

Daily Devotion

Baptism in the Holy Spirit & Signs

Monday, 6 – Sunday, 19 May 2024





Cell Groups

Do you want to sign up to a cell group but not sure which one?

Scan this QR code to register your interest in joining one and we'll try our best to match you to one.



SCAN ME

Do you already know which group you would like to join?

The scan the QR code below or follow the instruction below on how to sign up using the 'My ChurchSuite App' on your phone...

SCAN ME



Sign up via 'My Churchsuite App'

1. Open the App and Log in.
2. Click on the menu button - (Bottom Right) 
3. Click on 'Cell Groups'.
4. Click on the group you'd like to join.
5. Click the 'sign up' button - 
6. Finished.



6:00am

Daily Corporate Devotion

at:
Ipswich International Church

iic.io/daily6am



Website: <http://elimcolchester.co.uk>
Clematis Way, Greenstead, Colchester CO4 3PY
Phone: 07759 414 630

Notice of Regular Gatherings

Sunday 10:30hrs

Worship Service

Tuesday 10:00hrs

Coffee & Prayer
At **Kelly's Kafe**, Greenstead Community Centre,
Hawthorn Avenue, Colchester CO4 3QE

Thursday 10:00hrs

A warm place for people of all ages to meet. Free drinks and biscuits with a place for children to play and adults to enjoy doing/sharing crafts or just chatting and socialising.

Thursday 11:30hrs

Bible Discussion & Prayer

You are welcome!

Baptism in the Holy Spirit and Signs of Baptism

Introduction

Importance:

- It is a definite event, not a process.
- It is not the same as salvation or receiving the Holy Spirit.

Evidence:

- It is accompanied by the ability to speak in tongues.
- Observable by witnesses.

Empowerment:

- Includes various forms of empowerment unique to each person.
- Supernatural power to represent Jesus effectively.

Prerequisite:

- Must be a Christian to receive it.

Perception:

- Viewed as a gift, not a badge or reward.
- Should be seen as a tool for use, not just an experience.

Transformation:

- Can change lives by empowering believers.
- Equips Believers to represent Jesus more effectively in the mission He has sent us!

Tracey Maugé & Sharon Murray-Sakumai

4 May 2024

Baptism in the Spirit



John 14:16,17, BSB

¹⁶ And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to be with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him. But you do know Him, for He abides with you and will be in you.

Acts 1:4, BSB

And while they were gathered together, He commanded them: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift the Father promised, which you have heard Me discuss.



Before His crucifixion, Jesus assured His disciples of sending a Helper who would remain with them forever. The Helper would teach them all things and remind them of His teachings. Just before His ascension, He reminded them of this promise and instructed them to wait for the Holy Spirit.

- a. What is the role of the Holy Spirit in our salvation?
- b. When do we receive the Holy Spirit?



Thank the Father for the Holy Spirit

We receive the Holy Spirit when we repent and accept Jesus as Lord of our lives, however, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a separate encounter that occurs afterward. It is distinct from salvation. The baptism of the Holy Spirit equips Believers with power and boldness to carry out the work of God. It is not just a personal encounter but a commissioning for service in the Kingdom of God. Understanding the baptism of the Holy Spirit is crucial for every Believer, as it opens the door to a deeper relationship with God and empowers them for effective ministry.

Signs



Acts 10:44–47, BSB

⁴⁴ While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all who heard his message. ⁴⁵ All the circumcised believers who had accompanied Peter were astounded that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. ⁴⁶ For they heard them speaking in tongues and exalting God.

Then Peter said, ⁴⁷ “Can anyone withhold the water to baptize these people? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have!”

ACTS 8:15-17, BSB

¹⁵ On their arrival, they prayed for them to receive the Holy Spirit.

¹⁶ For the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ¹⁷

Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.



Speaking in tongues, also known as *glossolalia*, is a common manifestation of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is a spiritual language given by the Holy Spirit for prayer, worship, and edification of the Believer.

Some controversies exist regarding speaking in tongues, causing some to believe it is not for us today (known as cessationists). However, the Bible consistently encourages us to speak in tongues. Nowhere in scripture do we find evidence suggesting that this gift is no longer relevant. We will explore the different types of tongues in the upcoming days.



