

*Receive the*

# Holy Spirit

*But you will receive power  
when the Holy Spirit  
comes on you;*

*and you will be my witnesses  
in Jerusalem, and in all Judea  
and Samaria, and to the ends  
of the earth. Acts 1:8*

**John Osteen**

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## Receive the Holy Spirit

This is the great day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. You not only need to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but you need to know how to help **others** receive the Holy Spirit. You are living in the midst of a generation that has awakened. Never has a generation, since the day the church started, been faced with more hungry, desperate, thirsty people who desire help from God. If we ever needed to know how to help people, it is today. There was a day when the Baptists would not listen. But this is a new day. There was a day when the Methodists would not listen, but this is a new day. There was a day when precious Catholics would not listen, but this is a new day. People of all denominations are willing to listen today. This is a day when men and women have become awakened. Antagonism does not exist in the ranks of Christians today. They do not want to argue, they want to know how to get all that God has for them.

It is a tragedy that many people do not know

how to help people receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Hungry people are being left frustrated and dissatisfied, without the power of God. If you are a hungry soul, desiring something from God, I want you to know how to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

I heard a story about a man that reminds me of some people today. This man lived in a foreign country. He saved his money to come on a ship to America. He only had enough money to buy his ticket. He did not know much about traveling, and he was concerned about what he would eat. Before the trip, he took a large paper sack and filled it full of cheese and crackers. He thought he would eat that all the way across the ocean and in that way he would make it to America without starving. He had dreamed all of his life about coming to America—the promised land. He boarded the ship and every day when the people went to the delicious breakfast, he would eat his cheese and crackers. They went to their fine lunch, but he sat down with his cheese and crackers. They went to their grand dinner and he went over into his little corner and sat down with his paper sack. He took out his cheese and crackers and ate. This went on day after day as the ship crossed the ocean. Finally, the last

day came, and a man noticed him sitting away from the others, eating the cheese and crackers. He asked, "What are you doing eating cheese and crackers?" He replied, "Oh, I'm embarrassed. I only had enough money to get my ticket. I did not have the money for food, so I must eat cheese and crackers. I am almost out of food, so I am glad we are almost there."

He said, "Didn't you know that when you bought your ticket all the meals were included in the price? You have been eating cheese and crackers, while all the time there has been a banquet awaiting you."

I was on the good ship of Zion and the Captain was Jesus Christ. I was on my way to heaven. But, I did not know all that was included in my ticket. I had been taught that the ticket did not include the baptism in the Holy Spirit, speaking in other tongues, prophesying, praying for the sick and casting out devils. I was told that we were not to fulfill The Great Commission of Jesus. I had been taught that miracles had passed away. While others enjoyed these things for years, I sat in my little Baptist corner, with my little Baptist sack and ate my little Baptist cheese, and my little Baptist

crackers. While others praised God, I thought all of it had passed away. Then, one day somebody came to me and told me that Jesus died for the privilege of me being baptized in the Holy Spirit. They told me that not only could He save, but He could empower with the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

You are made to do more than merely go around in religious circles. There is a place of liberty, power and joy for you today.

**Your ticket includes all the blessings of God.**

When I learned this, I put down my little Baptist sack. I ventured over to the window to observe what others were eating. I looked in and saw a beautiful table spread with every kind of food. The people there were so happy. They were clapping their hands and praising God. As I looked at all of this, I noticed an empty seat. It had my name on it. My seat had been there all the time. My plate had been there, my silverware had been there, my food had been there. My place at this great banqueting table of God was available to me at any time. When I realized all this, I took that sack of cheese and crackers, went to the edge of my ship, and threw my denominational sack



overboard. I said, "I am joining the saints at the great table that God has provided for me!"

Some of you are sitting in your little denominational corner. You have your little denominational sack. God knows you are sincere. But I am here to tell you that **your ticket includes more than cheese and crackers.**

This is the darkest hour of human history. This is an hour when the Church should be at its best. Ungodliness and false religions are sweeping the world. The Church should be strong, stalwart and supernaturally endowed. Christians should be filled with God's Spirit instead of sitting in their denominational corners eating cheese and crackers.

### **Receive By Faith**

So many people have made a religious doctrine out of receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They have their little formulas and their little ideas, but they have very little biblical knowledge on the subject.

