

# **Choose Power and Live**

by

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**Choose Power and Live**  
Affectionately Dedicated  
to the  
Holy Spirit

ISBN 1-878957-14-7  
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Jackson, Mississippi 39205

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## Introduction

Every believer has been granted the privilege of receiving divine power and ability after being born again. Supernatural empowerment is available to *all* believers, enabling them to *abundantly* live the life of Christ imparted through the New Birth.

This infilling of power lifts a life from the ordinary to the *extraordinary* - from the natural to the *supernatural*!

Although receipt of this heavenly gift is a privilege, it is furthermore a necessity! So vital is this empowerment that instructions for receiving it were included among the final words of Jesus prior to His Ascension:

**But ye {believers} shall receive *power* after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses ... (Acts 1:8).**

Jesus - the same yesterday, today, and forever - has not deleted these instructions. Rather, He continues beseeching *every* believer to receive the Holy Spirit's power. This power, essential for success of the Early Church, is all the more necessary for victory during this "evil day"!

**Jesus Christ *the same* yesterday, and today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).**

**For the promise {*power*} is unto you, and to your children, and to *all* that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call {all believers} (Acts 2:39).**

Although the Holy Spirit's power is a gift, only hungry believers are candidates to receive it. Therefore, our prayer is that in reading the following, you will desire this gracious offer of victory and will - *choose power and live!*



## Chapter 1

### Baptism With the Holy Spirit

Scripture clearly distinguishes between New Birth *by* the Holy Spirit and baptism *with* the Holy Spirit.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus referenced both of these experiences, the Holy Spirit being typified as water in both instances.

Jesus likened the Holy Spirit's residence following the New Birth to a well of water.

**The water {Spirit} that I shall give him shall be *in* him a well of water springing up into everlasting life (John 4:14).**

Upon believing in your heart that God raised His Son Jesus from the dead and confessing Him as Savior and Lord of your life, you become a temple, or abode, of the Holy Spirit, who unites with your human spirit.

Notice that the residence of the Holy Spirit following the New Birth is referenced as a *well*, indicating that it is not overflowing, but is stationary water which must be drawn out. Therefore, at the New Birth, one is *indwelt by* the Holy Spirit but is not yet *baptized*, or filled to overflowing, *with* the Holy

Spirit.

However, according to Jesus, *every* believer should desire and exercise faith to receive baptism *with* the Holy Spirit whereby the stored power within their *wells* of life can be released to flow out as *rivers* of living water.

**If any man thirst {desire} ... believing on me {one born again}, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow *rivers* of living water. But this spake he {Jesus} of the Spirit, which *they that believe on him* {all Christians} *should* receive ... (John 7:37-39).**

Jesus foretold that those who would be born again *by* the Holy Spirit, possessing *wells* of living water, should thirst, desiring baptism *with* the Holy Spirit, whereby that indwelling power be unleashed as outflowing *rivers*.

Scripture relates an example of these distinctive, twofold encounters with the Holy Spirit as occurring in Samaria following its evangelization through Philip's ministry.

**Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God {being born again}, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who ... prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14,15).**

The Samaritans obviously had been born again *by* the Spirit, having received the Word preached by Philip prior to the visit of Peter and John.

Therefore, those apostles did not pray for the

Samaritans to be born again *by* the Spirit, but rather that they might receive the baptism *with* the Holy Spirit.

These Samaritans were already born again, and had the Holy Spirit resident within their human spirits as *wells* of water. However, when hands were laid upon them, they released faith and allowed *rivers* of the Holy Spirit to flow from their wells. They were then filled and overflowing; they were *baptized with* the Holy Spirit!

