

What Is Meant By Being In The Spirit

Fellow brothers and sisters in Christ, the Holy Spirit has directed me to finish this study I started back in January of 2002 when my wife Margaret asked me, ‘what is meant by being in the spirit’. A warning to all Christians, this study is for those who have had their fill of drinking only milk as the writer of Hebrews spoke in Hebrews 5 and are ready for solid food to grow spiritually. **Hebrews 5:12-13** **12** *You have been Christians a long time now, and you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things a beginner must learn about the Scriptures. You are like babies who drink only milk and cannot eat solid food.* **13** *And a person who is living on milk isn't very far along in the Christian life and doesn't know much about doing what is right.* **14** *Solid food is for those who are mature, who have trained themselves to recognize the difference between right and wrong and then do what is right.* (NLT) This study is about baptisms and the laying on of hands that the writer of Hebrews spoke of in **Hebrews 6:2-3**. **2** *You don't need further instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment.* **3** *And so, God willing, we will move forward to further understanding.* (NLT) God is calling his children to maturity in these latter days of the last days. Who is willing to answer the call?

We will begin with the Word of God and a brief review of the outpouring of God’s spirit in the Old Testament as verses the New Testament. **Acts 2:17** **17** *In the last days, God said, I will pour out my Spirit upon all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, and your old men will dream dreams.* (NLT) When Peter spoke this verse after the out pouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, he was quoting from Joel 2:28. In the Old Testament the outpouring of God’s spirit was largely reserved for the spiritual and national leaders of Israel. Under the New Testament or Covenant, however, the authority of the Spirit is for “all flesh”, all who come under the New Covenant. Every believer is anointed to be a priest and king to God. To fulfill that priesthood Jesus set the example and gave commands that we must follow.

The aim of this study is to take a Christian who is searching for a deeper intimacy with God and shine a light of truth on that path to produce the fruit desired. It will encompass an area that must be accepted and acted upon, which is taboo and misunderstood by many Christians and denominations. This study ‘in the spirit’ is from the heart of God. To be ‘in the spirit’ we must have the Holy Spirit come upon us, or receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, or be baptized by the Holy Spirit, or the gift of the Holy Spirit poured out upon us. All of these phrases mean the same thing. The evidence of being ‘in the spirit’ is speaking in other

languages as the Holy Spirit gives utterance, or speaking in other tongues, or praying to God in an unknown tongue. All of these phrases mean the same thing.

This study is from the Word of God as taught by the Holy Spirit. 'In the spirit' has been misunderstood and misapplied to our lives as Christians for centuries. Consequently we have short changed ourselves in our walk with Jesus, not obtaining the fullness of Christ in us. This has left us lacking in our ability to serve God by the plans he has for us and to be in God's perfect will. It is my prayer that you pray to God, in the name of Jesus, and ask him to open your spiritual eyes and ears to hear what the Spirit is saying to the church. The church is you, the living stones and not a denomination or a building. We are living in the last days of the latter days on this earth as we know it. Those who have listened and obeyed the Spirit will be prepared. God is judging this nation for its wickedness and the compromising of his Word. Judgment begins first in the house of the Lord. If we are to be a kingdom of priests and ambassadors for Christ, we must be 'in the spirit' to be reconciled to God as commanded by Jesus Christ in the Word. We must apply the whole Word of God to our lives daily. Anything less is sin.

What is meant by being 'in the spirit'? First the word spirit must be defined. In the King James Bible the word spirit is used 234 times. What is a spirit? Jesus described it as the wind—**John 3:8** **8** *Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit.*" (NLT) A spirit is a supernatural being or essence that is invisible to man in the physical world such as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit, angels and demons and the devil. The devil and demons are malevolent beings that hate God and man. The spirit of man is the sentient element in man; by which he perceives, reflects, feels, and desires called the conscience. It is this part of man that enables him to have communications with God by the Holy Spirit. Man can also use his spirit for illegal communications with demons and the devil and that is an abomination against God. **Deuteronomy 18:9-13** **9** *"When you arrive in the land the LORD your God is giving you, be very careful not to imitate the detestable customs of the nations living there. 10 For example, never sacrifice your son or daughter as a burnt offering. And do not let your people practice fortune-telling or sorcery, or allow them to interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, 11 or cast spells, or function as mediums or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. 12 Anyone who does these things is an object of horror and disgust to the LORD. It is because the other nations have done these things that the LORD your God will drive them out ahead of you. 13 You must be blameless before the LORD your God.* (NLT) There is the human 'spirit' with a lower case letter. There is the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ and the Holy

Spirit. In this case the word spirit is capitalized representing one of the Godhead Spirits. There are unclean spirits' which is a demonic spirit of the prince of the air (Satan). Here spirit is with a lower case letter. An angel of God is referred to as a spirit with a lower case letter. The Bible uses the phrase 'in the spirit' with both a lower case letter and an upper case letter.

