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The Gift Of The Holy Ghost:

- Its Prophecy
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by B. R. Hicks

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The Gift of the Holy Ghost

The Holy Ghost, the Third Person of the Holy Trinity, is of one Essence or Nature with the Father and the Son, yet He is distinct from them. The Holy Ghost is the Author of regeneration and sanctification. He applies the Work of Christ's Redemption to us, making us partakers of Christ's benefits: His Righteousness, His Life, and His Death. He is our Paraclete to strengthen us in our infirmities.

The Ministry of the Holy Ghost was pictured in the Mosaic Tabernacle by the Fire that fell to consume the sacrifice, after the Priests had offered it upon the Brazen Altar. It took the Fire to consume the sacrifice and change it into a sweet-smelling savor in God's Nostrils. In fact, the entire ministry of the Tabernacle was dependent upon fresh Fire, daily, from off the Brazen Altar.

The Mosaic Tabernacle pictured the full Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, and Life (John 14:6); and, in the Tabernacle, we see the picture of how Jesus ministered through God's Spirit during His Lifetime. It took Fire (God's Spirit) to reveal the sweet savor of the sacrifice upon the Brazen Altar (which represented Christ's Sacrifice upon the Cross). It took the Fire (God's Spirit) to reveal the sweet fragrance of the Incense upon the Golden Altar (which represented the Fragrance of Jesus' sweet Name); it took Fire (God's Spirit) to reveal the fragrance of the Frankincense at the Golden Table (which pictured the Governmental Strength of Christ's Faith); and it took the Fire (God's Spirit) to reveal the fragrance of the special Incense offering (a picture of the Nature of Jesus) in the High Priest's Golden Censer when he entered the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement.

Without the ministry of the Fire in the Old Testament Tabernacle, the secrets of its sweet savors, sweet fragrances, and Glorious Light never would have been known.

Likewise, without God's Gift of the Holy Ghost, and without man's experience of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, with the evidence of speaking in tongues, man never will know the sweet-smelling Savor of Christ's Sacrifice on Calvary, the sweet-smelling Fragrance of Jesus' Name, the Glorious Light of His Truth, or Christ's Living Faith governing and guiding him in his daily life.

Jesus promised that when the Holy Ghost came into the heart of His disciple, He would *teach* that disciple ALL things.

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).

The Holy Ghost teaches us what things to put off that are in our carnal, fleshly nature, and He teaches us what to put on of Christ's Truth, line upon line and Precept upon Precept.

Jesus' Promise that the Holy Ghost would come was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost. It really happened as He said it would, and the experience of the Baptism, with the evidence of speaking with other tongues, is as much for us *today* as when it was first sent to the 120 in the Upper Room.

Let us examine what God's Word has to say about the Prophecy, the Promise, the Power, and the Purpose of the Holy Ghost so that our hearts and minds may be more illuminated about the Third Person of the Godhead and so that we will be able to share with others the Truth of this wonderful, powerful experience.

I. The Prophecy of the Holy Ghost

The Prophet Joel, after describing the material blessings that God the Father would bestow upon His people as a

reward for their faithfulness and obedience to Him, prophesied that God would bestow His Spirit upon *all flesh*.

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 (Joel 2:28,29).

God has not kept us in the dark as to the meaning of Joel's Prophetic Promise of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Peter gave us an infallible explanation of it, assuring us that the Holy Ghost was poured out on Christ's Disciples on the Day of Pentecost.

The Coming of the Holy Ghost was such an important event to God that He prophetically revealed the event long before the Holy Ghost actually came. In fact, eight or nine hundred years passed before Joel's Prophecy was fulfilled.

Joel gave the Prophecy of the Holy Ghost; Jesus gave the Promise of the Holy Ghost.

II. The Promise of the Holy Ghost

Jesus Christ was crucified, and He died and was buried. But after three days, He was resurrected by the Father's Glory. Then, He was seen among men for forty days. After this, He ascended into Heaven (Acts 1:3,9). Before any of these events had transpired, however, Jesus had promised the Coming of the Comforter, the Holy Ghost.

And I will pray the Father, and **he shall give you another Comforter**, that he may abide with you for ever;... 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 14:16,26).

But **when the Comforter is come**, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father*, he shall testify of me: (John 15:26).

The Hebrew word that helps to make up the word for *Comforter* is *paw-rak*, which means to break off, to deliver, to redeem, to set free, to break in pieces, and to remove oneself.

The Holy Ghost comforts us by breaking off the darkness of our carnal mind and by pouring His Fire upon Christ's Truth, which illuminates our understanding with the Light of Truth.

The Holy Ghost comforts us by convicting us of our unChristlike attitudes and dispositions. He strengthens us by giving us Power to repent of these wrong things and by giving us Power to lay them aside as we appropriate Christ's Blood afresh and anew. Therefore, the Holy Ghost brings us into a closer, more intimate relationship with the LORD Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost comforts us by breaking in pieces the hindering habits we have, which prevent us from striding forward in our spiritual education and moral development.

The Holy Ghost comforts our hearts by using the Fire of His Spirit to release the sweet Fragrance of Jesus' Name in our prayers and praise to God.

The Holy Ghost Comforter brings the greatest possible cheer and consolation to our hearts by showing us the LORD Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom.

Just before His Ascension into Heaven, Jesus once more gave this Promise: "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). Repeated Promises spoken by Jesus filled His Disciples with faith and expectancy, as 120 of them gathered together in the Upper Room. They tarried there for ten days, fasting and praying and waiting for the Coming of the Holy Ghost, as was prophesied by the Prophet Joel and promised by Jesus.

