

How a Methodist Minister Received the Pentecostal Baptism

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WHEN I FIRST CAME INTO CONTACT with Pentecostal people I considered them a group of emotional fanatics. The baptism in the Spirit was to me an unreal, unnecessary, and unwanted experience. But I did take time to study the subject, and here is what I found:

THE BIBLE TEACHES IT

First, I discovered this experience was in *prophecy*. "For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear" (Isaiah 28:11, 12). This is referred to in 1 Corinthians 14:21.

In Acts 2:16-18 Peter referred to this prophecy found in Joel: "And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: and also upon the servants and upon the handmaidens in those days will I pour out my spirit."

Second, I found that this experience was *preached*. John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ, declared: "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).

Third, I found that this experience was *promised* by Christ Himself. He promised: "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" (John 14:26). Again He said "And, behold, I send

the promise of my Father upon you but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49).

And finally, "Being assembled together with them [he] commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence" (Acts 1:4, 5).

Fourth, I discovered that the Holy



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Ghost was *poured out* on believers according to the promise. "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" (Acts 2:1-4).

Then I read about the outpouring in the house of Cornelius, a Gentile to whom Peter was sent to preach.

"While Peter yet spake . . . , the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, . . . 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).

I had been told that the only purpose for speaking in tongues was that some devout but unbelieving Jews could hear the gospel in their own language. But here we read about believers speaking in tongues in the household of Cornelius and no unbelieving Jews were present.

Continuing to study the Bible, I read in Acts 19 of a third outpouring of the Holy Spirit in which believers spoke in tongues. Paul was on a missionary tour in Ephesus, "And finding certain disciples, 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." After giving them some instruction, Paul laid his hands upon them, and "the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:6).

In a further study of Paul's experience and teaching, I found that shortly after his conversion the Lord sent Ananias to pray for him. Here is what Ananias said: "Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, . . . hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost" (Acts 9:17). Next, I discovered that Paul spoke with tongues, for he says in 1 Corinthians 14:18, "I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all." Furthermore, he exhorted in verse 39, "For-