

Baptism with the Holy Spirit (5) – What’s the evidence?

An important question. Few questions have divided the evangelical Church as much as this one, with some insisting on one particular evidence, speaking with other tongues, and others adamantly opposed to any supernatural manifestations of the Holy Spirit. The preceding four papers in this series on the Baptism with the Holy Spirit (who, what, why, when and how) set out the fundamental biblical truth that the Baptism with the Holy Spirit is separate from and subsequent to a person being born again of the Spirit into the body of Christ. Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, the acclaimed Anglican Bible teacher, in his book “Joy Unspeakable” asserts that this truth, on the separate and distinct timing of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit from the new birth, has historically been the central and normal teaching of the evangelical Church since the Acts of the Apostles. He notes that it is only in the last 100 years or so that a teaching has arisen to combine these separate events in to the single event of conversion. Let’s now consider, with open hearts, what the Bible says are the principal evidences that a person has received, been filled by, anointed with or baptized with the Holy Spirit, dealing first with the question of whether speaking with tongues is always the initial evidence.

Is speaking with other tongues always the initial evidence of Baptism with the Spirit?

Jesus: Luke 3:22 **And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him (Jesus)**

Luke 4:18 (Jesus speaking) **The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,**

Acts 10:38 **How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him. (No tongues)**

The principal purpose of Jesus being baptized with the Holy Spirit, 30 years after being conceived of the Holy Spirit, was to commence His public ministry in power consisting of preaching God’s word, healing the oppressed and doing good. There is no reference to Him speaking in tongues.

Disciples Acts 2:4 **And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.(Tongues)**
Acts 4:31 **And when they had prayed, the place where they were assembled together was shaken; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spoke the word of God with boldness. (No tongues)**

Samarians Acts 8:14-17 **Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John**

to them,... Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. (No tongues)

Paul Acts 9:17 **And Ananias ...laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, ...has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit."** (No tongues - but later there were)

Gentiles Acts 10:44-46 **While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished,... For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.** (Tongues)

Ephesians Acts 19:6 **And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.** (Tongues)

Eph 5:18-19 **And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;** KJV (No tongues)

Let's summarize the above with some other key events and people in Church history:

Holy Spirit Baptism without tongues

Jesus
Paul (initially)
Samaritans
Charles Finney & 2nd Awakening
D L Moody & Sankey revivals
Welsh revival early 1900
Andrew Murray
AB Simpson & Alliance Churches
R A Torrey's overseas revivals
Rees Howells & South African revival
A W Tozer & Dr. Lloyd-Jones

Holy Spirit Baptism with tongues

120 Disciples
Gentiles at Cornelius' house
Ephesians
L.A. Azusa Street Revival 1906
Pentecostal Churches
Charismatic movement
Smith Wigglesworth
South Korean revival
South American revivals

Can you be Baptized with the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues - Yes

Can you be Baptized with the Holy Spirit and speak with new tongues - Yes

Are tongues the exclusive initial evidence of the Baptism with the Spirit- No

Are tongues an initial evidence of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit - Yes

1 Cor 12:30 (Paul) ...**Do all speak with tongues?** (the implied answer – No)

1 Cor 14:5 **I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied;**

1 Cor 12:31 **But earnestly desire the best gifts. And yet I show you a more excellent way. ...**(Chap.13:4) **Love is patient, love is kind...**

What then determines whether the Baptism is accompanied by speaking in tongues or not? First of all God, for they only spoke in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance, secondly whether there has been any teaching on this and other gifts of the Spirit, for how can a person believe of that which he has not heard, and lastly whether a person has the desire for and belief in this particular gift.

In history it seems there are times when this gift is emphasized more than at other times. If this gift is less emphasized in some circles today it could be because of the temptation for people to imitate in the flesh the genuine gift and the tendency for inordinate emphasis on this gift to the neglect of the major ministries of the Holy Spirit in the life of a believer. These ministries naturally correspond with the principal evidences of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit.

The principal ministries of the Holy Spirit and evidences of the Baptism with the Spirit

Love: Increased love from God, increased love for God, for the lost and the brethren

Rom 5:5 **..The love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit**

Power: A supernatural power to preach and teach a full salvation with boldness and without the fear of man, not as an advocate but as a witness to the things preached.

Acts 1:8 **But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me...**

Fire: A baptism with fire where God's living words burn deep within the belly, the eyes are ablaze with Christ's passion and the tongue is aflame with the gospel of God.

Luke 3:16 **...He (Jesus) will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire .**

Truth: A deepening relationship with God through an increasing heart knowledge of God's words of truth as now revealed by the Spirit thus diminishing lies and deception.

John 16:13 **However, when He, the Spirit of truth , has come, He will guide you into all truth;...**

Prayer: A growing ability to let our prayers be guided by the Spirit into the will of God

Rom 8:26 **Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought,...**

Overcoming sin: A new found power, that didn't exist before, to say no to myself.

Gal 5:16 **...Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh .**

Trust: An enhanced ability to believe God & His word so more of His will can be done

Jude 20 **But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith ,
praying in the Holy Spirit ,**

Nature change: God progressively changes my selfish nature with Christ's nature

2 Cor 3:18 **But we... are being transformed into the same image (of Christ) ..by
the Spirit of the Lord.**

Obedience: God's own Spirit now causes me to obey His word – a better covenant

Eze 36:27 **I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes,
and you will keep My judgments and do them**

Guidance: My heavenly Father now offers to lovingly lead me in every area of life

Rom 8:14 **For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.**

Christ in me: No longer a distant God, now a revelation that Jesus Christ lives in me

1 Jo 3:24 **...And by this we know that He (Jesus Christ) abides in us, by the Spirit
whom He has given us.**

These are but eleven of the principal ministries of the Holy Spirit that progressively accompany and are evidences of the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. This does not mean that at any given time these evidences will be apparent in the life of a believer. Just because I may have fully surrendered my life to God and received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit doesn't guarantee that I will remain submitted all the time. I can grieve the Holy Spirit (Eph. 4:30) through yielding to the temptation to sin, through disobedience, and through unforgiveness. I can quench the operation of the Holy Spirit (1 Thes. 5:19) in a meeting by speaking against something of the Spirit that I don't understand and, at the same time, defiling myself. This is why God invites me in Ephesians 5:18 to be being filled with the Holy Spirit, meaning to constantly and deliberately renew being fully submitted to Christ's yoke and under the control of God the Holy Spirit.

When we have been baptized with the Holy Spirit and remain under the influence of the Spirit we earnestly desire other Christians to come into the knowledge and blessing of this truth and we therefore proclaim this deeper life in Christ to them.

2 Cor 4:13 **...we also believe and therefore speak ,**