

Kenneth E Hagin on the

*Holy Spirit*



Kenneth E. Hagin

# A Better Preacher Because of the Baptism

In this segment, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin recalls how receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit impacted his preaching ability and the condition of his church congregation.

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After I was baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues, I didn't announce it to my church. I followed that anointing in me that teaches you all things. Something on the inside of me said, "Don't say anything about it in church." So I never mentioned it; I just went right on with our services in that little country church.

It wasn't 30 days until people started saying, "What happened to you?"

"What do you mean, what happened to me?"

"Well, you're different," they said.

"What do you mean, I'm different? Is it good or bad?"

"It's good," they said.

"Well," I said, "what is it? What do you mean?"

"Oh, you've got power you didn't have before. When you preach, you have power you didn't have before."

I had been anointed to preach before, but now the anointing to preach was increased.

The people said, "When you preach now, it almost knocks us off the seats."

They didn't mean I was a hard preacher—it was just the power behind the preaching.

Ours was a community church—the only church in the community—and 85 percent of the people were Baptists. One member of the congregation was a Presbyterian.

This Presbyterian gentleman was wealthy, even for that day. He owned many acres of land. All of his children were grown and married. Just before he and his wife left on a tour to Europe, he had heard of a couple in the community who had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and he had announced, “If that talking in tongues gets in here, I’m pulling all of my folks out!” There were seven families of them.

While he was in Europe, I received the baptism. When he returned, he asked another member, an elderly Methodist man, “What happened to our little preacher while I was gone?”

This Methodist gentleman was a spiritual giant. He told me he answered, “Oh, has something happened to him?”

“Yes, it sure has,” the Presbyterian said.

“What do you mean?”

“Well, he’s a better preacher than he used to be.”

“Well, I always thought he was a good preacher,” the Methodist answered.

“Yes, but he’s more powerful now than he ever was before. He’s got a power he never had before.”

I had shared my experience with the Methodist man, although I hadn’t told it publicly because I didn’t want the church split.

So he said, “Mr. C., you know what happened to our little preacher while you were gone?”

“No.”

“He got baptized with the Holy Spirit and spoke in other tongues!”

The Presbyterian dropped his head, and the Methodist didn’t know if he was about to announce he was pulling out or not.

The Presbyterian announced, “I’ve heard him preach before, and I’ve heard him preach since, and I want it!”

We never lost a member; we never lost a family. They saw the value of the experience.

Ninety-three percent of them followed me in the baptism of the Holy Spirit, and the other seven percent still attended the church!

# Anointed to Preach

Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin recalls how quiet he was as a boy and how that changed after he was born again, healed, and baptized in the Holy Ghost.

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I remember how it shocked my Grandma when I announced, just as a boy, “I’m going to be a preacher.”

Grandma said, “Why, son, you can’t preach—you can’t talk!”

It was true. Because my heart didn’t beat right and I would pass out if I tried to exert myself, I had learned in my younger years to sit around and keep my mouth shut. In fact, the year before I became bedfast, Grandpa Drake said one night at the supper table, “I saw your teacher, Miss Bessie Mae Hamilton, today, and I asked, ‘How is Kenneth doing?’

“‘Oh,’ she said, ‘Mr. Drake, he’s just like he always was. If you waited on him to say anything, he’d never say anything. In fact, he could miss the class and nobody would ever know it.’”

That put an idea in my mind! I decided to try that out. I had only two classes in the afternoon—Miss Bessie Mae’s and another—so two or three times a week I’d play hooky and go to the movie.

You know, they never did miss me. They never counted me absent. That’s how quiet I was in class. Of course, after I got saved, I quit doing that. When I went back to high school after my healing, I never missed a day.

After I was saved and healed, I began to preach as a young Baptist boy. I knew I was called to preach, and the anointing to preach would come upon me. I didn’t have any anointing to teach, and I didn’t like teaching.

I’d pray, study, and prepare sermon outlines—and I’ve got nearly all of them still. I don’t preach some of them anymore, but they represent all the light I had then. (God will bless you because you’re walking in all the light you have.)

The first time I preached, I preached 45 minutes. Some beginners go 10 or 15 minutes. I went 45. And I've been going ever since!

For a number of years I was a preacher—and, oh, I could preach! I was a preaching machine! I like that anointing! When it came upon me, I'd preach so hard and fast, the congregation would say, "Slow down! Slow down! We can't get half of what you say, you go so fast."

I didn't have the baptism in the Holy Spirit then, but I had the Holy Spirit in me, and an anointing would come on me because I was called to that office. (In the Old Testament, too, the anointing came on people to stand in certain offices.) I could relate some phenomenal things that happened when the anointing to preach came upon me as a young Baptist boy preacher.

One Sunday night I was preaching an evangelistic-type sermon from James 4:14, where James asks, "For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." I'd been preaching about 15 minutes, anointed by the Holy Spirit, when the power of God came into that church auditorium and filled it like a cloud.

I could not see a single member—I was in the cloud. I could hear the sound of my voice, but I didn't know one word of what I said. For 17 minutes—I looked at my watch—I couldn't distinguish a word.

Finally I could see people on the first three rows of seats. Then the anointing began to go away. It was just like a cloud lifted from the whole group. I didn't say anything about it; I closed the service normally.

Several days later I asked a very spiritual old gentleman who had been there, "Was anything different about the service Sunday night?"

"Well, why?" he replied.

"Well, you tell me if there was, and then I'll tell you why."

He said, "Well, the only thing was that people have been talking about it all over the community. It seemed like your face shone. It didn't look like you—it just looked like the face of an angel."

Then I told him about it. I told him I hadn't known one word I said for the last 17 minutes of the service, the anointing was upon me so. That's all a work of the Holy Spirit: the anointing and the glory cloud.

After being baptized in the Holy Spirit, I entered into a greater dimension of the power of God, and that anointing to preach increased. There is a scriptural basis for this: Elisha desired a double portion of Elijah's anointing. Elijah was anointed by the Holy Spirit to stand in the office of prophet, and Elisha had a double portion of that anointing—a greater anointing, in other words, to stand in the same office.

# Following God's Plan

Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin explains the importance of following God's timing once you have received God's plan.

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Sometimes when God says something to believers about His plans for their lives, they try to make them come to pass by their own efforts. When they do that, they can muddy the waters, so to speak. In other words, they can hinder God's plan for them so God isn't free to do what He wants to do. They need to just stay in faith regarding God's plan and let God bring to pass what He has told them. To fulfill their part, they need to prepare themselves according to the Word and the Holy Spirit's leading.

I muddied the waters of God's plan for me more than once when I was young in the Lord. Sometimes when the Lord said something to me about my ministry, I would try to jump out immediately and do it. Every single time I did that, what the Lord told me to do didn't work out right.

Now someone might think, *Well, that just shows that the Lord didn't really speak to you.* But the Lord did speak to me; I just didn't get the timing right, so I hindered God's plan.

Jesus told me once when He appeared to me in a vision, "I'd rather you were too slow than too fast when you are trying to follow My leading. At least when you're behind Me, you can still see Me out ahead of you. But if you're too fast and you jump out ahead of Me, you won't be able to see Me any longer, and you'll get off track."

I can give you an example from my own life of stepping out ahead of God. By the mid-1940s, God had already put in my heart much of what I am doing today in ministry. I knew in my spirit God had something besides pastoring He wanted me to do.

So in 1944, I left the church I was pastoring to go into field ministry, thinking God's timing for my next phase of ministry to begin was right then. But I jumped into field ministry out of God's timing. Therefore, things didn't work out right.

Don't misunderstand me; God blessed my year in field ministry as much as He could. We had some good meetings, and people got saved and baptized in the Holy Spirit. But I knew I had stepped out prematurely into the next stage of God's plan for me. So I backed up to where I had missed it and went back to pastoring.

Although God really had talked to me at that time about my ministry, it wasn't time yet for those things to come to pass. For example, God's timing for what He had put in my heart about going into the field ministry was five years later. (Some of what He told me came to pass much later!)

By the time five more years had passed, I had learned enough to say, "This time I'm not moving unless I get the witness in my spirit that it's time to move." So I continued to pastor my last church until the Holy Spirit quickened to my spirit in early 1949 that it was time to move out into the field ministry.

As I grew in the Lord, I learned not to jump out ahead of Him, but to just allow Him to bring to pass His purposes for me as I stayed faithful to prepare myself. I also learned to get not only the *what* of God's plan, but to continue to pray until I also received the *when* and the *how*.

Over the years I've learned to operate that way in every area of my life. I don't move until I get the signal from the Holy Spirit to move. When I get that signal and act on what God has told me, I have found that God's plan always works smoothly.

I learned long ago not to try to figure out with my own natural understanding how and when God's plan will come to pass. For instance, during my last three years of pastoring in the late 1940s, I waited upon God in prayer for hours and days at a time, seeking Him and His will for my life. As I waited upon God, I saw in the Spirit different aspects of my ministry. I had no idea how God was going to fulfill what He had shown me, so I just left the whole matter in His

hands. And as I've been faithful to obey Him step by step, in His own time, He has brought to pass what He revealed to me.

God has prepared a plan for your life, but you aren't always ready to fulfill the next step of that plan. So God will take whatever time is needed to develop and train you before He brings to pass what He has spoken to your heart.

Days of preparation are never lost time. There may be important lessons or truths that you still need to learn in order to successfully fulfill God's plan for you. And it takes time to prepare and establish yourself in God's Word (2 Tim. 2:15).

# Speaking in Tongues

In this article, Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin shares about the moment he was filled with the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues. He also teaches about one of the benefits of doing so.

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As I knelt on the living room floor of that Full Gospel parsonage, I just closed my eyes and shut out everything around me, and I lifted my hands to God. No one told me to do it; I just lifted my hands (that's pretty good for someone who was untaught).

I said, "Dear Lord, I've come here to receive the Holy Ghost." I repeated in my prayer what I had just learned from Acts 2:39 and Acts 2:4. Then I said, "Your Word says that the Holy Ghost is a gift. Therefore, I realize that the Holy Ghost is received by faith. I received the gift of salvation by faith. I received healing for my body three years ago by faith. Now I receive the gift of the Holy Ghost by faith. And I want to thank You now, Heavenly Father, because I receive the Holy Spirit."

