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AGAIN

and Spirit-Filled

BILL WINSTON

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are taken from the *King James Version* of the Bible.

Born Again and Spirit Filled

ISBN 1-931289-01-8

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P. O. Box 947

Oak Park, Illinois 60303-0947

Published by Bill Winston Ministries

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Chapter One

IN THE BEGINNING

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth.” God created all living things, plants and animals. He even created the atmosphere of this earth with a sun to give light by day and the moon and stars to give light by night. Everything that was made, was made by God and God saw that it was good. *“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; [into him] and man became a living soul.”* The Bible says that Adam was created in the image and likeness of God. This likeness refers to having the same nature, or in other words, to operate like God. Man was made to function like God. *“God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.”* (Genesis 1:26). The word dominion means “lordship,” “rulership,” “overseer,” “caretakership,” and implies “ownership.” Mankind was originally in charge of the whole earth.

In Genesis, Chapter 2, we see how God made man, *“The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground.”* This word “formed” means to mold or to fashion. God made man’s body from dirt and breathed into man’s nostrils and he became a living soul. Man was now alive, made up of three parts: a **spirit**, his inner life; a **soul**, a faculty for storing, reasoning and interpreting information and making decisions; and a **body**, to contact the outside physical world in which he would live. Each one of these areas, **spirit**, **soul** and **body**, though having distinct and separate functions, would work together as a whole just like the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; they are three yet they are One.

Each part of man must be cared for and nurtured. The **body** needs food from the earth from which it came. Good, nutritious food to keep it healthy and strong. The **soul**, where the mind is located, needs intellectual nourishment. You will find a person who has never fed his or her mind intellectual food will not be able to do much in this world or in society. Also in this soulish area you find the will and the emotions. The third area is the **spirit**, the real you. The Apostle Peter calls it *“the hidden man of the heart”* because it is hidden from natural sight.

This part needs food, but he must have spiritual food, nourishment from God. This is why Jesus said, when He was tempted of the devil, ***“Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God”*** (Matthew 4:4). He was saying that physical nourishment is only part of what man needs to function in this earth. He also needs God’s Word to feed his spirit man. Here is where we arrive at a profound truth, man (mankind) was never designed or manufactured to live apart from his creator, god. Jesus said, ***“give us this day our daily bread.”***

God placed Adam in a garden called Eden which means “a place of delight or a place of pleasure.” He gave Adam specific instructions not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. ***“For in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”*** Adam had been given charge over the earth and God brought him all the animals and let Adam give them names ***“...and whatsoever Adam called every living creature, that was the name thereof.”*** Adam’s mind, in its original state, could remember everything, including every name of every insect and bug. You see, before man’s fall, his mind had perfect recall. He did not need a computer to store and access information (today it is called data processing).

His mind was operating at full potential and was more powerful than any computer you could imagine. Because of sin, man lost this ability. Folks today cannot even remember their social security number or what they were supposed to buy at the grocery store. You can say that because of Adam's transgression, man lost his mind!

TEMPTATION OF THE DEVIL

The Scripture says that out of all these creatures there was not found a helper (help meet) suitable for Adam so God made one called woman. ***“And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.”*** Adam called her name Eve, which means mother of all living.

They were both in the Garden of Eden and Eve was approached by an evil spirit being named Satan, who used the body of a serpent to speak to her. He said, ***“Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden? ...For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.”*** Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, and gave also to her husband with her, and he did eat. This act of disobedience

opened the door for a curse to come into the earth and upon the whole human race. The book of Romans brings out the far reaching effect of Adam's transgression, ***"Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."*** God had put a law in the earth that said everything produces after its own kind. Whatever seed you start with is the harvest you will get. An apple seed produces an apple tree, a seed of strife will produce more strife. In this case Adam, the male man, who carries the seed for the human race, now had a corrupt and fallen nature. The only thing he could produce is more like himself, more corruption. Have you ever wondered why there is so much corruption in the world and in this nation? It is because what is inside of sinful man is being produced or manifest outside. The eternal life that god put into man had now turned to spiritual death which means having Satan's nature. Man's faith turned to fear. His joy and love turned to sorrow, hate and jealousy...man became a sinner. Apostle Paul continues, ***"For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"*** (Romans 3:23).