Let us look at two examples in Revelation concerning John. He was 'in the Spirit' and 'in the spirit'. One man in two different circumstances. **Revelation 1:10** **10** *I [John] was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, (KJV)* **Revelation 4:2** **2** *And immediately I [John] was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. (KJV)* How was John in Revelation 'in the Spirit'? He obeyed the command of Jesus in— **John 3:5** **5** *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. (KJV)* Jesus spoke in John 3:8 that you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit. If you can't explain of how to be born of the Spirit, then there must be evidence of the birth. Where is that evidence found? The book of Acts lists the command Jesus gave—**Acts 1:4-5** **4** *In one of these meetings as he was eating a meal with them, he told them, "Do not leave Jerusalem until the Father sends you what he promised. Remember, I have told you about this before. 5 John baptized with water, but in just a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." (NLT)* Who does the baptizing of the Holy Spirit? **John 1:33-34** **33** *I didn't know he was the one, but when God sent me to baptize with water, he told me, 'When you see the Holy Spirit descending and resting upon someone, he is the one you are looking for. He is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.'* **34** *I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that he is the Son of God." (NLT)*

The evidence of being born of the Spirit was speaking in other tongues. (See Acts 2:4, 38; Acts 8:15-17; Acts 10:44-48; Acts 19-1) These scriptures will be studied more in depth in a moment. John was also obeying the command of Jesus in **John 4:24** **24** *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth. (KJV)* Looking at verse 24, the phrase 'worship him in spirit' shows we must worship God by our spirit for God is a Spirit. In Revelation 1:10 John was 'in the Spirit' on the Lord's day. John was able to worship God in the Spirit by his spirit because he obeyed the commands of Jesus. John's spirit was communicating with the Spirit of God by the Holy Spirit. In other words, John was praying or talking spirit to Spirit in his everyday language or in tongues or both, we do not know. It was not a one sided conversation, for when 'in the Spirit', God talks to us. God changes not and he desires two way communications with his children in their prayer closet today. God invites us to be 'in the Spirit' with him. In Revelation 4:2 John was 'in the spirit' and he was shown things of

God in heaven by the Spirit when Jesus said “Come up hither”. In other words the Holy Spirit took John’s spirit man to heaven to reveal the things to come.

Here are two other scriptures (Philippians 3:3 and 1 Peter 4:6) which will give us a greater depth of understanding of ‘in the spirit’. (1) **Philippians 3:3** *3 For we who worship God in the Spirit are the only ones who are truly circumcised. We put no confidence in human effort. Instead, we boast about what Christ Jesus has done for us.* (NLT) The true sign of a right relation to God is not the observance of an external rite but a manifestation of these three characteristics mentioned in Philippians 3:3, which are worship God in the Spirit; in prayer and singing by the power of the Spirit and in communion with God because Jesus Christ is the baptizer of the Holy Spirit.