Everybody is not going to receive in the same way. God was very careful to instruct us so that we would not invent some kind of a formula or rigid rule that you have to follow or you can never

receive. Of course, there are certain facts you must know. Let us study the scriptural presentation of receiving the Holy Spirit that God has given us in the Word.

Acts 2:1-4 says, *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from Heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

When you receive the Holy Spirit, the evidence will be that you will speak in tongues.

I went without the baptism in the Holy Spirit for nineteen long, hungry, thirsty, lean years. You cannot just claim it "by faith" without speaking in tongues. There is a generation today that says, "I don't want to be one of those fanatics. I want to claim that I received the Holy Spirit, but I don't want the stigma of speaking in other tongues."

If you have truly received what the Bible talks about in the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you are

going to speak in tongues. Some may redefine it and call it "the charismatic renewal." Are you ashamed to be called a fanatic? In Acts 2:4 they **all** began to speak in other tongues. That is exactly how every person who receives the baptism in the Holy Spirit will respond. The Holy Spirit will announce Himself! He will give you a divine utterance and you will speak it forth to praise and magnify God.

In the early days of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the Church, some were confounded, others were amazed and they marvelled. Some were in doubt and some mocked.

It is always the same way today. There are the same reactions. When you begin to speak in other tongues and magnify God, people are stirred.

In Acts 2:37-39, when the multitude of people gathered in Jerusalem said, *What shall we do?* Peter said, *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. 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.*

Some people have misunderstood this

scripture. They have built a doctrine that says that the **only** way you can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit is by repenting and being baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ, and then you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. That is what Peter said. *Repent and be baptized every one of you in the Name of Jesus Christ... And ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost* (Acts 2:38). But this presents only one way to receive God's power.

The next incident where somebody received the Holy Spirit is in Acts chapter 8. Philip was having a great revival in Samaria. There were miracles, signs and wonders, and the Bible says, "they all believed." They were baptized in water, but none of them had received the Holy Spirit. They had been baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. That did not mean they did not believe there was a Father, Son and Holy Spirit. It means they were baptized on the authority of the Lord Jesus. He is the One that told us to be baptized. While Philip was in Samaria, he sent for Peter and John to come and lay hands on the believers that they might receive the Holy Spirit. They did not receive when they believed and were baptized; they received by the laying on of the apostles' hands.

Acts 8:14, 15 and 17 says, *Now when the Apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the Word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John... Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost... Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.*

When Simon the sorcerer saw that through the laying on of the Apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given, he wanted that same power. Peter answered in verses 20-23, ... *Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money. Thou has neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity.*

The laying on of hands is not the only way to receive. Let us look at the next instance in the book of Acts. In Acts, chapter 9, we have the account of when Paul got saved on the road to Damascus. God spoke to Ananias and told him to go to Paul. God said in verses 11,12 and 15,... *Arise, and go*

*into the street which is called Straight, and inquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, and hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight... Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto Me, to bear My Name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel.*

God wanted Paul to receive the Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands.

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

God showed us in the scriptures the many varied ways to receive the Holy Spirit. Paul received by an ordinary layman laying hands on him. Paul said, *I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all* (1 Corinthians 14:18).

People might conclude that someone must

have hands laid on them in order to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Let us look at the next instance. In Acts, chapter 10, an angel appeared to Cornelius and his household. Acts 10:4-6 says, *And when he looked on him, he was afraid, and said, What is it, Lord? And he said unto him, Thy prayers and thine alms are come up for a memorial before God. And now send men to Joppa, and call for one Simon, whose surname is Peter: He lodgeth with one Simon a tanner, whose house is by the sea side: he shall tell thee what thou oughtest to do.*

While the men journeyed to get Peter, God gave Peter a vision about his calling to the Gentiles. Peter returned to Cornelius' house and began to preach to them.

The Bible says in Acts 10:44-46, *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the Word. And they of the circumcision, which believed, were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God....*

Here in this account the Holy Spirit fell upon

this entire household **as they heard the Word**. They did not get baptized first, nor were hands laid upon them. As they heard the Word, the Holy Spirit fell on them. In this particular instance an angel came to Cornelius, and Peter had a vision. However, this does not mean you will receive the Holy Spirit this same way. God is a God of variety.

