

June 27, 2010

The Role of the Holy Spirit pt.3

Pastor Charles Mendenhall

Acts 2:1-6 “1And 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. 5And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. 6Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. “

In the chapters John 14-17, Jesus was preparing His disciples for His departure. He promised them that when he left the Holy Spirit to come. The disciples were in the upper room for ten days, waiting for the gift to be given to them.

Everyone in the upper room was filled with the Holy Spirit –all of them--. In the Old Testament, fire was symbolic for something that was acceptable by God. Because there was fire over their heads, the Hebrews know that speaking in tongues was acceptable by God.

Acts 2:32-33 “ 32This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. 33Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”

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.”

This gift of the Holy Spirit was to give them a great ability to do the works of the ministry. The word ‘power’ means that you are able to reproduce what Christ does. The word ‘power’ in Acts 1 means confidence or authority.

Acts 1:7-8 “7And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. 8But 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.”

There are some great benefits to being able to pray in tongues. Henry Garlock was a minister in some very hostile regions. At one point, he got captured by the neighboring tribe which was cannibalistic. They planned to feast on Henry but before they did, he got up to say something and all that could come out of his mouth was in other tongues. The tribe fell to his feet to bow down to him. His situation completely turned around. They went as far as to even carry his belongings back to the other tribe from where he came from. Still to this day he has no idea of what he said, but he says that you will never be able to convince him from the benefits of praying in tongues.

The Holy Spirit will never forcibly make someone start speaking in tongues.

Eight to ten years since the day of Pentecost, they still believed that the gospel was only for the Jews.

Acts 10:44-47 “44While 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?”

They knew that the gentiles were filled with the Holy Spirit because they were speaking in tongues. The Holy Spirit is a gift, you cannot earn.

Acts 9:17-18 “17And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized.”

1 Corinthians 14:4 “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”

Praying in tongues will build you up or edify you. When we pray in tongues, we are not praying unto men, but we are speaking unto God.

1 Corinthians 14:4 (Amp) “He who speaks in a [strange] tongue edifies and improves himself, but he who prophesies [interpreting the divine will and purpose and teaching with inspiration] edifies and improves the church and promotes growth [in Christian wisdom, piety, holiness, and happiness].”

1 Corinthians 14:5 “I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”

When you exercise in the gift of speaking in tongues, it is God talking unto the church. Then it needs to be interpreted so that God’s word will build up the church in the season that they are in.

Jude 1:20 (Amp) “But you, beloved, build yourselves up [founded] on your most holy faith [make progress, rise like an edifice higher and higher], praying in the Holy Spirit;”

If you receive this gift, and then never use it, it is not benefiting you. It is something that you must exercise often. You should use praying in tongues to help build up your faith as you are spending time with God. Once you start to pray in tongues on a regular base, than you will start to have an even greater understanding of the scriptures. The Holy Spirit tunes you up spiritually.

Romans 8:26 “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.”

Groaning is an inarticulate speech. The Holy Spirit knows the mind of God and can speak it for you.

Romans 8:27 “And 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.”

When it says that the Holy Spirit ‘helps’ us in verse 26, it means that the Holy Spirit takes hold together against it with us.

1 Corinthians 2:9-12 “9But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.”

1 Corinthians 2:12 (Amp) “12Now we have not received the spirit [that belongs to] the world, but the [Holy] Spirit Who is from God, [given to us] that we might realize and comprehend and appreciate the gifts [of divine favor and blessing so freely and lavishly] bestowed on us by God. 13And we are setting these truths forth in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the [Holy] Spirit, combining and interpreting spiritual truths with spiritual language [to those who possess the Holy Spirit].”

1 Corinthians 2:14 “But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.”

If you are praying about a situation or about someone while praying in tongues, you find out what God’s will is and you will know the Mind of Christ in that situation. The Holy Spirit is a gift, you receive it by faith.

Three Benefits of the Holy Spirit:

1. Builds you up
2. Speaking unto God
3. Praying the Will of God