**Then laid they {Peter and John} their hands on them, and they received {baptism with} the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17).**



## Chapter 2

### Purpose of the Holy Spirit Baptism

**T**he disciples of Jesus were born again *by* the Holy Spirit when Jesus appeared to them following His Resurrection.

**He {Jesus} shewed unto them his hands and his side {after His resurrection}. Then ... he breathed on them, and saith unto them, *Receive ye the Holy Spirit* {for New Birth} (John 20:20, 22).**

At this point, the disciples of Jesus became *indwelt* by the Holy Spirit, experiencing New birth. However, they had not yet been *baptized with* the Holy Spirit.

Therefore, Jesus *commanded* them not to leave their local vicinity as His witnesses until they had received the promise of the Father - enduement of power through baptism *with* the Holy Spirit!

**And {Jesus}, being assembled together with them, *commanded* them that they should not de-part from Jerusalem, but wait for the *promise of the Father* {baptism with the Holy Spirit} ... (Acts 1:4).**

**For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be *baptized with the Holy Spirit* not many days hence (Acts 1:5).**

Jesus instructed His initial disciples - those previously born again *by* the Holy Spirit when He appeared to them following His resurrection - to "tarry" for the Holy Spirit baptism because this experience was not available until after His Ascension to the Father.

**And, behold, I {Jesus} *send* the promise of my Father upon you {Baptism with the Holy Spirit}: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with *power* from on high (Luke 24:49).**

However, since the Day of Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit was initially outpoured, it is no longer necessary to tarry for receipt of the Holy Spirit baptism. The Holy Spirit's fullness is available to *all* believers. It is simply the Christian's responsibility to *believe* God's Word and *receive* this power which Jesus gave His life to outpour:

**Who, when they {Peter and John} were come down, prayed for them, and they *received* the Holy Spirit {without waiting} (Acts 8:15).**

**Then laid they their hands on them, and they *received* the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17).**

**He {Paul} said unto them, Have ye *received* the Holy Spirit since ye believed (Acts 19:2)?**

The Holy Spirit baptism endues believers with power, in obedience to the *commands* of Jesus:

**Observe *all* things whatsoever I have *commanded* you**

**(Matthew 28:20).**

**But ye *shall* receive power, after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you ... (Acts 1:8).**

This power results in supernatural ability for the believer by which the Lord *confirms and demonstrates* His proclaimed Word. Such confirmations are not optional, for Scripture emphasizes that the Gospel must be "showed" as well as "told."

**For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in *power* (1 Corinthians 4:20).**

Stephen, a deacon who served tables, worked *great wonders and miracles* because he was "full of the Holy Spirit," having been baptized *with* the Holy Spirit.

**They chose Stephen, a man *full of faith and of the Holy Spirit* ... (Acts 6:5).**

**And Stephen, *full of faith and power*, did great wonders and miracles among the people (Acts 6:8).**

Baptism with the Holy Spirit allows believers to co-labor with the Lord in demonstrating the validity of His Word through supernatural signs and wonders.

**And they {Spirit-filled Believers} went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and *confirming the Word* with *signs* following (Mark 16:20).**

What is the initial *evidence* that one has, in fact, received this baptism with the Holy Spirit? What

immediate, outward manifestation accompanies this  
*inward* grace?



### Chapter 3

#### Evidence of the Holy Spirit Baptism

**T**he Book of Acts, spanning a period of approximately thirty years, relates five instances in which believers, both individuals and groups, received the Holy Spirit baptism subsequent to the New Birth. Upon receiving this gift, these believers began to speak utterances (other tongues) which they had never learned naturally, indicating that their baptism *with* the Spirit was occurring.

At the *initial outpouring* of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, one hundred twenty born-again believers, including the mother of Jesus, began to speak forth these divinely granted utterances. Furthermore, Scripture emphasizes that *all* of these believers, not merely a select few, were filled with the Spirit, initially evidenced by their speaking in other tongues.

**And they were *all* filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with *other tongues*, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4).**

*Ten years following this initial outpouring* of the Holy Spirit, Scripture records that a group of Gentiles also received baptism with the Holy Spirit. The fact that Gentile believers spoke languages unknown to them was evidence to the Jewish believers that the

Holy Spirit baptism had, in fact, been received by the Gentiles.