Let us look at the next instance. Acts 19:2-6 reads,

*He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized?'And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

These people had never heard of the Holy Spirit. As soon as Paul told them about it, they received it. They were so teachable. They heard,



they believed and they received. God will do what He wants to do. God will baptize you while you are laying on your back, standing up or running in a circle, lifting up your hands or not lifting up your hands. He will baptize you any way He wants to. His great desire is for you to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. Do not try to limit Jesus. He is the Baptizer. He will baptize you if you are truly thirsting for this experience. Jesus said in John 7:37, *If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink.*

### **Know You are Saved**

Let me share a few guidelines to help you receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. First, be sure you have received Jesus Christ into your heart. So many people today try to receive the Holy Spirit, but they have never been born again. They do not understand what salvation really is.

The Bible says of Cornelius and his household in Acts 10:1-2 that *There was a certain man in Caesarea called Cornelius, a centurion of the band called the Italian band, a devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God*

*alway.*

He was a very religious person. He was a devout, praying man that gave his money and lived in the fear of God. He so loved God, that God gave him a vision. Yet, when the angel spoke to Peter, he told him to go to Cornelius' house and tell them how to be saved. (See Acts 11:14-18.)

I want you to know there are a lot of religious people today that are not saved. They have never been washed by the Blood, nor born again. They have not personally accepted Jesus and experienced the new birth. They must repent and turn from their old way of life and truly accept Jesus as their Savior.

Romans 10:9-10 says, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*

Accepting Jesus is more than just "getting religion." He is the life-giver. He is the sacrifice for sin. He arose again to give eternal life.

Years ago I worked in the insurance business. I would pastor occasionally and work full-time in

this business. That is what I was doing when I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I met men who would curse in one breath and then talk about Jesus in another. I went into an office one day and a man had a great big thick Christian book on his desk. As I sat there, he began to curse and swear. I said, "Did you ever think about becoming a Christian?" He got angry. He said, "I **am** a Christian! Do you see that book there on my desk? That is the book for the deeper spiritual life class in our church, and I am the teacher!"

My God! My God! It is enough to make the angels weep. It is enough to say, "Gabriel, sound the saddest note upon your trumpet and put the flag of Heaven at half-mast." In the darkest hour of human history, we have multitudes of **religious people** who have not been born again.

A person who is truly born again repents of his or her sins and turns away from cursing, drinking, lying, stealing, infidelity, adultery, wickedness, uncleanness and all the works of the world, the flesh and the devil. The person who desires to be born again turns to God, asking Jesus Christ to come into his or her heart. That man, woman or child then passes from spiritual darkness

and eternal death into spiritual newness and eternal life.

If you do not have the assurance of your salvation and you want to be sure you are right with God, pray this prayer right now:

**"Oh God, without Jesus I am lost. But I do not want to be lost. I want to be saved. Lord Jesus, come into my heart right now and save me. I turn from my old way of life, and I make You the Lord of my life. I thank You for saving me and for helping me to live every day for You. Amen."**

### **See It in the Word**

Salvation is the first and most important thing. Next you must see what the Word of God says about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is not enough to hear my testimony or hear someone else's testimony and be thrilled about what God has done for us. People may fail you. That person you love so much that received the Holy Spirit may fail you. If you base all of your searching on the others' testimonies and their experiences, then you do not have any foundation. The devil will be sure to point out to you every hypocrite and failure that

ever claimed to have the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He will show you the "trash" and you are going to have to be willing to step over the "trash" to get to the "treasure."

When I got hungry for God while pastoring a church and working in the insurance business, I began to have a greater hunger and thirst in my heart for more of God! I had known people that were supposed to have the baptism in the Holy Spirit, and I had been disappointed in them many times. This kept me from receiving because I was looking at people instead of the Word of God.

Base your experiences in God on what the Word says. Men may fail or disappoint you, but God will never disappoint you! Romans 5:5 in the Amplified Bible says, *Such hope never disappoints or deludes or shames us, for God's love has been poured out in our hearts through the Holy Spirit Who has been given to us.*

If God has promised you something in the Word, then you should have a desire for what God has given you in the Word.

I had a real hunger for more of the Word. I began to read the Bible more and more, and search the scriptures. I read Jesus' words, *John truly*

*baptized with water but ye shall be baptized in the Holy Ghost not many days hence (Acts 1:5).*

I heard John the Baptist say, *I indeed baptize you with water, but there comes one after me (whose name is Jesus,) and He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire (Matthew 3:11).*

Jesus' words again said, *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him? (Luke 11:13).*

I read the words of Jesus in Acts 1:8, *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you....* I began to see this baptism in the Holy Spirit in the Bible.