It was expedient for the Disciples that Jesus go away and return to the Father so that He might send the promised Comforter. Christ alone had the Power and Ability to promise and, then, to fulfill the Promise of the Coming of the Comforter.

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).

Notice the following details that preceded the Coming of the Holy Ghost in the Upper Room:

- They were in one accord—in unity of heart and mind. They were in mutual agreement to tarry for the Holy Ghost.
- They were in one place—concentrating solely on Jesus and forming an undivided unit of single-heartedness unto the LORD.
- They were sitting—resting in confidence, expectant in faith, believing in surrender.

The Day of Pentecost came! As the visible cloven tongues, like as of Fire, sat upon each of them, the waiting Disciples were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Not all who heard Peter’s powerful sermon about the Holy Ghost Baptism responded in the same way. Some were confounded by what they heard. Some people doubted. Still others mocked and accused the Disciples of being drunk (Acts 2:6-16).

The general reaction to the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is very much the same today. Some people still mock and ridicule the powerful working of the Holy Ghost. But all who have experienced the blessing of having the Holy Ghost speak through their lips of clay can testify with the Apostle Peter, who declared to the crowd, “This is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel.”

The ancient Prophecy of Joel has been fulfilled. The Promise made by Jesus Christ has been fulfilled. The blessed Holy Ghost has come!

III. The Power of the Holy Ghost

When the Holy Ghost came, the waiting Disciples received Power—Power to be Christ’s witnesses in the Earth.

Let us examine what God’s Word has to say about the Power that came to the Disciples, for the same Power is available, today, to all Holy-Ghost-filled believers.

A. Power of Utterance

Speaking in tongues is a supernatural ability, for we cannot speak a foreign language without extensive study. However, when the fiery Tongues of the Holy Ghost came down upon the Disciples, the Spirit took control of their natural tongues, and they began to speak in other tongues or in a different language.

And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.... And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilæans? And how **hear we every man in our own tongue**, wherein we were born? (Acts 2:4,7,8).

Some people belittle and ridicule Pentecostal believers for speaking in tongues. Unfortunately, these individuals are speaking out of their own inexperience and ignorance and, therefore, are incapable of passing judgment on the Works of the Holy Ghost. Little do they realize the blessing, joy, and privilege of this Holy Ghost Utterance or speaking in tongues.

The Scriptures reveal seven different, marvelous uses for the Spiritual Gift of speaking in tongues.

1. Praise

The first spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for anointed praise.

Cretes and Arabians, **we do hear them speak** in our tongues **the wonderful works of God** (Acts 2:11).

For **they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God**. Then answered Peter, (Acts 10:46).

Believers’ primary purpose in coming to the House of God is to worship and praise the LORD. How often believers have been overwhelmed with God’s Glory, Beauty, and Majesty and have found their native language insufficient to express their praise. As the hymn writer said, “O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer’s praise... my gracious Master and my God, assist me to proclaim,... the honours of Thy Name.” God is an Infinite, Divine Being, and we are finite beings; therefore, we need the Divine Holy Ghost joined to our praise to help us

minister properly to the LORD.

We begin ministering to the LORD by lifting our hearts in worship and praise. Then, when our learned vocabulary seems inadequate to express the adoration of our hearts, the Holy Ghost begins to roll out in other tongues, releasing praise that is satisfying both to God and to our own hearts. When worshipping God in Holy Ghost Tongues, we bypass the mechanics of thought; therefore, our inner hearts and spirits experience a wonderful release in spiritual freedom as we express worship and praise to the LORD in a greater measure than our finite thoughts can produce.

Praise is important because it brings victory. In the course of living, when we feel the powers of darkness begin to press us down, if we will lift up our hearts to the LORD and let the Praises of the Holy Ghost flow out of us, His Praises will swallow up the darkness that is trying to oppress us. Holy Ghost Praises will impart victory to our spirits.

The Truth that victory is in the praises of God's people was demonstrated when the children of Israel marched around the city of Jericho. When they shouted their praises unto God, at the appointed time, the walls of the city fell down, and they marched in and took possession of Jericho.

Remember, also, God said that He inhabits the praises of His people. When we praise Him, it brings God into union with our hearts.

2. Intercession

The second spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for Intercessory Prayer.

In His letter to the Romans, the Apostle Paul revealed the Spirit's Ministry of Intercessory Prayer in those who have received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

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).

Tongues of Intercessory Prayer have a unique sound. Separate, distinct words normally are heard when a person speaks in tongues, but Intercession flows out at such a rapid rate that words are not distinguishable. A person's praying becomes a rapid, indistinguishable stream of sound to human ears. When the Holy Ghost is in possession of a yielded vessel, He will cause Intercessory Prayer to flow forth with such speed and fervency that the person who is praying is clearly aware that this experience is something more than ordinary praying.

Paul said, "We know not what we should pray for as we ought." This is certainly true because we do not know what is in another person's heart—what he is thinking—what his need is. In fact, we do not always know the needs of our own hearts. But, the Holy Ghost knows, and He can make Intercession for us.

The Holy Ghost can use us to pray for needs when we know nothing about them. All of us have problems and battles too personal to entrust to another human being without experiencing embarrassment. But the Holy Ghost can pray through us for our own needs and the needs of others, without disclosing the secrets of the heart.

It is precious to know that, through Holy Ghost Intercession, we can pray "as we ought." This is possible because the Holy Ghost knows the needs of men's hearts, and He also knows the Mind of God.