Chapter Two

FROM LIFE TO DEATH

“...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt sure die.” (Genesis 2:17)

This was a turning point in the life of mankind and human history. Adam no longer knew God in the intimacy he once knew him. No longer did he have the insight and wisdom that he was operating in before. No longer did he and Eve have authority and dominion over all the earth as God had planned in the beginning. No longer did his body remain ageless and eternal, but now the clock started ticking on the aging process. They began to grow old. Adam and Eve spiritually died which does not mean they ceased to exist, it means they were cut off from the life of God. God called to Adam saying, ***“Where art thou?”*** Adam said, ***“I heard thy voice in the Garden, and I was afraid...”*** Adam was lost; and because everything produces after its own kind, the whole human race was lost. The Bible teaches that Satan became the “god” or ruler of this world (**II Corinthians 4:4**).

As time goes on, we see man’s evil sinful nature being manifested throughout the earth:

Cain murdering his own brother Abel, the building of the tower of Babel, ruler after ruler setting themselves up to control and dominate the people and to enslave them. The Bible says, *“every imagination of the thoughts of his (man’s) heart was only evil continually.”* In short, mankind, without God, was living in darkness. He was being deceived and was on a sure course to self-destruct. The world needed a Savior.

PLAN OF REDEMPTION

God was cut off from His man, and Satan was ruling this planet. Now God needs a way to get back in to restore His creation to its proper place. This plan was called the plan of redemption. “Redemption” or “redeem” means to purchase or buy back something that had been sold or taken and usually held by a broker. The idea is that once you had it, but it had been sold or lost. Kind of like something in a pawn shop that belongs to you but you do not have enough money to redeem it or buy it back. The human race, which was originally God’s creation, was being held by that evil pawn broker, Satan. No man could pay the price that was demanded to get us set free. And if God is to get us back, he just cannot snatch man out of the hands of

Satan or go to the earth and make another man and forget about the one that was lost. He had to get us back legally, without violating our free will. Have you ever heard the preacher say ***“Whosoever will, let him come?”*** God made us free and He will not force us to violate our freedom. When a person gives their life to Jesus Christ, notice, they do it of their own free will.

God searched throughout the earth and found a man named Abram and made an agreement with him called a covenant. In essence, God said, if you will become my friend and partner in the earth, leaving your kindred and father’s house, the system that you trust in, and depend on Me, ***“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee (through you) shall all families of the earth be blessed”*** (Genesis 12:2-3).

So Abram made a covenant with God and followed Him. He grew more and more dependent upon God to supply his every need, to protect his family and property and to comfort him in every way. As Abram followed God, he soon became very rich; however, there was one problem. He had no seed (child). He had no

children to which he could pass on all that he learned from God and all the wealth that God had transferred into his hands.

Abram went to God and said to Him “***Behold, to me thou hast given no seed,***” (Genesis 15:3), and God quickly responded. He brought Abram outside under the sky at night and told him to look toward heaven and see the stars. Then God said, “***So shall thy seed be.***” In other words, “that is how many children you are going to have” Abram, not one but countless.

Chapter Three

A NEW BEGINNING

When Abram was 99 years old, God came to him and reintroduced Himself. He said, ***“I am the Almighty God.”*** In Hebrew, it means “El Shaddai,” which means “Breasty One” or “the All Sufficient One,” “the God that is more than enough.” God said, ***“No more shall your name be called Abram, but your name shall be called Abraham, for a father of many nations have I made thee.”*** The word “Abraham” in Hebrew means “Father of a multitude.” If you notice by changing his name, God was changing Abraham’s way of seeing himself and preparing the way for the seed (son) He had promised. He also changed Abraham’s wife’s name from Sarai to Sarah. Abraham believed god. He refused to look at his circumstances or his age. He kept his eye on what god had said.

“And being not weak in faith, he considered not his own body now dead, when he was about a hundred years old, neither yet the deadness of Sarah’s womb: He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being

fully persuaded that, what he had promised, He [God] was able also to perform” (Romans 4:19-21).

When Abraham was 100 years old and his wife Sarah was 90, who incidentally never could have children before and was past the years of childbearing, God made good on His promise. They had a child. They called him Isaac which meant “laughter.” It was not by Abraham’s ability and certainly not by the “goody goody” way he or Sarah acted because they did mess up a few times. It was by the grace of God. This is the same way we are saved or born again -- by hearing the Gospel or “Good News,” and taking God at His Word. The Bible says ***“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works [your own ability], lest any man should boast”*** (Ephesians 2:8-9).

