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PRAYING IN TONGUES – LESSON 2

BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

Yesterday I spoke of the importance of praying in tongues. It occurs to me that many believers have never been taught about this, so let us address it.

In John 14:16-17 Jesus said (upon his leaving) that he would send another Comforter to stay forever with us here, even the (Holy) Spirit of truth to dwell with us and within us.

He spoke again of this before he ascended back to heaven to take his place on heaven's throne with the Father. He said in Acts 1:8, ***"But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."*** He had just told them to wait for it (the promise) in Jerusalem (Acts 1:4-5) and ***"ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost..."*** Thus, they waited in an upper room expecting to receive this baptism of power from the Holy Spirit.

Acts chapter two then records the actual event of 120 believers being empowered by Holy Spirit. Acts 2:4 says, ***"they were all filled with (immersed with) the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues (languages) as the Spirit gave them utterance."***

These supernaturally given tongues were the initial physical sign of being endued with the power of the Holy Ghost. It was tongues (languages) they had never known that they spoke. The tongues were the sign given to show they had received this power Jesus promised.

Why did they need this power? It was so they could fulfill what Jesus said they would do as His followers. In John 14:12 he said, ***"He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these (that I have done) shall he do..."***

What works did Jesus do? He healed the sick, the blind, the deaf, and He cast out demons (devils), and He raised the dead. He said we must also be doing these things, and even more so than He did in the short time of His ministry.

How can we do these things? It is only by the power imparted to us when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. This is a separate work from the impartation of the Holy Spirit given to us at salvation. It is a second work of grace given to those who earnestly desire the fullness of God's power in our life.

When you desire more of God's Spirit, ask Him for it. Jesus said in John 16:24, ***"ask, and ye shall receive...."*** Upon receiving, you have power to be an effective witness for Jesus and for doing His work. You also receive through Holy Spirit a special heavenly language for communication in the Spirit.

There have been many false teachings about this in many Christian churches. Some have taught that it is not for today and that tongues passed away when the last of the twelve apostles died. Others have even taught that speaking in tongues was of the devil. These are all lies. Jesus said it is forever, that is, at least as long as man remains on earth.

Paul said in I Corinthians 13:1, ***“Though I speak with the tongues of (both) men and angels....”*** Yes, it is languages given to us by Holy Spirit for those who desire a greater impartation of His Spirit. Paul also added in I Corinthians 14:39, ***“...forbid not (do not forbid) to speak in tongues.”***