Do not underestimate the Power of speaking in tongues, especially of *praying* in other tongues. The Power of Utterance is tremendous! Being released in Intercessory Prayer leaves a person feeling thoroughly cleansed within. Even if the Holy Ghost is in the process of praying for someone else, the outflow of Holy Ghost Power through us cleanses us as we intercede.

The *Hebrew* word for *intercessor* means to impinge by accident or violence or by importunity; it also means to come betwixt, to cause to entreat, to make intercession, to intreat, to lay, to light upon, to meet together, to pray, to reach, to run. The *Greek* word for *intercessor* means to intercede in behalf of another, to make intercession for, to chance upon, to confer with, to entreat (in favor of or against).

Both the Hebrew and Greek words convey the idea of one person's making inroads into the rights of another. This is exactly what the Holy Ghost does when He intercedes through us. He begins to infringe upon the rights of the carnal self. He entreats God in favor of our Spiritual Man and takes sides against our fleshly man. He stands in our behalf and prays for us to possess new territory in God's Word and God's Spirit.

Anyone who has received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost knows the flow of the Spirit begins down deep inside his innermost being, and it flows upward and outward in a stream of Holy Ghost Words.

The Holy Ghost is like a wellspring inside, moving suddenly and rapidly upward into a mighty, forceful river. When the wellspring suddenly is loosed so that the full force of the Waters of the Spirit start flowing upward, it pushes its way out of a person's mouth faster than the tongue can pronounce the words. This experience is Intercession!

Holy Ghost Intercessory Prayer moves upward in the body because it is for cleansing. It is like a mighty river flowing from within, and as this river flows upward in us, it cleanses and sanctifies us. The Spirit may be moving upward inside us in someone else's behalf, but we still get the blessing from having it minister through us.

3. Travail

The third spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for Travailing Prayer.

Jesus promised the continual, running Living Water of God's Spirit to those who will receive Him.

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.) (John 7:38,39).

Jesus used waters as an emblem of God's Spirit because all things subsist by water, and seeds are brought to birth because of it. Because of water, herbs and animals were brought forth upon the Earth. Although showers come down from Heaven in one form, the waters from the showers are manifold in their ministry. Water combines with other elements in God's Creation to produce flowers of different colors and the fruits on different trees and vines.

Likewise, the Holy Ghost, being One with God and of One Nature with God, divides His Ministry in each vessel according to God's Purposive Will.

Although Intercessory and Travailing Prayer are closely akin to each other, in that they both flow out of the belly or the innermost part of our beings, there is a distinct difference between the two.

Unlike Intercession, which moves upward, Holy Ghost Travail moves downward and is comparable to the birth pains of natural travail. God's Word plainly tells us that unless Zion travails children are not born. This Scripture is not speaking of conception. One does not go into travail at the moment of conception, either naturally or spiritually. Travail is reserved for bringing forth the stature of what previously has been conceived in a moment of pleasurable love-union. Spiritual Travail is the deepest level of prayer, and we literally experience agony, pain, and downward pressures in our being as the Spirit prays through us, just as a mother experiences travailing pains during a natural birth.

There is a difference between accepting Christ as our Saviour and continuing to grow until the Stature and Likeness of Jesus Christ has been formed in us. It takes only one travailing experience to bring forth a physical stature, but it takes much Travailing to bring forth the Spiritual Stature of Christ in us. The Apostle Paul was aware of this, and this is the reason he said, "My little children, *of whom I travail in birth again* until Christ be formed in you," (Galatians 4:19).

Unfortunately, few modern-day Christians know much about Travailing Prayer. Many of them have not even experienced the Holy Ghost Baptism of Power, and those who have had this experience still know little or nothing about Travail. Many Pentecostal Christians have been taught that all there is to the Holy Ghost Baptism is speaking in tongues and getting blessed. However, this is just the *beginning* of the Holy Ghost's Ministries.

Of course, the beginning is important, so we do not belittle it. But we need to know that there are more serious aspects of Holy Ghost Utterance for all of us to enter into and one of them is Travailing Prayer—the groans that cannot be uttered. "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* (Romans 8:26).

Groanings pertain to the downward movements of Travail. Except we Travail in prayer, the Word will not be born in us in its full revelation. The Word needs the Holy Ghost pangs of Travail before it can be born, formed, and revealed inside us. Souls must be born into the Kingdom of God through the Spiritual Travail of God's people. The Image and Likeness of Christ must be born within us and within others through Travail.

4. Rebuke

The fourth spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for Holy Ghost Rebuke of fallen Lucifer (who is known as Satan, the Devil, the Serpent, and the Dragon) and all the evil spirits of darkness.

Jesus promised to give His Disciples Power with which to force back the powers of darkness. The sharp

reprimands of the Holy Ghost or the *Rebuke* of the Holy Ghost within the Disciples was to drive back and overcome the power of their enemies.

Behold, I **give unto you power** to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you (Luke 10:19).