And they of the circumcision {Jews} which believed were astonished ... because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the *gift of the Holy Spirit*. For they heard them speak with *tongues*, and magnify God ... (Acts 10:45,46).

Furthermore, *twenty years following the Day of Pentecost*, there is recorded another example of Christians who were like many present-day believers - They had not even heard that power through the Holy Spirit baptism existed. They were only familiar with literal water baptism accompanying the New Birth.

Faith came to them as Paul expounded the availability of baptism with the Holy Spirit and these believers, formerly ignorant of such an opportunity, received the Holy Spirit baptism, as *evidenced by their speaking divine utterances* (other tongues) inspired of the Holy Spirit.

He {Paul} said unto them, *Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed* {since being born again}? And they said unto him, *We have not so much as heard* whether there be any Holy Spirit (Acts 19:2).

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

Some may inquire, "But was not this power merely for a privileged few in the first century Church?" No! Note the Master's Great Commission as recorded by Mark, and you will see that it is for "*them that*

*believe!*"

And these signs shall follow *them that believe*; In my name shall they cast out devils; they *shall speak with new tongues* (Mark 16:17).



Chapter 4  
**This Matter of Tongues**

As was previously documented, the Scriptures teach that baptism with the Holy Spirit is accompanied, and initially evidenced, by speaking with tongues. This is a *devotional language* by which a believer can pray perfectly to the Heavenly Father.

Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities {weaknesses}: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the *Spirit himself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered* {with the natural language} (Romans 8:26).

Tongues are mysteries to man's understanding and to the kingdom of darkness, but not to the Heavenly Father and the holy angels. Therefore, a believer's prayer language of other tongues is bestowed for the purpose of communicating with God, not men.

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh *not unto men, but unto God*: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries (1 Corinthians 14:2).

For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but *my understanding is unfruitful* (1 Corinthians 14:14).

According to Scripture, the believer's *devotional prayer language* of tongues differs from the *spiritual gift* of "divers tongues." Through the devotional prayer language of tongues, which all believers should

receive, *man speaks to God*. However, through the spiritual gift of "divers tongues," *God speaks to man*, and interpretation in a known, learned language should follow, whereby the Lord's message may be understood by those present.

Although *every* believer should receive the ability to pray devotionally in tongues, Scripture clearly teaches that *not all* Believers will be gifted with "divers tongues."

For to *one* is given by the Spirit ... *divers kinds of tongues*; to another the interpretation of tongues (1 Corinthians 12:8,10).

And God hath set *some* in the church ... *diversities of tongues* (1 Corinthians 12:28).

The Apostle Paul, author of a major portion of the New Testament, referred to this distinction in divine utterances. First, he testified of his *devotional prayer language* received when he was baptized with the Holy Spirit following his New Birth:

Ananias ... said, *Brother Saul* {signifying that Saul had become a believer}, the Lord, even Jesus ... hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and *be filled with the Holy Spirit* (Acts 9:17).

I {Paul} thank my God, *I speak with tongues* more than ye all (1 Corinthians 14:18).

However, Paul subsequently contrasted his prayer language of tongues with the spiritual gift of "divers tongues." He stated that one should refrain from



publicly exercising the *spiritual gift* of tongues apart from the accompanying interpretation; otherwise, such ministry is unfruitful, for the Lord's message cannot be understood.

**Yet in the church {publicly} I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, then ten thousand words in an unknown tongue (I Corinthians 14:19).**

**But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church: and let him speak to himself, and to God (I Corinthians 14:28).**

The ultimate purpose of the Holy Spirit baptism - *power* - cannot be accomplished apart from *exercising* this devotional prayer language. Praying in tongues edifies, or charges, the spirit of man, thus releasing God's power from the born-again spirit into the soul and body, producing a supernatural lifestyle and witness.