Isaac, the promised seed, grew and married a woman named Rebecca. They had a son, Jacob. Jacob married and begot twelve sons from whom are the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.

JESUS, THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

Some hundreds of years passed, and a prophet named Isaiah began to prophesy about the coming King, the Messiah and Savior. He said, ***“Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel,” [which means God with us] (Isaiah 7:14). “The government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The mighty god, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace” (Isaiah 9:6).*** God was sending the “Redeemer,” His only Son, into the earth to redeem [purchase back] mankind.

An angel appeared to a natural descendent of Abraham, a virgin whose name was Mary, saying, Behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. She said, ***“How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?” And the angel answered and said unto her, “The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God...She said, be it unto me according to thy word” (Luke 1:31-38).*** She too believed

God and conceived. This seed or the word of God that was planted in Mary's womb took upon itself flesh and dwelled among men. His name was **Jesus**.

“In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God ...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (John 1:1, 14).

Jesus grew and at about 30 years of age, He started His earthly ministry. He went about preaching, teaching and healing – showing glad tidings and preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Whole cities were full of joy as He set the captives free. We sing the song today, *“Joy to the world the Lord is come, let earth receive her King.”*

God declared that *“The wages of sin is death” (Romans 6:23)*. This means that if you even commit the slightest sin, your crime is punishable by sorrow and death. However, God sent a substitute, a sacrifice, a redeemer to suffer and die for us. His own Son to die for the whole world and give His life as a ransom for many. Isaiah prophesied the death of Jesus. He said, *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the*

Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all” (Isaiah 53:6). Jesus not only came to deal with the penalty of sin, which was mainly sickness, disease, poverty and death, but He also came to put away the sin nature that had plagued mankind. That evil ungodly nature that was passed to all humanity which was the driving force behind the destructive things that mankind was doing in the earth. If you get a pig, bring him in the house, wash him, clean him up, put a bow tie on him and turn your back for a moment, he will be right back in the mud. Why? Because he is a pig, that is his nature. Even though you washed him and cleaned him. The thing that makes a pig a pig never changed. You merely cleaned him up and made him look different on the outside. Jesus was coming to destroy the sinful nature, the very thing that was the driving force behind the sinful deeds of humanity.

HIS DEATH AND RESURRECTION

“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures” (I Corinthians 15:3-4).

Jesus went to the cross at Calvary like a lamb to the slaughter. There He bore our sin and our suffering. He died on the cross and was buried. Then when the high court of Heaven saw the demands of justice had been met, God accepted the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, as payment for your sins and mine. He was raised up. Death could not hold Him. Peter, preaching at the house of one called Cornelius, a Gentile, spoke these words. ***“Him God raised up the third day, and showed him openly; Not to all the people, but unto witnesses chosen before of God, even to us, who did eat and drink with him after he rose from the dead.”*** Jesus did not die because he sinned [no one took his life], he gave His life in obedience to the Father taking the penalty you and I deserved. The Apostle Paul writes in the book of Romans, ***“For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one [man] shall many be made righteous (Romans 5:19).”***

GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD

Right after Jesus was raised up from the dead, He appeared unto Mary at the door of the tomb. He said, ***“Touch Me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say to them, I ascend unto my Father, and***

your Father; and to my God, and your God” (John 20:17). Jesus was about to go up to the high court of heaven, the heavenly sanctuary, the “Holy of Holies,” to present His Blood, as proof or evidence that the price had been paid to get you and me back into the hand of our Creator, God. We could be free. It is like during times of slavery when the Emancipation Proclamation was signed by Abraham Lincoln. It proclaimed that no longer could you hold a man as a slave, as property against his will, that every man must be released. Jesus said, **“Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel [good news] to every creature.”** Jesus was saying proclaim liberty to every person over the entire earth. It is a time of Jubilee or freedom for all held in bondage. **“He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned...” (Mark 16:15, 16, 19).** So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God.

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).