Then I said to the Lord, "By faith, . . . I have now received the Holy Ghost. Thank God, He is in me, because Jesus promised it in His Word. And I say it with my mouth, because I believe in my heart that I have received the Holy Ghost. Now I expect to speak with tongues, because believers spoke with tongues on the Day of Pentecost. And, thank God, I will, too, as the Holy Ghost gives me utterance."

After I had prayed that, because I was grateful for the Holy Ghost whom I had just received and for the speaking with tongues that God was going to give me, I said, "Hallelujah, hallelujah." But I had never felt so "dry" in all my life saying that word.

Feelings and faith are far removed from each other; in fact, sometimes when you feel as if you have the least faith, that is when you have the most faith, because you do not base your faith on feelings. So I said "Hallelujah" about seven or eight times, even though it seemed as if that word was going to choke me!

About the time I had said “Hallelujah” seven or eight times, way down inside of me, in my spirit, I heard some strange words. It seemed as if they were just going around and around in there. It seemed to me that I would recognize them if they were spoken, so I just started speaking them out!

So about eight minutes from the time I first knocked on that pastor’s door, I was speaking with tongues! The pastor had said, “Wait.” But instead of waiting, I spent that hour and a half before the church service speaking in tongues! It is much better to wait with the Holy Ghost than to wait without the Holy Ghost!

I believe in waiting on God, of course. We should have tarrying meetings for people who are Spirit-filled. It is more wonderful to tarry and wait in God’s Presence after you’ve been filled with the Holy Spirit than it is to wait in God’s Presence before being filled with the Spirit.

Also, notice that you don’t speak in tongues and then know you have the Holy Ghost. No, you believe you have the Holy Ghost first, and then you speak in tongues. Notice Acts 2:4: “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost . . . .” If we stop reading there, we know that they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. But if we continue reading, we find, “. . . and [they] began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4). Speaking with other tongues was a result of those believers having received the Holy Ghost. You receive the Holy Ghost first; then you speak in tongues.

During that hour and a half that I was speaking in tongues, I had a glorious time in the Lord. You see, speaking in tongues edifies you. First Corinthians 14:4 says, “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself . . . .” Therefore, speaking in tongues is a means of spiritual edification or building up.

Linguists tell us that there’s a word in our modern vernacular that is closer to the meaning of the Greek word translated “edify,” and that is the word “charge.” We charge a battery; we build it up. Jude 20 says, “But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost.”

In other words, when a person prays in the Holy Spirit, he charges himself up. He builds himself up like a battery that is charged or built up.

Edifying yourself by speaking in other tongues is just one of the many blessings that God has provided through the baptism in the Holy Ghost. And this wonderful blessing, this glorious gift of the Holy Ghost, is available to every born-again believer.

# The Anointing to Teach

Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin recalls when he received the anointing to teach and how he proved the gift was real.

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Even though I wasn't a teacher to begin with, I always had the greatest respect for the Word of God and was very studious. I spent hours studying and reading, digging things out for myself in my early years as a pastor, but I didn't teach those things. I had no unction or leading to teach.

As pastor, I did teach a Sunday School class in the church, however. That was the custom in most Pentecostal churches. I never was so glad of anything in my life as I was when that class was over each Sunday morning. I'd lay that teacher's quarterly down and think, *Whew! Now I can relax for another week.*

I so detested teaching that I wouldn't look at the Sunday School quarterly for the whole week. Sometimes I didn't pick it up to study it until just before the class started the next Sunday morning!

I could get by with that because I had developed a unique ability of being able to read something once and never forget it. I didn't have that talent before I got born again. But afterwards I could read a chapter in my high school history book once and recite it word for word for the teacher. I could do that because I learned to walk in the life of God. Walking in the life of God will increase your mentality.

So I could read the teacher's lesson once from the Sunday School quarterly and rattle it off. Then I'd say, "I'm glad that's over! Now I can get back to preaching!" And I'd preach up a storm, going like an air hammer, waving my arms like a windmill. (I thought it wasn't preaching unless you did that.) I was a preacher, and I loved it. I'd have rather preached than eaten.

I preached for nine years. All I had was the evangelistic message. I never preached anything else. I didn't have anything else!

But I remember one Thursday afternoon at three o'clock. (The year was 1943. I had been preaching since 1934.) I walked across the parsonage living room and into the kitchen for a drink of water. As I was coming back across the living room, right in the middle of the room, something just dropped down on me and inside me. It just clicked down on the inside of me like a coin drops inside a pay phone. I stood still. I knew what it was. It was a teaching gift. The anointing to teach had dropped inside of me.

When I received any gift from God, I proved it out first, and I would encourage you to do the same. Prove what you've got from God, and then you can talk about it. But if it's never proven, proclaiming it won't make it so. I never said a word about having the anointing to teach.

We had a little prayer group of seven or eight women who met Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 at the church. People turned in prayer requests and these women would pray over the requests and about the church and the services for a few hours. My wife always met with them, and I usually met with them.

I suggested to them that we have a Bible lesson for an hour before our prayer time, but I didn't invite anyone extra to attend. It wasn't an announced meeting.

I started teaching those seven or eight women, and the anointing would come on me. I hadn't known you could stand in one spot and just teach the Word and get that strongly anointed to teach. I thought you were supposed to be hollering at the top of your voice, waving your arms like a windmill, and "spitting cotton"!

But as I just stood there with a handful, teaching them the Word, the anointing would come on me so strongly I couldn't stand it. You talk about getting blessed! It was like getting hold of an electric current. That anointing and the Word flowed out to the women. They went home and told their husbands and others. Still, we never announced the Wednesday afternoon Bible study.

But people started coming Wednesday afternoons in spite of the fact that we had regular Wednesday night services too. The women's husbands would take off from work to get in on the afternoon service. It

wasn't long until we filled the building. We had a bigger crowd Wednesday afternoon than we did Wednesday night!

I proved the teaching gift. It worked. I started out by faith and kept going, and the building filled up.

I began to teach more and more until I taught half the time and preached the other half. Now I seldom get the anointing to preach anymore. Thank God for that teaching anointing! It's a little different, but it's still the same Spirit Who anoints you for whatever He calls you to do.

# The Glory Cloud Appears Again

Rev. Kenneth E. Hagin recalls his second experience with the glory cloud and explains the difference between the anointing to preach and the anointing to teach.

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Although I was anointed to preach, that strong anointing with the glory didn't happen again in my ministry for three more years (see [[Anointed to Preach]] for details on the first glory cloud experience). During those three years, I had been baptized in the Holy Spirit, had come over among the Full Gospel people, and was pastoring a little church in northcentral Texas.

One Sunday night, I was preaching away on prophecy—it was the second Sunday night of September 1939—and the anointing came upon me. After that anointing came, I don't know what I said, and I couldn't see anything or anyone. It was as if a cloud or dense fog filled the church.

When I came to myself, I was standing down in front, off the platform. That was the first time I'd ever done that. In fact, my wife had once said to me, "I believe you could preach standing in a wash pan," because I never moved from behind the pulpit when I preached. I had been trained that way.

But that night, the glory came down, and I didn't know one word I had said for 15 minutes. I had been in the glory cloud. When I found myself walking around the altar, I got so embarrassed that my face turned red. I ran back on the platform, got behind the pulpit, and said, "Amen. Let's pray," and gave the invitation.

Every sinner in the church came and got saved. We had revival that night! Twenty people were baptized in the Holy Spirit that night. That may not sound big now, but back in 1939, if we had half a dozen saved and three baptized in the Holy Spirit, we thought we had a landslide!

In that service, everyone who didn't have the baptism was baptized, and everyone who was lost or backslidden got right with God. It wasn't my preaching that did it; it was the anointing.

The glory cloud still appears quite frequently in our healing meetings and other services. People have seen it. It comes in and fills the room.

Sometimes when I am preaching or teaching, it comes in and absolutely blocks everyone from view. Most of the time, it just hangs over the heads of the people. It is at times like these that people receive healing without anyone ministering to them, because the anointing is present in such a powerful way.

Sometimes the anointing comes into visible manifestation. Do you think it wasn't visible when the house started shaking where the early Christians were praying? And when that jail at Philippi started shaking and every door flew open, it came into manifestation again as a result of Paul and Silas' praying.

I have the anointing of the Holy Spirit in me all the time, as any believer has, but I'm speaking here of an anointing to preach.

I don't preach much any more—I mostly teach—but I like the preaching anointing. I love it.

It's different from the anointing to teach. It feels different. It's more exuberant. It's the same Spirit, but a different anointing. Thank God for the anointing to preach! If I had any control over it, I'd bring on that anointing to preach often, because I like it.

The difference between preaching and teaching is that to preach means to proclaim, but to teach means to explain.

Once in a while, that anointing to preach still will come on me. If you've never heard me preach, get my videotape "El Shaddai." On that tape, I'm preaching, not teaching.

I preached "El Shaddai" years ago at a Full Gospel Business Men's meeting near Washington, D.C. The special singer was singing the last song, and I was sitting there on that platform minding my own business, ready to give my testimony about going to hell, when something like a cloak came on me. It fit over me like an overcoat. It was this anointing to preach. You talk about a fellow feeling "preachy"!

Remember, Elijah threw his cloak over Elisha, signifying that the Holy Spirit was coming on him in that way —just like a mantle was on him, and that’s the way it was with me. After all, these old Testament types and shadows were fulfilled in the New Testament.

When they turned the service over to me, I didn’t have my sermon notes on “El Shaddai,” but the anointing was there to preach, so I just read my text and took off, so to speak. We had a service!

# **‘When I Get Filled . . . I Will Begin To Speak’**

As a young Baptist preacher, I associated with Full Gospel people around divine healing. We both believed in that, and hearing them talk about divine healing made my faith grow stronger. I also knew I needed the infilling of the Holy Spirit that they talked about, because I sensed a lack of power in my own life. But after meditating on and thinking about the scriptures concerning the Holy Spirit, I became convinced that speaking with other tongues wasn't necessary. So I told the Lord that I expected to receive the infilling of the Spirit, but that I was of the opinion that tongues didn't go along with it and were not for us today.

Immediately the Lord spoke to my heart. I knew it was the Holy Spirit speaking through the Word. That same still small voice that had brought me off a bed of sickness and into divine healing asked me, “What does the Bible say?”

