

SPEAKING THE LANGUAGE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT!

“And these signs will accompany those who believe:

In my name they will drive out demons; they will *speak in new tongues*...” Mark 16:17

“And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to *speak with different tongues*, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out.” Acts 2:4

Jesus commanded his disciples to go to Jerusalem to wait there for the day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit was to come upon them and they would speak in new languages. Today we no longer have to wait for the Holy Spirit since he came and stayed. Jesus is God's gift to sinners and the Holy Spirit is God's gift to his children. Jesus needed the Holy Spirit to be able to do his ministry, the disciples needed the Holy Spirit to do their ministry and we need the Holy Spirit, for without him we are powerless and weak. The Holy Spirit helps our weakness, Paul says in Romans 8:26.

At Pentecost **all** the disciples present were filled with the Holy Spirit: that means that this experience, this baptism in the Holy Spirit, is **for all** Christians. Each one got their own flame of fire, their own anointing. And **they all spoke in new tongues**. That means speaking in tongues is **for all** Christians. What should I speak in new tongues for? I asked myself when I was still in my old church and had no idea about these things. James says that the tongue is set on fire by the fire of hell and no human can put out that fire. Only the Holy Spirit can extinguish the fire of hell and set our tongues on fire with the fire of heaven. That is what happened at Pentecost. The tongue of fire from heaven joined up with the tongue in the mouth and they started preaching, prophesying and speaking with the fire of the Holy Spirit. A miracle happened in the mouths of the 120 disciples. The same miracle happens every time someone receives the Holy Spirit.

My pastor back then told me that speaking in tongues and signs and wonders were only for the first disciples – only for the initial apostles. At their death, the signs and wonders also came to an end and today such signs (if they happen) are not from God but from the devil. Of course, I wanted nothing to do with the devil and kept well clear of anything supernatural. Then I heard Reinhard Bonnke preach with fire and passion in a way I had never seen or heard in my church. Signs and wonders followed his preaching. I knew this man was a true man of God. I saw that signs and wonders still happen today. I wanted the same fire, but still had doubts: Was this speaking in tongues for me or not? So I prayed: “Lord, if it is your will for me to receive the Holy Spirit and speak in new tongues, please give me the experience; if not, I want nothing to do with it.”

I still had a question mark in my head as to whether the experience was for me or whether it only applied to certain Christians. Of course, God cannot answer a prayer like that. It was not a prayer of faith but of doubt. The one who doubts should not expect to receive anything from the Lord (James 1:7). First the Holy Spirit needed to remove the question mark from my head before I was in a position of faith to receive from God. The Holy Spirit leads us into all truths: into new birth, into baptism in the Holy Spirit, into healing, into prosperity, into the gifts of the Spirit, etc.

One night I read Acts 2:38–39: **“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”** I had already done that. **“For the promise is for you and your children and for all who are far away, as many as the Lord our God will call to Himself.”**

Suddenly the light went on inside me. I saw that this experience did not just apply to the first disciples, the first generation, but also to their children, the next generation and all generations who are still far off that the Lord will call. At that moment, the question mark was gone and I immediately received the Holy Spirit. It was as if electricity were flowing through me. I opened my mouth, started speaking and heard strange words bubbling out of me.

Jesus said streams of living water would flow from our belly. By that he meant the Holy Spirit. My religious mind, my flesh, said: “What are you doing? That is all rubbish and makes no sense.” The flesh always fights against the spirit and wants to rob us and talk us out of the blessings of God. I was banned from entering my old church. But I wouldn't have gone back there anyway. I thank God that I came to Africa and got to see and experience first-hand what God is still doing today. Praying in the Holy Spirit serves to build us up personally, helps us to worship God in spirit and in truth and allows us to pray for things we have no idea about. The greatest weapon we have is our mouths and God wants to fill them and supernaturally speak, pray and sing through us. Praying with Jesus means I allow his Holy Spirit to pray through me.

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