These three areas are discussed here in detail. **1) Worship God in the Spirit** not only refers to one’s being alive ‘in the spirit’ or ‘born of the Spirit’ or ‘baptized with the Holy Spirit’ **John 4:24** *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.*(KJV) and thereby qualified for living worship (by being in the Spirit as John was on the Lords day), but also includes the Holy Spirit enablement in expanded worship expressions: in song—**Eph 5:18** *Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, let the Holy Spirit fill and control you.***19** *Then you will sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, making music to the Lord in your hearts.* (NLT) Paul wrote, don’t be drunk with wine. When one is drunk with wine, one is not in control of ones self, but the wine controls your actions. Let the Holy Spirit fill you and control you, then by the Spirit, you will praise the Lord. Not by human effort but by the Holy Spirit.; **2) in prayer and singing**—**1 Corinthians 14: 15** *Well then, what shall I do? I will do both. I will pray in the spirit, and I will pray in words I understand. I will sing in the spirit, and I will sing in words I understand.* (NLT) When ‘in the Spirit’, you can pray in the spirit (praying in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance) and sing in the spirit (singing in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance) as well as with words you understand.; **3) in communion with God**—**1 Corinthians 14:1** *Let love be your highest goal, but also desire the special abilities the Spirit gives, especially the gift of prophecy.***2** *For if your gift is the ability to speak in tongues, you will be talking to God but not to people, since they won't be able to understand you. You will be speaking by the power of the Spirit, but it will all be mysterious.* (NLT). This scripture is speaking of one of the nine gifts of the Spirit in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11 which is prophecy. The gifts of the Spirit are not given until we are born of the Spirit as commanded by Jesus in John 3:5. The gift of the ability to speak in tongues comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit as is revealed in the book of Acts. (Note: The speaking in tongues with the baptism of the Holy Spirit is different than one of the nine gifts of the Spirit speaking in

tongues.) Until we are born of the Spirit, we can only worship God in the flesh. We can only pray and sing by our understanding and by words we know. Remember what Jesus spoke in John 14:23-24. *"**23** Jesus replied, "All those who love me will do what I say. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and live with them. **24** Anyone who doesn't love me will not do what I say. And remember, my words are not my own. This message is from the Father who sent me. (NLT)"* In John 8:31-32 Jesus made this statement *"**31** Jesus said to the people who believed in him, "You are truly my disciples if you keep obeying my teachings. **32** And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (NLT)* In John 8:51 Jesus said, when we obey his teachings, we will have eternal life. ***51** I assure you, anyone who obeys my teaching will never die!" (NLT)*

(2) **1 Peter 4: 6** ***6** For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. KJV)* **Them that are dead** are people who heard the gospel preached when alive and thus were given an opportunity to **live according to God in the spirit**. 'In the spirit' here refers to the realm of the Spirit, with eternal life especially in view (see 1 Peter 3:18, where Christ was "quicken[ed] [made alive] by [or "in"] the Spirit"). This opportunity also meant they were **judged according to men in the flesh**, meaning that the issue of eternal judgment is determined by one's response to the gospel while alive. In other words are we obeying the teachings and commands of Jesus Christ? Listed here are other scriptures from the New Testament that uses the phrase "in the Spirit". Luke 1:17—Acts 18:5, 18:25, 19:21, 20:22—Romans 2:29, 8:9—1 Corinthians 4:21—Galatians 3:3, 5:16, 5:25, 6:1—Ephesians 4:23, 6:18—Colossians 1:8, 2:5—1 Timothy 3:16—Revelation 1:10, 4:2, 17:3, 21:10.

We as professing Christians must be born of the Spirit as commanded by Jesus Christ himself. If we are not born of the Spirit, we will never have complete understanding of the epistles. The epistles are spiritual teachings written by men born of the Spirit to men born of the Spirit. If we are not born of the Spirit then we have climbed over the wall and have not entered through the gate, the book of Acts. Some will say I have the Holy Spirit living in me. I got the Holy Spirit when I accepted Christ. I don't need to speak in other tongues. The Word of God proves that statement invalid in Acts 8:15-17, Acts 19:1-6 and Acts 10:44-47. ***Acts 8:15-17** **15** As soon as they arrived, they prayed for these new Christians to receive the Holy Spirit. **16** The Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them, for they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **17** Then Peter and John laid their hands upon these believers, and they received the Holy Spirit. (NLT)* John and Peter were sent down to Samaria where Phillip had been preaching to check out his work. These were new Christian's water baptized in the

name of Jesus with the Spirit of Christ in them, but not the Holy Spirit upon them. When John and Peter laid hands upon them then they received the Holy Spirit. There were two steps or baptisms to complete the requirements set down by Jesus Christ in John 3:3,5. John (the writer of John) and Peter were sent down to make sure the new Christians had come into the Kingdom according to the teachings of Jesus.

