

There are a couple of questions I want to ask before I get into the study. One, how many people think that they know everything that God has for us in this life? None of us can fully know what God has for us in heaven, but we are given pretty clear instructions on what He has for us here in this life. How many think they know all that God has for us here on earth? Well, I do not raise my hand to that question because I know there is much more for me to learn about God.

One thing I want you to keep in mind when you are learning something about God is that our perceptions of Him are filtered through our life experiences. In other words what we think we know about God is colored by what has happened to us in the past and our past relationships. A good example of this would be for those of us who did not have a loving earthly father. If your father did not love and care for you, you may have a hard time understanding what the love of God our Father means to our lives. We read that God loves us, but it is difficult for us to put that truth into our reality because we do not have an understanding of what a loving father is. So every aspect of the Word will be filtered through our experiences, our relationships and our understanding. That is why we need the power of the Holy Spirit to help us apply the truth of the Word to our lives. Keep this in mind as you study the scriptures and pray for a deeper understanding of the Word of God.

How many are aware that we are a Pentecostal church or also called a full gospel church? The Assemblies of God being full gospel means we accept the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues, this is one of our non-negotiable tenets of faith that all Assemblies of God churches adhere to. Four of these, are Salvation, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Divine Healing, and the Second Coming of Christ. Most Christians do not have a problem with salvation or divine healing or even the Second Coming of Christ. But many do not understand or know what the baptism of the Holy Spirit is. There is much confusion and division among Christians about whether the Baptism is relevant for today or was it just a one time experience for the 120 in the upper room. It is very important to remember that the Bible was not given to divide us, but to unite us in Christ. So if this is something new to you, please study the scriptures for your self and ask God for direction. Hebrews 11:6 tells us, "*He (or God) rewards those who sincerely seek him.*" (NLT) So take the information given tonight and seek to know God's will for your life and how this would apply to you. My prayer is not to lead any astray, but to speak the truth according to the Word of God. Remember those that teach will be held to a higher standard, so I am very careful about seeking what God would have me say to you.

1. What is the work of the Holy Spirit?

- a. Reference to the Holy Spirit is in context of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. As stated in *1 John 5:7*, “*For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.*” (NKJ) So the Holy Spirit has always been and will always be God. Like water can be ice, liquid or steam. All are the same but yet have a different function. So God is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, all are the same, yet all have different function.
- b. The work of the Holy Spirit is evident in Old Testament prophecy, or speaking on behalf of God. God used only a select few charismatic prophets, kings, and judges. They were moved by the Holy Spirit to minister supernaturally and experienced the presence of the Spirit. The reference in the Old Testament to the Holy Spirit is “*the Spirit of God*” or “*his Spirit.*” At creation, “*the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters*” (Genesis 1:2). At the building of the tabernacle workers were “*filled with the Spirit of God*” (Exodus 31 and 35). Prophets and national leaders ministered supernaturally when prompted by the Spirit of God (*Numbers 24:2; 1 Samuel 10:10; 11:6; 2 Chronicles 15:1; 24:20; Isaiah 48:16; Ezekiel 11:24; Zechariah 7:12*).
- c. The Holy Spirit worked through single individuals and worked for the good of the nation of Israel. In each case, however, prophetic speech was the sign of the Spirit’s coming to anoint particular people for ministry.
- d. In the New Testament, the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ changed all of that. He instructed His disciples in *Acts 1:4-5*, “*Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before.*”⁵ *John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.*” (NLT) And again in *Acts 1:8*, “*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*” (NLT)
- e. The Prophecy of *Joel 2:28-29* is fulfilled at Pentecost, “*I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy. Your old men will dream dreams. Your young men will see visions.*”²⁹ *In those days, I will pour out my Spirit even on servants, men and women alike.*”(NLT)

- f. The function of the Holy Spirit changed on the day of Pentecost. He is now free to work through all people.
- g. There are different functions of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament.
 - i. He always works to bring or draw people to God.
 - 1. This function has not changed and will not until there is a New Heavens and new earth. It is impossible to come to God without the working of the Holy Spirit in the hearts and minds of people.
 - ii. He works at conversion through the baptism into the Body of Christ.
 - 1. When we believed through faith in the work of the cross of Jesus Christ, we were brought into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit.
 - 2. *Galatians 3:26-28 states, “²⁶ So you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus. ²⁷ And all who have been united with Christ in baptism have been made like him. ²⁸ There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. For you are all Christians—you are one in Christ Jesus.” (NLT)*
 - 3. The Holy Spirit of God lives in you at conversion as stated in *Romans 8:9, “But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.” (NLT)* All those who belong to Christ or are a part of His body have the Spirit of God living in them. Since God lives in you, there will be evidence with the fruits of the Spirit in the life of the believer.
 - 4. *Galatians 5:22* tells us, “*The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control.*” (NKJ)
 - 5. If you are saved and God lives in you; the evidence will be the fruits of the Spirit in your life. Being fully justified at conversion, you begin the process of sanctification and there will be evidence of this in your life. The more we hang out with the Holy Spirit, the more we will become like Him. It is like hanging out in a flower shop after awhile you begin to smell like a flower, but if you hang out in smoke filled room, you smell like smoke.