When the day of Pentecost came, the people gathered were already saved. They were already saved, but they received the baptism in the Holy Spirit after salvation.

I saw in Acts, chapter 8, that they were saved and baptized in water, and then received the Holy Spirit. I saw in Acts, chapter 9, Paul was saved on the road to Damascus, but three days later, after fasting and praying, he received the Holy Spirit.

In Acts, chapter 10 and chapter 11, people received the Holy Spirit **immediately** after believing in Jesus when they heard the Word of God.

Get your mind on the Word of God. **Walk** through the pages of Scripture. **Listen** to what the Lord Jesus says. **Lay aside** your denominational glasses. Unplug your denominational ears. *Climb* the hill of God in this desperate hour and find out what God says in **His Word**. If you will believe what God says about this, no storm will shake you. You must see it in the Word of God.

I remember when a denominational preacher was on trial in his church. They were trying him for heresy because he had received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. One deacon got up in a rage. He shook a little black book at him and declared that in that book was the sum total of all their denominational doctrine. He shook it right in that preacher's face. He screamed at him telling him what he had been preaching was not found in that book. Finally, that preacher grabbed his Bible and shook it in the deacon's face and said, "Brother, **it is found in this Book!**"

It is time we take our stand for the truth

without being bound by denominationalism and sectarianism that calls this power of God "of the devil." Do not cling to some denominational nametag, but be identified with the whole family of God. If you get mad when I talk about your denomination, it may be a sign you are exalting it. It is a sign that you are much too attached to it! I say, "If I am rubbing the cat's fur the wrong way, let the cat turn around!" God never started a denomination. God never fostered a denomination. God will never give the power of the Holy Spirit to build a denomination. He will never do it! He loves every person in every denomination, but He will not give His power to build walls to separate His children.

I was in Tulsa, Oklahoma, many years ago after I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. One night I was preaching in an auditorium there, and the Lord gave me a revelation and a vision. It was so real. I saw the great denominational world standing like giant structures. Then I saw a great earthquake that began to shake everything. Those buildings began to fall. It looked like everybody in them would be killed. I remember the big boulders and how these giant rocks tumbled down. Debris was everywhere.



I saw a little preacher, just like a rabbit, bound out from between those rocks. He stood up on the boulders and began to preach. There was nobody in sight. He began to preach with all of his heart, and as he preached, he turned into a flame of fire. As he continued, people began to crawl out from under those rocks. They listened intently to what that preacher said.

Then God said to me, "I am going to shake every denomination. They are My people. They do not belong to the Baptists, they do not belong to the Catholics, they are **My people. They are My people. They are My people.** I am going to shake every denomination to its foundation. I am going to free these preachers and they will stand like flames of fire and preach on the ruins of their denomination. The people will hear them because they love God."

Study the Word. Read the Word of God. Encourage others to get in the Word of God. It is not important what Catholics believe or Methodists believe or Presbyterians believe. My God, my God, in the darkest hour of human history it is important what God says in His Word.

I have heard some people say, "Speaking in

tongues is of the devil."

I served the devil faithfully for almost nineteen years. He never once let me speak in tongues.

Speaking in tongues is **not of the devil; it is of God.**

This is an hour when a band of men and women of God are going to march through the streets of our cities declaring the Gospel to this generation. We are going to be from **all** Bible-believing churches. We are going to be lifting up One Name and that is the **Name of Jesus. Your nation shall see revival!**

If you hold tightly to your church doctrines and rules, and never read your Bible, you will find you are blind to the truth of God. But if you will get hungry for God and study these truths in the Word, you will be trying to find some reason **to believe.** I am not against everybody in the denominational churches. No. I **am for everybody.** I love God's people everywhere. I want them to enjoy the blessings of God in their lives. I am against wicked, evil sectarianism that robs the people of the power of God and lies to them about these things. I want to invade every false area and I

want to rip away those curtains that have hidden the face of Jesus. I want to say, **"Let God's people go! Let them have His power in this hour!"**

### **Tradition Has Robbed the Church**

*Ye have made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition* (Matthew 15:6).