Then Paul finding certain disciples as he traveled checked out works of other teachers and corrected their errors—*Acts 19:1-6* **1** *While Apollos was in Corinth, Paul traveled through the interior provinces. Finally, he came to Ephesus, where he found several believers.* **2** *"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" he asked them. "No," they replied, "we don't know what you mean. We haven't even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."* **3** *"Then what baptism did you experience?" he asked. And they replied, "The baptism of John."* **4** *Paul said, "John's baptism was to demonstrate a desire to turn from sin and turn to God. John himself told the people to believe in Jesus, the one John said would come later."* **5** *As soon as they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.* **6** *Then when Paul laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.* (NLT) There were two steps or baptisms in Acts 19.

When Peter spoke the Good News at Cornelius' house and the Gentiles accepted there were two steps or baptisms— *Acts 10:44-47* **44** *Even as Peter was saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who had heard the message.* **45** *The Jewish believers who came with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles, too.* **46** *And there could be no doubt about it, for they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.* Then Peter asked, **47** *"Can anyone object to their being baptized, now that they have received the Holy Spirit just as we did?"* (NLT) With Peter, the Holy Spirit fell first upon them and then they were baptized by water. With Paul the reverse happened, but there were two steps or two baptisms.

There were two steps or baptisms mentioned in—*Acts 2:38* **38** *Then Peter said unto them, 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.* (KJV) The Word of God gives witness to itself. We receive the Spirit of Christ in us when we are born again and water baptized or born of water. We receive the Holy Spirit upon us when we are baptized by the Holy Spirit or born of the Spirit. (Note—Paul in the epistles used the phrases ‘Spirit in our hearts or Holy Spirit in our hearts’ or Christ liveth in me, or Spirit of his Son in our hearts or Christ in you. All of these phrases refers the Spirit of Christ in us when we are born again and of water. When baptized by the Holy Spirit, the Spirit is upon us.)

Now some will say they did not speak in tongues in Acts 8:15-17. Again the Word of God gives witness to itself that they did speak in tongues three other places. **Acts 2:4** ⁴ *And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.* (KJV) Also in Acts 10:44-48 and Acts 19:1-6. (see above) The apostles including Paul all spoke in tongues. As they completed the works of Christ it was known that when the Holy Spirit comes upon you, you will speak in tongues. All the people of that day received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues. Also the book of Acts was written to believers that knew the truth and was in the truth. It was an accepted and a proven fact in their time; if you received the Holy Spirit, you spoke in tongues. This is not clarified in the writings of the epistles each and every time but was accepted as fact. The Christians of that time were obeying all the teachings of Jesus Christ as taught by the apostles. The apostles, John and Peter were sent to check out the works of Phillip and corrected his errors in Acts 8. Paul corrected the twelve disciples' teachings by someone else in Acts 19. In Acts 19, Paul asked, "have you received the Holy Spirit when you believed"?

We as Christians must be very careful and not raise our hand against God or dispute his Word, saying that was for them in the Bible and not for me today. God changes not and Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever. Woe unto those who dispute God's Word. They have set themselves up as the judge and corrector of divine revelation rather than letting it judge and correct. They are then treating God as the student and they become the teacher. We are warned in Psalms of such folly. **Psalms 75:4-8** ⁴ *"I warned the proud, 'Stop your boasting!' I told the wicked, 'Don't raise your fists!'* ⁵ *Don't lift your fists in defiance at the heavens or speak with rebellious arrogance.'* ⁶ *For no one on earth--from east or west, or even from the wilderness-- can raise another person up.* ⁷ *It is God alone who judges; he decides who will rise and who will fall.* ⁸ *For the LORD holds a cup in his hand; it is full of foaming wine mixed with spices. He pours the wine out in judgment, and all the wicked must drink it, draining it to the dregs.* (NLT)

If we deny God's Word in its completeness with disobedience and rebellion, then do we belong to Christ? **1 John 2:3-6** ³ *And how can we be sure that we belong to him? By obeying his commandments.* ⁴ *If someone says, "I belong to God," but doesn't obey God's commandments, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth.* ⁵ *But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him.* ⁶ *Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did.* (NLT)