6. If you are in Christ, you should be growing to become more like Him because He lives in you. At conversion, you are baptized into the body of Christ by the Holy Spirit for the purpose of new life with evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in your life. The Spirit now lives in you.
- iii. He functions through the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
1. This is an emersion of the Holy Spirit into a believer's life for power. As stated in *Acts 1:8*, "*But when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, you will receive power and will tell people about me.*" (NLT)
 2. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is for the purpose of empowering believers for service. Receiving the Holy Spirit upon conversion and being baptized in the Holy Spirit are two separate and distinct experiences. Now they can happen at the same time or they can happen as two separate events.
 3. Galatians 3:2 states it best, "*Let me ask you this one question: Did you receive the Holy Spirit by keeping the law? Of course not, for the Holy Spirit came upon you only after you believed the message you heard about Christ.*" (NLT)
 4. The disciples and others in the upper room already believed that Christ had died for their sins and they had seen Him after the resurrection. They were already on their way to heaven. They were already in Christ. But they lacked power to start the church; they needed wisdom to move forward into the leaders God had ordained them to be. They needed an extra boost to move them out of fear and into joy. No one can deny that what took place at Pentecost was nothing short of miraculous.
 5. The Holy Spirit was poured out upon the believers in the upper room with power and great authority. *Acts 2:1-4* describes, "*On the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus' resurrection, the believers were meeting together in one place.² Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm in the skies above them, and it filled the house where they were*

meeting.³ Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them.⁴ And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability.” (NLT)

6. At the Baptism of the Holy Spirit you are baptized by Jesus Christ into the Holy Spirit for the purpose of power to witness for Him with evidence of praying in tongues and the gifts of the Spirit.
7. Luke 3:16 states, “John answered their questions by saying, “I baptize with water; but someone is coming soon who is greater than I am—so much greater that I am not even worthy to be his slave. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.” (NLT)
8. The evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is praying in tongues and the gifts of the Spirit being manifest in the life of the believer. All those in the upper room prayed in tongues. Acts 10:45-46 states it best, “The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles, too.⁴⁶ And there could be no doubt about it, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.” (NLT)
9. There was no doubt that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit because they were speaking in tongues. Speaking in tongues is evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. We see also at Pentecost that Peter was given the gift of prophecy and 3000 were saved that day.
10. The gifts of the Spirit are in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 “To one person the Spirit gives the ability to give wise advice; to another he gives the gift of special knowledge.⁹ The Spirit gives special faith to another, and to someone else he gives the power to heal the sick.¹⁰ He gives one person the power to perform miracles, and to another the ability to prophesy. He gives someone else the ability to know whether it is really the Spirit of God or another spirit that is speaking. Still another person is given the ability to

... speak in unknown languages, and another is given the ability to interpret what is being said. ¹¹ It is the one and only Holy Spirit who distributes these gifts. He alone decides which gift each person should have.” (NLT)

11. When Jesus was baptized by John, he was also baptized with the Holy Spirit. *John tells us in Mark 1:9, “¹⁰ And when Jesus came up out of the water, he saw the heavens split open and the Holy Spirit descending like a dove on him.” Jesus did not begin his ministry until he had been fully baptized with power by the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:1 tells us, “Then Jesus, being filled with the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness.” (NLT)* As Jesus was filled with the Holy Spirit before he began his work, so the church needs to be filled with the Spirit before we can begin our work.
12. Christ will baptize us with the Holy Spirit and with fire. What happened in that upper room is still relevant today. It is still to be a part of what God wants all to experience to empower the believer to witness for Him. Christ is still baptizing Christians with the Holy Spirit as he did on the day of Pentecost.
13. Approximately 10 years we find in *Acts 10:36-48* the household of Cornelius received Christ as Savior and the baptism in the Holy Spirit immediately after being born again. We find in verse 46 that they spoke in tongues and magnified God. This was 10 years after the day of Pentecost. If the Baptism of the Holy Spirit were just for the 120 in the upper room, why is it happening 10 years later?
14. Or in *Acts 19:1-17* about 20 years after Pentecost, Paul went to Ephesus, “*While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior provinces. Finally, he came to Ephesus, where he found several believers. ² “Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?” he asked them. “No,” they replied, “we don’t know what you mean. We haven’t even heard that there is a Holy Spirit.” ³ “Then what baptism did you experience?” he asked. And they replied, “The baptism of John.” ⁴ Paul said, “John’s baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin and turn to*

God. John himself told the people to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later.”⁵ As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶ Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied. ⁷ There were about twelve men in all.” (NLT)

15. It would have been pointless for Paul to ask, *“Have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?”* if believers automatically receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit when they believe on Jesus as Savior. When Paul laid hands on them, they spoke in tongues and prophesied. We see from scripture that every time someone was baptized in the Holy Spirit, they received their prayer language to praise God. It is entirely different from the gift of tongues in a church service that is to be interpreted.

