

How I Discovered Intimacy with God

Debbie's Story

(Discipleship Lesson 20)

Read the entire lesson and then answer the questions that follow.

One day, I was called by the director of the Springs Rescue Mission. He told me that his secretary, Debbie, had been seeking the baptism of the Holy Spirit for a long period of time. The trouble was that although she'd gone to many various churches and denominations, and had been prayed for many times, she wasn't filled with the Holy Spirit, and she could not receive her prayer language. The director asked me if I could help her. I told him I would be glad to speak to her. I explained to her, first of all, that the baptism of the Holy Spirit was a separate and distinct experience from salvation. Jesus stated in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned." I showed her in Acts 8:5 how Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ unto them. They responded by believing Philip's preaching concerning the kingdom of God and the person of Jesus Christ, and were immediately baptized, both men and women. The question I asked her was, "But had they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" We read in verses 16 and 17 that as believers, they had been baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus, but the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them. Peter and John then laid hands upon these believers, and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The whole point was that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is an experience distinct from our salvation.

I then asked Debbie why she wanted to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and her own prayer language. She hadn't really thought it through. In all of the churches she had attended, no one had ever explained to her the purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I then began to take her to scriptures in the New Testament that spoke of the infilling of the Holy Spirit and the initial evidence of speaking in tongues. I said, "Debbie, according to 1 Corinthians 14:2, when a person speaks in an unknown tongue, who is he speaking to?" She looked at the verse. "It's God, of course," she replied. When speaking in tongues, a person is speaking mysteries (divine secrets) with his or her spirit. The Message Bible, in verse 2, says that you're sharing intimacies just between you and God. I showed her in 1 Corinthians 14:4 that when a person is worshiping God in their prayer language they are being edified or strengthened personally in the Lord. We continued to look at scriptures. This time in 1 Corinthians 14:14. When we pray with our prayer language, it's our spirits communicating with and worshiping God. Verse 16 of this same chapter says we're blessing with our spirits, that is, praising God. Verse 17 tells us that we're giving thanks very well. The Apostle Paul states in the next verse: *"I'm grateful to God for the gift of praying in tongues that he gives us for praising him, which leads to wonderful intimacies we enjoy with him. I enter into this as much or more than any of you"* (The Message Bible).

I said to her, "Can you see, Debbie, that this is a God thing? It's not about a denomination. It's not about just an experience. It's about worshiping God, connecting with Him—your spirit with His Spirit—speaking divine secrets and intimacies with the Lord. Debbie, you can have this right now." She said, "No one's ever explained this to me before.

I would like to go home this evening, get down on my knees, and ask Jesus to baptize me with the Holy Spirit, and worship Him from the depths of my heart.”

I received a phone call from Debbie some days later. She told me how the power of God had fallen on her so strongly that she'd staggered like a drunk. It was such a deep, intimate time with the Lord that her life will never be the same again.

Friend, if you are a believer, if you have repented from your sins, Jesus is waiting for you to ask Him to baptize you with the Holy Spirit. God, our Father, is wanting you to worship Him in spirit and in truth, that is, with all your mind and all your heart. In Luke 11:11-13, Jesus states, *“If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? Of if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”* Have you asked Jesus to baptize you with the Holy Spirit?

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(Discipleship Questions)

Answer the following by reading the corresponding discipleship lesson and using your Bible.

1. Read the following scripture verses and fill in the blanks. There are many different ways to describe the experience of being “saved.” For example in John 3:3 (*“Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”*) it is referred to as being _____. In Matthew 18:3 (*“And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.”*) as _____. In Colossians 2:13 (*“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses”*) it is having all your trespasses _____. In Romans 6:23 (*“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”*) it is receiving the gift of _____. In Romans 8:9 (*“But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his”*) it is having received the Spirit of _____.
2. Read Mark 16:16 *“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned,”* and Acts 8:13 *“Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.”* Read Acts 8:12. *“But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.”* Would you agree that those people described in Acts 8:12 became Christians? _____. Read Acts 8:14-16 *“Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: [15] Who, when they were come down, prayed for them,*

that they might receive the Holy Ghost: [16] (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)"

Had these believers received the (baptism of the) Holy Ghost? _____.

3. This experience that is subsequent to and distinct from salvation is described as (Read Acts 1:5 *"For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence"*) _____, and (Read Acts 2:4 *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance"*) _____, and (Read Acts 11:15. *"And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning"*) _____, and (Read Acts 19:2. *"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."*) _____.

Dr. R. A. Torrey wrote: "It is evident that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit distinct from and additional to His regenerating work...a man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and still not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration, there is the impartation of life by the Spirit's power, and the one who receives it is saved: in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is the impartation of power, and the one who receives it is fitted for service" (The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, Torrey, R. A., pp. 174-176).

4. Read Acts 1:8. *"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."* When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, what will you receive, and what will you do? _____ and _____.
5. Read Acts 2:4. *"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."* When these believers were filled with the Holy Spirit what did they begin to do? _____.
6. Read Acts 4:31. *"And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness."* When these believers were filled with the Holy Spirit how did they speak God's word? _____.
7. Read Acts 10:43-47 (verse 46). *"To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. [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?"* When these Gentile believers were baptized with the Holy Spirit they did what? _____.