God said to Adam, *In the day ye eat thereof ye shall surely die*. Satan inserted one word—"not." He said, "Ye shall *not* surely die." This has been Satan's strategy ever since that time. His lies are prevalent today. God's Word says, *These signs shall follow them that believe* (Mark 16:17). Satan has told you, "They shall *not* follow them that believe." God says, *They shall lay hands on the sick and they shall recover* (Mark 16:18). Satan has told you, "They shall *not* recover." God says, *In My Name they shall speak with new tongues* (Mark 16:18). Satan convinced multitudes that they shall not speak in new tongues. God says, *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8). Satan says, "He is not the same yesterday, today and forever." Jesus said, *He that believeth on Me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do;*

*because I go unto my Father* (John 14:12). Satan says, "Ye shall *not* do the works of Jesus." Jesus said, *John truly baptized in water, but ye shall be baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire not many days hence* (Acts 1:5). Satan has shouted his lie to millions, "Ye shall *not* be baptized in the Holy Ghost and fire." **Satan is a liar and the father of all lies. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.**

Samson did mighty exploits. He killed the lion; carried the gates of the city to the top of the hill; slew a thousand Philistines with the jawbone of an ass, and brought honor to the name of Jehovah. But Samson laid his head in the lap of Delilah, and lost his power. In the emergency he arose to find himself void of supernatural power.

The Church, like Samson, has done mighty exploits in the Name of Jesus. The book of Acts records these deeds. But the Church has laid her head in the lap of tradition, and lost her supernatural power. Without the miraculous and supernatural, she has become "as any other man."

The church is stirring. Christians of all denominations are weary of *a form of godliness, which denies the (supernatural) power thereof.*

God's church, like a pure river, began to flow over nineteen hundred years ago. Through the centuries, denominations along the bank have poured in their traditions. The waters are muddied and impure. Christians today are going "up river." They are determined to go back to the source before any traditions were added—**back to the book of Acts**. The need of the hour is not for people to join a certain group or denomination, but for all Christians to march **back into the book of Acts and have the kind of church they had then**.

It was a church that believed in being born again; they spoke in tongues, prophesied, prayed for the sick, cast out demons, and believed in the baptism in the Holy Spirit and fire. This church saw the lost saved by the thousands.

Put aside your tradition. Forget denominationalism. As you do, you, like Samson, will have the Spirit of God come upon you and be turned into another man. *Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you* (Acts 1:8).

### **Honor the Blood of Jesus**

People need to honor the blood of Jesus. One

of the greatest curses of our day is our desperate sin-consciousness as Christians. Multitudes live under condemnation. They do not feel worthy. You will not receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit by whining, crying and groveling in the dirt like a worthless worm. Stand up like a Blood-washed child of God and begin to praise and worship God in faith, and then you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit. Learn to honor the cleansing blood of Jesus.

A few years ago, after a mighty outpouring of the Holy Spirit in our denominational church, we were busy reaching out in every area to spread the Gospel. During those days we had a service at the downtown rescue mission. A group of the deacons in our church went with me for this service. One of them decided to invite a local denominational preacher to go along and preach the message that night. He did not have the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but we wanted him to receive. We were all so full of the Holy Spirit and joy we could hardly wait for the service. The brother who was going to do the preaching did not know what to think of our excitement.

When we arrived, we went to a back room to

have a prayer meeting. This prayer meeting turned out to be very unusual. Each one of us prayed in turn while the others praised the Lord and agreed. It seemed like heaven came down as we all confessed who we were in Christ and our victory over the devil and demons. We rejoiced because people would be saved and delivered in the service that night.

The man we had invited to preach that night was the last one to pray. All of our praying was strange to him. I am not criticizing his praying; however, I am simply reporting on what happened. Here is how he prayed:

"Oh, God, you know what a weak worm of the dust I am. You know, Lord, that I am weak and unworthy. You know, Lord, that I am a failure. Oh, God, I am such a black-hearted sinner. Oh, Lord, I am so weak and unworthy. Help me. Help me. Help me. Oh, Lord, how can you use such a sinner as I am?"

As I listened to him pray, I wondered if instead of getting him to preach, we should try to get him saved.

He went ahead and preached that night and did his best, under the circumstances. Of course, we all

backed him up in prayer and trusted God to reach the people. After the service, I met with him over at the right side of the building and began to talk with him. I asked him, "Brother, are you really in the shape that you talked to God about when you prayed?"