Chapter Four

STEPS IN A NEW DIRECTION

STEP ONE – REPENTANCE

The Bible says, *“godly sorrow worketh repentance.”* This means to genuinely be sorry for what you have done, how you have lived: to admit that you have sinned and to take full responsibility for your actions and failures, to turn away from a sinful life or change your heart and mind; to change your direction, to stop trusting in yourself and to trust in the Living God. Repentance actually opens the door for the power of God to completely transform your life. *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all”* (Isaiah 53:6).

STEP TWO – FAITH IN GOD

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast” (Ephesians 2:8-9). Step two is to believe on the Lord Jesus and confess Jesus as Lord, the

Supreme head of your life. Take Him as your Savior, trusting in what He has done and believe that He is the Son of God risen from the dead. The Bible says in Romans 10:9, ***“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”***

There is no salvation apart from believing upon Christ as the Son of God and exercising faith in His Name and in the Blood that He shed for us. ***“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”*** (Acts 4:12).

STEP THREE – WATER BAPTISM

Water baptism is an act of identification by faith: we receive a new status and identify with God. Baptism joins us to Christ and to His people.

“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” (Acts 2:37-38).

Verse 41 says, ***“Then they that gladly received his word were [water] baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.”*** Notice, they that gladly received the Word [Peter did not force them] were baptized immediately in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Notice, baptism was reserved for those who believed in Him and confessed Jesus as Lord. As soon as they heard the gospel message, they responded to the message by being water baptized. This water baptism is like circumcision: it is outward evidence of an inner change. It announces to all of the natural and spiritual world that you belong to God and the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. They were baptized in His Name because “in him dwells all of the fullness of the Godhead bodily” and Paul said, ***“And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus” (Colossians 3:17).***

The word “baptized” in the Greek is baptizo, which means to immerse as you would dip a piece of cloth in a solution to dye it – to cover through and through. To be immersed in water is a way of having us to identify with the death,

burial and resurrection of Our Lord Jesus Christ, being born again, no longer having the nature of evil and under the authority of the devil. The Bible says, ***“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life”*** (Romans 6:3-4).

IN HIM

As the believers were baptized, they became a part of the Body of Christ, the family of God. We were born again into the family of God. This means once born again, just like a newborn babe, you have no past. The Bible says ***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature” [or new creation].*** Like anyone born into a family, you take on the family name, have rights and privileges as a family member. You can expect a new kind of life. God is responsible to care for you as His own child. You have new brothers and sisters **in Christ**.

When I was a young boy growing up, I remember once getting into a scrap with another guy and he was bigger than me. My older

brother came and all arguments ceased. Jesus said, ***“I will never leave you or forsake you”*** – that means that He will never let you down. He will always come to your rescue.

No longer are we to feel guilty and condemned, inadequate, dysfunctional and inferior. No longer should we fret and worry and operate like we did before we got saved. We have been bought with a price. ***“Beloved, now are we the sons of God.”*** Realize you have that same old body, but that is just your “earth suit.” Something to be clothed with during this earthly pilgrimage. When you leave this earth, that thing is going back to the dust of the earth where it came from. The “real” you, who is inside, is going to rise up and forever be with the Lord. Paul wrote, ***“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new”*** (II Corinthians 5:17).

PRAYER FOR SALVATION

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Your Son, Jesus Christ. You said in Your Word that whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13). I am calling on Jesus right now. I believe He died on the cross for my sins, that He was raised from the dead on the third day. Lord Jesus, I am asking You now, come into my heart. Take control of my life and help me be what You want me to be. I repent of my sins and surrender myself totally and completely to You. I accept You and confess You as my Lord and Savior. Thank You for making me a new person and forgiving me of my sins. In Jesus Name, Amen.

(Do not forget to get water baptized as soon as possible. Acts 16:33).

Chapter Five

HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

Jesus told His disciples at the end of His ministry, *“And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry [wait] ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high”* (Luke 24:49).

John the Baptist was baptizing in the River Jordan saying, *“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).

John was speaking about something in addition to water baptism, a supernatural baptism that man’s ability could not bring about. This is the baptism in the **Holy Spirit**. I call it, the “upon experience,” different from the “within experience” when you received Christ to live inside of you.