We must ask ourselves, what is the truth? Again Jesus commanded in **John 4:24** ²⁴ *For God is Spirit, so those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.* (NLT) We do not have the option as to whether to worship God in spirit

and in truth because Jesus said we ‘must’. Webster’s Dictionary defines truth as “the quality of being in accordance with experience, facts, or reality; conform to fact.” The “**fact**” *is the whole Word of God, the complete Word of God, and being in obedience to God’s Word.* No one can come to Christ, but by the door of Christ. *John 10:1 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*⁷ *Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, I am the door of the sheep.* (KJV) **The door of Christ is His Word, the truth.** Those without **truth and love** have not the Spirit of Christ in them. *2 John 1:3 Grace be with you, mercy, [and] peace, from God the Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.* (KJV) *1 John 3:10 So now we can tell who are children of God and who are children of the Devil. Anyone who **does not obey God’s commands and does not love other Christians does not belong to God.*** (NLT) Notice the connector “**and**” “in truth and love” as well as “does not obey God’s Commands and does not love”. To have truth, love and obedience of God’s commands we must be born again and water baptized to have the Spirit of Christ in us and baptized by the Holy Spirit to have the Holy Spirit upon us. This is a command from Jesus in *John 3:3,5* ³ *Jesus replied, "I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God."* ⁵ *Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.* (NLT)

Once we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and begin to be ‘in the spirit’ a deeper intimacy will be established between ourselves and God. Then there will be unction to seek God in your prayer closet for the deeper things of God. As this occurs the fear of God will come upon you and that is the beginning of knowledge. With knowledge comes wisdom and discipline. With wisdom and discipline comes Spiritual authority. With Spiritual authority comes ability and power to do the work God has ordained for you. *Isaiah 28:9-10* ⁹ *Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* ¹⁰ *For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:* (KJV) But we must draw nigh unto God in our prayer closet, before we can know God intimately. God is a God of order and his Word is his order. Who wants to hear on that day—*Matthew 7:21-23* ²¹ *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.* ²² *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?* ²³ *And then will I profess unto*

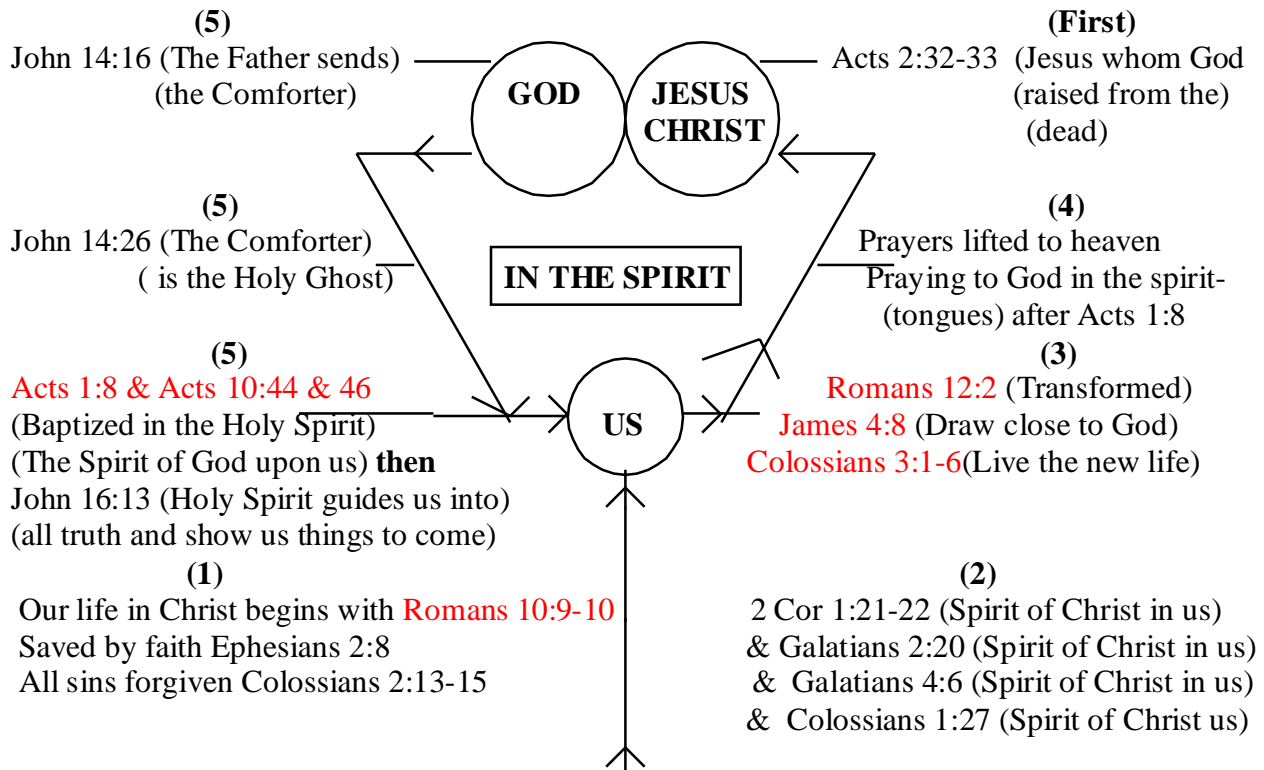
them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (KJV) Is not the will of the Father for us to obey all of his Word and be in truth and love?