I quoted the scripture, “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

Then the voice asked, “What promise is that?”

“. . . And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). “The reference here, Lord, is to the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Then I hastened to add, “But Lord, I believe in the Holy Spirit. It is the tongues I am not so sure about.”

The Holy Spirit always leads us in line with the Word. The Word and the Spirit agree. I am not in favor of following voices, for a person can go wrong following voices. But we can never go wrong following any voice that leads us to walk in line with the Word of God.

Jesus, the Word made flesh, said of the Holy Spirit, “. . . he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you” (John 16:14) and “. . . he shall not speak of himself [thank God, He does speak]; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak . . .” (v. 13).

The newly born-again Christian has the Holy Spirit in a measure. However, this is not the same as an enduement with power; he is not filled with the Holy Spirit. But there is the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Birth: “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Rom. 8:16).

Then the Lord said to me, “What does Acts 2:4 say?”

I could quote that verse, of course. But just because you have it in your mind does not mean that you really know what it says. You have to have the revelation of it in your spirit to really know what the Word of God means.

I quoted, “And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” I got this far and said, “ ‘And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to sp . . .’ Oh, I see it, I see it! ‘They were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak.’ When I get filled with the Holy Spirit, I will begin to speak in other tongues. Lord, that settles it. I am going down right now to the Full Gospel preacher’s house and receive the Holy Spirit!”

I walked over to the parsonage and knocked on the door. I said, “I’ve come to get the Holy Spirit.”

The preacher said, “Wait.” From that day until this I have never been able to figure out why anyone would ever tell someone to wait to get the Holy Spirit.

Some will say, “Didn’t you read where Jesus told His disciples to tarry, and ‘to tarry’ means ‘to wait’?” Yes, but that is not a formula for receiving the Holy Spirit. If it were, then why take out the word “Jerusalem”? Jesus said, “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” (Luke 24:49). It was just as necessary for that group—the 120—to be in Jerusalem as it was that they wait.

Also, they weren’t waiting—getting ready and preparing themselves—to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They were waiting for the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit could not be given until then. If they had been waiting and preparing themselves, the Bible would have read,

“When they were ready . . . .” But it reads, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . . .” (Acts 2:1).

# The Gifts and Callings of God

Romans 11:29 says, “For the gifts and calling of God are without repentance.” “Without repentance” means that God won’t change His mind about what He has called you to do. If God has called you, that calling is still there, whether or not you have obeyed. And if God gave you a gift—if He gifted you along a certain line—that gift is still there!

Paul told Timothy to “stir up” the gift that was within him, saying, “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands” (2 Tim. 1:6). If you want to walk out God’s plan for your life, it’s time to stir up that gift within you!

In Ephesians chapter 4, we read about some of the “gifts” that God has given.

## **EPEHSIANS 4:8,11–12**

**8 Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. . . .**

**11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

**12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.**

The “gifts” in this passage refer to the fivefold ministry gifts: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. You may or may not be called to the fivefold ministry. But everyone can be involved in the ministry of helps, which is a necessary and important part of the Body of Christ. And in one sense of the word, we’re all called to preach.

To “preach” means to proclaim or to tell. We’re all supposed to tell the Good News of the Gospel. We’re all supposed to tell the story of how Jesus reconciled us to God. We’re all supposed to witness to others. Second Corinthians 5:18 says, “And all things are of God, who

hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation.” According to this verse, we have all been called to be in ministry—the ministry of reconciliation!

Now, there are certain pulpit ministries that God calls people to. Ephesians 4:11 tells us what those are: apostle, prophet, evangelist, pastor, and teacher. Thank God for these five ministry gifts! These are special ministry gifts that God set in the Church. Anyone who is called to full-time pulpit ministry is called in one of these areas. And a person can be called to stand in more than one office.

According to Acts 13:1, Acts 14:14, and other scriptures in the New Testament, we know that Barnabas and Paul were both “prophets” and “teachers.” In other words, they were gifted by the Holy Ghost to stand in both offices.

A person might not be faithful to the call of God on his or her life, but the call is still there, anyway. God doesn’t go back on the call. So let’s all obey God and answer the call!

When a person first gets saved, he may have such a desire to see other people saved that he starts to think, *Maybe God called me to be an evangelist.* That may or may not be the case. If it is the case, then obey the call. But if it isn’t, you can still help get people saved by being a minister of reconciliation.

I started preaching when I was 17. Wherever the door opened, I was there to fill it. Soon, in 1936, another minister and I held a revival meeting out in the country, and a number of people got saved. Because there was no church in that community, the people wanted to start a church.

There was an empty building that was offered to us free of charge. So we fixed it up, and I preached there on Sundays. They wanted me to pastor, but I said, “No, I’m not a pastor.” But I kept preaching there, traveling out there to hold Sunday services. Finally, when no other door was open to me, I said, “Well, okay, I’ll be the pastor.”

I started pastoring at 18 and pastored at different churches for nearly 12 years. The last church I pastored was the best church that I’d pastored (I’d pastored five churches in just under 12 years). That last church offered the best parsonage. My family was more comfortable

and better cared for than we had ever been before. We had the best income we'd had in 10 years of marriage. The church was doing fine. People were getting saved, filled with the Spirit, and healed. There were more people in attendance than they'd ever had in the history of the church. I had every reason in the world to be content there. And yet I felt dissatisfied. It felt sort of like washing your feet with your socks on! It just didn't feel right!

So in the winter of 1947–48, I began to spend some extra time in prayer. I asked God what was wrong with me. I kept praying, and, after several months, the Lord said to me, “The problem is that I never did call you to pastor to begin with. That's not your calling. But I permitted you to do so.”

Someone may say, “Well, then, I guess you missed God all those years.”

No, God will take us through a learning process. And we may have to learn some things before we move from one office to another. We may have to learn some things before we're able to fulfill the call of God upon our life.

Even though the Lord said to me, “I didn't call you to pastor,” I had prayed before taking each and every church. And for every church except one, the Lord told me to take it. I missed God on the one church He didn't tell me to take.

Someone may ask, “Well, if God called you to do one thing, why would He let you do something else?”

Because there's always going to be a proving time. No matter what God has called you to do, He is going to prove you out before He promotes you. We have to be faithful, obedient, and patient in order to fulfill God's call. God may temporarily lead you to do something. That doesn't mean the gift is gone or that the calling has disappeared, because the gifts and callings of God are without repentance. In other words, God doesn't change His mind!

According to First Corinthians 12:27, you and I are the Body of Christ and members in particular. Each member has a role to play in the Body. What is your role? What has God gifted and called you to do?

Whatever God has called you to do, He has also gifted you to do it. You may not have heeded God's call on your life in the past, but that call is still there. The gifts and callings of God are without repentance! Make a decision today to stir up the gift within you and to fulfill the call of God.

Maybe God has called you to be in full-time ministry; maybe He has gifted you with business sense or artistic talent; perhaps you feel especially called to raise a family—whatever God's gifts and callings, determine in your heart right now to be faithful and obedient in carrying out His plan for your life.

# Seven Reasons Why Every Believer Should Speak in Tongues

The Apostle Paul wrote and spoke much about the subject of speaking in other tongues, and he apparently practiced what he preached, for he said, “I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all” (1 Cor. 14:18).

The purpose of this particular article is to briefly set forth seven reasons why every Christian should speak in tongues and to help believers see the blessings that can be theirs through daily appropriating the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

## ***REASON NUMBER ONE***

The Word of God teaches that when we are filled with the Holy Ghost, we speak with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives utterance. Speaking in tongues is an initial evidence, or sign, of the baptism of the Holy Spirit: “And they were all FILLED WITH THE HOLY GHOST, and began to SPEAK WITH OTHER TONGUES, as the Spirit gave them utterance” (Acts 2:4).

## ***REASON NUMBER TWO***

Paul encouraged the Corinthian Christians to continue the practice of speaking with other tongues in their worship of God. He also encouraged them to speak in tongues in their individual prayer life as a means of spiritual edification, or building up. The Bible says, “He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself . . .” (1 Cor. 14:4).

Paul also stated in First Corinthians 14:14, “For if I pray in an unknown tongue, MY SPIRIT PRAYETH, but my understanding is unfruitful.” Notice he said, “My spirit prays.”

The Amplified Bible reads, “My spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays . . .” God is a Spirit. When you pray in tongues, your spirit

is in direct contact with God, who is a Spirit. When you speak in tongues, you are talking to Him by divine, supernatural means.

### ***REASON NUMBER THREE***

A third reason people should speak with other tongues is that speaking with tongues keeps us continually aware of the Holy Spirit's indwelling Presence. Not only is speaking with tongues the initial sign or evidence of the Holy Spirit's infilling, but continuing to pray and to worship God in tongues helps us to be ever-conscious of His indwelling Presence. And if you are conscious of the indwelling Presence of the Holy Ghost every day, that is bound to affect the way you think and live.

### ***REASON NUMBER FOUR***

Speaking in tongues eliminates the possibility of selfishness entering our prayer life. For instance, if I pray a prayer out of my own mind and out of my own thinking, it may be unscriptural. It may be selfish.

Paul wrote to the Church at Rome, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought. . ." (Rom. 8:26). He didn't say we didn't know how to pray, because we are instructed to pray to the Father in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 16:23-24).

But just because I know how to pray doesn't mean that I know what to pray for as I ought. So Paul said, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself [Himself] maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered" (Rom. 8:26).

The Holy Ghost is not going to do our praying for us. He is sent to help us pray. Speaking with other tongues is praying as the Spirit gives utterance. It is Spirit-directed praying. And it eliminates the possibility of selfishness in our prayers.

### ***REASON NUMBER FIVE***

A fifth reason believers should speak with tongues is that it helps them learn to trust God more fully. It builds one's faith to speak in tongues. The Bible says, "Building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost" (Jude 20).

Speaking in tongues stimulates faith and helps us learn how to trust God more fully. For example, faith must be exercised to speak with tongues because the Holy Spirit supernaturally directs the words we speak. You see, we don't know what the next word will be—we have to trust God for that. And trusting God in one area helps us learn to trust Him in another area.

