact, Spirit.

John 6:63 It is the spirit that gives life; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

When an anointed minister lays hands on the Holy Spirit seeker, Jesus imparts the priestly blessing to the seeker. His words, being spirit, transmit to the seeker's heart then rise to the center of faith. That center is where the seeker decides to speak what he or she cannot generate of control. Many times I have had to challenge a seeker with these words:

"Speak by faith. Don't analyze and try to discern what will come out. Just speak and don't worry about how it sounds."

If after that encouragement nothing happens for the seeker, I know that the problem is either sin or faith. Focusing on faith, there are only two ways to get more faith:

1. Faith comes by hearing the word of God
2. Faith comes by reconciling with our brothers and neighbors

Almost every Christian should want more faith. Seekers and new believers especially. Many seekers of the Holy Ghost must be filled up with preaching, teaching, and bible reading before they begin to believe that God loves them unconditionally. Further, that receiving the Holy Spirit is not merit based but faith based. No human deserves the Holy Spirit and no one person has more status with Jesus than another.

1 John 4:19 We love him, because he first loved us.

Acts 10:34 Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:

When seekers do not believe that God loves them, fear is fighting them. One fear is that they have sinned too badly. Here is an example.

One time, a young woman came to the altar for prayer where I was helping. I asked her,

"Do you want to receive the Holy Spirit?"

She responded sadly, "I can't receive the Holy Spirit."

I asked, "Why not. There is no sin that He won't forgive."

She said, "I blasphemed the Holy Ghost."

I replied, "What? How did you do that?"

She answered, "I said that speaking in tongues is of the devil."

Smiling at her answer, I said, "Nonsense. Raise your hands and start praising Jesus. Tell Him you are

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sorry.”

She obeyed the word I gave her. Soon she was speaking in tongues as the Spirit gave her the ability to do so.

As said above, faith first increases by hearing the word of God. Here is the scriptural proof.

Romans 10:17 So then faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God.

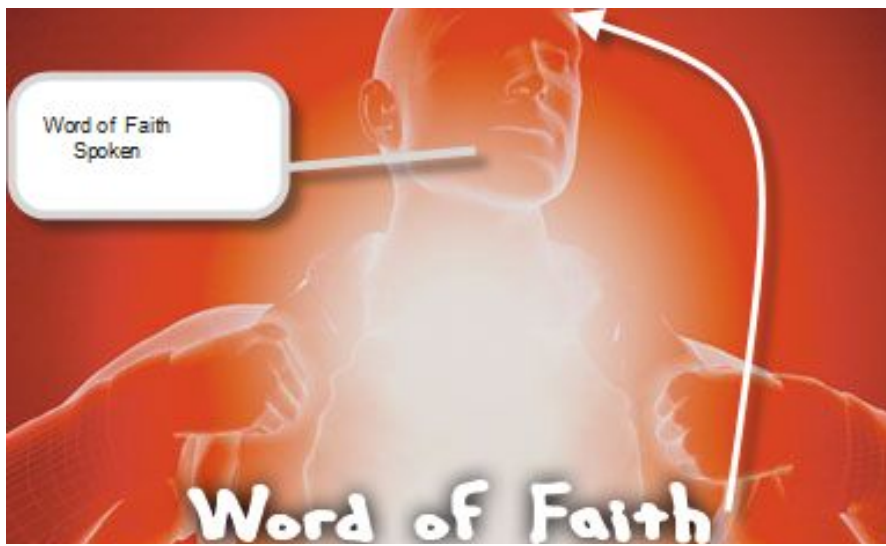
Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, did you receive the Spirit by the works of the law or by the hearing of faith?

Secondly, Faith also increases when we reconcile our differences and offenses both inside and outside the Church body.

Luke 17:1-6 then said Jesus unto the disciples, “It is impossible but that offenses will come... (3) Be careful yourselves: If your brother trespasses against you, confront him; and if he repents, forgive him”... (5) And the apostles said unto the Lord, “Increase our faith.” (6) And the Lord said, “If you had faith as a grain of mustard seed, you could say unto this sycamine tree, ‘come out by the root and be buried in the sea’; and it would obey you.”