Jesus said in **John 6:63** **63** *It is the Spirit who gives eternal life. Human effort accomplishes nothing. And the very words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.* (NLT) We must be in the spirit by the Holy Spirit by being born of the Spirit to have life. In praying in tongues we pray spirit to Spirit to God with the Holy Spirit helping us in our distress by pleading for us in harmony with God's own will even though we know not what we pray. **Romans 8:26-28** **26** *And the Holy Spirit helps us in our distress. For we don't even know what we should pray for, nor how we should pray. But the Holy Spirit prays for us with groanings that cannot be expressed in words.* **27** *And the Father who knows all hearts knows what the Spirit is saying, for the Spirit pleads for us believers in harmony with God's own will.* **28** *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.* (NLT) Remember—**1 Corinthians 4:20** **20** *For the kingdom of God is not in word, but in power.* (KJV) And how do we receive power? By the baptism of the Holy Spirit as commanded by Jesus. For without power we have only word and we need both power and the word to keep the devil defeated. **James 4:7-8** **7** *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.* **8** *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded.* (KJV) If we are not submitted to God, then we are in rebellion to God and that is sin and of the antichrist. In sin, how can we draw nigh unto God? Sin separates us from God for we are no longer holy as God is holy. **1 Peter 1:15-16** **15** *But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God--who chose you to be his children--is holy.* **16** *For he himself has said, "You must be holy because I am holy."* (NLT)

We have seen from the above study that Jesus Christ himself gave the commands. As we read and study the four gospels, Jesus Christ gave us many examples to follow in continuing his work here on earth. How do we come into agreement with the commands of Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior. Study the diagram on the next page. This was given to me as I prayed 'in the Spirit' seeking knowledge and wisdom. The scriptures from the diagram are listed below the diagram. How do we receive the Holy Spirit? See the answer under the heading 'Receive the Holy Spirit'

THE COMMANDS AND TEACHINGS OF JESUS.

John 3:7 ⁷ **Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.** *John 3:5* ⁵ **Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.** *John 4:24* ²⁴ **God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.** (KJV) We must obey to be in truth and love.



BEGIN HERE AND FOLLOW THE ARROWS & OBEY THE SCRIPTURES

(First) Jesus was raised from the dead. *Acts 2:32* ³² **This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses.** ³³ **Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.** (KJV)

(1) *Romans 10:9-10* ⁹ **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.**** ¹⁰ **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.** (KJV)

(1) *Ephesians 2:8-10* ⁸ **For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:** ⁹ **Not of works, lest any man should boast.** ¹⁰ **For**

we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them. (KJV)

(1) Colossians 2:13-15 **13** *You were dead because of your sins and because your sinful nature was not yet cut away. Then God made you alive with Christ. He forgave all our sins. 14 He canceled the record that contained the charges against us. He took it and destroyed it by nailing it to Christ's cross. 15 In this way, God disarmed the evil rulers and authorities. He shamed them publicly by his victory over them on the cross of Christ. (NLT)*

(2) 2 Corinthians 1:21-22 **21** *It is God who gives us, along with you, the ability to stand firm for Christ. He has commissioned us, 22 and he has identified us as his own by placing the Holy Spirit in our hearts as the first installment of everything he will give us. (NLT)*

(2) Galatians 2:20 **20** *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. (KJV)*

(2) Galatians 4:6 **6** *And because you Gentiles have become his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear Father. (NLT)*

(2) Colossians 1:27 **27** *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: (KJV)*