### ***REASON NUMBER SIX***

A sixth reason every believer should speak in tongues is that it provides a way for you to pray about things that you wouldn't think to pray about or aren't even aware of. We already know that the Holy Spirit helps us pray for particular situations when we don't know how to pray about those situations. In addition, the Holy Spirit, Who knows everything, can pray things through us for things about which our natural mind knows nothing.

### ***REASON NUMBER SEVEN***

A seventh reason why every believer should speak with tongues is found in James 3:8. "But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison," Yielding your tongue to the Holy Spirit to speak with other tongues is a big step toward being able to fully yield all of your members to God; for if you can yield your tongue, you can yield any member of your body to God.

Speaking in tongues is the initial evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. God has given us this wonderful spiritual gift to bless us, edify us, and refresh us throughout our lives on this earth. Let's receive what God has provided and enjoy the benefits of speaking in tongues!

# It's Time to Grow Up!

Growing up is a process. No one is born fully grown. Everyone comes into the world as an infant and progresses through different developmental stages until he reaches adulthood. The same is true when you become born again. It doesn't matter how old you are physically. When you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you are a spiritual babe in Christ, and you must learn to grow in the things of God.

In the Book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul talks about the spiritual growth of Christians.

## **EPHESIANS 4:11–15**

**11 And he [Jesus] gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;**

**12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:**

**13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:**

**14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;**

**15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.**

Did you notice in verse 15, Paul tells the Christians in Ephesus to “. . . grow up into him in all things . . .”? Evidently, Paul didn't think that the Church at Ephesus had grown up yet. He also said in verse 13,

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, UNTO A PERFECT MAN . . . .”

In The Amplified Bible, this phrase is translated, “that we might arrive at really mature manhood.” In these verses, Paul is encouraging us to reach spiritual maturity. He is encouraging us to grow up spiritually.

Throughout the New Testament, we see a striking similarity between spiritual and physical development. In fact, there are three stages of spiritual development that correspond to physical development. They are: babyhood, childhood, and manhood.

Even though a person can be a born-again Christian for many years, he can still be in either the babyhood or childhood stage of development in certain areas of his life. As we take a look at each stage of spiritual development, you may see where you need to grow in certain areas.

## ***BABYHOOD***

### **1 PETER 2:2**

**2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.**

Newborn babies require a lot of work. They don’t do much except eat and sleep. You have to do everything for them; you have to dress them, feed them, change their diapers, and so forth. And they can’t eat solid food. They can only digest their mother’s milk or baby formula.

In the same way, you can’t expect young Christians to do for themselves. You need to follow up with them after they first come to your church and encourage them to return, or at least to get involved in another good church. They don’t understand much about the things of God, so you have to spend a lot of time teaching and counseling them.

They’ll come crying on your shoulder about this, that, or the other thing. They don’t have a lot of confidence in their own prayers, so they’ll ask everyone they see to pray about the same thing over and over again. You have to carry them, so to speak, because they don’t know how to walk in the ways of God for themselves.

Now there comes a day in all babies' lives when they have to be weaned from their mother's milk. On the day that Isaac was weaned, the Bible says that Abraham made a great feast (see Gen. 21:8). Similarly, there comes a time in every Christian's life when he has to learn to do things for himself. David said, "Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child" (Ps. 131:2).

But how many of you know that the day a child is weaned from his bottle is not always a happy occasion. I have heard many children scream as though they were dying, just to get their bottle! Unfortunately, this same thing can happen with Christians. There are plenty of babies in the Church who need to be weaned but are screaming to "high heavens" to keep their bottles, so to speak.

In the last church I pastored, there were two older ladies who were spiritual babies. Even though they had been saved for a long time and were baptized in the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues, they were the biggest babies in our church. They needed a lot of attention and would miss church on Sunday just so I would visit them on Monday!

Christians ought to grow up enough so that they don't always need someone to visit them, pump them up, pray for them, and feed them. They ought to grow up so they can help somebody else.

## ***CHILDHOOD***

### **EPHESIANS 4:14**

#### **14 That we henceforth be no more children**

••••

Children can be a handful! They are often curious and like to get into things. One time I came in with a sack and put it on the kitchen table. In no time at all, one of my young granddaughters was in the sack, wanting to know what was in it. Spiritually immature children get into things too. They poke their noses in places where they shouldn't. They are always in other people's business.

Another thing about children is that they have never learned the value of silence. They talk too much! And it's the same way in the

childhood stage of spiritual growth. The Word of God has a lot to say about talking too much.

**PROVERBS 10:19**

**19 In the multitude of words there wanteth  
not sin . . . .**

**ECCLESIASTES 5:3**

**3 . . . a fool's voice is known by multitude  
of words.**

People who talk all the time are usually guilty of at least three sins: Evil speaking, vain speaking, and foolish speaking. Evil speaking is talking about and discussing the faults of people who are not present. In my 12 years of pastoring, my children thought that all the members of my congregations were perfect. Never once did they hear Oretha or me ever say anything negative about any member.

Vain speaking is talking about oneself all the time—what he has done, where he has been, and what he is about to do. By hearing him talk, you would think that no one else existed except him and his family! We need not be self-centered but be concerned about the needs of others.

Foolish speaking is constantly jesting and joking about things that are unprofitable. The Bible says that jesting and joking are “not convenient.”

**EPHESIANS 5:4**

**4 Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking,  
nor jesting, which are not convenient: but  
rather giving of thanks.**

The Amplified Bible translates “not convenient” as not fitting or becoming, and the New International Version translates the phrase “. . . which are not convenient . . .” as, “. . . which are out of place . . .”

Sometimes people say something hurtful and afterward say, “Oh, I was only joking.” No, they weren’t! They were being mean and hurtful with their words and then were trying to cover it up by saying it was a joke. Proverbs 12:18 (NIV) says, “Reckless words pierce like the sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” Psalm 141:3 says, “Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.” We

need to watch what comes out of our mouth. Our words should lift others up, not tear them down (Eph. 4:29).

## ***MANHOOD***

One characteristic of spiritual maturity, or manhood, is esteeming earthly things lightly—in other words, putting God first in every area of your life.

### **HEBREWS 11:24–25**

**24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;**

**25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season.**

Moses is an example of someone who esteemed earthly things lightly. Moses could have had all the riches of Egypt. Instead, he chose to “. . . suffer affliction with the people of God . . . .”

Another characteristic of the mature believer is that he is God-conscious and seeks after the Kingdom of God. Baby Christians, on the other hand, are self-conscious and materialistic-minded.

I've only touched on a few areas of growth in each of the developmental stages. Keep in mind that you can be mature in one area but a baby in another area. No one has “arrived.” There is always room for spiritual growth.

How do you grow spiritually? The answer lies in your diet. Just as a child grows by what he eats, you grow spiritually by what you eat spiritually. Since you are a part of the New Testament Church, your diet should be mainly made up of the Epistles, which were written specifically to the Church. I also recommend spending a lot of time in First Corinthians 13 (the “love chapter”) and the First Epistle of John.

God's nature is love, and His nature abides in you. But you must feed on love for it to grow. I am thoroughly convinced that feeding on love can make a huge impact in your life. Many problems can be avoided simply by walking in love.

Every believer has received the same New Birth, the same measure of faith (Rom. 12:3), the same measure of grace (Eph. 4:7), and the same love of God (Rom. 5:5). It's up to each of us to develop what we have been given. You won't mature overnight. But as you meditate on the Word of God, especially the Word concerning love, you will leave the baby and childhood stages behind you and move into maturity so that you can be a blessing to the Body of Christ and the world.

# **‘It Won’t Take Me Long To Receive!’**

Once I had decided that the baptism in the Holy Ghost with the evidence of speaking in other tongues was as much for me as it had been for Jesus’ early disciples, I went right over to the Full Gospel parsonage and told the pastor that I wanted that experience. And he told me to wait.

Waiting to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit isn’t scriptural. Yes, Jesus told His disciples to “. . . tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high” (Luke 24:49). But they weren’t waiting to prepare themselves to be filled with the Holy Spirit. They were waiting for the Day of Pentecost. The Holy Spirit could not be given until then. Acts 2:1 reads, “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come . . . .”

Someone said, “Well, waiting gets you ready.” No, it doesn’t. Getting saved gets you ready. By saying a person has to wait in order to receive the Holy Spirit, people are really saying a person has to clean himself up first. But you can’t clean yourself up except through repentance of unconfessed sin (1 John 1:9). The blood of Jesus Christ is what cleanses believers from all sin (1 John 1:7). If you are blood-washed, you are ready right now to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit!

Cornelius and his household were not only saved but also filled with the Holy Spirit—in almost the same instant (Acts 11:14–15). They didn’t have time to get ready. The Holy Spirit fell upon them, and they began to speak with tongues.

If it hadn’t been for speaking in tongues, we Gentiles may never have gotten into the Church. It was strictly Jewish until the Spirit fell at Cornelius’ house. Even Peter himself didn’t know that the Gentiles could be saved until he had the vision which is recorded in Acts chapter 10. It astonished the Jews who went with Peter to Cornelius’ house

when the Holy Spirit was poured out on the Gentiles: “For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. . .” (Acts 10:46). Speaking in tongues is what convinced the Jews that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles!

When I told the Full Gospel pastor, “I have come here to get the Holy Spirit,” and he told me to wait, I blurted out, “But it won’t take me long to receive!”

Because the church was having a revival service that night and it was already six o’clock, he wanted me to wait and seek the baptism in the service. But I knew I would have to wait until the preliminaries and the preaching were over. It would have been nine o’clock before I could have gotten to the altar, and who wants to wait for a gift?

I have been associated with Full Gospel people for many years now, and in all that time I have never told anyone to wait for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. If people say they want to get saved tonight, you don’t say, “Wait and come to church on Sunday and seek for it.” If someone wants you to pray for their healing, you don’t say, “Wait.” They want to get healed immediately, especially if they are in pain. Salvation is a gift, healing is a gift, and so is the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

A pastor once said, “I know you can receive the Holy Spirit right away, because we read about it in the Acts of the Apostles. But when you have to wait a long time that experience means so much more to you. Take me, for instance. It took me three years and six months to get the Holy Spirit. I waited and waited. Now the Holy Spirit really means something to me.”