In this critical passage above, a mustard seed is sent to the believer who obeyed and reconciled the offense. To reconcile means to confront the person who has offended us, and rehearse the offense audibly. If the offender repents, forgive them quickly. If the offender does not repent, then the person who confronts the offender will be delivered from all unresolved anger and roots of bitterness.



When our anger and bitterness is resolved, we have purified our heart from unbelief. This allows the mustard seed ‘word of faith’ to enter our heart, travel to our mouth, and yield healing, miracles, and the baptism of the Holy

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Ghost. Purifying the heart of unbelief is critical as unbelief and doubt is often a symptom of unforgiveness, a mortal sin. If we don't forgive others, especially ourselves, we will not be forgiven by Jesus.

To summarize, if we want more faith, then we must hear more word. Going further, if we want more faith than that, then we must reconcile with everyone. To perfect faith, we must hear the 'word of faith' more clearly from the 'author of faith', then we must purify our heart of doubt and unbelief. If we do so, the mustard seed 'word of faith' will come to us.

Altar Workers Guide

As mentioned earlier, it is essential for effective altar workers to seek the 'Gift of Faith' anointing in order to help worshipers receive the 'baptism of the Holy Spirit'. This anointing is given by Jesus based on His own determined qualifications but it is clear some people will be disallowed. Consider Simon the sorcerer:

Acts 8:17-19 Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. (18) And when Simon [the sorcerer] saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (19) Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

Peter of course, rebuked Simon Magnus [sorcerer] for his corrupt motive for wanting the 'power' to help people receive the Holy Spirit. Simon wanted temporal power over people, not Holy Ghost power anointing. Ordaining and training people to work the altar to help people receive the Holy Spirit is a very important mission and must be done cautiously and by being led by the Spirit of Jesus.

1 Timothy 5:22 Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure.

Here are my recommendations for effective altar working:

1. At times, the Church service may end with an altar call. People are asked to come forward for prayer after a motivating sermon. Many times, this can also happened even before preaching occurs. Wait for seekers to move forward and allow them to pray alone whether they know how or even understand that the Holy Ghost baptism is available to them.
2. Many seekers will experience the 'Godly sorrow' of repentance (II Corinthians 7:10) without help from the 'altar worker'. Pray with them and wait. If they do not seem to be making progress with Jesus, ask them to open their eyes, then ask them a question:

"Have you repented of your sins? Do you believe Jesus has forgiven you?"

If they are not sure about the questions, lead them in a prayer of repentance and assure them that if they confess their sins, Jesus is faithful to forgive them. Remember, God must grant repentance (Acts 11:18) and He does this through 'Godly sorrow'.

3. Many seekers must be instructed that they should praise Jesus audibly. They must be told that silent prayer is meditation and that audible prayer is what Jesus wants. Many will not have the faith to speak audibly. If they will not speak audibly, they will not receive the Holy Spirit. Don't

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wear yourself out at this time and encourage them to keep coming to services. Faith is the issue with this kind of seeker. If they truly want to find Jesus, they will return to subsequent Church services and they will eventually pray and praise audibly.

4. Analytical seekers have the least amount of faith. They will examine in their minds to see if a language they don't know comes into their thought stream. Of course, this results in frustration and chronic seeking. In some cases, the altar worker must instruct this kind of seeker to stop using their natural language to praise and pray to Jesus. If their natural language is removed as acceptable worship, they will be challenged to speak by faith. With this barrier removed, normally, they will then receive the Holy Spirit.
5. Distraction is a tool of the enemy. Many people will come to the altar to seek the Holy Spirit or Repentance and be overwhelmed by noise from the Church orchestra/praise team/exhortations or even by untrained altar workers. Be patient, allow the distraction to cease, then approach the seeker once the distraction retreats. One other thing, the enemy can put absurd thoughts into the mind of the seeker during this time. This too can distract them from focusing on Jesus.
6. Don't lay hands on people behind them if you are the main altar worker God has appointed for them. Get in front of them, look at their face and eyes to view whether they are reaching God (Acts 8:17, 19:6). Many times fluttering eyelids or trembling stammering lips signify contact with the Spirit of Jesus, but don't rely on this. Everyone responds to the Spirit differently and bodily mannerisms may not manifest at all.
7. Tell the seeker to raise their hands to Jesus. Most altar workers do not realize that the hands of the seeker actually are a form of sign language invoking the name of the Lord. This is why Paul instructed Timothy to 'lift up Holy hands' (1 Timothy 2:8) and another apostle instructs us to 'lift hands that hang down (Hebrews 12:12). We must recognize that God's name alone is 'Holy' (Isaiah 57:15) and that when we lift up our hands in worship like angels lifting their wings, we lift them in His name (Psalm 63:4)