**He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself... (I Corinthians 14:4).**

**But ye, beloved, *building up* {charging} your-selves on your most holy faith, *praying in the Holy Spirit* (Jude 20).**



## Chapter 5 Holy Spirit Baptism - Not an Option

**B**aptism with the Holy Spirit is not a mere luxury; it is a command! Jesus and His Word are one. To reject, knowingly or ignorantly, any part of God's Word is to delete a portion of the Lordship of Jesus from your life.

The early Christians had a common experience recorded in the Book of Acts: They spoke to the Heavenly Father in other tongues.

Until the Dark Ages, when God's Word became inaccessible to the public, the Holy Spirit baptism was not even an issue but, rather, an *expectation!* Believers were well aware that this enduement of power accompanied by praying in tongues was not a *consideration*; it was a *command!*

**Praying always ... *in the Spirit* ... (Ephesians 6:18).**

***Forbid not* to speak with *tongues* (I Corinthians 14:39).**

**And these signs shall follow them that believe ... *they shall speak with new tongues* (Mark 16:17).**



Chapter 6  
**Choose To Receive Power**

Christians must co-labor with the Lord in advancing His kingdom presently in order to receive reward eternally. Therefore, we are believing that you will now *purpose* to receive this release of divine power to be a great blessing in the earth and to accrue treasures in the ages to come.

There are only two foundational re-quirements for receiving baptism with the Holy Spirit: *first*, being born again; *second*, being desirous to follow the Lord.

**The Spirit of truth; whom the world {unbelievers} cannot receive ... (John 14:17).**

**Blessed are they which do *hunger and thirst* after righteousness: for they *shall be filled* (Matthew 5:6).**

If in doubt concerning your New Birth, *believe* with all your heart and *confess* with your mouth the following:

**I confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is *my* Lord. I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead. Therefore, *I am saved*. (Romans 10:9).**

Your New Birth is the first and foremost gift as it ensures eternal life with God. However, following the New Birth, you must be empowered for victory and service through baptism with the Holy Spirit.

You can earn neither your salvation nor your baptism with the Holy Spirit, for they are *gifts* which must be *received*. According to Jesus, the Holy Spirit baptism is received by *asking* and *believing*. There is no need to fear, for the Lord will never give you a counterfeit.

**If ye then, being evil {natural}, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give {to His children} the Holy Spirit to them that *ask* Him (Luke 11:13)?**

**Ask, and ye *shall* receive, that your joy may be full (John 16:24).**

When receiving baptism with the Holy Spirit, you must give voice to those sounds or words which you sense rising from your innermost being. Do not speak one word in your natural language; instead, begin by faith to speak in an *unknown language*, or tongue. These utterances will not be thoughts from your mind; they are simply voiced by you as they proceed directly from your spirit to the Heavenly Father.

While speaking in other tongues, your Holy Spirit baptism is occurring - flooding your entire being! You may or may not "feel" anything. Scripture promises not a *feeling* but a *filling*, as evidenced by your speaking in other tongues.

**And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and {they} began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4).**

**On the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy**

**Ghost. For they *heard them speak with tongues*, and magnify God (Acts 10:45,46).**

Often believers who have been baptized with the Holy Spirit will assist others in receiving this experience by laying hands on them. This is certainly scriptural but is not absolutely necessary.

Laying on of hands is simply a point of contact which assists one in releasing faith to receive. However, many receive the Holy Spirit baptism without such contact, especially when proper teaching and instruction are available.