I said, “Well, poor old Paul didn’t know that. I wish you could have gotten to him and told him about it. He got the Holy Spirit immediately when Ananias laid hands on him. He didn’t wait, tarry, or seek. But then, all he ever did was write half of the New Testament. Of course, he did more single-handedly in his 38 years of ministry than any denomination has done in 500 years. But if you could have gotten to him and told him to wait for three years and six months, maybe the Holy Spirit would have meant something to him.”

Seeing my eagerness to receive, the Full Gospel pastor reluctantly said, “Well, come on in, then.” I went into the living room and knelt

down in front of a large chair. I closed out everything around me, shut my eyes, and lifted my hands. No one told me to do it; I just lifted my hands. And I was right; it didn't take me long to receive.

# How Important Is Speaking in Tongues?

There is more to being filled with the Holy Ghost than speaking in tongues, but tongues are an important and integral part of receiving the Holy Ghost, since they are the initial evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:4). Also, speaking in tongues is an integral part of the believer's devotional prayer life, for as the Apostle Paul said, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues . . ." (1 Cor. 14:18). I, too, can say with Paul, "I thank my God I speak with tongues."

In the Church world today, many people say, "Tongues have been done away with, because the Bible says that tongues will cease." The Bible does say that one day, tongues will cease (see First Corinthians 13:8–12), but that is not referring to this present Church Age. In Heaven, there will be no necessity for tongues, because that which is perfect will have come (1 Cor. 13:10).

There are those who purport to believe in speaking in tongues but do not feel that tongues are necessary for all believers. It's important to understand that there is a difference between the gift of tongues that accompanies the baptism in the Holy Spirit, which every believer can receive, and the gift of tongues that is a ministry gift. (For a more detailed teaching on this subject, please read my study guide entitled, *The Holy Spirit and His Gifts Study Guide*.)

In this article, we are talking about the gift of tongues given for every believer. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is for all those who believe (Acts 2:38–39); therefore, speaking in tongues as an evidence of the Spirit's infilling is also for all those who believe.

Many have been robbed of the blessings God intended them to have by believing that speaking in tongues isn't for everyone. But the Word shows us that every believer needs to be filled with the Holy Ghost.

And the Word says that when we get filled with the Holy Ghost, we will speak with tongues (Acts 2:4).

However, speaking with tongues does not occur as just one initial experience of being filled with the Holy Ghost, and then it ceases. Speaking with tongues is a continual experience for the rest of one's life.

Notice that in writing to the Church at Corinth, Paul very definitely encouraged the Corinthian Christians to follow the practice of speaking with tongues in their own private prayer lives. And he gave a number of reasons for it.

### ***DEVOTIONAL USE—SPEAKING DIVINE SECRETS***

There is the devotional use of tongues. First Corinthians 14:2 says, "For he who speaks in a 'tongue' addresses God, not man; no one understands him; he is talking of divine secrets in the Spirit" (Moffatt). Here, Paul is talking about the individual Spirit-filled believer employing the use of tongues in his prayer life. Through speaking in tongues, you can pray out the plan of God for your life by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### ***SPIRITUAL EDIFICATION***

Tongues are also used as a means of spiritual edification. The Bible says, "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself . . ." (1 Cor. 14:4). The word "edifieth" means to build up. Further down in the chapter, The Amplified Bible reads, "My spirit [by the Holy Spirit within me] prays, but my mind is unproductive . . ." (1 Cor. 14:14). So praying in tongues is not for mental edification, but for spiritual edification.

### ***WORSHIPPING GOD***

For the believer who is filled with the Holy Ghost, his tongues are given to him to use constantly in his worship and devotion to God. The Bible says in Acts 10:46 concerning Cornelius and his household when they began to speak with tongues, "For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. . . ." Speaking with tongues is a supernatural way to magnify God.

## ***DOORWAY TO THE SUPERNATURAL***

Speaking with tongues is the doorway into all the other spiritual gifts. Some people want to experience all the gifts of the Spirit at once, but you have to go through the door to get into the supernatural. Also, it is as the Spirit of God wills, not as we will (1 Cor. 12:11). In other words, you can't force or "put on" a manifestation of the gifts of the Spirit.

The Bible teaches us to desire spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 14:1). The Bible also teaches us to earnestly covet the best gifts (1 Cor. 12:31). But remember that those words were written to people who already spoke in tongues. They weren't written to people who did not speak with tongues.

I have found in my own life over a period of more than 60 years that the more I speak in tongues—the more I pray and worship God in tongues—the more manifestation of the other gifts of the Spirit I have in my life too. And the less I speak in tongues, the less manifestation of the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit I have operating in my life.

The Holy Spirit knows what is coming in the future, and I am thoroughly convinced that if we will be sensitive and responsive to Him, He will show us things to come (John 16:13). He will equip each of us for what lies ahead in life, if we will yield to Him. Praying and speaking with tongues is one way to do that; it is one way to be built up spiritually in order to prepare and be ready for whatever may come in the future.

God has given each of us a supernatural means of edifying ourselves, or building ourselves up, spiritually. God has given to us a supernatural means of communicating with and worshipping Him. Are you as a Spirit-filled believer taking full advantage of the gift of tongues?

# Have a Song in Your Heart

**And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.**

**—Ephesians 5:18–21**

In writing to the church at Ephesus, Paul encouraged the believers to “. . . be filled with the Spirit.” We see in Acts chapter 19 that the believers in the church at Ephesus had already been filled with Spirit.

Why, then, would Paul encourage them to be filled with the Spirit in the fifth chapter of Ephesians? The answer lies in the Greek word for filled. Greek scholars tell us the word translated filled in Ephesians chapter 5 means “a continuous action.” So Paul was telling the believers at Ephesus, “. . . BE BEING FILLED with the Spirit.”

You see, there is one initial infilling with the Holy Ghost. That’s what we call the baptism in the Holy Ghost. But there are many refillings throughout your life. Being filled with the Spirit is not simply a one-time event with a beginning and an end. It is a continuous, lifelong experience.

One characteristic of the Spirit-filled life is that you’ll have a song in your heart. Let’s look again at a verse from Ephesians chapter 5.

**EPHESIANS 5:19**

**19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.**

If you are filled with the Spirit, it will be recognizable. People should be able to see a difference between you and somebody who isn't filled with the Spirit. How will they know? Because if you are full of the Holy Ghost, you will have a song in your heart. What does it mean to have a song in your heart? It means you've got joy!

The Bible says, "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and JOY in the Holy Ghost" (Rom. 14:17). If you are full of joy, it will show on your face. You may even dance, sing, or laugh. Sometimes when you're full of joy, you can't keep from laughing, even when you're by yourself!

So you see, being filled with the Spirit means you'll have joy and a song in your heart. Now, I don't mean some song that you get out of a songbook. The songs we sing in church are fine. We ought to sing them. But they didn't have any songbooks that they passed out to the congregation back in the Apostle Paul's day.

Paul is talking about psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. He is describing something that the Holy Ghost gives you. These songs come from your heart on the spur of the moment. They are given to us by the Spirit to help us.

I've noticed that in the hard places of my life, I would begin speaking in psalms and spiritual songs. In some of the most severe places, I've spoken nearly all night long in psalms. One night, I actually did speak in psalms all night long. I never slept a wink that night!

During the tough times, the Holy Spirit inspires me and gives me psalms to help me. Do you remember that Jesus said to His disciples, "I'll not leave you comfortless"? (See John 14:18.) He asked the Father to send "another Comforter," the Holy Spirit. The Amplified Bible translates the word Comforter as "Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby" (John 14:16). The Holy Ghost is our Standby. He's standing by to help us in the hard places in life. And those psalms He gave me helped me. They were a comfort to me.

Now, read what Paul wrote to the church at Colosse.

### **COLOSSIANS 3:16**

**16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and**

**admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.**

In Ephesians 5:19, Paul wrote that you ought to be “speaking to YOURSELVES . . . .” In that verse, he’s talking about something you do in your own private prayer life. But here in Colossians, Paul says we can be “. . . teaching and admonishing ONE ANOTHER . . .,” or in other words, speaking to one another. That means we can speak in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs at all times. We can do it when we’re praying alone. We can speak these songs to another individual. Or we can do it in a public assembly.

But notice the criteria God expects us to meet before we speak! The Word of Christ is to first of all dwell in you “. . . richly in all wisdom.” Sometimes the Word of Christ dwells in people, but not in wisdom. Paul admonishes you to make sure it dwells in you in wisdom.

Let me give you an example. A number of years ago, way back in 1939, I knew two young men. One of them was 16, and the other one was 17. They got born again and later on were filled with the Holy Ghost.

One day, these two teenage boys went out hunting rabbits. They had a .22 caliber rifle with them. As they headed back home, they walked down a railroad track until they ran into a young boy. Then they stopped, because they wanted to witness to him.

They said to him, “Are you ready to die?”

Well, when this young boy heard what they said and saw that they had a .22 rifle, he took off running!

Later on, these teenage boys said to me, “We weren’t going to kill him. We were going to talk to him about Jesus. We wanted to know if he was ready to go to Heaven.”

These boys had the Word of God in them. But they weren’t using wisdom, so their plan failed. That’s why the Word of God needs to dwell in us richly in all wisdom.

***THE PURPOSE OF PSALMS, HYMNS, AND SPIRITUAL SONGS***

Notice that Colossians 3:16, goes on to say, “. . . teaching and admonishing one another.” How do we teach and admonish others? The rest of the verse tells us we do it “. . . in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”

Paul was saying that those psalms would teach and encourage believers. If the Christians in Colosse were facing a test or trial, the psalms they received from the Holy Ghost would teach them or encourage them in what they were going through.

This benefit isn't something that belonged just to them. This belongs to every believer! Paul was not writing to one or two people in those two churches. He was writing to the whole church at Ephesus and Colosse. He was writing to the whole group. And if he was writing to them, then he was writing to us.

As the Spirit of God dwells within us, we also have songs in our hearts! Let that same Spirit rise up within you in psalms and hymns, ministering to yourself and those around you. Glory to God!