1. On occasion, a seeker may sense the Spirit in an overwhelming and overpowering way. If they begin to fall down, be alert and help them reach the floor gently. If they appear to fall in a trance, wait until the experience lifts off them. Once the trance or vision is complete, don't be surprised that they are unable to speak or describe the experience. If this occurs, wait until they come to themselves and begin praying for them to receive the Spirit. If the seeker is female, make sure to cover up any immodesty they display by falling down.
2. Many times, seekers will be unaware that they are speaking in tongues. When the Spirit lifts off of them, simply ask them this question:

“Did you hear yourself speaking in tongues?”

If they reply, “No”, then assure them that you in fact heard them but that they must seek their own

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personal confirmation of their Spirit baptism.

Remember, out of the mouth of two or three witnesses, every word is established. Peter describes his own confirmation of Cornelius household speaking in tongues as mentioned above (Acts 10, 11, 15). He no doubt confirmed the experience to them and gave them additional teaching about the phenomena. Just make sure you heard them clearly.

3. Some seekers experience a feeling or emotion during Spirit baptism. Just be aware, about 33% of the seekers will not experience a feeling, but a knowing. This is normal. We must not teach people that they will experience the Holy Spirit the same way as we have. Planting our own personal bias in people will result in discouragement or chronic seeking. Many a preacher has proclaimed from the pulpit this phrase:

“I feel the Holy Ghost”.

The word ‘feel’ is found only one time in the New Testament (Acts 17:27). The word ‘feeling’ is found only two times in the New Testament (Ephesians 4:19, Hebrews 4:15). None of these occurrences are in the context of receiving the Holy Spirit nor in context of Spiritual awareness or sensitivity. Even the word ‘touch’ is not found in the context of the Holy Spirit’s presence.

If seekers state they ‘feel’ the Holy Spirit, then God has given them something to help their faith. Many seekers will simply ‘be aware’ or ‘sense’ the presence of the Spirit. Even if they are not aware of the presences of the Spirit, rest assured the Holy Spirit is ever present. So, don’t be surprised if people say in Church,

“I feel the presence of God.”

Many times preachers or others say this to self-confirm what they are saying to convince others of its Spiritual authenticity and source. Feeling is not required but praise God if it occurs.

4. Christian etiquette demands that altar workers carefully decide where to lay their hands on someone else’s body. One should never lay hands on another without facing them and first asking this question:

“May I pray with you?”

Once permission is granted, be sure to lay a hand only on their shoulder. If they are becoming fatigued by lifting ‘Holy hands’, grab their wrists and assist them to hold up their hands. Enlist others to help you in this activity as the altar worker can become physically fatigued as well. Finally, do not shout in a seeker’s ear. If it is too loud in the Church sanctuary to hear clearly, simply wait for the noise to abate. Many times ‘praise teams’ are out of order during altar working. They have not considered that noise is distraction when people are seeking the Holy Spirit. One last point, refrain from laying hands on someone’s head. This is very distracting and uncomfortable for the seeker. If God so leads, try to gently touch the seeker’s forehead.