He asked, "What do you mean?"

I said, "Well, you told God you were a great sinner, weak, unworthy, black-hearted and a failure. Now, I want to know if you are really in that condition?"

"Oh, Brother Osteen, you know what I mean."

I said, "I guess you meant what you said, unless you were lying to God. Let me quote a scripture and then ask you a question. The Bible says in 1 John 1:9, *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.* The question I want to ask you is this: What do the letters a-l-l spell?"

He said, "All."

I said again, "What do the letters a-l-l spell?"  
He replied, "All."

The third time I asked him, "What do the



letters a-1-1 spell?"

Frustrated, he began to reply, "It spells... Oh, I see, that does make a difference, doesn't it?"

"Yes, Brother, the blood of Jesus Christ has cleansed you from **all** unrighteousness, and if you are cleansed from **all** unrighteousness, then you are not a worm in the dust, a failure, nor a black-hearted sinner. If you are cleansed from **all** unrighteousness, then you can stand tall in the presence of God without inferiority and in the presence of the devil without fear."

A great number of Christian people live under condemnation and a sense of weakness and inferiority. The body of Christ should move in scriptural authority, but there will never be that authority as long as a sense of inferiority prevails. Christians need to come out of cringing, cowardly attitudes to become stalwart soldiers for Jesus.

### **Let a Real Hunger Arise Within You**

The Holy Spirit is a gift. God's gift to the sinner is eternal Life. God's gift to the Christian is the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, *How much more shall your Heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask Him* (Luke 11:13). No one asks for the

Spirit in seeking to be saved. The saved one, however, can ask and the Holy Spirit will be given as a **GIFT**. You do not have to do penance or bribe God for this gift. You cannot earn it by your holiness or goodness. Do not worry about giving up this or that before you receive. Get the full glory of the Spirit inside you and then **you will have power to break any habit or hindrance in your life**. Acts 1:8 says, *Ye shall receive power after the Holy Ghost is come upon you....* A gift is a gift. All you have to do is accept it.

After you are saved and realize you are a new creature, let desperation linger. Let hunger arise within you or the person you are ministering to. Let thirst linger until it drives you to any decision and any length to get God's power no matter what it costs you.

There was a preacher who was seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He got up early every morning to seek and pray to God, but he did not receive. Several weeks went by. He decided to get up at five o'clock every morning and seek God for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He did not receive, but that didn't stop him. He sought God with all his heart. He read the scriptures.

He prayed. Receiving this power became his great desire. As he waited before the Lord, wholly dedicated, God met him and baptized him in the Holy Spirit.

**Seek God.**

**Climb the hill of God.**

**You will receive a mighty baptism in the Holy Spirit.**

There are hundreds and thousands of hungry people who want help. Give your energy to those who have been made ready by their own consecration, those whose hearts God has touched.

A lot of people do not really want the Holy Spirit. In Denver, Colorado, I came out of a meeting exhausted after preaching and praying for people. A lot of people surrounded an older man as he sat in a small room after the service. Some others came to me and asked me to go pray for him. He looked like a poor little lamb surrounded by wolves. He was sitting in a chair with his head down. He looked like he needed help, so I went in there and put my hands on him and prayed. (In those days I exhausted myself just doing things for people who were not really interested. I would shout like a Comanche Indian and they would sit

like a wooden Indian!)

I prayed and prayed. I did everything I could think of to try and get him to respond. I knew he needed the baptism in the Holy Spirit to better fulfill his work for Jesus. The more I prayed, it seemed the less he responded. I stopped praying. I waited. I prayed again. I began to get mad at him. He just sat there and would not respond in any way. Finally, I stopped and said, "Would you look at me, please?" I was angry with him. I said, "Do you want the Holy Spirit?" He looked at me and said, "No Sir!" Well, we found his problem and our mistake.

Some people will never receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They are not interested. They are not desirous of it. They will have to stand before Jesus and answer for living in the greatest hour of spiritual illumination, yet continuing buried in the dark cellars of sectarianism, unwilling to bear the stigma of Holy Spirit power in this day.

Let desperation grip you! Jesus said, *If any man thirst....* Thirst. **Thirst!** When you are ready to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, then be sure to cooperate with God when He begins to fill you.