# Growing Up, Spiritually

## EPHESIANS 4:8–15

**8** Wherefore he saith, When he ascended up on high, he led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men.

**9** (Now that he ascended, what is it but that he also descended first into the lower parts of the earth?

**10** He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.)

**11** And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;

**12** For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

**13** TILL WE ALL COME IN THE UNITY OF THE FAITH, AND OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SON OF GOD, UNTO A PERFECT MAN, UNTO THE MEASURE OF THE STATURE OF THE FULNESS OF CHRIST:

**14** THAT WE HENCEFORTH BE NO MORE CHILDREN, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

**15** But speaking the truth in love, MAY GROW UP into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.

Evidently, Paul didn't consider the Church at Ephesus to be grown up, for he said, "But speaking the truth in love, **MAY GROW UP. . .**" (v. 15). And in verse 13, he said, "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto **A PERFECT MAN . . .**"

I think that when the King James Version says "a perfect man," our minds run off on a tangent and miss what the Scripture is saying. Moffatt's translation says, "Until we reach maturity." The Amplified Bible reads, "Let us grow up in every way and in all things." Another translation says, "Until we reach mature manhood." Paul is talking about growing up to be a man, or a mature person, spiritually speaking.

The Bible teaches a striking similarity between physical development and spiritual development. And it speaks of at least three stages in spiritual development that correspond to three stages in physical development: babyhood, childhood, and manhood, or adulthood.

Some of the same characteristics true of each of these stages in the natural are also true in the spiritual. Let's examine two of the characteristics of the first stage—babyhood.

## ***INNOCENCE***

### **1 PETER 2:2**

**2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby.**

Peter speaks of Christians being newborn babes. No one is physically born a full-grown human. We are born as babies and we grow up. Similarly, no one is born a full-grown Christian. We are born as spiritual babes, and then we grow up.

One natural characteristic that attracts us to a baby is its innocence. We never think of a baby as having a past. It doesn't have one.

If you are a newborn babe, having been born in Christ, you don't have any past! You may have been as mean as the devil, the worst wretch in town, but no matter how you may have lived, when you were born again, you became a new man (or woman) in Christ Jesus, and you

don't have any past. God looks at you as an innocent babe. And we should look at each other that way.

We should never outgrow certain characteristics of spiritual babyhood. One is this state of innocence.

A new convert is full of faith—ready and willing to learn. We should always keep a teachable spirit. Sometimes when people grow older chronologically, they get to the place where they have a know-it-all attitude—a “you-can't-teach-me-anything” attitude. These people can't be helped by anyone, including God Himself, because they won't listen.

After one of my services, a group of men were standing and talking at the back of the church I pastored. As I went up to shake hands with them, one of the deacons said, “Brother Hagin, what do you think about such-and-such?”

(He mentioned a certain Bible subject. Later, I learned he purposely tried to draw me into the conversation.)

I said, “Well, I know what the Bible says about it. But I don't know just where your discussion is and whether or not I could fit my comments in.”

The man this deacon wanted to help was also a member of the church, and he spoke up immediately.

“Well, I'll tell you. Not you or anyone else can tell me a thing in the world about that subject. I know all there is to be known on it. I know all about it.”

“I said, “If you know everything there is to know about it, you've got me beat!”

And if he did know everything there is to know about the subject, he had every other preacher and person I'd ever heard or seen beat too. To tell the truth about it, that fellow was the biggest baby in the entire church. He didn't know all about anything!

We need to keep an open and teachable spirit, as well as an innocent spirit toward God and man.

## ***IGNORANCE***

Another characteristic of babyhood is ignorance. A baby thinks whatever he can get his hands on is intended for his mouth. If he finds a screw, the screw goes into his mouth. And if he finds a spider, the spider goes into his mouth.

Babies are ignorant concerning these things.

Babies have actually died as a result of not knowing the difference between what should and should not be swallowed. Some of them have swallowed a kind of poison. Others have swallowed aspirin or other medicines. These babies were ignorant of the effect these things would have on them. Unfortunately, there can be a high price to pay for such ignorance.

The same thing can be true, spiritually speaking. We need to be careful about what goes into our spiritual mouths. We need to be as careful about what we see and hear with our physical ears as we are about what we physically eat.

Many Christians think nothing at all of gulping down some poisonous doctrine that will poison their spiritual life and, eventually, ruin their testimony if they accept it.

A number of years ago, a denominational minister was filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke with other tongues. I knew of no greater soul-winner than this man. He was outstanding. He could get people saved when no one else could.

It seemed to me that you could stand up the 12 best preachers in America and let them all preach and give an altar call. Then you could have this man preach to the same crowd, and he would get more saved than any of them did—even after they all had the first shot at it! That was his ministry.

But this man got to reading after some false teaching. He finally accepted some false doctrine and got into a ditch. He had what he called a “marvelous revelation.” (Now I believe in receiving revelations as long as they are in line with the Word of God. But we must examine these things in light of the Word.) This man’s revelation was this: No one is going to be lost—everyone is going to be saved, even the devil. And this man quit preaching to the lost. His ministry stopped.

I know some Pentecostal people who were tremendous soul-winners, getting people saved and filled with the Holy Ghost. But they got taken up with certain doctrines. Some of them told me, “God is doing a different thing nowadays.”

No, God is not doing a different thing. They were just off their rocker! God is still concerned about saving people. Those preachers just left the fundamental truths of the Word of God and went off on something that doesn’t amount to a hill of beans.

Some things are poisonous. And with some things, it doesn’t make a whole lot of difference what you believe about them—they’re not essential to salvation, and it wouldn’t make any difference whether you believed them or didn’t believe them.

But too many times, Christian people will feed on everything in the world except the right thing, and they become poisoned. Then they lead disciples off after themselves. If the Spirit of God is in it, He is concerned about there being unity.

Remember Ephesians 4:13: “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.” That which divides Christians is not of the Spirit of God—it is of the devil! The Spirit of love never divides.

I went into a Christian home and saw some books lying on the living room table, which I knew were poisonous. They were religious books, but they were poisonous. I purposely worked the conversation around to the books, picking one up and saying something about it.

This person (who was born again and Spirit-filled) said, “Oh, that is just the most wonderful thing!”

“Is it?” I asked.

He said, “Oh, yes, it is.”

In the early days of my Christianity, I had happened to get hold of some of these same books and had detected immediately the poison on them. So for this man whose home I was visiting, I turned to some particular pages and began reading certain passages to him.

“Well, now, Brother Hagin,” he said, “they give ‘chapter and verse’ in there. I looked some of them up, and those verses are in the Bible.”

I said, “Certainly. If they didn’t give some verses—though they may take them out of context—and a little Bible truth, folks wouldn’t read it.

“If you were going to poison an animal, you wouldn’t just set out the poison—the animal wouldn’t touch it! You would have to put the poison into a good piece of meat to get the animal to bite. In the same way, the devil knows how to give you some good Scripture to get you to eat, but he will also put a little poison in it.”

Be careful when you read, no matter who wrote it. And don’t read everything you can get your hands on. Unless you are a full, mature Christian and are able to “rightly divide” it, it would be best for you not to read just everything you can find to read.

I held a meeting for a very well-educated Full Gospel minister, a doctor of divinity. Until that time, I had never seen a larger library than his. He had a large office with an adjoining room equally as large as his office. And on every wall of both these rooms, from ceiling to floor, he had books. Being a bookworm myself, I was interested in looking his library over, and I read some of his books during my three-week stay.

During a conversation with me, he said, “Brother Hagin, I’ll be perfectly honest with you. There are some things I’ve read that I wish I’d never read. They bother me to this day, though I don’t read them anymore.”

(He mentioned some of the books he was talking about, and they were religious books.)

He said, “I wish I’d never read those books. They hinder my faith and keep me from believing God fully to this day.”

When I start reading something that takes faith out of me instead of putting faith in me, I have enough sense to lay it down right then! I don’t want to give the devil any place in my life. If I begin to read something that tears down Christian doctrines and principles, I’m finished with it right then.

Be careful what you feed on. You’ve heard it said regarding natural food, “You are what you eat.” The same thing is true with spiritual food—you are what you read or feed on. We must be careful what we allow

into our eyes and ears. What we see, read, and hear can affect our thoughts, our faith, and our spiritual growth.

# Godly Guidance

Too often, we seek guidance every other way except the way God said it was to come. We judge by our physical senses, but nowhere in the Bible does God say He will guide us by our senses. Or, we often look at things from a mental standpoint. But God said, “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord...” (Prov. 20:27), which means that God will guide us through our spirit.

Man is a spirit being. He has a soul, and he lives in a physical body (1 Thess. 5:23). But he is a spirit being because he is made in the likeness of God. Jesus said that God is a Spirit (John 4:24).

There is an outward man and an inward man. The outward man is not the real you. The outward man is only the “house” (body) you live in. The inward man is the real you.

Before we can understand how God will guide us through our spirit, we must first find out what the spirit is. This inward man—or as he is called by Peter, “the hidden man of the heart” (1 Peter 3:4)—is the spirit of man. When the Bible speaks of the heart, it is speaking of the spirit, the inward man, or the hidden man. This is the real man. When Paul says, “Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature . . .” (2 Cor. 5:17), he is talking about the inward man, the real man. You certainly didn’t get a new body when you were born again, but the real you, your spirit, became a new man in Christ.

People tend to be more body-conscious than spirit-conscious. We need to reverse the order and become more spirit-conscious. Until we become more spirit-conscious, we will not be able to understand what God is saying to our spirit. Spiritual things will be indistinct. But the more spirit-conscious we become, the more real the leading of the Lord will be to us.

We need to think of ourselves as a spirit being, possessing a soul and living in a body. Many times people uses the terms “spirit” and “soul” interchangeably, leaving the impression that they are the same. But they are not.

A man's spirit—the innermost man, the real man—receives eternal life and is born again. But his intellect and emotions, which comprise the soul, still have to be dealt with. They are not born again; instead, they must be renewed.

Paul speaks about the renewing of the mind in Romans 12:2, “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .” This is a process. The epistle of James was written to Christians. Yet in the first chapter, he said, “. . . receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able TO SAVE YOUR SOULS” (James 1:21). Our soul must be renewed, or restored, by the Word of God.

Our spirit is born again; our mind is to be renewed; and Romans 12:1 tells us what to do with our body. Paul said, “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” (Rom. 12:1).

Paul said in Romans 6:13, “Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin . . .” After you are born again, your body is going to want to keep on doing the same things it always has done, but Paul said not to let it. The man on the inside, the inward man, has become a new man in Christ. Let this inward man dominate the outward man.