5. Many times after being filled with the Holy Spirit, the seeker will be so thankful that they will want to hug the altar worker. If you are of the opposite sex from the seeker, enlist someone of the same sex as the seeker to be available for the post ‘Holy Ghost’ hug.
6. Many seekers experience a tearful experience that causes their nose to run. If this occurs, be

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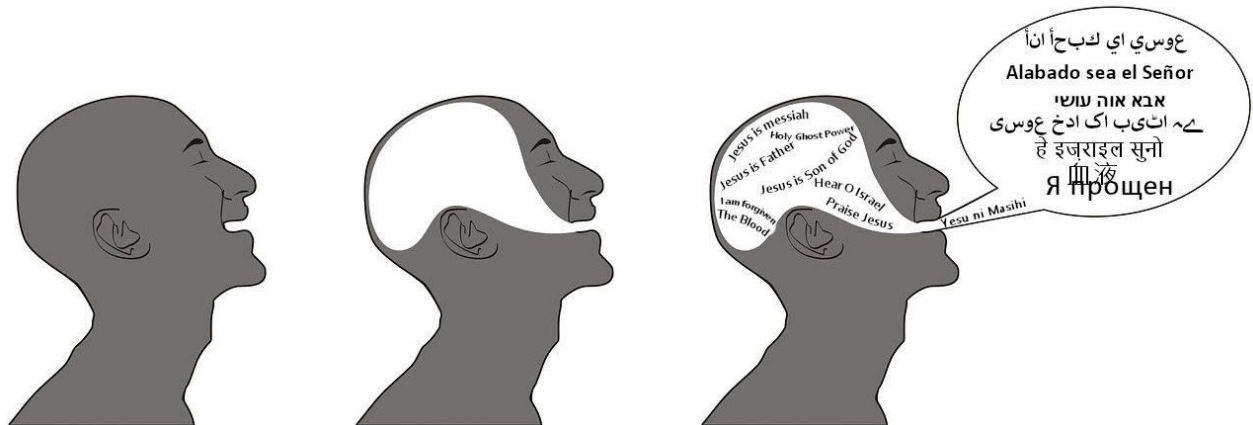
sure to have Kleenex on hand and wait until they are self-aware enough to wipe their own nose. This is practical advice here. If the seeker is a child, then helping them with the Kleenex is appropriate.

7. After receiving the Holy Spirit, many new born Christians will be assaulted by the enemy that the tongues were not real. Tell the new born to expect this and teach them properly how to rebuke the enemy with the name of Jesus.
8. Many seekers need to be water baptized in Jesus' name before they will receive the Holy Spirit. What is marvelous about water baptism in Jesus' name is that the apostle tells us that this 'work of faith' comes with an incredible promise. Carefully look at what Peter is telling the seekers in Jerusalem on the 'Day of Pentecost', the birthday of the Church.

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Notice that Peter states that 'Repentance + Water Baptism' yields an unmistakable promise from God. The Holy Spirit is promised to everyone after 'water baptism in the name of Jesus'. Further, we find that the powerful name of Jesus not only remits sins, it heals. Many people have been healed in the waters of baptism if the name of Jesus is invoked. Forgiveness and healing always go together in the ministry of Jesus and His Church.

9. If the seeker has not received the Holy Spirit and is in the process of being water baptized, try to pray them through while they are wet from the water. Instruct them to stand if possible, lay hands on them, and pray with them until they have the faith to receive the Spirit. If after some time they do not receive the Spirit, then instruct them that they have a promise coming to them. Sooner or later, they will speak in tongues whether at a Church service, at home, or even in their car while driving. God is not to put into our manmade traditions.
10. Scripture tells us to pray in the Spirit and with understanding. Also, to sing in the Spirit and with understanding (I Corinthians 14:15). Prayer and singing are communication to God. When someone is filled with the Holy Spirit either in the baptismal tank or at the altar, their first words in tongues may be singing. Be ready to be pleasantly surprised by the manifold ways the Spirit of Christ is expressed audibly and visibly through believers.





About the Author

Former Pastor and now Author, Dwight Davis grew up on the prairies of central North Dakota. Now responding to the latest call of the Lord, God's path has led him to write, publish, and record various types of media to help Christians grow. He is still married to his high school sweetheart (*class of 1974*) and has two sons and two granddaughters. He currently resides in Sheboygan, Wisconsin near Lake Michigan and is a former US Navy veteran.

He teaches on various topics and he has created an online discipleship ministry at <https://153greatfish.com>. Further, he also writes fiction books under other Christian pen names. He can be reached at 153fhg@gmail.com or (920) 485-1777.