## The Power Rises from Within

I had a damaging misconception about where this power would come from. I asked God to pour out His Spirit on me. I asked Him to send the power upon me. I looked for the power to be poured out from above. Because of this I did not recognize the presence of the Spirit as He began to move. The Bible says, *If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink. As the scriptures have said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. But this spake He of the Spirit which they that believe on Him should receive* (John 7:37).

You see, when you receive the Spirit, the power does not come from above, but from **within**. Rising out of the innermost part of our being He shall come like a mighty river to overflow our vessel. All of us, in times of great consecration, have felt this rising tide within us. We did not know it was the moving of God to overflow our lives with the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Let it continue to rise. When it gets up to your vocal chords you will speak in other tongues.

### Learn to Praise God

A Baptist lady who received the baptism in the

Holy Spirit in one of our revivals said, "All they had to do was teach me how to praise the Lord. When I learned to do that, it was easy to receive the Spirit." How true this is. Most people do not know how to truly worship and praise the Lord. Let yourself go and praise the Name of the Lord! In heaven it is quite common to hear phrases like Glory to God! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah! Amen! If you are going up there, you had better learn to talk like that. You will be out of place otherwise and have to spend time learning to get used to such language. If it embarrasses you now you would be shocked if you could hear what is going on in heaven as departed saints worship, praise and adore the Lord.

Get alone. Lift your hands high in the air as a sign of complete surrender to God. Use praise words and keep your mind on Jesus. Let Him hear you saying from the depths of your soul: "Praise the Lord! I love you Jesus! Glory! Glory! Glory! Hallelujah!" What does all this mean? It means volumes more than you can actually tell. It is your spirit reaching out and up to God! It is adoration! It is worship! Begin to praise and thank Jesus for the promise that He will baptize you in the Holy Spirit. Act as though He told you the truth! Stop whining

and crying over your mistakes and sins. **You are washed by the Blood and God will remember your sins no more forever.** Praise the Lord for that. You have been made "acceptable in the Beloved." People do not get filled with the Spirit by crying, whining or begging. They receive as they **praise and worship the Lord.** *Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.* If you are breathing, that means you.

### **You Cannot Speak Two Languages at the Same Time**

Many times the Spirit tried to take over my language, but I stubbornly refused to stop speaking in English. Yes, I wanted the "real thing." I did not want to "get in the flesh." I was afraid it would be "me" speaking in other tongues. How foolish! God will give us the real thing. Only men and women in the flesh can receive the Spirit. When we leave this old flesh behind, we will not need the baptism the Holy Spirit. It will be **me** speaking in other tongues. On the day of Pentecost, **they** began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave utterance. **You will do the speaking.** The miracle is not in the speaking but in what the Holy Spirit causes us to say! You do the talking, but the Holy Spirit

makes it another language. You cannot speak two languages at the same time. Stop speaking your known language as the power rises within you and launch out by faith into "other tongues."

Some people receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit stammering. Isaiah 28:11 says, ... *With stammering lips and another tongue He will speak....* I had so many misconceptions of how I would receive the Holy Spirit. I really believed I might go into a trance-like state and God would somehow mysteriously communicate through me. I thought I would just sit still and my mouth would open and there would be a voice coming from within me that I could not control. But the Bible says, *They were filled with the Holy Ghost and they spoke.* We do the talking. God gives the utterance. As the Holy Spirit overflows from within you, you will probably start stammering.

There is a story about a little bottle. Somebody put a stopper in it and threw it in the ocean. In this story, the little bottle said, "Oh look at me, look at me. I am in the ocean. Look at me. I am in the great ocean. Look at me, I am floating. I am in the ocean."

Then somebody pulled the plug out of the top,



and it went "Blub, blub, blub." As the bottle dropped to the ocean bottom, you could hear it saying, "Hallelujah, the ocean is in me. Now the ocean is in me!"

Some people float around in the great grace of God and His ocean of mercy. They say, "Look at me, I am saved. Praise God, the Holy Spirit bears witness with my spirit that I am a child of God."

But there may come a day when they get desperate. If somebody pulls their cork, they may start going, "Blub, blub, blub." Do not be afraid of the "Blub, blub, blub." That is just your stammering. It is in the stammering whereby we give our voices over to a flowing language. This is when you can say, "I am not only in the great ocean of God's love, but His ocean is also in me!"