This man on the inside—the spirit man through whom God will deal—has become a new man. The old things that were in the old man are gone now. Spiritual death was in there. The nature of the devil was in there. Hatred and lying were in there. But now the love of God is in there. Now the nature of God is in there. This is the man who is to be the dominant one. We are to listen to him, because it is through this man—our spirit man—that God will guide us.

The inward man has a “voice” which we call the conscience, intuition, inner guidance, or the inward witness. As a born-again believer trains and develops his spirit, this voice will become clearer. His spirit will become a surer and surer guide. One thing that has held back the Christian world as a whole is that we are more physical-conscious (body-conscious) and more mental-conscious (soul-

conscious) then we are spirit-conscious. We have developed the body and soul, but we have left the spirit of man almost untouched. Your spirit can be educated just as your mind can be educated. Your spirit can be built up in strength and trained just as your body can be built up and trained.

With a person who has never been born again, his spirit is unregenerate. His conscience would permit him to do just about anything. But when you have the nature and life of God in you, your conscience won't permit you to do just anything.

It is your spirit, not the Holy Spirit, which condemns you if you do wrong as a Christian. The Holy Spirit does not convict of sin. Jesus said the only sin the Holy Spirit will convict the world of is the sin of rejecting Jesus. It is your own spirit that knows the very moment you have done wrong.

Notice in Romans 8:16, Paul said, "The Spirit itself [or Himself] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." Too many times people think that this witness he is talking about is a physical something. It isn't. The Bible does not say the Spirit bears witness with our bodies.

Feeling is the voice of the body. Reason is the voice of the soul or mind. Conscience is the voice of the spirit.

If we go by feelings, we are going to be in trouble!

People say, "I felt like the Lord heard me." It makes no difference whether you felt like it or not. If the Word of God states it, it is true. And since God said He hears and answers your prayers (1 John 5:14–15), He does!

Base your faith on the Word; not on your feelings. Romans 8:16 does not say that the Spirit bears witness with our bodies or with our feelings. It says, "The Spirit itself [Himself] beareth witness with our SPIRIT . . . ." The Word and the Spirit agree. The Holy Spirit will take this Word and witness to your heart.

It is not for us to tell the Lord how to lead us. In the Bible we see how at times some received guidance through a vision. We read where others received guidance from an angel who appeared and told them certain things. However, such occurrences didn't happen every day in

these people's lives. They occurred once or twice in the entire lifetime of some of them. Too many times when God is trying to bear witness with our spirits—trying to guide us—we won't listen, because we want something dramatic, such as a vision or an angel.

Sometimes people don't want to take the responsibility themselves and become more Spirit-conscious and to yield to the leading of the Spirit, yet that is where the responsibility lies. It is a lot easier to put it off on the Lord and say, "Lord, if You want me to do that, then You just open the door. If You don't want me to do it, then You shut the door." It is easier to do that than to wait on God until you know the answer on the inside of you. And sometimes it takes times of waiting to hear this inward witness.

We can get so busy physically and mentally that spiritual things become indistinct to us. It is easier to get quiet with your body than to get quiet with your mind. You can make as much noise with your mind as you can with your hands and feet! Sometimes when you try to sleep, though your body is relaxed, your mind is still noisy. It is still churning with the day's activities, ideas, plans, or worries and anxieties about the future.

Here is an area in which praying in tongues is a great advantage. "For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful" (1 Cor. 14:14).

While praying, has your mind ever wandered to other things? It used to take me an hour, sometimes, to get my mind quiet, but now I have found the best way is to pray in other tongues. When you pray in other tongues, your mind grows quiet. Once it is quiet, you become more conscious of your own spirit and of spiritual things.

When praying in other tongues and worshipping God, your spirit is in direct contact with God, who is a Spirit and the Father of spirits. Your prayer language doesn't come out of your head, but out of your heart.

If we would train our spirits, we would know inside with a "yes" or a "no" just what to do in every area of life, even in minor things. We spend practically our entire lifetime in the mental and physical realms. Many times, we've developed our head, or intellect, at the expense of

our heart. The knowledge of our intellect has taken the throne in our life. Our spirit, which should guide us, is kept locked away in prison, so to speak, and it is not permitted to function.

Whenever we receive any kind of leading or guidance, we can know whether it's from God by determining whether or not it's in line with His Word. When the Spirit of God moves, He always moves in line with the Word. If it's not in line with the Word, it isn't the Spirit of God. The Bible is inspired by the Spirit, and if it is the same Spirit Who is speaking to you, it is going to be in line with the Word.

Remember that the Bible says there are many voices in this world. In my travels, I have met people who claim to have heard some kind of voice. There are some very dear people who have gotten off track by following voices. There are many voices in the world (1 Cor. 14:10). We are not to accept anything without examining it in the light of the Word.

God does communicate with us through our spirit, but it isn't a matter of listening to voices. It isn't a matter of praying to hear something. If He speaks to us, all right, but if He doesn't, we have His Word for godly guidance, and we can walk in the light of it.

# When the Spirit Leads You to Pray--Pray!

I want to share with you one particular experience from my life of a time when I was led by the Holy Spirit to pray. Back in 1979, we began holding Prayer and Healing School on the RHEMA campus. The musicians would sing a little bit, and we'd take up an offering. Then, they would turn the service over to me. Often, I would stay in a room by myself and pray before coming out to take over the service.

One day as the offering was being received, I came walking into the little auditorium where we held Healing School, and sat down on the platform. Suddenly (and that's the way the Holy Ghost moves—suddenly), a burden came on me to pray. Quietly, I said to myself, “I have to pray, and I have to pray now! Somebody's life is in danger. Somebody's near death.” I just sensed in my spirit that someone—I didn't know who—was near death.

So I got up and said to the crowd, “Folks, I have to pray and pray now. I have this burden to pray, so let's all pray now.” I knelt down to pray, and by the time my knees hit the floor, I was in the Spirit. I mean, I was praying in tongues, and I prayed earnestly that way for at least 45 minutes. Then I got a note of victory. I began to laugh. I began to sing quietly to myself. Praise God! I knew that whomever it was I was praying for, I had the victory.

At 9:30 that night, I got a telephone call from a young lady whose mother had been a great supporter of this ministry for many years. About three o'clock that afternoon, there had been an explosion in the Texaco refinery in Port Arthur, Texas, and the young lady's father was caught in there with 17 other men. Six and a half hours had come and gone. The men were still trapped, and the firemen had not been able to put the fire out. They were in fear for the lives of all those men.

This young lady was calling to ask me to pray. I started laughing right on the phone because I suddenly realized whom I had been praying for earlier that day. I said, “There’s no need to pray at this point. I already got the victory on that. I already got it! He’s all right; your father will be all right.”

My wife and I went to bed, and at 1:30 in the morning, the phone rang again. We had two phones, one near each of us, so we both answered. It was the same young lady. She told us, “Momma just called. They finally got the fire put out. And when they went in there, they couldn’t believe it. All eighteen men were safe!” Hallelujah!

Can you see why it’s so important to pray when the Spirit leads you to pray? What if I hadn’t prayed? I had the whole group at Healing School pray with me. What if we hadn’t yielded to the Spirit? Those men could have died!

Learning to pray when the Holy Spirit leads us would avert many dangers. If Spirit-filled believers would follow His promptings and become prayer-conscious, many problems wouldn’t happen. Many terrible things would never happen if folks were really led by the Spirit.

## ***GREAT THINGS HAPPEN WHEN WE PRAY IN THE SPIRIT***

Being led by the Spirit does more than avert trouble in our lives. It also helps us usher in wonderful moves of God. Great and mighty things have happened in the past as God’s people have prayed. And great and mighty things are going to happen more and more. But they’re not going to come just because God decides, “Well, I’m going to bless this one and that one.”

No! They will come as a result of our praying!

Back in 1942, I was the pastor of a church in east Texas. Toward the end of November of that year, I'd get up between two and four o'clock in the morning, Monday through Friday, and go into the living room to pray for an hour.

Now, I wasn't led to do that. Sometimes you're led. Sometimes you have a leading, a burden, to pray in certain ways and along certain lines. But I would simply pray in English to begin with. And I'd say:

“Lord, we thank You for all the gifts and manifestations of the Spirit: the three revelation gifts—the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, and discerning of spirits; the three power gifts—faith, gifts of healings, and working of miracles; and the three vocal gifts—prophecy, divers kinds of tongues, and interpretation of tongues.

“Lord, we have an ample manifestation of the vocal gifts. We never have a service that doesn't have a tongue and interpretation. We have an ample manifestation of revelation gifts. But it seems to me that there ought to be more manifestations of these power gifts: faith, gifts of healings, and working of miracles. And so I pray that there will be a greater manifestation of these gifts than we've seen before.”

Now, in about 15 minutes, I had said everything I knew to say in English. I'd be finished praying what my mind knew to pray. So I'd say, “I trust the Holy Ghost Who is living inside me to give me utterance to pray about this and anything else that God wants me to pray about.” And I'd spend the rest of the hour praying in tongues.

I did that day after day, five days a week, week after week, from about the last two weeks of November in 1942 to the twenty-third day of February in 1943. That's over three months! And on that twenty-third day of February, the Lord began to talk to me.

He said, “At the close of World War II, there will come a revival of divine healing to America.” Well, that revival started in 1947, and

during that revival, it became the easiest thing in the world to get people healed. I learned later that other people had been led by the Spirit to pray in that direction too. We had no communication with one another and didn't know we were all praying for the same thing. But thank God, He answered our prayers.

## ***PERSEVERING IN PRAYER***

I believe that the same kind of breakthroughs can happen today if we'll just stay in prayer until we have the victory.

### **EPHESIANS 6:18**

**18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all PERSEVERANCE and supplication for all saints . . . .**

What is perseverance? I heard one fellow call it "stickability." In other words, just stick with it. Stay with praying until you've prayed through. I think that many times, if something doesn't happen fast enough, we give up too soon. But if we give up, we won't see the results God intends for us to have.

I'm reminded of a story I once heard about the east Texas oil field. Much of the oil in the field has been pumped out through the years. But back in the late 1930s, it was thriving. A man in the oil business there had made a million dollars and then lost it. A bank was financing him so he could drill another well. The money ran out, and he still hadn't hit oil. But he was convinced that if he could go just 50 feet deeper, he would hit oil.

