# 5. Understanding the Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

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**Sub-title:** Tongues – Language of the Spirit

- We are still studying God's Word concerning:
  - The Person and the work of the Holy Spirit
- As believers in Christ, we should get to know, not only Jesus as our personal Lord & Saviour, but also the Holy Spirit as our personal Helper

**Main points of previous message (23.08.2026):**

- Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Promise of the Father"
- Peter's Sermon on the Day of Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit is a Gift to the Church
- The Gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the early church, and to all future generations of Christians
- The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is an additional experience after Salvation

## 1. John the Baptist announced the Baptism with the Holy Spirit

**Mark 1:4–8 (NKJV)** *John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins.* ***5*** *Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins.* ***6*** *Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey.* ***7*** *And* ***he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose.*** ***8*** *I indeed baptized you with water, but* ***He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."***

- John the Baptist came to "Prepare the way of the Lord" (Isaiah 40:3)
- He baptised people in water (John's Baptism, Baptism of repentance)
- He preached about Jesus Christ and said: ***He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."***

- Acts 2:33 says that Jesus poured out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
  - The Father "**gave**" (granted) the Holy Spirit to be "shed forth" (KJV)
  - Jesus Christ "**sent**" the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit "**fell**" (Acts 10:44)

- The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is also called the Infilling with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4, 9:17)

2. **Jesus Christ prepares the believers for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 1:4–5 (NKJV)** *And being assembled together with them, He* ***commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem****, but to* ***wait for the Promise of the Father,*** *"which," He said, "you have heard from Me;* ***5*** *for John truly baptized with water, but* ***you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."***

**Acts 1:8 (NKJV)** *But* ***you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you;*** *and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.*

- Jesus made these remarks shortly before His Ascension to heaven
- 10 days later, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit was poured out, in fulfilment of Prophet Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-29)

3. **The Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost**

**Acts 2:1–4 (NKJV)** When the Day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. **2** And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.**

- All 120 believers were baptised (filled) with the Holy Spirit
- All 120 believers spoke with tongues "as the Spirit gave them utterance"
  - That's why we call it "Tongues – Language of the Spirit"
  - In 1 Cor. 13:1, Ap. Paul calls is: "Tongues of Angels"

4. **The gift of Tongues is a supernatural Prayer Language**

- Tongues is a supernatural prayer language
- It is listed in Mark 16: among four other supernatural gifts & practices
- The Gr. word for tongues is "glossa"

- Its literal meaning is “tongue” - by extension, the word means “language”
- Various Scripture passages and N.T. translations use various terms:
  - Other tongues (KJV, NKJV)
  - Unknown tongues (Ampl.)
  - Speaking in tongues in an unknown language (LB)
- Therefore, “tongues” is not reference to our regular speech or language
- “Tongues” is reference to a supernatural language given by the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 13:1 (NKJV)** ***Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels,*** *but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal.*

- Ap. Paul differentiates between:
  - Tongues of men (natural languages spoken around the world)
  - Tongues of angels (supernatural languages)

**5. Apostle Paul explains the “mechanics” of speaking in tongues**

**1 Corinthians 14:2 (NKJV)** *For* ***he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God****, for* ***no one understands him****; however, in the spirit he speaks mysteries.*

- Tongues, as a language, is always directed toward God, not toward man
- Tongues (generally) is not understood by men, but only by God
- (There was an exception on the Day of Pentecost (special feature), & multiple subsequent occurrences where tongues was understood by men)
- Tongues is primarily a supernatural prayer language given to the believer, to speak to God - spirit (human) to Spirit (divine)

**1 Corinthians 14:14 (NKJV)** *For* ***if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays,*** *but my understanding is unfruitful.*

- Ap. Paul refers to our (human) “spirit” & to our “understanding” (soul)
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23 speaks about our (human) spirit, soul and body
- When we speak in tongues:
  - Our spirit prays
  - Our understanding (soul) is unfruitful: unengaged, useless, unproductive
- Speaking in tongues is not a soulish (or natural) exercise
- It is a spiritual exercise!
- To speak in tongues, we need to get out of your soul and into your spirit

**1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)** *What is the conclusion then?* ***I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding****.* **I will sing with the spirit,** *and* ***I will also sing with the understanding.***

- Ap. Paul; spoke about "praying with the spirit" in the context of "tongues"
- He said:
  - I will pray with my (human) spirit (with the help of the Holy Spirit)
  - I will pray with my understanding (with the help of my soul)
  - I will sing with my (human) spirit (with the help of the Holy Spirit)
  - I will sing with my understanding (with the help of my soul)

- As discussed previously:
  - When we pray with our spirit (tongues), the Holy Spirit unhooks our tongue from our soul (mind), and hooks it up to our (human) spirit
  - When we pray with our understanding, our tongue is hooked up to our soul (understanding)
  - Usually, in our times of prayer, we toggle in and out of our spirit and our soul, praying both in tongues, as well as praying in our understanding (English)

**6. <u>Why do we speak in tongues?</u>**

- Tongues is a gift of the Holy Spirit available to every born again believer
- The Holy Spirit has been given to us as our Helper (Comforter, Guide)
- Jesus said:
  - Don't leave Jerusalem until you have been endued with power from on high
  - You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you
- The Christian Life without the power of the Holy Spirit is a continuous struggle
- Victory in our Christian walk is only possible with the help of the Holy Spirit

**1 Corinthians 14:4 (NKJV)** ***He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself****, but he who prophesies edifies the church.*

**Jude 20 (NKJV)** *But you, beloved,* ***building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.***

- Praying to God in tongues has a "byproduct" – Spiritual Strengthening