To be baptized with the Holy Spirit, adhere to the following: first, *cast all cares*, including besetting sins, upon the Lord; second, *believe to receive* as you boldly confess the following:

**Heavenly Father,**

**I come to You with an open heart to receive all that You have for me.**

**I am your child, for I believe with my heart that You raised Your Son Jesus from the dead, and I confess Him as my Savior and Lord.**

**Jesus said that You, Heavenly Father, will give the Holy Spirit baptism to those who ask.**

**Therefore, Father, in the Name of Jesus, I ask You now to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit.**

***I choose power!* I receive God's ability and power for which I thirst.**

**I confess and believe that Jesus is now baptizing me with the Holy Spirit.**

**I yield my voice, and I speak forth in other tongues as the**

**Holy Spirit gives me utterance.**

**Rivers of living water are flowing from my innermost being. I have received the power of Your Holy Spirit baptism!**

**Thank You, Father, for this good and perfect gift!**

**In Jesus' Name, Amen!**

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

Now open your mouth and immediately begin voicing those syllables in an unknown tongue, not speaking one word in your native language. The Holy Spirit will not literally *speak* the utterances for you. *You* must speak the utterances, the supernatural element being *what* is said rather than *who* is speaking.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and *{they}* began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:4).

The Holy Spirit simply *inspires* the utterances; *you* must speak them forth in other tongues! The Spirit will not force you to speak. He merely supplies the words; *you* must supply the sound!

Now continue speaking or singing those supernatural utterances as your Holy Spirit baptism is occurring.

The utterances may seem to be some-what stammering when initially beginning to speak. However, in directing your attention to *Who* is being worshipped rather than to *what* is being spoken, the

utterances will begin to flow more fluently.

Visualize rivers of water streaming forth from the *well* of water within your belly. As you speak, the Holy Spirit is flowing upward from your innermost being and is issuing from your mouth. Thereby your engulfment and baptism *with* the Holy Spirit is occurring.

When receiving the Holy Spirit baptism, it is as though the "lid" of your *well* (born-again spirit) is removed. The *rivers* of living water then begin flowing, resulting in your baptism *with* the Holy Spirit!

**So then faith {expecting to receive} cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God (Romans 10:17).**

Having heard God's Word, faith has arisen for you to receive the Holy Spirit baptism. Return to the beginning of this section, and *act* from your heart upon the instructions set forth. You *will* be baptized with the Holy Spirit, with the initial evidence of your speaking in other tongues. God's power *will* be developed in and through your life!



## Chapter 7

### One Initial Infilling - Many Subsequent Refillings

**F**ollowing your Baptism with the Holy Spirit, you will notice other evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit, in addition to speaking with tongues.

Of personal benefit will be an insatiable hunger for God's Word, accompanied by an increased ability to understand and respond to the truth.

However, in order to continue in these blessings, it is necessary to *stay filled* with the Holy Spirit. Though there is one initial *infilling* with the Holy Spirit, there must be consistent, subsequent *refillings*.

Just as one filled with natural water doesn't remain satisfied unless he continually drinks, likewise you must remain filled with the Holy Spirit by *daily* exercising your prayer language and meditating on God's Word.

The Apostle Paul spoke regarding the necessity of *continual refillings* when he wrote instructions to believers who had previously received the Holy Spirit baptism.

***Be {being} filled with the Spirit (Ephesians 5:18).***

Notice that the literal Greek tense, "be being filled," is progressive, denoting that this is an *ongoing*

process. Just as you *choose* to pray and sing in a known language, so you must *choose* to pray and sing in other tongues.

**I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also (I Corinthians 14:15).**

You may direct your prayers in other tongues by stating a subject to the Heavenly Father and then, in Jesus' Name, undergirding that subject by praying in tongues until release, or peace, comes.

When praying in other tongues, you are voicing the perfect will of God. Therefore, after covering a subject by praying with the spirit, begin thanking the Lord, *knowing* that His intent has avenue for accomplishment because you have prayed the Lord's *perfect* will while praying in other tongues. What an invaluable tool is this gift in causing the Father's will to be done in earth as it is in heaven!

Your baptism with the Holy Spirit is not an arrival but, rather, the *gateway* to supernatural and abundant life. Following Jesus in spirit and in truth, consistently exercising your prayer language, you will ...

***Walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, increasing in the knowledge of God (Colossians 1:10).***

Having chosen *power*, confidently pursue life in Christ and *truly live!*