Are you persuaded that tongues are for today?
Pray for light in this subject matter.

Tongue: Known Earthly Languages



Acts 2:1–6 BSB

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ² Suddenly a sound like a mighty rushing wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³ They saw tongues like flames of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them. ⁵ Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ And when this sound rang out, a crowd came together in bewilderment, **because each one heard them speaking his own language.** ⁷ Astounded and amazed, they asked, “Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?” ⁸ How is it then that each of us hears them in his own native language? ⁹ Parthians, Medes, and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰ Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome, ¹¹ both Jews and converts to Judaism; Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” ¹² Astounded and perplexed, they asked one another, “What does this mean?”



It is evident from today's reading that speaking in tongues can represent actual languages.

God desires a profound relationship with us, and it is possible for someone to speak in tongues unknowingly conveying a message from God to an individual in their native language. This concept is reinforced in 1 Corinthians 14:21, where it is prophesied that God would use foreigners and other tongues to communicate with people.



Tongue: Prayer Language



1 Corinthians 14:2,14-15 (BSB)

² For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men, but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries in the Spirit.

¹⁴ For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵ What then shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my mind. I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my mind.

Jude 1:20 BSB

But you, beloved, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,



A prayer language is when the Holy Spirit prompts us, and we pray in a tongue that is our prayer language. It is a gift God gives to His people to allow them to speak directly to the Father. It is a personal prayer between you and God,

and in doing so, we edify ourselves.

It's okay not to know what to pray for because we can ask for help from the Holy Spirit and let the burdens of our hearts do the talking.

Our prayer language is a spiritual weapon because our prayer language comes from the spirit and not our minds, we can pray rightly and accurately to God without being distracted.



Wordless Prayers



Romans 8:26-27, BSB

²⁶ In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know how we ought to pray, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groans too deep for words. ²⁷ And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.



Yesterday, we pondered on praying in the spirit. Our text today shows how the Spirit Himself intercede for us.

- a. How does the Spirit intercede for us?¹
- b. Does He groan through us or without us?
- c. How is this different from praying in tongues of yesterday?

When we use our prayer language, we let our hearts and the Holy Spirit speak for us rather than our minds. Our minds can be easily distracted but praying through the Spirit allows us to delve deeper into God's presence. It is the place where our deep need meets God's all-sufficient presence.



¹ The Spirit intercedes for us with groans too deep for words. Wordless

Tongues and Interpretation



1 Corinthians 12:4-11, BSB

⁴ There are different gifts, but the same Spirit. ⁵ There are different ministries, but the same Lord. ⁶ There are different ways of working, but the same God works all things in all people. ⁷ Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. ⁸ To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by the same Spirit, ⁹ to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, ¹⁰ to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in various tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. ¹¹ All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, who apportions them to each one as He determines.



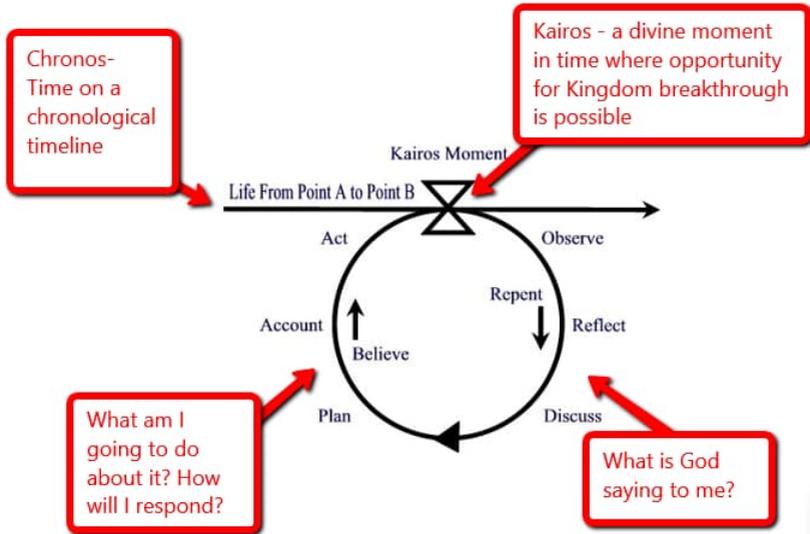
When an individual person gives a message in the gift of tongues at a gathering of the Church, it is required that these tongues be interpreted. This ensures that the congregation benefits from the utterance.