After Jesus came up out of the water being baptized by John, the Bible says, *“the Holy*

Spirit descended upon him like a dove.” This marked the beginning of His ministry. First the Holy Spirit regenerates and renews your life. He is responsible for giving birth to the new creation. ***“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost” (Titus 3:5).*** In the Book of Acts, before He ascended, as Jesus was speaking of things concerning the Kingdom of God during the 40 days after His resurrection, the disciples asked Him will He at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel. He said, ***“It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power (miracle-working ability), after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:7-8).***

God tells us through His Word that there is a “within” experience where we get “born again” by the power of the Holy Spirit, and there is also an “upon” experience where we get endued with power or miracle-working ability from on high. This is called the Baptism in the Holy Spirit,

where the life that we live and the Gospel we preach can be done with miracle-working power and evidence.

PENTECOST

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2), the Spirit of God descended upon the 120 followers of Jesus as they waited (tarried) in the upper room in Jerusalem. ***“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them the utterance”*** (Acts 2:4). Notice, when they were filled with the Holy Ghost, immediately the supernatural ability of God was manifested. They spoke in an unknown tongue – a language they had never gone to school to learn.

SAMARIA

Some years later in the city of Samaria, Philip was preaching and God was working miracles. Those people that believed were baptized (in water) and when Peter and John heard what had happened they came down and prayed for these new converts. ***“Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost”*** (Acts 8:17). A man named Simon who used sorcery and bewitched the people offered to pay them money for this gift when he saw the miracle that

happened.

HOUSE OF CORNELIUS

Another account of baptism in the Holy Ghost is when Peter went to preach at the home of a Gentile named Cornelius. ***“While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on (upon) all them which heard the word... For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God”*** (Acts 10:44, 46). Notice, each time the initial evidence of being baptized in the Holy Ghost was the supernatural manifestation of speaking in other tongues.

EPHESUS

Another account some 20 years later after Pentecost when Paul went through Ephesus he found some disciples of John. He asked them, ***“Have you received the Holy Ghost since you believed?”*** (Acts 19:2). He ended up baptizing them in water, in the name of the Lord Jesus. ***“And when Paul laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied”*** (Acts 19:6). In the days of old, God would place his supernatural ability upon prophets, priests and kings to perform various tasks. However, the Prophet Joel had prophesied what was to come, ***“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour***

out my spirit upon all flesh; 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). Well “this is that,” which the Prophet Joel prophesied. God is pouring out His Spirit on all believers.

ARE TONGUES FOR ALL BELIEVERS?

This is an issue that has drawn much controversy today, the subject of speaking in tongues. Notice I used the word **Believers**. Some might say that speaking in tongues is not for today or not for everyone and they are partly right! In **Mark 16:17**, Jesus says, “*And these signs shall follow them that believe...they shall speak with new tongues.*” So it is true, tongues are not for everybody. It is for those who believe. Remember the account in Mark’s gospel, Jesus could do no mighty works in His own hometown because of their unbelief. Now this is Jesus we are talking about. Their unbelief stopped the supernatural manifestation of the power of God through Jesus’ ministry. Speaking in tongues is a supernatural manifestation of God, and unbelief can stop it from being manifested in a person’s life today. Notice, the way Jesus attacked

unbelief was by teaching. People will never believe any further than they have knowledge or we can say it like this, faith comes where the will of God known. I have found in almost every situation, when I teach from the Word of God on the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, the person(s) receive the Baptism and speak(s) in other tongues, as the Spirit gives them utterance. The key is that all the gifts of God must be received by faith, and ***“faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”***

Chapter Six

HOW TO RECEIVE THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

STEP ONE

Jesus said, *“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”* (Luke 11:13)? Notice the two major criteria for receiving the Holy Spirit. First, God must be your Father. This means you must be born again, or have the “within experience.” Secondly, you have to ask him believing that if you ask it shall be given.

“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.

For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.

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?

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?” (Luke 11:9-13).

Step one is to ask Him. Remember, all that we receive from God must be received by faith. Faith begins where the will of God is known. If you think it is not God’s will for you to have it – it is hard to get faith to receive it.

Some years ago, I received the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues, and it changed my whole life. Shortly before that time I had received Christ as my Savior; however, I had a hunger for more of God. The church that I was attending did not believe in the baptism in the Holy Spirit – they taught that you got it all when you were water baptized. So I had to go where they believed and taught this truth. Since I have been Spirit filled with the evidence of speaking with other tongues, I have seen a dimension of supernatural ability and wisdom added to my life that I never had before. When I was still working in corporate America as a sales manager at one of the largest corporations in the world, I would go in my office and pray in the spirit (tongues) and watch miraculous things

happen in my meetings and to my computer sales team. How was this happening? God was enabling me by the power of the Holy Ghost. I came out number one sales manager for two consecutive years. (To God be the Glory!)

