

The History of Pentecost

May 21, 2006

Acts 19:1-7 (NLT)

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.

The Apostle Peter said.....

Acts 11:15-17 (NLT)

"Well, I began telling them the Good News, but just as I was getting started, the Holy Spirit fell on them, just as he fell on us at the beginning. [16] Then I thought of the Lord's words when he said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' [17] And since God gave these Gentiles the same gift he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to argue?"

Last Sunday, I went over to Stacy's house for dinner and after we finished eating, Rhea Ann and I were talking and she asked me about how she could answer some questions from some kids at her school who were sort of making fun of people who speak in tongues and telling her that speaking in tongues was not for the church today, etc.

As we talked, I realized that even though I have dealt with this subject many times through the years, it is necessary to talk about it often because we tend to forget.

So today, I want to talk to you about just what we believe about speaking in other tongues.

First of all, let me say that we firmly believe that you are saved by believing in Jesus Christ and making Him Lord of your life.

The Apostle Paul said...

Romans 10:9-10 (NLT)

For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. [10] For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved.

Jesus said.....

John 3:16-17 (NLT)

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. [17] God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

John 14:6 (NLT)

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

When a person truly believes that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is the only truth and the only way to eternal life, and that person confesses that with his mouth, the Bible says something very dramatic takes place.

Jesus referred to it as experiencing a new birth.

John 3:3 (NKJV)

Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

Paul referred to it as becoming a new creation.

2 Cor. 5:17 (NKJV)

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

We firmly believe that believing in Jesus Christ and making Him Lord of your life is the only way to be saved and the only way to receive eternal life.

We believe that anyone who has done that has eternal life and will go to heaven when he dies regardless of whether he is a Baptist, Methodist, Pentecostal, Presbreyterian, Catholic or whatever label he may wear. It not about what church you go to, it's about whether or not you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The New Birth is definitely the work of the Holy Spirit and anyone who is born-again definitely has the Holy Spirit living within him.

But the Bible talks about another experience that God wants each born-again to have. In our church and churches like ours we call it the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

The Bible says that John, who was called John the Baptist, preached a message of repentance and he baptized his converts in water. But listen to what John had to say about Jesus and what Jesus was going to do.

Matthew 3:11 (NKJV)

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

Mark 1:7-8 (NKJV)

And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. [8] I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

Luke 3:16 (NKJV)

John answered, saying to all, "I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

John 1:32-34 (NKJV)

And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. [33] I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' [34] And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God."

I have just read to you from all four of the Gospels what John had to say about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. He said, "Jesus is much greater than I am and He is going to do something that I cannot do. He is going to baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

John was referring to something that Jesus was going to do on the Day of Pentecost. It was not the new-birth experience. It was a Baptism in the Holy Spirit experience.

Acts 1:4 (NKJV)

And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me;

After Jesus said that to His followers, they went to an upper room in Jerusalem to wait as Jesus had commanded them to do. They stayed there ten days.

Acts 2:1-4 (NKJV)

When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. [2] And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. [3] Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. [4] And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

When the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, "They all spoke in other tongues". Or you might say that they all spoke in a language that was unknown to them.

No one denies that they spoke in other tongues on the Day of Pentecost. The Bible is very clear about that. But there are those who would argue that the experience they had that day was only for them and it is not for us.

But that is not what Peter said about it. He said....

Acts 2:38-39 (NKJV)

....."Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. [39] For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

When he said, "For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." He was talking about you and me. This experience is for everyone who has been born-again.

In his great sermon that day, Peter quoted from the prophetic book of Joel.

Acts 2:14-17 (NKJV)

But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. [15] For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. [16] But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: [17] 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

We are living in the "Last Days". The last days that Joel talked about began on the Day of Pentecost. These are the days when God has promised He will pour out His Spirit on all flesh. In other words, this Pentecostal experience is available today to anyone who will seek for it.

There are several other accounts in the Book of Acts where people were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The first one happened eight days after the Day of Pentecost. Philip carried the gospel to the people of Samaria. It's recorded in Acts, Chapter 8.

Acts 8:5-8 (NKJV)

Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. [6] And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. [7] For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralyzed and lame were healed. [8] And there was great joy in that city.

Acts 8:12 (NKJV)

But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.

Here were people who had heard the message of Christ preached and had received that message and been baptized. Were they saved? Yes!

Jesus said.....

Mark 16:15-16 (NKJV)

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. [16] He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

The Samaritans believed and were baptized. According to the words of Jesus, they were saved. Notice what happened next.

Acts 8:14-17 (NKJV)

Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, [15] who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. [16] For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **[17] Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.**

The point I am making is that these people were definitely saved. They were believers. They had been baptized. But they had not yet received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

About 10 years after the Day of Pentecost, God sent Peter to the house of a Gentile named Cornelius.

Cornelius was a good man. He was a man who feared God and gave alms generously to the people and prayed. But he had not yet heard the message of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ.

So God told him to send for Peter and that Peter would explain to him what he needed to do to be saved. So Cornelius called for Peter and Peter went to his house and explained the plan of salvation to him and his family and apparently, while Peter was explaining the plan of salvation to them they received it gladly and were born again and before Peter was finished they were baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-46 (NKJV)

While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. [45] And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. [46] For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

The skeptics who went with Peter to Cornelius' house were convinced that these Gentiles had received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit because they heard them speaking in other tongues.

About 20 years after the Day of Pentecost Paul tells the believers in Ephesus about the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6 (NKJV)

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples [2] he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." [3] And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." [4] Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." [5] When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. [6] And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.

Throughout the Book of Acts there are stories of those who were baptized in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. It was an experience that was made available to all who believe in Jesus Christ. It was first poured out on the Day of Pentecost and it is still available today.

The modern day out pouring of the Holy Spirit started in America 100 years ago. A couple of weeks ago thousands of Spirit Filled believers gathered in Los Angeles to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Holy Spirit revival that began there in a small church on Azusa Street.

There was a big write up about it in the Houston Chronicle. Let me read a few paragraphs to you from that article.

“ Three days before the devastating 1906 San Francisco earthquake, a different sort of force rocked another California city.

In a dilapidated church on Azusa Street in Los Angeles, a spiritual force unleashed by the son of a former slave shook the foundations of Christianity and led to the modern Pentecostal-Charismatic movement, according to Christian scholars.

In a revival service that would continue, effectively for three years, the Rev. William Joseph Seymour began teaching about a “baptism in the Holy Spirit,” a personal spiritual encounter with God manifested through glossolalia – speaking in tongues.

Baptism in the Holy Spirit was a revolutionary teaching Seymour had learned only a few weeks earlier at a Houston Bible school.

The Pentecostal-Charismatic movement, which now has more than 600 million adherents worldwide, grew from the Apostolic Faith Mission, as Seymour named his church.

“ It literally changed Christianity”, said S. David Moore, co-author of *The Charismatic Century* It is the second largest grouping of Christianity in the world today behind Roman Catholicism, (1.1 billion)”

The largest churches in the world today are “Spirit-filled” churches. The largest church in America is right here in Houston. It is a Spirit-filled church.

Christian television networks that broadcast the gospel around the world are run by Spirit-filled believers.

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is for everyone. It is for you.

The question is, “Have you received this experience since you became a believer in Jesus Christ?”

If not. Why not? It is a wonderful, powerful experience that God wants you to have.

Two weeks from tonight, many Spirit-filled churches in this area will be meeting together at Gulf Meadows Church for the express purpose of helping people be baptized in the Holy Spirit. .

I want to encourage you to go to that meeting expecting to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Give Invitation.