This is not to quench or belittle the gift of tongues; rather, it is to make sure that people are being encouraged and blessed by what God is doing and saying.

When the gift of tongues is interpreted corporately, it functions very much like prophecy, also seen as God speaking words to the Church for the building up of the body of Christ.



Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____

Pentecost and Peter's Sermon (Acts 2&3)

Introduction

During Passover, we commemorate Jesus' sacrificial death, and on the third day, the Feast of First fruits signify Jesus' resurrection. Fifty days later, during Pentecost, the Jews were traditionally expected to return to Jerusalem to offer sacrifices at the Temple for the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16:9-12).

It is no mere coincidence that God's intervention aligns with the devout Jews gathering in Jerusalem once more. They come not only to celebrate the first fruits of the harvest presented as loaves of bread but also to recall God's giving of the Ten Commandments to Moses. This convergence highlights the divine orchestration of events, weaving together the significance of Jesus' resurrection, the Jewish feasts, and the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai.

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— 9 not by works, so that no one can boast. [Ephesians 2:8-9]

Philip Ash

4 May 2024

Wait and Be Available



Acts 2:1 (BSB)

¹ When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.



St Luke reminds us in Acts 1:4 that the disciples were told “do not leave Jerusalem but wait for the gift my Father promised.”

This serves as a significant lesson for all of us:

It is crucial to be in the location where the Lord has called us.

We must be patient and willing to make ourselves available.

Through the empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we will be used by Him.

Being patient, available, and attuned to the prompting of the Spirit is not always easy. However, as the disciples realised, we can play a vital role in the Lord's work if we adhere to these principles.



Questions to ponder:

- a) Are you actively seeking to hear from God?
- b) What does it mean to be where God wants you to be? Is it solely a physical location, or does it involve the state of our relationship with Him?
- c) How can we position ourselves to be instruments for the Holy Spirit's use?

This is an important lesson to us all.

Where Did the Crowds Come From?



Acts 2:5-8

⁵ Now there were staying in Jerusalem God-fearing Jews from every nation under heaven. ⁶ When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard their own language being spoken. ⁷ Utterly amazed, they asked: "Aren't all these who are speaking Galileans?" ⁸ Then how is it that each of us hears them in our native language?



We witness God's plan unfolding. The Disciples were waiting in the upper room.

- Suddenly, a sound resembling a violent wind emanated from heaven, filling the entire house where they were

gathered.

- They observed what appeared to be tongues of fire that separated and settled on each of them.
- Each one was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages as enabled by the Spirit.

Meanwhile, outside in the bustling city for the feast of weeks, there were "Jews from every nation under heaven." For the gospel to extend beyond Jerusalem, individuals needed to carry it back to their homelands.

Although we may sometimes question it, God has a predetermined plan for our lives. In due time, He will guide us into the opportunities and circumstances He has orchestrated for us.



- a) What position are you being placed in where you can be a witness for the Lord?
- b) Are you making yourself available?
- c) Are you using your skills when God provides the opportunity?

Transformed Peter Addresses the Crowd



Acts 2:14 BSB

¹⁴ Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, lifted up his voice, and addressed the crowd: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and listen carefully to my words..."



The purpose of the Holy Spirit's bestowal upon the disciples was not solely for them to experience the presence of God in a remarkable way in the upper room. They were meant to carry that encounter and

empowerment out into the streets to proclaim the gospel to those around them.

As the disciples poured out into the streets, the Holy Spirit's anointing manifested through them speaking in languages unfamiliar to them but known to some present. The scene must have been astonishing. God had their attention.

Peter, who had previously denied knowing Jesus out of fear of persecution, underwent a remarkable transformation. Empowered by the Holy Spirit, he preached the gospel with such fervour that 3,000 individuals repented and were baptised. An intriguing parallel can be drawn when God presented the commandments to Moses, an event tied to Pentecost. At that time, the Israelites were worshipping a golden calf, leading to the death of 3,000 individuals (Exodus 32:28).