Most times I would pray in tongues before I went out street witnessing or evangelizing with other believers, and God would lead us right to those who were crying out for His loving touch. I also saw many bad habits fall away from my life. I guess that is why He is called Holy Spirit. The Bible even says that when we don't know how to pray in a particular situation, we can pray in the spirit or tongues (our heavenly language) and thereby pray the perfect will of God (**Romans 8:26-27**). Scripture also teaches, *“for if I pray in an unknown tongue my spirit prayeth (the real born again person inside) but my understanding is unfruitful”* (**I Corinthians 14:14**). This means that your mind does not fully comprehend what is going on. However, your spirit, your inner man, the “real” you, is praying in a heavenly language the perfect will of God. Paul, the Apostle who gave us this revelation said, *“I speak with tongues more than ye all”* (**I Corinthians 14:18**).

STEP TWO

After you have asked, you must believe you receive when you pray. To receive from God, you must do it by faith. That means you must believe and act like it is already done. Do not look for a feeling. Oh, the feeling will come, but it follows your Faith. Notice when Jesus came to live inside you, the feeling followed you receiving Him as your new Lord. ***“What things soever ye desire when you pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them.”*** (Mark 11:24)

STEP THREE

Lift your hands and say, “Thank You, Jesus.” Start thanking god and praising God and a supernatural utterance will begin to come forth not by your own ability but by the ability that God supplies. This is a supernatural manifestation of God.

SUMMARY

To be truly born again is to have the life and power of God in you. A new nature that at first is like a newborn baby which has to be nurtured to grow and develop.

- What is next?
Get involved in a good Bible believing, Bible-teaching church where you can be spiritually fed and nurtured. Do not get impatient with yourself. Paul said, ***“Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6).***
- Read your Bible daily. Your new spirit needs spiritual food just as your body needs natural food to grow and become strong.
- Find some Christian friends with whom you can associate and resist temptation.
- Witness and share your faith, tell others what the Lord has done for you.

Welcome to the Family of God!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. William S. Winston is a visionary leader with an insightful awareness of what people need to succeed and how he can empower them for success.



Born in Tuskegee, Alabama, Bill credits the strong community and spiritual influences that surrounded him while growing up for the bold determination to be successful and to help others succeed. As a young boy, he was influenced by the courageous examples and historic aviation accomplishments of the Tuskegee Airmen.

As a young man he attended the internationally known Tuskegee Institute (now Tuskegee University), where the spirit of invention and leadership permeated the environment. He also attended the prestigious Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois.

Bill served for six years as a fighter pilot in the United States Air Force, where he received numerous awards and medals for his superior flying skills. His extraordinary achievement in aerial flight earned him The Distinguished Flying Cross, The Air Medal for performance in combat, and Squadron Top Gun Pilot competitions. After completing his military service, Bill joined the IBM Corpora-

tion as a marketing representative. His exceptional managerial and relational skills rapidly earned him several promotions within the organization. Before he resigned in 1985 to enter full-time ministry, he was a regional marketing manager in IBM's Midwest Region and was responsible for more than \$35 million in sales revenue per year.

Dr. Winston received his Doctorate of Theology from Friends International Christian University, and is Founder and Pastor of Living Word Christian Center, a 19,000-member church located in Forest Park, Illinois. The church has a broad range of entities including a Bible Training Center, a School of Ministry and Missions, the Joseph Business School, Living Word Christian Academy, the Forest Park Plaza shopping mall, and the recent purchase and development of a shopping mall complex in the state of Alabama. He also hosts the Believer's Walk of Faith television and radio broadcast which reaches more than 80 million households nationwide and overseas.

Dr. Winston is also the Founder and Chairman of The Joseph Center[®] for Business Development, Chairman of the Board of Covenant Bankshares, Inc. (a holding company created to own a bank), and President of New Covenant Community Development Corporation, whose mission is to revitalize communities spiritually and economically.

He is married to Veronica and is the father of three children: Melody, Nicole, and David.