

HOLY SPIRIT FILLED

Once a person receives Jesus as their Lord and Savior, they enter into the first phase of *the perfect will of God* for their life. 2 Peter 3:9 tells us, **The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.** It then becomes each individual's responsibility to develop their personal prayer life so that they get to personally know the Father God and His perfect will for their life. (Romans 12:1-2: **I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. ²And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God**). If you're saved, and you are not baptized in the Holy Spirit, you need to ask God to fill you. As a believer, you have no scriptural reason **not** to be speaking in tongues. On the contrary, you've been admonished and given the command by the Lord to receive the Holy Spirit, as we read in:

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

Luke 24:49: And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

Acts 1:8: But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

Acts 2:1-4: And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Acts 10:44-48: While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. ⁴⁵And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. ⁴⁶For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, ⁴⁷Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? ⁴⁸And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

Acts 19:1-6: **And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, ²He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. ³And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. ⁴Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. ⁵When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

God wants each one of His children to walk in, and *fulfill the perfect will of God* for their life. It will be one of the most difficult challenges that a believer will have, but it is our responsibility to see to it that we grow and develop spiritually and stay filled with the Holy Spirit. To do this, we need to **continually** and **daily** seek the Lord in prayer to get direction for our lives and to be spiritually refreshed. It is then that we will know God's voice and what He wants us to do. Hearing from the Lord and acting on what He tells us and leads us to do will help us to stay steady in the midst of tests, trials and persecution. We will be living in peace, and not confusion, strife or turmoil. Acting on what God tells us to do produces peace in our heart and a knowing in our spirit man that we're doing what God wants us to do.

There have been many times in my life that I felt like quitting and giving up because the battle seemed to be so severe that I felt that I couldn't take it any longer. The pressure was on to give up and quit believing God. In those difficult times, what seemed to help me the most to keep going was to *spend more time praying in tongues*. When I spent more time praying in tongues, I'd begin to get a witness in my heart not to give up, but to *keep on standing*. Really, before we do anything, especially before we make any changes or major decisions, we should first of all get it settled in our heart that *'this is what God wants me to do.'* When we make mistakes and miss God in direction it usually happens because we listen to others, and were persuaded by their influence. We really knew inside our heart that it was not the direction to pursue, but because we wanted to please others and make them happy, or because we lacked the courage to say "no", we succumbed to their will, and to the will of God.

There is probably nothing that we get more persecuted over by the body of Christ, or even by those whom we love the most and who seem to be closest to us, than when we step out in faith to do what God led us to do. When you obey God, you're going to be misunderstood, criticized, and gossiped about because of the persecution the devil raises up. This intimidation has kept many from stepping out into the will of the Lord. The devil is going to do all he can to wear you down to get you to compromise your commitment to God and to violate your convictions. Satan will use everything he has in his arsenal to come against your going on for the Lord. He will stop at nothing and will use everyone who will listen to him to try to persuade you not to do what you believe you're to do. With Jesus, he used Judas and Peter (**From that time forth began Jesus**

to shew unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day. ²²Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee. ²³But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men Matthew 16:21-23). With Paul, he used Alexander the coppersmith, and with Peter, he used Herod.

As long as you're alive on this earth and attempting to do something for the Lord, *Satan will never quit attempting to stop* you from fulfilling the will of God. He's not playing games; he has literally destroyed many believers and has kept even more from ever stepping out and believing God. We must not quit when the going gets hard; neither are we to compromise when we're being misunderstood, nor are we to give in to persecution. We must go on and serve the Lord and please Him, for as we read in the Word:

1 Corinthians 10:13: There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

Ephesians 3:20: Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us,

James 1:12: Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

1 Peter 5:8,9: Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: ⁹Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

All the believers in the New Testament that we have any scriptural information on were people who were *baptized in the Holy Spirit*. We have no scriptural reference in the New Testament of any believer that was mightily used of God that indicates that they weren't baptized in the Holy Spirit, or didn't speak in tongues. As we read about Stephen's life in Acts 6:4 & 8 ...**and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost,...**⁸**And Stephen, full of faith and power, did great wonders and miracles among the people.**

The in-filling of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is what God gave the church to help keep them built up spiritually. It's no wonder the apostle Paul said, *'I thank my God I pray in tongues more than you all.'* Through all the problems and persecutions that he endured as a man of God, it was his trust in God and his prayer life that kept him built up spiritually. He said in 1 Corinthians 14:2,4: **For he that**

speakech in an unknown tongue speakech not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speakech mysteries... ⁴He that speakech in an unknown tongue edifieth himself...

Believers who have not been baptized in the Holy Spirit have no idea what they're missing out on, just as sinners don't know what they're missing by not receiving Jesus as their Lord and Savior. You can pray for sinners and witness to them forever and they will give you all kinds of reasons why they're not saved, or why they '*don't believe that way*', but all you can do is intercede and believe that someday their eyes will be opened up. *As long as they don't want to be saved, they won't be saved.* Likewise, the believer who has some kind of reason why they don't want to be filled and speak in tongues *won't receive them.* It is really not receiving the Holy Spirit that they are having the problem with; it's the tongues they're afraid of. They have been misguided and mis-taught and have heard everything from, '*tongues have passed away*' to '*speaking in tongues is from the devil*'. But, say what they may say, think what they may think, and believe what they may believe, they're living their Christian life **powerlessly**, and in God's **permissive will**.

One of the first steps in obeying God after you've received Christ is taking the **next step** and receiving the in-filling of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of **speaking in tongues**. You then enter into another phase of walking in the perfect will of God. Our prayer life is drastically limited when we don't pray in tongues.

Jude 20: But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost,

Romans 8:26-28: Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. ²⁷And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

1 Corinthians 14:14,15 & 21: For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful. ¹⁵What is it then? 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. ²¹In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

The key steps for believers to be baptized in the Holy Spirit are:

~ they have to be hungry for more of God and genuinely ask the Lord to be filled with the Holy Spirit by faith;

(Matthew 5:6; Luke 11:13; James 1:6)

~ they have to receive the in-filling of the Holy Spirit and yield themselves over to the Holy Spirit, and finally,

(John 20:22)

~ they have to give utterance to that prompting and speak with other tongues.

(Acts 2:4)

Your mind, carnal nature and flesh do not want to sacrifice what they're doing to obey the Lord. But, if we want to please the Lord, we'll have to obey Him. It's very important that you, as a believer, spend quality time *daily*, ***praying in other tongues.*** .

Pastor Jesse Rich

JESSE RICH MINISTRIES (212) 501-8839
P.O. Box 237170 NYC N.Y. 10023
www.JesseRichMinistries.Org JRM ©2004

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