

ARTICLE 9

We believe in speaking with other tongues as the Spirit gives utterance and that it is the initial evidence of the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

1. Definition of Speaking in Other Tongues

- a. The Book of Acts connects speaking with other tongues closely with baptism in the Spirit.**

Scripture references: Acts 2:4; 10:44-47; 11:15-17; 19:1-7

- b. We know from Scripture that God loves us and meets us where we are, regardless of our nationality, ethnicity, culture, physical limitations, mental limitations, disabilities, or mode of communication.**

Scripture references: Exodus 4:14-17; Judges 15:14-20; Mark 3:2-5; Luke 13:10-13; John 4:46-54; Matthew 14:26-33; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

- **God might choose to heal a particular disability permanently.**
- **God might choose to temporarily suspend one's limitations.**
- **God might choose to work within one's disabilities, limitations, or mode of communication.**

* This section quoted from: Arrington, French L. *Encountering the Holy Spirit: The Paths of Christian Growth and Service*. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway Press, 2003.

2. The Initial Evidence (Sign) of Baptism in the Spirit

- a. On several occasions in Acts when the Spirit came, believers spoke in tongues.**

Scripture references:

Day of Pentecost—Acts 2:4

Gentiles' encounter with the Holy Spirit—Acts 10:46; 19:6

Samaritans' encounter with the Holy Spirit—Acts 8:18-19

(1) **On the Day of Pentecost the first response of the disciples to the coming of the Holy Spirit was that they spoke in tongues.**

(2) **Shortly after the Day of Pentecost, some Gentiles had an encounter with the Holy Spirit similar to the encounter that Jesus' followers had had on the Day of Pentecost.**

(3) **When a group of Samaritans received Spirit baptism, there was also some visible or audible manifestation.**

b. Although speaking in other tongues is the initial sign that one has been filled with the Holy Spirit, it is not the whole experience of being baptized in the Spirit.

Scripture references: Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 8:14-19; 19:1-7

3. Additional Significance of Speaking in Tongues

a. Speaking in tongues is a form of communicating with God.

Scripture references: Acts 2:11; 10:46; 1 Corinthians 14:2,15

b. Speaking in tongues can be a sign of God's presence for unbelievers.

Scripture references: 1 Corinthians 14:22; see also Acts 2:5-13

c. The presence of speaking in tongues is a sign that we are living in the time period called the "Last Days."

Scripture references: Acts 2:17; see also Acts 3:18-26

4. Receiving Spirit Baptism

a. Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God.

Scripture references: Joel 2:23-29; Acts 2:33, 39

b. Baptism in the Spirit may be received soon after becoming a Christian or along the way of the Christian walk.

Scripture references: Romans 11:33-36; Philippians 2:13

c. Like the other promises of God, baptism in the Holy Spirit is received through our trust in God.

Scripture references: Acts 2:38-39; 8:5, 12, 17; 10:44; 19:4-6; 2 Peter 3:18

(1) **Faith is the basic and essential requirement for receiving the blessing of spiritual empowerment from the Holy Spirit.**

(2) **As we mature spiritually, our faith in God is strengthened causing us to have a greater desire for spiritual things.**

d. To be ready to receive the blessing of Spirit baptism, we must submit our hearts to God.

Scripture references: 2 Thessalonians 2:13; Acts 15:9

e. The experience of Spirit baptism is received by those whose hearts have been prepared by the Holy Spirit.

Scripture references: Acts 5:32; 20:32; 26:18; see also Romans 12:1-8

Discussion

Definition of Speaking in Other Tongues

- 1) What does the phrase “speaking in other tongues” mean?
- 2) In the Book of Acts, what spiritual blessing is closely connected to speaking in other tongues?
- 3) Explain how the Holy Spirit may enable a person who is deaf to speak in tongues.

The Initial Evidence (Sign) of Baptism in the Spirit

- 4) Discuss the basis on which speaking in other tongues is the initial evidence (sign) of the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Additional Significance of Speaking in Other Tongues

- 5) What are some other significant factors of speaking in other tongues?

Receiving Spirit Baptism

- 6) What are some of the factors in our receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Prayer

Thank You, Holy Spirit, for making known Your presence through supernatural manifestations.
Through the God-given sign of tongues, You have provided evidence of our receiving divine power for life and service.

We praise You for this sign that points to the profound experience of the baptism in the Spirit.
As a result, we have a great sense of Your powerful presence in our lives.

Your special blessings have deepened our reverence for God, intensified our dedication to His work, and given us a greater love—
for Christ, for His Word, and for the lost.

Our hearts are filled with gratitude for the overwhelming fullness of Your presence in our lives, and for empowering us to serve Christ and others.

Amen.

Resources for Additional Study

Arrington, French L. *Christian Doctrine: A Pentecostal Perspective*, Vol. 3. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 1992; pp. 51-95.

Arrington, French L. *Encountering the Holy Spirit: The Paths of Christian Growth and Service*. Cleveland, Tenn.: Pathway, 2003.

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