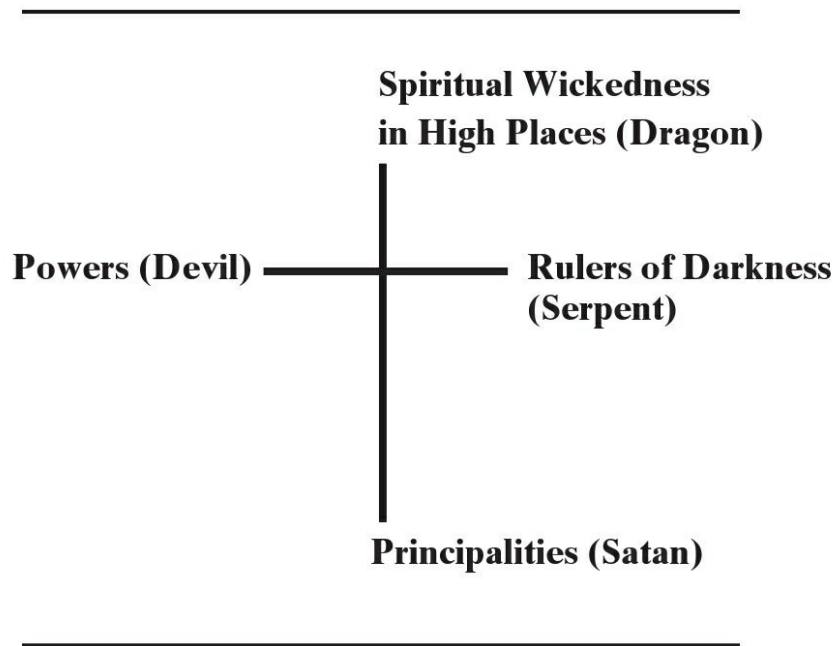
At times, the Holy Ghost will come upon a Spirit-filled believer, causing him to leap to his feet and tread upon the “serpent” and “scorpion” powers of the Devil. This trampling is accompanied by a powerful Rebuke in tongues. Contrary to what some may think, this manifestation of the Spirit is not a person acting through his fleshly, carnal self; rebuking the Devil is done through the Power of the Holy Ghost.

Rebuke may appear strange to a person who is not acquainted with the Holy Ghost and His love of demonstration, but, assuredly, Rebuke in the Holy Ghost is a very effective weapon when used in spiritual warfare against fallen Lucifer.

The Apostle Paul informed us of the great Stature of Darkness that we have to war against as Christian soldiers.

For **we wrestle** not against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places** (Ephesians 6:12).

This Scripture outlines the full stature of fallen Lucifer’s evil workings against Christ and His Kingdom.



Satan uses his beginning *principles* to cut down the Light of the Truth so that the *Devil* can move in with his *powers* in an attempt to devour the Light of Truth. Thus, Lucifer’s principalities and powers open the way for the *Serpent’s rulers of darkness* to move our “self” into the ruling position in our hearts so that we will substitute a false, idolatrous image in our thoughts that will push out the Truth. Then, the *Dragon*, with his *spiritual wickedness in high places*, allures our deceived hearts to be doorkeepers for “self.” With “self” on the throne of our hearts, we will lift up our “self” and project *it* instead of the LORD Jesus Christ.

We cannot war against this powerful stature of fallen Lucifer without the ministry of the Holy Ghost’s Power of Rebuke. When we engage in spiritual warfare, many times, Holy Ghost Rebuke is the only way in which we can gain spiritual victory. I have seen the Devil bind a church meeting with his evil powers (or even afflict my very own body) so that I would be unable, momentarily, to minister. Yet when the Holy Ghost ministered through one or perhaps several believers with this remarkable Ministry of Rebuke, the powers of darkness would be broken, and we would be able to continue in the LORD’s service, according to His Purposive Will, because of the victory brought by the Holy Ghost.

5. Messages

The fifth spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for messages to the Church.

He that speaketh in an *unknown* tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church. 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** (1 Corinthians 14:4,5).

The LORD does not intend for speaking in tongues to be used for our personal enjoyment alone. The Holy Ghost also anoints Spirit-filled believers to speak forth His Message to the Church for the edification of the Body of Christ. A message in tongues, accompanied by the interpretation, is on the same level as a message in Prophecy, and it can bring the people messages of edification, exhortation, comfort, and learning.

6. Songs

The sixth spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for singing spiritual songs unto the LORD.

The Apostle Paul commanded Christ's people to sing spiritual songs unto the LORD. How can we obey this Command without the Holy Ghost?

And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; **but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord; (Ephesians 5:18,19).

Some Spirit-filled believers have been privileged to have the Holy Ghost sing through them in other tongues, as the Spirit has given praise and worship to the LORD. These are the spiritual songs the Apostle Paul was speaking about in the foregoing Scripture.

Notice, distinction is made between Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Psalms and hymns are spiritual poems and songs that God's Spirit has made known to man's understanding, which man then uses as he praises and worships God with his own understanding. But, spiritual songs are sung in praise to God by the Spirit's use of man's mouth so that man sings without understanding what the Spirit is saying. Thus, God is glorified *with* man's understanding and *without* man's understanding.

When we come into the LORD's House, we should be so full of the Holy Ghost that we are able to yield to the Spirit at any moment, allowing Him to sing through us in other tongues. This is being *filled* with the Spirit! When we are filled with the Holy Ghost, it is easy for Him to overflow with words or in a song whenever we open our mouths to speak or to sing.

7. Witnessing

The seventh spiritual use of speaking in tongues is for bearing witness to the Truth of God's Holy Word.

The Apostle John informed us of the Ministry of the *Witness* of the Holy Ghost.

Who is he that overcometh the world, but he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? This is he that came by water and blood, *even* Jesus Christ; not by water only, but by water and blood. **And it is the Spirit that beareth witness, because the Spirit is truth** (1 John 5:5,6).

The Ministry of the Witness of the Holy Ghost is not a strange thing in Pentecostal churches, although in many places it has been suppressed through lack of understanding of this operation of the Utterance of the Holy Ghost. This Utterance of the Holy Ghost is continually in operation in my ministry. Wherever I go, I find the Witness of the Spirit leaping forth from Spirit-filled believers' mouths as they hear the Truth.

