

Life in the Spirit

Genesis 2:7-9 And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a **living soul**. And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the **tree of life** also in the midst of the garden, and the **tree of knowledge of good and evil**.

Genesis 2:16-17 And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of **every tree** of the garden thou mayest freely eat: **But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil**, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Genesis 3:22-24 And the Lord God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know **good and evil**: and now, **lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever**: Therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, **to keep the way of the tree of life**.

Adam and Eve were FREE to eat of the tree of life before they sinned. But sin (disobedience to God) always BLOCKS our connection to God's life. They chose KNOWLEDGE over LIFE – and the human race has been doing this ever since. We are so smart that we've become stupid!

This tree contained in its fruit a particular kind of knowledge – the knowledge of good and evil. This is what humanity basically wants to do – try whatever experiences seem appealing to us (“know” them) and then decide on our own whether we think they are good or evil. But by the time we've figured out what is what, we're bound by sin.

RELIGION IS KNOWLEDGE – RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD IS LIFE!

That's why the Old Testament part of the Bible can be pretty depressing. Mankind spends basically 4000 years trying to KNOW God by choosing between GOOD and EVIL. But the problem is that man is just a SOUL (MIND) in the Old Testament – since the Garden of Eden he is no longer a LIVING SOUL. He is dead inside, and he's trying to negotiate living without real LIFE.

In the Old Testament, we see God's Spirit leading men, talking to men, moving on men, blessing men, etc ... but when we turn to the New Testament a dramatic shift happens in God's relationship with us!

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

John 14:18-20 I will not leave you comfortless: **I will come to you**. Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: **because I live, ye shall live also**. At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, **and I in you**.

When we receive the BAPTISM of the Holy Spirit we receive God's LIFE. We can KNOW about God, but that's not what we need – they knew about God in the Old Testament and it ended in failure. We need LIFE!

Where in God's Word did the “LIVING SOUL” ever get breathed back into man? It happened on the Day of Pentecost!

Jesus speaks and acts prophetically ...

John 20:22-23 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the **Holy Ghost**: Whose soever sins ye remit, they are **remitted** unto them; and whose soever sins ye retain, they are retained.

But they haven't received the Holy Ghost yet, they still have to tarry ...

Luke 24:47-49 And that repentance and **remission** of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. 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**.

And then, the Day of Pentecost (which was celebrated as a religious observance for hundreds of years) is finally fulfilled ...

Acts 2:1-4 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 2:38 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**.

THE DAY OF PENTECOST IS NOW OPEN ... REMISSION OF SINS IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE THROUGH BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME ... AND POWER FROM GOD TO LIVE A NEW LIFE IS AVAILABLE TO EVERYONE THROUGH THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY GHOST!

1 Corinthians 15:45 And so it is written, The first man Adam was made a living soul; the last Adam was made a quickenning spirit.

Romans 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The OT prophets had a longing for the Holy Ghost, but never saw it ...

Joel 2:28-29 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 handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.

Peter said, "THIS IS THAT" (Acts 2:16) ...

Acts 2:16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;

Isaiah 28:11-12 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.

Paul said, "THIS IS THAT" (1 Corinthians 14:21) ...

1 Corinthians 14:21 In the law it is written, With men of other tongues and other lips will I speak unto this people; and yet for all that will they not hear me, saith the Lord.

THIS (speaking in tongues) IS THAT (outpouring of God's Spirit)!

When the New Testament church began on the Day of Pentecost, the disciples spoke in tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

Simon the Sorcerer observed "evidence" when the Samaritans received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost by laying on of hands (Acts 8:14-20).

Cornelius' household, who were gentiles, spoke with other tongues when they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 10:44-48).

Paul had this experience (Acts 9:17-18), for he spoke with tongues more than anyone in the Corinthian church (1 Corinthians 14:18).

Believers who had only experienced John's baptism were re-baptized and spoke with tongues (Acts 19:1-6).

YOU DON'T RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST THROUGH YOUR HEAD, BUT THROUGH YOUR HEART! YOU MUST BE HUNGRY FOR IT!

John 7:37-39 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

The "BELLY" bypasses the "BRAIN" ☺ because it is a work of God!

A study five years ago by researchers at the University of Pennsylvania found that there may be a neurological parallel between what worshippers experience when they speak in tongues and what actually transpires physiologically in the brain. Scientists took brain images from worshippers as they were speaking in tongues and as they were singing. Comparing the two images, the researchers discovered that the frontal lobes (the willful, thinking part of the brain) were quiet, as were the language centers. Scans of people practicing meditation or participating in other spiritual practices differed sharply. Radiology investigators observed increased or decreased brain activity - by measuring regional cerebral blood flow with SPECT (Single Photon Emission Computed Tomography) imaging - while the subjects were speaking in tongues. Their study is titled, "The Measurement of Regional Cerebral Blood Flow During Glossolalia: a Preliminary SPECT Study." Co-authors are Nancy Wintering, Donna Morgan, and Mark Waldman.

Speaking in tongues is a noncognitive, nonrational communication with God. It is not antirational, but is an immediate contact with God that does not include human words, nor can it be expressed in human words. This experience results in added faith in God, increased power and gifts for ministry, increased emotion and passion, and an enhanced awareness of God's presence in the life of the Pentecostal believer.

That's why true repentance is so important – it empties you of YOU so that you can be a vessel for the Holy Ghost to fill!

1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.

NCV	Do not hold back the work of the Holy Spirit
MES	Don't suppress the Spirit
TEV	Do not restrain the Holy Spirit
NLT	Do not stifle the Holy Spirit

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.