8. Read Acts 19:6. *“And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.”* What two things did these believers do when the Holy Ghost came upon them?
 _____ and _____.
9. Read 1 Corinthians 14:5. *“I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.”* How many believers did the Apostle Paul desire to speak in tongues? _____.
10. Read Mark 16:16-17 (verse 17). *“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.”* What two signs (recorded in this verse) did Jesus say would follow a believer?
 _____ and _____.
11. Read 1 Corinthians 14:2. *“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”*
 When a person speaks in an unknown tongue, who is he speaking to? _____.
12. Read 1 Corinthians 14:2. *“For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries.”* When a person speaks in an unknown tongue his spirit is speaking
 _____.
13. Read 1 Corinthians 14:4. *“He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.”* A person that speaks in an unknown tongue is _____ himself (that is, being strengthened personally in the Lord).
14. Read 1 Corinthians 14:14. *“For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.”* When a person prays in tongues what part of him is praying? _____.
15. Read 1 Corinthians 14:16. *“Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?”* When a person speaks in tongues what two things is he doing? _____
 and _____.
16. Read 1 Corinthians 14:18. *“I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all.”*
 How often do you think Paul prayed and praised God in tongues? _____.

The Message Bible states: *“I’m grateful to God for the gift of praying in tongues that he gives us for praising him, which leads to wonderful intimacies we enjoy with him. I enter into this as much or more than any of you”* (1 Cor. 14:18).

17. Read Luke 11:9-13 (verse 13). *“And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. [10] For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. [11] If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? [12] Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? [13] If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?”* If you want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit what should you do?

18. Read Galatians 3:2. *“This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?”* How will you receive the Holy Spirit?

How I Discovered Intimacy with God **Debbie’s Story** **(Discipleship Answer Key)**

Do not look at the answer key until you have completed the questions.
Compare your answers with the following answers.

1. Read the following scripture verses and fill in the blanks. There are many different ways to describe the experience of being “saved.” For example in John 3:3 it is referred to as being **Born again.**
In Matthew 18:3 as **Conversion.**
In Colossians 2:13 it is having all your trespasses **Forgiven.**
In Romans 6:23 it is receiving the gift of **Eternal life.**
In Romans 8:9 it is having received the **Spirit of Christ.**
2. Read Mark 16:16, and Acts 8:13. Would you agree that those people described in Acts 8:12 became Christians? **Yes.**
Read Acts 8:14-16. Had these believers received the (baptism of the) Holy Ghost? **No.**
3. This experience that is subsequent to and distinct from salvation is described as
(Acts 1:5) **Being baptized with the Holy Ghost,** and
(Acts 2:4) **Being filled with the Holy Ghost,** and
(Acts 11:15) **The Holy Ghost falling on them,** and
(Acts 19:2) **Receiving the Holy Ghost.**

Dr. R. A. Torrey wrote: "It is evident that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit distinct from and additional to His regenerating work...a man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit and still not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration, there is the impartation of life by the Spirit's power, and the one who receives it is saved: in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is the impartation of power, and the one who receives it is fitted for service" (The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit, Torrey, R. A., pp. 174-176).

4. Read Acts 1:8. When the Holy Spirit comes upon you, what will you receive, and what will you do? **You shall receive power and You shall be a witness unto Jesus.**
5. Read Acts 2:4. When these believers were filled with the Holy Spirit what did they begin to do? **Speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.**
6. Read Acts 4:31. When these believers were filled with the Holy Spirit how did they speak God's word? **With boldness.**
7. Read Acts 10:43-47 (verse 46). When these Gentile believers were baptized with the Holy Spirit they did what? **Spoke with tongues and magnified God.**
8. Read Acts 19:6. What two things did these believers do when the Holy Ghost came upon them? **They spoke with tongues and prophesied.**
9. Read 1 Corinthians 14:5. How many believers did the Apostle Paul desire to speak in tongues? **All**
10. Read Mark 16:16-17 (verse 17). What two signs (recorded in this verse) did Jesus say would follow a believer? **Casting out demons and speaking with new tongues.**
11. Read 1 Corinthians 14:2. When a person speaks in an unknown tongue, who is he speaking to? God.
12. Read 1 Corinthians 14:2. When a person speaks in an unknown tongue his spirit is **Speaking Mysteries or secret things through the Spirit, that is, intimacies between you and God.**
13. Read 1 Corinthians 14:4. A person that speaks in an unknown tongue is **edifying** himself (that is, being strengthened personally in the Lord).
14. Read 1 Corinthians 14:14. When a person prays in tongues what part of him is praying? **His spirit.**
15. Read 1 Corinthians 14:16. When a person speaks in tongues what two things is he doing?
Blessing with his spirit, that is, praising God with his spirit and giving thanks to God.
16. Read 1 Corinthians 14:18. How often do you think Paul prayed and praised God in

tongues? **A lot, more than anyone else.**

The Message Bible states: "I'm grateful to God for the gift of praying in tongues that he gives us for praising him, which leads to wonderful intimacies we enjoy with him. I enter into this as much or more than any of you" (1 Corinthians 14:18).

17. Read Luke 11:9-13 (verse 13). If you want to be baptized with the Holy Spirit what should you do? **Ask.**
18. Read Galatians 3:2. How will you receive the Holy Spirit?
By faith just reach out and take what Jesus has provided.

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