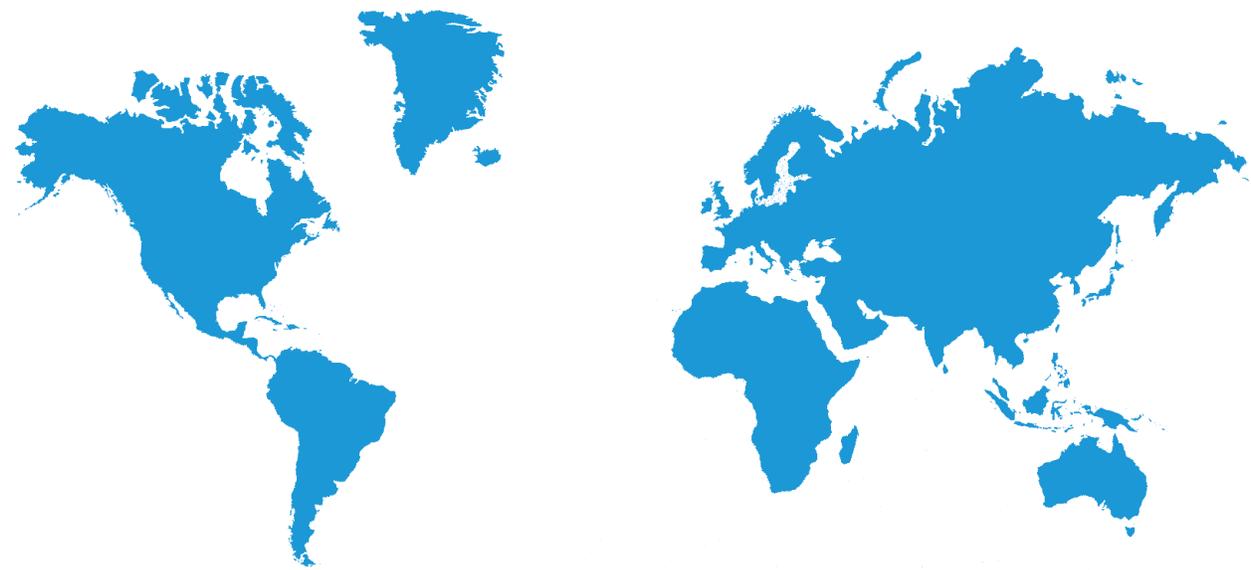

UNDERSTANDING
THE BAPTISM OF THE
HOLY SPIRIT

“He gathered together with them and commanded them, “Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you the gift He promised, as I told you before. John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit. But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

ACTS 1:1-5, 8 (NLT)



Salvation is the beginning of a wonderful relationship with God, but there is more to this relationship. Separate experiences from salvation are water baptism and the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues.

Just as the Holy Spirit was given to Jesus by God, **the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God that will bring you into a closer and more dynamic relationship with Him.** Receiving this gift adds new life and power to your prayer time and empowers you to minister to others and to reach your sphere of influence—your part of this world—with the love of God.

We know that every good gift is from God (James 1:17) and that we are to desire these gifts (1 Corinthians 1:14). As you read this book explaining the person and the work of the Holy Spirit, we encourage you to take the steps to receive this gift and cultivate your relationship with Him. Get ready to experience new depths in your walk with God!

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is a He and not an “it.” He is the third person of the Trinity: the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Your relationship with Him is a two-part experience. In salvation, every believer is born again and the Holy Spirit comes to dwell in each person. When Paul is writing to the church at Ephesus in the book of Ephesians, he writes:

“And now Gentiles have also heard the truth, the good news that God saves you. And when you believed in Christ, He identified you as His own by giving you the Holy Spirit, whom He promised long ago.” - EPHESIANS 1:13 (NLT)

Therefore, when you are saved, the Holy Spirit lives and abides in you. His divine personality comes to dwell in you, drawing you nearer to God and His ways. However, the baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues is a separate gift from salvation and an experience that every believer should receive.

This free gift activates the power of the Holy Spirit to work in and through you and enables you to be aware of and experience more of God’s presence in your everyday life.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN YOU RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

YOU GET A SPIRITUAL LANGUAGE THAT'S UNIQUE TO YOU.

The initial evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit is speaking in tongues. This is your own unique prayer language. You won't hear two people praying in the Spirit (in tongues) the same way. This is what happened to all believers in the early church as the fulfillment of Jesus' promise in Acts 1:8. We read about this initial outpouring in Acts 2:4 (NLT)

“And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.”

YOU GET POWER TO BE A WITNESS.

When you are Spirit filled, you receive within you “ready-to-use” power that enables you to testify of God's goodness in every circumstance. The power of the Holy Spirit enables you to share God's goodness by your actions. For your actions to speak of His goodness, you will have to renew your mind by studying the Word of God each day (Romans 12:1-2 NLT). This will change the way you think and believe and cause your life to point others to God. 4

WHY SHOULD YOU PRAY IN TONGUES EVERY DAY?