When Truth is spoken, the Holy Ghost will leap forth in an exclamation, bearing Witness to the Truth and confirming it. The Holy Ghost speaks for Himself because, in a sense, He is saying "Amen" to what has been spoken.

The Power of Utterance in other tongues is manifested in seven different ways: in Praise, in Intercession, in Travail, in Rebuke, in Messages, in Songs, and in Witnessing.

On the Day of Pentecost, when the Tongues of Fire touched the Disciples' human tongues, they spoke forth in supernatural demonstration. They all spoke in "other tongues" as the Spirit gave them Utterance.

B. Power of Preaching

The second class of Holy Ghost Power is for the preaching of God's Word.

In order for God's servant to proclaim God's Word powerfully, he must have the Holy Ghost and Fire.

Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know: Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: (Acts 2:22,23).

The Apostle Peter stood boldly before the multitude to preach, so filled with the Power of the Spirit of God that he saw only Jesus. Just a short time earlier, this Disciple had denied his relationship with Jesus, but after being filled with the Holy Ghost, Peter boldly declared Who Jesus was, saying, "A man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you,... Him,... ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain." The Holy Ghost was the One Who imparted the Power to Peter boldly to preach God's Word.

However, this Power to be a bold witness was preceded by preparation. Remember, Peter had been in prayer before God for ten days. He had experienced the Tongues of Fire as the Holy Ghost had fallen upon him, and he had spoken with tongues as the Spirit gave him Utterance. So when Peter came down from the Upper Room, he was full of the Power of God, ready and prepared to preach a sermon, which was so effective that about 3,000 souls were added to the Church.

Before this great enlargement of the Church, the nucleus of believers had been waiting on God, speaking in tongues and magnifying the LORD. Then, through the Power of Holy-Ghost-anointed preaching, the LORD added to the Church such as should be saved.

This still is God's Perfect Will for adding to the Church. He still wants the Church to wait in His Presence until the Holy Ghost anoints them with Power to preach and teach His Word.

The dry, lifeless sermons heard in so many of our churches indicate that people are failing to follow God's Plan and Order for increasing the numbers of believers.

Instead of spending time waiting on God to endue them with Power from on High, many ministers plan extensive enlargement programs featuring parties, sporting events, carnivals, and other worldly means of drawing a crowd. However, these methods are inconsistent with God's original Plan for winning souls to Christ.

We are *not* saying God's people should never get together for a time of wholesome fellowship in the natural realm. There is nothing wrong with doing that. However, because Jesus' does not intend for His Church to be built by human power and ingenuity, the error lies in trying to *substitute* natural things for the supernatural Power of God's Spirit and God's Word.

The LORD will add to the Church if we are faithful to do our part, which is to wait on Him, worshipping and praising God in the Spirit. Those who are prepared in this way will be anointed with great Preaching Power, and the LORD will add to the Church, just as He did when Peter preached.

The Holy Ghost Power enabled Peter boldly to declare the LORD to the very ones who had sought His crucifixion.

This Jesus hath God raised up, whereof we all are witnesses. Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.... Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do? **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.** For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call (Acts 2:32,33,37-39).

After Peter had been in the Presence of Jesus and after the supernatural Utterance of the Holy Ghost had moved through him, he preached without fear or favor.

More Holy-Ghost-anointed preaching is needed in our churches so that the hearts of men might be pricked to the point of repentance.

Notice, too, that after Peter had received the Promise of the Holy Ghost from Jesus Himself, he obediently waited until he had had a personal experience with the Spirit. Thus, by theory and experience, Peter was able to promise others that they, too, could receive the experience of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost.

C. Power of Laying on of Hands

The third class of Power, which accompanies the Baptism of the Holy Ghost, works through the laying on of hands.

Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) **Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.** And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, (Acts 8:14-18).

There is Power in the Holy Ghost! This Power not only affects the tongue but also gets on the hands. There is a real ministry of laying on of hands.

They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; **they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover** (Mark 16:18).

True servants of God have the Authority and Power to impart to others, by the laying on of hands, some of the Holy Ghost Anointing that is on them. They also have the Power to lay hands on the sick and to raise them up.

The believers in Samaria were true believers, for they had been baptized in the Name of the LORD Jesus. However, they had not yet received the Holy Ghost. This experience was not theirs until the Apostles came and laid hands upon them.

Certainly, we do not believe that this is the only way for a believer to receive the Holy Ghost Baptism, but the Power of laying on of hands is one way in which many believers have received and do receive this glorious experience. In our ministries, we need hands anointed with the Power of the Holy Ghost.

D. The Power of Healing

The fourth class of Power that comes through the Holy Ghost is the Power to Heal.

Now Peter and John went up together into the temple at the hour of prayer, *being* the ninth *hour*. **And a certain man lame from his mother's womb was carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple** which is called Beautiful, to ask alms of them that entered into the temple; Who, seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, asked an alms. And Peter, fastening his eyes upon him with John, said, Look on us. And he gave heed unto them, expecting to receive something of them. **Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk.** And he took him by the right hand, and lifted *him* up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength. And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple, walking, and leaping, and praising God (Acts 3:1-8).

This Power to Heal, exercised through Peter and John, as related in the Book of Acts chapter three, came as a result of their being baptized in the Holy Ghost.

Although God has Power to heal *all* afflictions and diseases, He does not always do so. Sometimes, He knows that if a person were healed he would use his good health and strength to serve the Devil. Thus, God sometimes allows Satan to afflict people to keep them in His Permissive Will because He knows how quickly they would forget the LORD and embark on a journey of self-destruction.