One way or another, he talked the banker into extending a little bit more money. He drilled 50 feet farther down and hit a gusher. It made him a multimillionaire overnight.

Well, what if he had quit? What if the banker had said, “No, we’ve given you all we can give you. That’s it! That’s the end of it.” But he didn’t. And they were able to drill just a little farther—and they hit a gusher!

I think sometimes if we’d just pray with a little more perseverance, if we’d just be more determined, we’d have greater manifestations of the gifts of the Spirit. We’ll see great and mighty things happen as we yield ourselves to pray!

# Finding Your Place

I don't know a lot about the anointing of the pastor even though I pastored about twelve years. You might say, "Well, you pastored — you ought to know." I would have to reply, "That wasn't my office." I did function in that office temporarily as God permitted me to, but I didn't have the anointing to pastor. It's a different anointing. It's the same Spirit, but a different anointing.

I recognize it on people, and I'm blessed by it, but I don't have it and never did have it. Thank God for the pastor and the pastoral office. It's a marvelous anointing and a blessing of God. It's amazing to me how the anointing—the Spirit of God—comes upon a person to stand in the office of pastor.

Some people claim to be pastors. If you're called of God to pastor, the anointing is going to be there to pastor. There's more to pastoring than preaching, however. The anointing is not there all the time to preach. If it were, a person would preach himself to death. But the anointing will come on you when you stand in the pulpit to preach.

Paul wrote to Timothy, a young pastor, saying, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Tim. 2:15). I learned a lot during the time God permitted me to pastor.

After about ten years of pastoral work, I shut myself in my church and prayed and fasted for days. I said, "Lord, why am I so dissatisfied? The church is growing. We've got all the money we need. People are getting saved, filled with the Holy Spirit, and healed in our services. From the natural standpoint, we have every reason in the world to be satisfied—but I'm not satisfied. Something is not right."

I kept seeking God. One day as I was praying, God said, “The reason is, I never did call you to pastor to begin with. That’s not your calling. That’s not your office.”

Did you know there are a lot of people in the wrong office? And it’s dangerous—really dangerous—to intrude into another office.

In the Old Testament days, those who intruded into another office fell dead instantly. In these days of grace—thank God for grace—you can get by with it longer, but you can’t get by with it forever. Sooner or later, as the Bible says, if you don’t judge yourself, you’ll have to be judged so you won’t be condemned with the world (1 Cor. 11:31–32).

I’ve seen marvelous ministries ruined and the Church robbed of the blessings She ought to have had, because people didn’t minister under their anointing. You can spread yourself so thin in different ministries that you get very little anointing on any of them.

That’s one reason I stay over where the Lord called me, whether I’m preaching or teaching. It doesn’t make any difference what I’m teaching on or where I start out—I always seem to end up on the subject of faith and healing.

Now, certainly, God may lead you to speak on different subjects at certain times, especially if you’re a pastor. He never called me to pastor, although I did function there for a while, and thank God for it. It was a learning period, but it still wasn’t my calling.

Back in 1948, someone came along mightily used of God and anointed to minister healing. A pastor friend told me, “Brother Hagin, you could do that. The same anointing that’s on him is on you.”

My friend said, “When you preach for me and get on the subject of faith or healing, it’s just like a dog on a rabbit’s trail. You just take off!”

That was because God anoints you to do what He has called you to do. If I had persisted in doing something else, like pastoring, the anointing wouldn't be there, and I would have diminished the overall anointing upon my life and ministry.

If you're not walking in God's best—His will for your life—you can't claim God's best. If you're not in God's perfect will, you can't claim God's perfect provision. We need to know that and find our place.

Often God will let you serve nearly anywhere during a period of training. But the time will come that you need to get on your knees and find your place. You must ask yourself, "What did God call me to do? What does He want me to do?"

I never want to do something just because I want to do it. I want to obey God. I believe you do too.

# Becoming Spirit Conscious in a Physical World

In a time when people are searching for answers, children of God can rest assured of getting the right answers. While others turn to false religions, psychics, or friends for guidance, the Spirit of God will lead us. But in order to be led by the Spirit, we must learn to be more spirit conscious.

To understand this more fully, let's examine these scriptures:

**"For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." —Romans 8:14**

**"The Spirit [Himself] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God." —Romans 8:16**

**"The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly." —Proverbs 20:27**

According to these scriptures, we Christians can expect God to enlighten us—to guide us—by our spirit. Many times, though, we seek guidance by some means other than the way God said we should. When we do, we get into trouble.

For instance, sometimes we judge God's leading by being conscious of what our physical senses tell us. But God doesn't say that He will guide us through our physical senses. The Bible does not say that the body of man is the candle of the Lord.

We judge things going on around us from a mental standpoint too. We endeavor to use only our human reasoning as guidance. But God does not say He will guide us through our mentality. The Bible does not say that human reasoning is the candle of the Lord.

No, the Word says that the spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. God will guide us and enlighten us through our spirit.

### ***LIVING BETWIXT TWO***

We can better understand how God leads us and guides us through our spirit, after we first understand the fullness of man, particularly the dimension called the spirit man. According to First Thessalonians 5:23, man is a spirit; he has a soul; and he lives in a physical body.

Jesus said in John 4:24 that God is a Spirit, and Genesis 1:26–27 says that man is made in the likeness of God. So man must of necessity be a spirit. It's important to know the spirit part of man is eternal. Even when the physical body of man is dead and in the grave, the spirit lives on. We can see that through Paul's writing to the Philippians.

#### **PHILIPPIANS 1:23–24**

**23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**

**24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.**

According to this passage, Paul is going to live whether he is in the body or out of the body. If he abides, or lives in the flesh, he can teach the church at Philippi and be a blessing to them. That would be needful for them, Paul says, but it would be far better for him to depart and be with Christ. So, we can see here that Paul was actually saying, "I am

going to live somewhere, either here in the body, or I am going to depart and be with Christ.”

But who or what is going to depart?

Paul said, “I am going to depart.” He wasn’t talking about his body. His body was not going to depart. Paul was talking about the inward man—the spirit man—who lives inside the body.

Now some cults teach that when a man dies, he no longer exists. Others say that when a man dies, he is in “soul sleep.” Still others teach reincarnation, saying that the spirit does depart—but it comes back as a cow, a dog, or as someone else. The Bible does not teach any of this.

Stay with the Word of God and it will solve your questions along this line. Through his writings to the Philippians, Paul told us where we Christians go when we die, saying, “I am going to depart. I am going to be with the Lord, which is far better.” (I like that. He didn’t just say it’s going to be better there, he said it would be far better!)

### ***THE REAL YOU***

Paul preached the same truth and taught the same precept to all the churches. Let’s look at Second Corinthians chapter 4 to see what he taught the Church at Corinth:

#### **2 CORINTHIANS 4:16**

**16 . . . but though our outward man perish,  
yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**

Here we see that man is more than a body. There is an inward man [spirit], and there is an outward man [body]. The outward man is not the real you. The outward man is only the house in which you live. The inward man is the real you. The inward man never grows older. He is renewed day by day. The inward man is a spirit man.

So then, how important is it to be conscious of the spirit man? Well, keep in mind our introductory texts. Romans 8:14 says, “. . . as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Then verse 16 gives us a little insight into the leading of the Spirit of God: “The Spirit [Himself] beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” In other words, the Spirit of God bears witness with the spirit of man. And Proverbs 20:27 says, “The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord. . . .”

According to these scriptures God will guide us through our spirit; therefore, it’s extremely important that we become more conscious of this dimension of man.

### ***THE REBORN SPIRIT***

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “. . . Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). Nicodemus, being natural, could only think naturally. So he said, “. . . How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother’s womb, and be born?” (v. 4).

But Jesus was not talking about a physical birth. He clarified His words for Nicodemus saying, “That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit” (v. 6). Jesus was talking about a spiritual birth.

The part of man that is born again is his spirit. Man’s spirit receives eternal life—the life of God and the nature of God. It is man’s spirit that is made a new creature in Christ.

### ***SPEAKING OF THE HEART***

Paul calls man’s spirit “the inward man,” and Peter calls man’s spirit “the hidden man of the heart.”

## **1 PETER 3:4**

**4 But let it be the hidden man of the heart,  
in that which is not corruptible, even the  
ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which  
is in the sight of God of great price.**

In many instances when the Bible speaks of the heart, it is speaking of the spirit. This is the real man. In the New Testament, wherever the word “heart” is used, substitute the word “spirit” and you will have a clearer understanding of what the Bible is talking about. It will help you in your faith to think this way.

## **2 CORINTHIANS 5:17**

**17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is  
a new creature: old things are passed  
away; behold, all things are become new.**

This passage is talking about the inward man too. It couldn't be talking about the outward man because when you are born again and you become a new creature, you do not receive a new body. The outward man is just like it was before. For example, if you were bald before you were born again, you are still bald afterwards. If you had brown eyes before, you still have brown eyes. The outward man does not change. You do, however, have to do something with the outward man. First, you discover from the Bible what God wants you to do with the outward man—and then you do it.

But God does something with the inward man. He makes the man on the inside a new man in Christ, a new creature — a new creation.

## ***THE PROPER ORDER***

Paul writes in First Thessalonians 5:23, “. . . I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless. . . .” Notice that Paul began with the inside, the innermost part of man—the heart of his being, which is his spirit—and moved to the outside. Yet most people

misquote this verse, saying, “. . . body, soul, and spirit . . .” That’s because they are more body conscious than spirit conscious. Natural things are more real to them than spiritual things, so they put physical things first. But if we are going to be led by the Spirit of God, we must become more spirit conscious, or we will miss His leading.

Many years ago, I received a revelation of this and I set out to become more spirit conscious. At first, I would say this out loud to myself: I am a spirit being. I have a soul. And I live in a body. Saying that helped my faith, because faith is of the spirit, or the heart. Looking at it like that helped me to grow spiritually.

I’m sorry to say this, but most people are more body conscious than spirit conscious. And some are more mental conscious, because they live more in the mental realm. But I encourage you to put your spirit first. Yes, you possess a mind and you live in a body. But realize that you are a spirit being and that you became a new creation created by God in Christ Jesus. Then as you become more spirit conscious (more conscious of the inward man), you will find it much easier to be led by the Spirit of God.