The baptism of the Holy Spirit—being filled with the Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues—allows you to experience a deeper intimacy in your relationship with God. The Bible gives several reasons for the believer to pray in tongues.

- A.** When you pray in tongues, you pray directly to God from your own spirit. This is your own personal prayer language in which you can pray and communicate with God.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2 (NIV) - *“For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit.”*

- B.** When you pray in tongues, you are spiritually edified and strengthened.

1 CORINTHIANS 14:2 (NKJV) - *“He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself ...”*

- C.** When you pray in tongues, you magnify and praise God from your spirit.

ACTS 10:46 (NKJV) - *“For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God ...”*

JOHN 4:23-24 (NIV) - *“Yet a time is coming and has come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and His worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*

D. When you pray in tongues, you pray Spirit-directed prayers. The Holy Spirit directs your prayers according to the perfect will of God. He will even show you things to come.

ROMANS 8:26-27 (NLT) - *“And the Holy Spirit helps us in our weakness. For example, we don’t know what God wants for us to pray for. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words. And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God’s own will.”* JOHN 16:13 (NLT) - *“When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future.”*

E. When you pray in tongues, it helps you learn how to trust God more fully and build your faith.

JUDE 1:20 (TLB) - *“But you, dear friends, must build up your lives ever more strongly upon the foundation of our holy faith, learning to pray in the power and strength of the Holy Spirit.”*



**FOR ALL WHO
ARE LED BY THE
SPIRIT OF GOD
ARE CHILDREN
OF GOD.**

- ROMANS 8:14 (NLT)

HOW DO YOU RECEIVE THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is a gentleman (Romans 8:14). He leads and guides, but it's up to you to respond. You have to "yield" to Him, trusting that this experience is truly from God. Here are the steps to receive.

A. You must be born again*

** If you have not yet taken this step, turn to page 14 and pray the prayer.*

JOHN 3:3 (NIV) - *"Jesus replied, 'I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again.'"*

ACTS 2:38 (ESV) - *"Peter replied, 'Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.'"*

B. You must believe that it is for you.

ACTS 2:39 (NIV) - *"The promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call."*

ACTS 2:17-18 (NIV) - *“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.”*

C. You must desire the gift of the Holy Spirit.

JOHN 7:37-39 (NLT) - *“On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, ‘Anyone who is thirsty may come to me! Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, “Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’ (When he said “living water,” he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)”*

D. You must ask for it.

LUKE 11:13 (NLT) - *“So if you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him.”*

E. You must do the speaking.

ACTS 2:4 (BSB) - *“And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”*

ISAIAH 28:11 (ERV) - *“So God will use this strange way of talking, and he will use other languages to speak to these people.”*

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural experience that flows out of you. After you pray to receive this gift, you may sense the desire to speak welling up in you. Take a step of faith, open your mouth, and speak. Don't be surprised. It won't sound like anything you know, understand, or have heard before. If you need to find a friend or prayer partner who speaks in tongues and can pray with you in this way.

Remember, you cannot speak two languages at one time. Resist the urge to speak your native tongue and allow this supernatural language to flow out of your mouth. With time and practice, you will become comfortable with this experience. The benefits are life-changing and will transform your relationship with God in powerful ways.

HOW DOES THIS MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MY LIFE?

Speaking in tongues in your everyday life is like recharging your spiritual battery. When you use this gift, you energize your faith and strengthen your relationship with God. The more you do this, the more you will come to trust that you hear His voice and know His will for your life.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE GIFT OF TONGUES?

Every believer who receives the gift of the Holy Spirit will have a unique prayer language. Understanding this supernatural experience has been the primary purpose of this book.

There is another purpose for speaking in tongues called the gift of tongues, and not every believer functions in this gift.

What follows is a brief overview of what makes each special.

PRAYER LANGUAGE	Speak to God Speak mysteries Edify yourself No interpretation For all believers
GIFT OF TONGUES	Speaks to man Message is understood Edifies the church Interpretation needed Sign to unbelievers

While a unique prayer language is meant to be experienced individually by all believers, the gift of tongues refers to a corporate experience. It is connected to a time when the Holy Spirit gives a believer a message in tongues for a congregation or body of believers, and it is always accompanied by the gift of interpretation of tongues. An interpretation should always strengthen, encourage, and comfort believers.

The most important experience for the believer is the everyday use of tongues. This prayer language will build you up and strengthen you to do the good things God has planned for you (Ephesians 2:10 NLT).

PRAYER OF SALVATION

Heavenly Father,

I come to you in Jesus' name, and I believe with all of my heart that Jesus is the Son of God. He died on the cross to bear my sin debt. I open the door of my heart and the door of my life, and Jesus, I invite You in. I receive You now to be my Savior and to be my Lord. Thank You for coming. I am now a child of God. My sin is washed away. I am heaven bound. I confess boldly that Jesus is the Lord of my life. Amen.



VICTORYINFREMONT.COM
419.332.1527

Questions?
Email us at: info@victoryinfremont.com