Some people think that if a person has been given the Gift of Healing he should heal everyone—just empty the hospitals and mental institutions. This is wrong thinking. The disbursement of Healing Power has not been given to the control of man. God retains Sovereign Control of His Healing Power. There is no Power to Heal unless the LORD releases Holy Ghost Power in and through us. Just as we cannot make ourselves Intercede or Travail in prayer whenever we take a notion to do so, neither can we control God's Power to Heal.

God's Sovereign Control of the Gift of Healing is seen in the life of the Apostle Paul. Paul possessed and exercised the Gift of Healing.

And God wrought special miracles by the hands of Paul: So that from his body were brought unto the sick handkerchiefs or aprons, and the **diseases departed from them, and the evil spirits went out of them** (Acts 19:11,12).

Once, when a serpent had fastened itself upon Paul's hand, he shook it off into the fire without suffering harm

because the Power of the Holy Ghost had protected him.

Paul also prayed for a man who had a bloody flux, and God healed him. Yet, Paul wrote of having to leave another brother behind because of his sickness (II Timothy 4:20). So God did not always heal those for whom Paul prayed, which proves that God controls His gifts to men.

It is also a well-known fact that Paul himself had an eye affliction. He mentioned that writing an epistle with his own hand was a laborious task because of his affliction.

In Paul's case, he was left with a physical thorn in the flesh, not because he had failed to meet the conditions for being healed or because he would have turned His back on the LORD, but because of the abundance of revelation which had been given to him from the LORD. God did not miraculously remove the thorn; instead, He used it to keep Paul humble and dependent upon Him.

When God wants His holy, divine Healing Power to be manifested, He will cause it to flow out through the hands of one of His Holy-Ghost-anointed vessels. I have seen God heal all manner of diseases when this has happened. I have had the LORD anoint my own hands, and it felt as though a plug were pulled out of my palms, as streams of Living Fire flowed forth with His Healing Power. Then, again, I have felt as though Holy Oil were dripping off the ends of my fingers. God puts different Anointings for Healing on us because various diseases come in different Satanic realms. Yet, in every case, God is Sovereign. He is the Controller, not man.

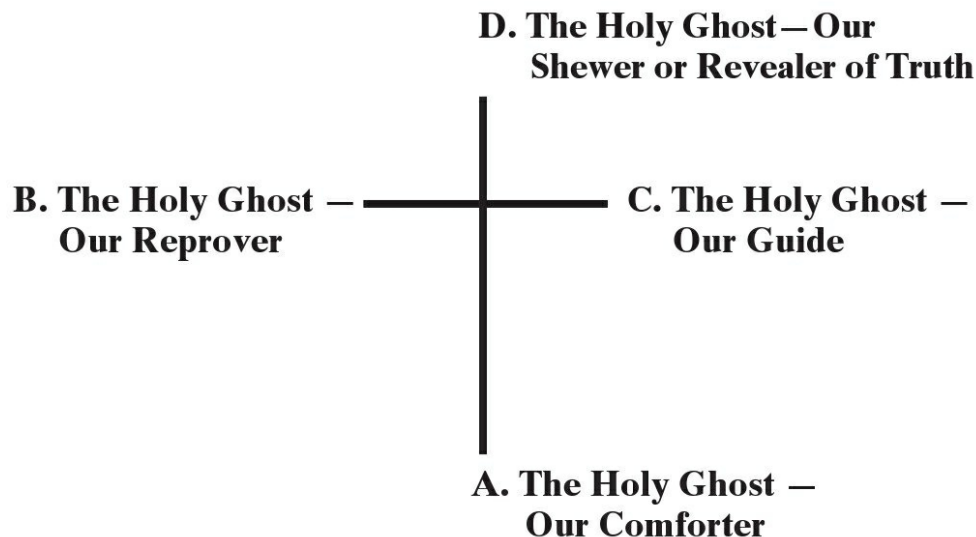
It is necessary for the individual who seeks healing to believe Christ's Power and to respect the person or persons whom God anoints to pray the prayer of faith for his healing.

Peter and John said, "Look on *us*." The lame man had to look on God's servants who possessed the Holy Ghost Power of God's Word that would heal him. The Apostles were not asking the man to look on their flesh because their flesh was powerless to do a thing for him. But the Power of the Holy Ghost in a servant of God can do marvelous things. The Gifts of Healing and Miracles are God's provision for supernatural Healing and Deliverance.

IV. The Purpose of the Holy Ghost

The Prophecy, the Promise, and the Power of the Holy Ghost are the three aspects of the Holy Ghost that lead us to the real *Purpose* of the Holy Ghost.

It is wonderful to experience the Power of the Holy Ghost, but if we stop there, we have stopped short of the real Purpose God had in promising to send it. According to His Word, He has given us the Gift of His Spirit for four reasons: to be our Comforter; to be our Reprover; to be our Guide; and to be our Shower or Revealer of Truth.



A. The Holy Ghost—Our Comforter

Jesus had paid the price on the Cross, but there was something more for Him to do. He had to go to the Right Hand of the Father and make intercession before the Throne of Grace in order for the Comforter to come. It was, therefore, expedient or necessary that He go away.

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 16:7).

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; *Even* the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you (John 14:16-18).

The first Purpose God had in sending the Holy Ghost was for Him to be our Comforter. When Jesus was upon the Earth, He was confined in a mortal Body and, thus, limited to being in one place at a time. The Comforter, the Holy Spirit of God, can be everywhere at once, for He is Omnipresent.

The word *Comforter* means intercessor, consoler, advocate. The Holy Ghost has come to console and to comfort us. For example, when the two Disciples were walking on the road to Emmaus, they were saddened by the loss of their Master, Jesus. He was not with them to comfort their hearts as He had been before His Death, but after the Holy Ghost had come, He was in them and walking along with them as a continual and ever-present Comforter.