(3) Colossians 3:1-6 **1** *Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits at God's right hand in the place of honor and power. 2 Let heaven fill your thoughts. Do not think only about things down here on earth. 3 For you died when Christ died, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God. 4 And when Christ, who is your real life, is revealed to the whole world, you will share in all his glory. 5 So put to death the sinful, earthly things lurking within you. Have nothing to do with sexual sin, impurity, lust, and shameful desires. Don't be greedy for the good things of this life, for that is idolatry. 6 God's terrible anger will come upon those who do such things. (NLT)*

(3) James 4:8 **8** *Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double minded. (KJV)*

(3) Romans 12:2 **2** *And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. (KJV)*

(5) John 14:16 **16** *And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; (KJV)*

(5) John 14:26 26 *But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you. (KJV)*

(5) Acts 1:8 8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. (KJV)*

(5) Acts 10:44-47 44 *While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 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. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? (KJV)*

(5) John 16:13 13 *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come. (KJV)*

Receive The Holy Spirit

Remember, God is a God of diversity. There is no A, B, C method. We will look at what the Word of God states. God is absolute and his Word is infallible. I will offer some guidelines for today's Christian who is seeking a deeper relationship with God in his or her life (to be 'in the spirit'). Listed are two books I strongly recommend for you to read on receiving the baptism of the Holy Spirit. There are other books available. These two I have read and they speak the truth and teach the truth of God's Word. The two books are: 1) Overcoming Hindrances to Receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit by John Osteen. 2) Welcome to the Family, A Guide to Salvation, Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Healing by Kenneth Copeland.

Let us review the Word of God.

Acts 2:38-39 38 *Peter replied, "Each of you must turn from your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. Then you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 9 This promise is to you and to your children, and even to the Gentiles--all who have been called by the Lord our God." (NLT)* Receiving the Holy Spirit is a gift and a promise from God. It was for them in Peter's time and it is for believers today. This is the Word of God. We know that we are to be born again, born of water and born of the Spirit, but Jesus

said you can't explain how a person is born of the Spirit. **John 3:5-8** ⁵ *Jesus replied, "The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Humans can reproduce only human life, but the Holy Spirit gives new life from heaven. ⁷ So don't be surprised at my statement that you must be born again. ⁸ Just as you can hear the wind but can't tell where it comes from or where it is going, so you can't explain how people are born of the Spirit."* (NLT)

When you accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, was it not by faith and a gift from God? It is by faith we receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. But we must desire it and pray to God for it to be given to us. Many Christians in this age do not believe in the works of the Holy Spirit and tongues. If this is so we must get on our face before God and ask him to forgive us of this sin of disbelieve. Then we must begin to praise God by letting ourselves go and raising our hands in the air as a complete surrender and rejoice in Him. Thank Jesus for the promise of the Holy Spirit. We must also be in harmony with God to speak in tongues. We do not blank our minds and wait for the Holy Spirit to take over. As you pray and seek you will feel the Spirit rising up within you, let it come forth over your vocal cords. Stop speaking in you present language when the Spirit rises up within you and by faith speak in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance.

I myself desired the gift greatly, but it was several weeks before I received. My wife, Margaret received only a few words at first. She remained faithful for over a year with those words and praying those words. Then one night in prayer she received completely her prayer language. I suggest you ask others who have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and pray in tongues how they received. You will find that God is a God of diversity for each believers experience is unique as compared to another. I make you this promise after you receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, your walk with the Lord will never be the same as you walk 'in the spirit'. You will see the epistles spiritually instead of just knowing the Word of God. You will begin to operate in the gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:1-11. As the Spirit is poured out you may have dreams and visions. You will experience in this world the powers of the world to come. The Holy Spirit will start pointing out sins in you life that will have to go if you truly desire intimacy with God. Remember intimacy with God starts in your prayer closet where God reveals his secrets by the Holy Spirit. When walking 'in the Spirit', God is more vivid in all his attributes. A good example would be that all your life you watched TV in black and white and suddenly everything was in living color. When you walk 'in the Spirit' with God, your world suddenly becomes brilliant living color.

Remember the command Jesus gave in Mark 16 before he was taken up into heaven. **Mark 16:15-18** ¹⁵ *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and*

preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

*17 And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; **they shall speak with new tongues;** 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.* (KJV) He said these signs shall follow. One of the signs was to speak in new tongues, which is the evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The Word of God is absolute and does not lie. We must come into the truth of the Word and be in the Spirit to be a believer and to serve God in these latter days of the last days.

