

The Power of Tongues

— B. R. Hicks

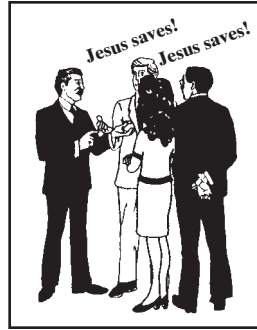
The Gift of the Holy Ghost was *prophe- sied* by John the Baptist: “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:” (Matthew 3:11). And, it was *promised* by Jesus Christ: “For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence” (Acts 1:5). The Holy Ghost was *waited for* and *received*, thus fulfilling the prophecy and the promise: “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). The tongue is one of the smallest members of the body, but it becomes weighty and powerful when the Holy Ghost furnishes it with the great miracle of speaking in other languages. There are miracles of healing which touch the body, but the miracle of speaking in other tongues transforms the mind. It is in the mind that words are first formed and, then, spoken by the tongue. Let us look at the Power placed upon the tongue after the Holy Ghost has come and spoken through this little member.

I. Power to Witness

“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 Judæa, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8).

Jesus Christ confirmed that after we are baptized with the Holy Ghost, we will receive Power. The Power we receive gives us an ability, strength, and courage to do wonderful works beyond our normal capacity. We are empowered by a greater, nobler Spirit than our own after we have been endued with Power from on high.



This supernatural Power on our tongues enables us to be witnesses of Jesus Christ. This wonderful Power strengthens us to proclaim Jesus Christ as Saviour to a lost world. This miraculous Power gives us courage to be witnesses or even martyrs for the Truth of the Gospel.

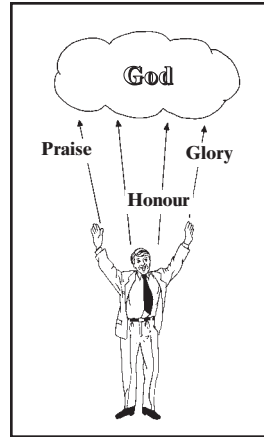
II. Power to Praise

“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...” (Acts 10:44-46).

The Holy Ghost miraculously fell upon these Gentile believers, enabling them to speak with tongues which they never had learned. Notice, when they spoke with tongues, they magnified God. In other words, they praised and glorified Him.

Because we are weak, frail, finite beings, our mortal tongues are unable to send sufficient praise and glory to God. Therefore, God

has given us the Holy Ghost with other tongues to assist us in our praise to Him. Then, we are able to render to God the kind of praise that will bless and satisfy His Heart. Speaking other languages than our own helps us heave up the kind of praise that will glorify and magnify the LORD's Name. One great miracle of the Power of the Holy Ghost is that it makes it possible for mortal beings to present something to God that He will receive and, by which, He will be blessed. God gives us life and love; we can give Him praise. He is gracious to allow us this privilege.

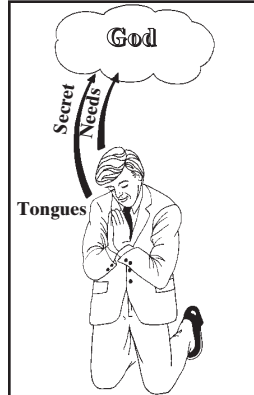


III. Power to Pray

“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” (Romans 8:26,27).

The Power of the Holy Ghost helps our infirmities, our weaknesses, which hinder us as we pray. Holy Ghost tongues strengthen us in our frailty and compensate for our defects as human beings when we come before God in prayer.



We know not what to pray for as we ought. Since we are not competent judges of our own condition nor the condition of others, we do not know what requests to make of God. What is good for us and others in this life, we do not know. Our own will is very much biased in favour of ourself, making us shortsighted. We often ask for ways that would lead us to the wrong destination because we know not what we ask. We are like foolish children who cry for unripe fruit that is unfit for them. If the great Apostle Paul included himself by saying, “We know not,” how much more should we say we know not how to pray?

The Holy Ghost, through other tongues or through other languages, makes intercession

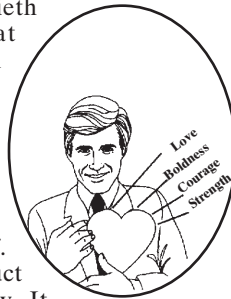
to God. Christ intercedes for us at the right hand of God *in Heaven*: **“Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us” (Romans 8:34)**. And, the Holy Ghost intercedes, through our mouth, in other tongues *on earth*. Christ and the Holy Ghost intercede in unity and harmony according to the Will of God. This way we can obtain what is best for us in this life. Being competent judges of each person’s condition, Christ and the Spirit know what requests to make in his behalf. In contrast to us, Christ and the Spirit are long-sighted and favour the Will of God. They ask for the ways that will help us grow to be like the LORD Jesus Christ in Character and Nature. What miraculous Power the Holy Ghost gives to our prayer life as He prays through us in other tongues.

IV. Power to Edify

“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church”
(I Corinthians 14:4).

The Holy Ghost Baptism with speaking in tongues gives us power to edify ourself.

Edify means to instruct or improve spiritually. It also means to build. The Holy, Anointed Tongue of the Holy Ghost



strengthens the heart with courage. It puts purpose and determination within us so that we are able to endure difficult, painful, and even dangerous circumstances for His Name's sake.

One result of our edification by the Holy Ghost is that our understanding of God's Word is increased. What we speak to others will be of benefit to them when our instruction has come through being edified or taught by the Holy Ghost. Our words are powerful and comforting after we, personally, have been instructed, improved spiritually, and enlightened by the Holy Tongues of the Spirit.

What a living joy and delight to begin each day with a fresh flow of Holy Ghost Tongues which strengthen, encourage, and empower the heart with new determination to see God's Will accomplished in our life.

I am interested in more information about the Baptism of the Holy Ghost

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