We do not walk alone, for we have the Paraclete, the One who has been called alongside to help. He is our Heavenly Helper.

B. The Holy Ghost—Our Reprover

In God's other Purposes for sending the Holy Ghost, we find further comfort and blessing. There is comfort even in His Ministry as a Reprover, for instance, although this may seem a strange sort of comfort as far as the natural man is concerned.

The Holy Ghost was sent to censure our mistakes, to register disapproval of our faults and failures, and to convict and to convince us of sin in our hearts.

Out of the Holy Ghost's Comforting Nature comes His Reproving Power. It is a comfort to the spiritual man to be reproved. The Holy Ghost has not come to comfort our flesh. If we cannot take the reproof of the Spirit of God, then we are in a sad spiritual state indeed.

He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: **rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee** (Proverbs 9:7,8).

A fool and a scorner hate rebuke and the one who gives it. By contrast, a wise man gladly receives rebuke and loves the one who gives it. It is blessed and precious to the spiritual man to receive the rebuke of the Holy Ghost Comforter.

The word *reprove* means to convict, to convince, to confute, to admonish, and to tell a fault. The Apostle John taught that the Holy Ghost has come to reprove in three ways.

And when he is come, **he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment**: Of sin, because they believe not on me; Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged (John 16:8-11).

1. The Holy Ghost—the Reprover of the World of Sin

Jesus said that the Holy Ghost will reprove the world of sin— "because they believe not on me [God's Son]." There is a difference between the Convicting Power of the Holy Ghost and the accusing power of our own conscience, and we need to understand this difference. The Holy Ghost does not have to tell man that he is a sinner. Man's conscience tells him that it is wrong to commit adultery, to steal, and to lie. Of course, the Holy Ghost does work along with the Light of Truth in the conscience (John 1:9), but the *special* Ministry of the Holy Ghost is to convict the world of *the sin of not believing on Jesus Christ*.

Talk to people out in the world and ask them if it is wrong to steal, to lie, to cheat, and to do things of this sort; and, if they have not fully seared their conscience, they will admit that these things are wrong. Then, begin to deal with them about their rejection of the LORD Jesus Christ. See if they will admit that they have rejected and *are*

rejecting their Saviour. People cannot confess their unbelief unless the Holy Ghost comes to convict their hearts. Before they can come to God, all must first be convinced that they are sinners and that Jesus Christ died for them.

People cannot come to God simply because they know it is wrong to steal and to lie. They cannot come to God just on the knowledge of their conscience. The Holy Ghost must come and convince them of the sins that they have committed against Jesus Christ. Conviction of this sin of unbelief can lead them into true repentance and change their hearts.

People know when they have done wrong. Before I was saved, I often prayed for God's Forgiveness because my conscience bothered me. However, I did not really repent until the Spirit of God began to convict me of what I was doing to Jesus Christ.

The same Principle applies as we are going on in the Crucified Way, striving to take on Christ's Likeness and Image. While seeking to become more like Jesus, our conscience will convict us of many things in us that are wrong and unlike the LORD. And, if we are honest, we will know that the conviction we are feeling is true. Still, we do nothing about it until the Holy Ghost moves upon us.

It takes the Holy Ghost to show us how something in our lives is a personal offense against Jesus Christ. When we see this Truth, we will become desperate about getting rid of the wrong things we are doing and thinking. Then, we truly can repent and forsake sinful things. This is how we go on for God or grow spiritually.

When King David saw his sin, he did not say, "O, God, I have sinned against Uriah." He cried, "For I acknowledge my transgressions; and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight:..." (Psalm 51:3,4). This is the Truth the Holy Ghost shows us. Before we can cry from the bottom of our hearts in real repentance, we must see our personal offenses against Christ; then, comes the LORD's Forgiveness and the taking away of our sins.

2. The Holy Ghost—the Reprover of Righteousness

The Comforter is going to reprove, to convict, to convince, to confute, and to admonish the world, not only of sin but also of righteousness. The world is going to be convinced of the Righteousness of Jesus Christ. "...because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more."

When Jesus Christ was upon the Earth, even after He arose from the dead, He did not try to lift up His own Self or prove His own Righteousness. He is in Heaven, now, interceding for you and me. It is the Work of the Holy Ghost to convict or to convince the world of the Righteousness of Jesus Christ.

The Word of God teaches that the soul that sinneth shall die. It also says that the wages of sin is Death. The Righteousness of Jesus Christ was established and declared by His *resurrection* from the dead. Jesus was without sin, so the grave could not hold Him. Because sin and Death had no claim upon Him, He came forth in His Glorified Body and ascended into Heaven. This is proof that He was without sin. He was and is Righteous!

There always are unbelievers who will taunt us, saying, "How do you know Jesus arose from the dead? Were you there?" It is not our job, beloved, to prove the resurrection; that is the Work of the Holy Ghost. When He begins to move within a human heart, sooner or later that heart will be convinced that Jesus Christ was Holy and Righteous and that He did ascend unto the Father. The Holy Ghost is the One Who does the convincing.

Another way the Holy Ghost convicts the world of Christ's Righteousness is through God's people. When the Righteousness of Jesus Christ is formed in the heart of a believer, the Holy Ghost uses the believer's life to convince the world of the reality and Righteousness of Christ Who, while living in a Body of Flesh, overcame the world, the flesh, and the Devil: "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: *God was manifest in the flesh*, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory" (I Timothy 3:16).