Every child of God has the Holy Spirit in regeneration, the new birth. However, when Jesus baptizes the Christian in the Holy Spirit, he will overflow with the power of God. (See Romans 8:16 and John 7:37-38). This is the area of faith. You must trust God when you get this fullness and let Him have His way.

Your spirit wants to speak. It is full of God. You are unable to speak with your mind in your

natural, known language what you feel in your spirit man. That is why God gives you the ability to praise Him in the language of the Holy Spirit.

In John 7:37 Jesus said, *If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and **drink**. Out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water. This spake He of the Spirit....* Receiving the Holy Spirit has something to do with **drinking**.

Are you really hungry for God? Does your soul yearn and groan for more power? Does your heart "pant after God as the deer pants after the water-brook?" If so, you are ready to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Go alone and sit down before the Lord. On the day of Pentecost they were all sitting. You do not have to be in any one position, but today just sit in the presence of the Lord.

As you sit there, lift up your hands towards heaven and quietly praise the Lord. Thank Him for saving you, for washing you in the Blood and making you worthy to receive the Spirit of God. Just praise Him from the depths of your soul. As you do so, rejoice. You are about to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is no time for tears, but for joy. Vocalize your thanks unto God.

Now stop speaking in your known language. Begin to yearn and groan out to God from your innermost soul. These sighs and yearnings tell God more than your known language. They are the beginning of the language of the Spirit.

Now begin to speak out the little sounds that come into your mouth. Speak them out loud. As you submit to the Spirit of God, more sounds will come, and then words. Repeat whatever sounds you have over and over until you can hear yourself praising God and worshiping Him in another language. Think upon Jesus and worship Him. As you continue to yield yourself to the Spirit of God, you will feel the rising tide within your being. The sounds you utter and the words that will come will be the language of the Spirit.

Jesus has done so much for me. There are not adequate words that I could ever find to express my gratitude to Him. The baptism in the Holy Spirit has lifted me into a new realm of the Spirit. As you learn to praise God and yield to Him, He floods you with His sweet presence. I encourage you to let the language of the Spirit of God flow through you to worship God **every day**. This wonderful baptism in the Holy Spirit is a doorway

into the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the supernatural power of God. Great days are ahead for you! *Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord.*

# **Tradition Versus the Bible**

## **1. I forbid you to speak in tongues.**

*Forbid not to speak in tongues* (1 Corinthians 14:39).

## **2. Speaking in tongues is a sign of over-emotionalism and fanaticism.**

It is a sign of a believer. *These signs shall follow them that believe... they shall speak with new tongues* (Mark 16:17).

## **3. Speaking in tongues means the ability to learn many foreign languages.**

*For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, out unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries* (I Corinthians 14:2).

## **4. I am embarrassed and ashamed to speak in tongues.**

*For whosoever shall be ashamed of me and my words, of him shall the son of man be ashamed, when he shall come in his own glory (Luke 9:25).*

### **5. When they speak in tongues they are full of the devil.**

*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).*

### **6. They magnify themselves by speaking in tongues.**

*For they heard them speak with by speaking in tongues, and magnify God (Acts 10:46).*

### **7. Tongues were just for the day of Pentecost.**

*Ten years after...* (Acts 10:46). Twenty years after the day of Pentecost, they were **still** speaking in tongues. (See Acts 19:1-6.)

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# John Osteen

August 21, 1921 – January 23, 1999

The late John Osteen served the Lord Jesus Christ as pastor, evangelist, author, and teacher for sixty years. Ordained as a Southern Baptist, he received the baptism in the Holy Ghost in 1958, an experience which revolutionized his ministry into a worldwide outreach for Jesus Christ. He traveled extensively throughout the world, taking the message of God's love, healing, and power to people of all nations.

John Osteen founded Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, widely known as "The Oasis of Love in a Troubled World," where his family continues to minister to thousands weekly. He hosted the weekly "John Osteen" television program for 16 years, reaching millions in the U.S. and in many other countries with the Gospel. His numerous books, cassettes, and videotapes are widely distributed throughout the Body of Christ.

John Osteen held a Bachelor's Degree from John Brown University, a Master's Degree from Northern Baptist Seminary, a Doctor of Letters from Indiana Christian University, and a Doctor of Divinity from Oral Roberts University.

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