2. What is the difference between the evidence of praying in tongues and the gift of tongues?
 - a. Everyone baptized in the Holy Spirit prays in tongues. This is not the gift of tongues. This is evidence of the Spirit as stated in Galatians 3:2. The Spirit of God takes over and we pray in a language that is not known to us.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 14:14 states it best, *“For if I pray in tongues, my spirit is praying, but I don’t understand what I am saying.”* (NLT)
 - ii. And in 1 Corinthians 14:4, *“A person who speaks in tongues is strengthened personally in the Lord, but one who speaks a word of prophecy strengthens the entire church.”* (NLT)
 - iii. It is automatic, all you have to do is open your mouth and the words will come. It is not however, something that you have no control over. It can be started and stopped at will.
 - iv. I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit about 1 ½ years after my conversion.
 - v. Benefits.
 1. Praying in tongues is for the edification of your walk with God. It strengthens you.
 2. Praying in tongues opens up the scriptures to you in a whole new way. It deepens your understanding of the Word.
 3. Praying in tongues gives you power in prayer. Since the Spirit of God is praying through you, you are in complete agreement with God.

- b. Everyone baptized in the Holy Spirit is given gifts. The gifts as stated in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11 are different for everyone. The Spirit decides which gifts to give each of us.
- i. The gifts are for the edification of the body. As stated in *1 Corinthians 12:7*, “A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.” (NLT) The gift of tongues would be speaking out a message in tongues to the entire church.
 - ii. Paul teaches us that this gift should always be followed by someone who can interrupt what was said. *1 Corinthians 14:27-28*, “No more than two or three should speak in an unknown language. They must speak one at a time, and someone must be ready to interpret what they are saying.”²⁸ *But if no one is present who can interpret, they must be silent in your church meeting and speak in tongues to God privately.*” (NLT)
 - iii. In 1 Corinthians 12 Paul goes into great detail about the specific gift of speaking in tongues. We are to seek the gifts that would be of the most benefit for the body, not ourselves. *1 Corinthians 12:31*, “And in any event, you should desire the most helpful gifts.” (NLT)
 - iv. The gift of speaking in tongues with an interpretation during a church service is a sign for the unbeliever. *1 Corinthians 14:22*, “So you see that speaking in tongues is a sign, not for believers, but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for the benefit of believers, not unbelievers.” (NLT)
 - v. God has used me to give a message in tongues during a church service and He has used me to interrupt. When I feel the Spirit of God moving in a service, I always pray that I am open for Him to use me and I always look around for someone else who has been used of this gift, so they can interrupt. Sometimes He has used me to do both and sometimes just one. It is entirely up to God. And I just pray to be open for Him to use.
 - vi. One thing to keep mind is the Spirit will never come where He is not welcome. Paul teaches us that we have control over being used or not.

1 Corinthians 14: 32-33, "Remember that people who prophesy are in control of their spirit and can wait their turn.³³ For God is not a God of disorder but of peace, as in all the other churches." (NLT) And if you feel the moving of the Holy Spirit, but you are in a place that would not welcome the message, you can remain silent.

- vii. Since tongues in a church service is something we can start or stop, you should wait for an opening. Usually it is a pause in worship or right after a prayer. But never, never interrupt the pastor or the worship. God does not work that way. As Paul states, if you are being used by God for a message in tongues or prophecy, wait your turn!
- viii. Benefits to gift of tongues
 - 1. Edifies the entire church body
 - 2. Is a sign to the unbeliever to repent
 - 3. Strengthens the faith of the believer

Praying in tongues is something everyone does after being baptized and is for their own benefit. Speaking out a message in tongues during a church service is the gift of tongues and is for the benefit of the entire body and the unbeliever. Not everyone Baptized in the Holy Spirit will receive the gift of tongues, but everyone will pray in tongues for their own benefit.

3. How do you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit?

- a. First, you must be a believer. You must have had a conversion experience where you realized you were a sinner and separated from God. And that Jesus Christ paid the penalty for your sin by freely giving His life on the cross. You have accepted this gift of salvation and turned your life over to God to manage. You have turned from your sin and turned to God. This is the baptism into the body of Christ. The Holy Spirit was working in your life to bring you to Christ and now you have the Holy Spirit living in you with the evidence of the fruit of the Spirit.
- b. Receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is another step of faith. You receive by asking God for more of Him.
- c. Be open to whatever God would have for you. It is another step of allowing God to move freely in life, no matter what that may mean. Believe that there is more of God for you and more power to do the work He has set before you.