- a) Have you experienced the transforming power of baptism in the Holy Spirit?
- b) Can you give testimony to how that has impacted your life?

Devotion & Fellowship



Acts 2:42-43

⁴² They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. ⁴³ Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles.



A group of people who were in hiding and frightened had found in baptism of the Holy Spirit, that which Jesus had promised.

The Spirit was also promised to be:

- Guide
- Glorify Jesus
- Comforter
- Teacher

Because they did not have the bible as we have today, they relied upon the teaching of the apostles who had learned firsthand at the feet of Jesus. They fellowshiped together, prayed together and broke bread together.

As a result, as they moved around their ministry was accompanied by signs and wonders. So powerful was their impact on those around them that, Daily! Daily! People were being saved.



1. What lessons can we learn from this?
2. How should we seek the closeness to the Lord that the early disciples clearly had.
3. What does devotion to the apostles teaching, fellowship prayer and breaking bread look like in our Christian lives today?

Peter and the Beggar



Acts 3:3-6

³ When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. ⁴ Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" ⁵ So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. ⁶ Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I do have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk."



As discussed in the devotions on Wednesday, the Holy Spirit is not a personal experience of God meant for us to hoard. Peter and John knew this and offered the disabled beggar what they had.

Nothing was going to change for that man if Peter and John had just tossed him a coin. What changed for him was that through the work of Holy Spirit and the power of name of Jesus, they bought healing to that man.

I don't know about you, but for me there is no more joyful account of the power of Jesus to transform lives, than that in Acts 3:8

So he, leaping up, stood, and walked and entered the temple with them--walking, leaping, and praising God.



1. How can we, empowered by the Holy Spirit pray into the lives of others?

2. Can we be as confident as Peter in the belief that a believer's prayer can result in:

- Healing
- Deliverance
- Solutions to the challenges people are confronting?

Peter Seized the Moment



Acts 3:11-12

¹¹ Now as the lame man who was healed held on to Peter and John, all the people ran together to them in the porch, which is called Solomon's, greatly amazed. ¹² So when Peter saw it, he responded to the people:



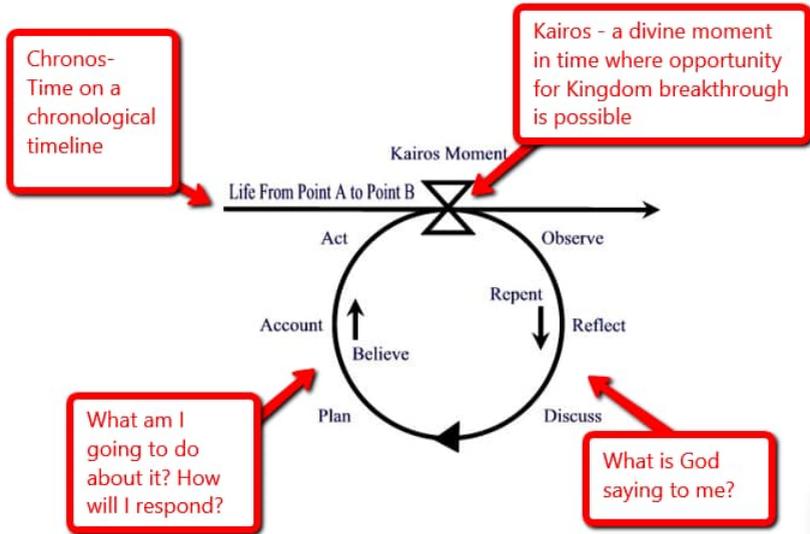
There is power in people's testimony of what God has done for them. Because when those around Peter in the temple courts saw what had happened and heard the rejoicing from the healed man they wanted to know more.

So, an opportunity had arisen for Peter to share the message of the gospel, and the power of Jesus to save and to heal. Peter now didn't hold back even if he was in the precincts of the temple. All fear had gone from Peter even though he and John summoned before the Sanhedrin. This was the judicial council, the same people who had tried Jesus.



1. There is power in a testimony of what God has done for you. Have you got something that you can share in church or in a small group?
2. Have you been helped and encouraged in your challenges by the testimony of another Christian?

Pause. Reflect. Process



It's time to pause, reflect, process and act on your week's Kairos moment(s).

This week, _____



Our Priorities