I end this study with what the Lord spoke to me, taught me and a comment by Smith Wigglesworth. In prayer on January 16, 2002 the Holy Spirit spoke this with great firmness in his voice “**There is only one way to be spiritual and to walk with Me in the Spirit and that is to be Baptized by the Holy Spirit. There is no other way**”. In prayer on April 29, 2003 the Holy Spirit opened my eyes to this truth—“By faith we believe and walk. By faith and walking in the Spirit, we have the power to make us Godly. Without faith and power the armor of God will not protect us. We must be born of the Spirit to wear the armor of God. It is Spiritual armor against the spirits of darkness. To serve God in these latter days, we must be born of the Spirit. It is God’s Word.”

Smith Wigglesworth preached this in the book titled “The Anointing of His Spirit” from a sermon he preached at Aimee Semple McPherson’s Angelus Temple in California in 1927. Wigglesworth had been Baptized by the Holy Ghost for twenty years and had preached all over the world by that day in the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. He is quoted here—“ Who has a right to the Epistles? Now is a person made a prophet or and apostle or a teacher before the baptism of the Spirit or after? I want to speak to you very definitely, and I want you to keep in mind what the Spirit shall say to us at this time. When I went to New Zealand, the power of God was very present, and he wonderfully worked miracles and wonders there. And the gift that laid hold of the whole place was the gift of tongues and interpretation. [I add this note—The gift of tongues and interpretation are two of the nine gifts of the Spirit listed in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. This gift of tongues is given by the Holy Spirit as He decides.] It moved the whole city till the place which held thirty-five hundred people often was overcrowded, and we had two and three thousand more who could not get in.

Now when the Plymouth Brethren, who knew the Word of God, saw the grace of God upon me, they wanted to talk with me. So I scheduled a time and eighteen of them came. They began by saying, "Well, we know God is with you; it is clearly proven." (In ten days we had two thousand people saved, and fifteen hundred of those young converts sat down to breaking bread. And it was the Plymouth Brethren who served us the wine and bread.) "Now," they went on, "we want to examine the truth with you to see where things stand." I said, "All right brethren." In a moment or two they were quoting to me from Ephesians. "But," I said "beloved, you know better than anybody that the person that climbs up some other way is a thief and a robber, don't you? How many times have you preached that? Jesus is the door, and everyone entering that way shall be saved. What does it mean? Jesus is truth."

They continued quoting to me from Ephesians. "But, brethren," said I, "you have no right to Ephesians; you have no right to the epistles. The epistles are not for you. You are climbing up some other way." Without fear of contradiction, on the authority of God, I say today, there is no person in this place who has a right to the epistles until they have gone through the Acts of the Apostles and received the Holy Ghost.

The Plymouth Brethren said I could not prove it. I said, "I can prove it very easily." And I read, "For he that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understands *him*, howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries" (1 Corinthians 14:2)

"Now, brethren, tell me if you understand that." They answered no. "Simply because you have never received the Holy Ghost. Every person who received the Holy Ghost receives that gift, speaking unto God by the Spirit. The Gospels are the gospel of the kingdom. The Acts of the Apostles are where people see water baptism, sanctification, and also see the fulfilled receiving of the Holy Ghost. So the moment you pass through the Acts of the Apostles you are ready for the epistles, for the epistles are written to baptized believes.

"I will prove it another way," I said, and read Romans 8:26-27: "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what *is* the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to *the will of God.*" Here is another distinct position of a person filled with the Holy Ghost. That is not the Spirit of Christ; that is the Holy Spirit. There is quite a difference between the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit. Then Smith Wigglesworth spoke in tongues and gave the interpretation: "*For the Lord himself is the chief director of all truth, for he is the way and the truth. Therefore the Spirit takes the Word, which is Christ, and reveals it unto us, for he is the life by the Word. 'He who hears my*

word and believes on him that sent me has everlasting life.’ Jesus is the way, Jesus is the truth, Jesus is the life.”

Remember our heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask. ***Luke 11:11-13 11 "You fathers--if your children ask for a fish, do you give them a snake instead? 12 Or if they ask for an egg, do you give them a scorpion? Of course not! 13 If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him." (NLT) Amen.***

Holy Spirit Guided Ministry

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