The world, as a whole, hated Jesus Christ when He came personally. We should not be shocked, then, to discover that the world hates us when it sees Christ's Righteousness manifested in our lives. We cannot convince the world of what God has wrought in our hearts. This is the Ministry of the Holy Ghost, and He will perform it. There will be some who will become believers in Jesus Christ because they see Him living in us.

3. The Holy Ghost—the Reprover of Judgment

The Holy Ghost will reprove of judgment because the prince of this world IS judged. The enemy is not *going to* be judged; he already *is* judged. Praise God! This fact alone should revolutionize our lives.

When Jesus died upon Calvary's Cross, He bruised the Serpent's head, and all things were put in subjection under Christ's Feet. Yet how many of us really believe this? How many of us act as though we believe this Truth when the Devil attacks us? When we are suffering the Devil's attack, we need to get down on our knees and pray until the Holy Ghost reproves us for our ignorance and blindness. Our unbelief needs to be reprov'd until we know and believe that the prince of this world **ALREADY HAS BEEN JUDGED!** The Serpent's head is under the Crucified Heel of Jesus *now*. Fallen Lucifer, Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon are already defeated.

We know, theoretically, that there is Power in the Blood of Jesus Christ, but the Blood does not work for us until we accept it, believe it, and use it experientially. Neither will the knowledge that Satan already has been judged and is under the very Foot of Jesus Himself work for us unless we accept this Truth and believe it when we are under attack by the Devil. We need to take our stand against our enemy by using Jesus Christ's precious Blood-bought victory!

Remember, it is the Work of the Holy Ghost to reprove and to convince us of sin, of Righteousness, and of Judgment. Seek Him, and He will do His Work!

C. The Holy Ghost—Our Guide

There was another reason that it was necessary for Jesus to go away. The Holy Ghost was coming to be a Guide for those who would believe and be baptized. Jesus could not stay, personally, to guide each believer who would be born on this Earth and who would seek to follow Him. But the Omnipresent Spirit could be in each heart to direct and guide into all Truth.

I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit when he, **the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth:** for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come (John 16:12,13).

Jesus taught His Disciples many things from the Word of God, and He had more things to share with them—things He could not tell them at that particular time because they would not have understood. Why? Because man's natural faculties have limited perception. It takes the Holy Ghost in our hearts and minds to convict, convince, and quicken God's Word to us.

The word *guide* means a conductor, a leader, a teacher. Conducting others implies taking them by the arm to accompany and assist them. There are so many pitfalls and snares along our spiritual journey. We simply cannot make it alone. We need the precious Holy Ghost to stay right with us, to take us by the arm and assist us along the way.

Sometimes, the Holy Ghost acts as a Leader. To lead someone requires going before them. Many times we go where we never have gone before, so we do not know how to find the way. Therefore, we must wait before the LORD until the Holy Ghost goes before us and shows us the Way.

David had the experience of having God as his Guide when he set out to defeat the Philistines. The LORD told David to sit down over against the mulberry trees and just wait and listen. When he heard the going in the mulberry trees, which was the sound of the LORD's Host going out before him, David was to move against the Philistines. Then, there was victory!

A guide is also a teacher. Sometimes the Holy Ghost guides us by explaining things as we sit at the Jesus' Feet. The Holy Ghost will reveal and quicken the Truth to our hearts and give Knowledge to us.

D. The Holy Ghost—Our Shewer

Our modern spelling of the word *shew* is *show*, which means to announce in detail, to rehearse, to report. Sometimes our spiritual vision is blurred and confused. This is the time to sit still until the Holy Ghost comes forth to show us the way and announce it in detail. We never are to leap into something while our vision is confused and blurred.

Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: **and he will shew you things to come** (John 16:13).

There are Truths we need to have rehearsed in our ears. Having heard something before does not mean that we have *learned* it. Spiritual pride in our hearts causes us to resent the rehearsal of a lesson, a sermon, or a true

Principle because we erroneously feel that, if we have heard something before, we know it. However, the LORD sends the Holy Ghost to rehearse many Truths to us because this is part of His Ministry as the Shewer. We need to listen carefully to each Truth we hear preached, for the Holy Ghost may be wanting to draw our attention to some facet of the Truth that we have missed on previous occasions.

The Holy Ghost also will bring us a report of a place in God in which we have not yet walked. This is why God gives us visions, revelations, and dreams. Knowing our need, the Holy Ghost will lift us up by vision, by revelation, by dream, or by the quickened Word of God in order for us to catch a glimpse of what is before us. When we get a vision before our eyes, as reported to us by the Holy Ghost, then we are ready to press on, to meet the conditions, and to pay the price to attain the place in God by growth that the Holy Ghost has shown us by vision.

What a precious Gift was given to us on the Day of Pentecost! The sweet Holy Ghost, Whose Coming was *Prophesied* by the Prophet Joel in the Old Testament and *Promised* by Jesus in the New Testament, came to dwell within the believer's heart and baptize him with Power and Fire from on High.

The *Power* of the Holy Ghost is manifested through the Power of Utterance in Tongues, the Power of Preaching, the Power of Laying on of Hands, and the Power of Healing.

The great *Purpose* of His Coming was to be our Comforter, Our Reprover, our Guide, and our Shewer or Revealer. What glorious spiritual provision has been made for Christian believers in the Person of the Holy Ghost!

If, as a believer, you have not yet accepted God's great Gift of the Holy Ghost, we pray that your faith will be strengthened through this study in God's Word and that you will experience the fulfillment of Joel's Prophecy and the Promise of Jesus Christ, as Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost: "...and having received of the Father the *promise* of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.... 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. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:33,38,39).

