

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“ rivers of living water will flow [...]”
John 7 :38

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**“AND YOU
WILL RECEIVE
THE
GIFT
OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT”**

Acts 2 :38

50 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN THE MOVEMENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In 1935, as the so-called Revival 'of Pentecost' started in Normandy, my parents got introduced to it.

« In the town of Le Havre, there are ministers of God who lay hands on the sick and they get healed. You should go there.” a lady says to my mother who was seriously ill, and she gave her the addresses of the evangelical meetings.

At that time, my father was the keeper of the lighthouse of Antifer, located about 25 km from Le Havre. He was also sick. He decided to go and see Mr F. Gallice, the pastor of the evangelical church. We went there together-- cycling-- and we attended a meeting. Soon after, my father got healed of his heart disease, eczema and rheumatism, when the evangelists Jeffreys laid hands on the sick -in Jesus-Christ's Name- during a meeting held at the theatre of Le Havre. My mother was also delivered from her disease. Both of them were converted to Jesus-Christ as well as my brother and sister. I decided to follow Christ too. I was then 14 years old.

It was a total change in the family who then settled in Le Havre.

I learnt by the preaching of the Gospel that there was “ no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.” Romans 8:1. I found an inner peace whereas before, I used to be anxious when I was thinking about the afterlife torments; I was excited about this new life. We never missed a meeting; we were hungry for a deeper spiritual life in an atmosphere of revival which started in 1930 during the first missions of the English evangelist Douglas Scott. Later on, I had the privilege to take part in evangelistic campaigns with him.

In my teenage heart, I committed myself to become a preacher of the Gospel for the poor, one day.

When I was 16, as I was pursuing my business studies, I used to dedicate 30 minutes to the bible correspondance course of the London Assembly of God Bible College, every night after my lessons and homework. Every time, before starting the study, I used to pray and ask God to help me by his Spirit to understand His Word. I was in perfect communion with God, filled with the Spirit, but I was scared of speaking in tongues. I was influenced by wrong books whose authors did not experience the authentic and biblical Baptism in the Holy Spirit. They claimed that external manifestations – in particular speaking in tongues- were coming from a diabolic origin. Because of that, I was afraid of any manifestation. When I was experiencing the fullness of the Spirit, I stopped praying and praising God since I feared the bad demonic influences mentioned in these books.

When I was 19, I left my job, my studies and a brilliant future on earth to commit myself to serve God by faith.

However, despite my biblical knowledge, something was missing. Although I was satisfied by the fact that I received my Bible School teacher's congratulations and got my diploma signed by the famous pastor Howard CARTER, I still had to free myself from my fears and experiment the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As soon as I arrived in Lisieux, in Normandy, I asked the pastor with whom I was going to start my pastoral training to lay hands on me to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit. I was ready to accept the Gift of the Holy Spirit such as the Lord granted it to the Early Church Christians. Immediately, Christ baptised me in the Spirit and I spoke in a foreign language. Since this time, January 1940, I have kept speaking in tongues.

This experience introduced me to a new dimension in the fellowship with God and his Spirit. This grace is amazingly beautiful and edifying. It is accessible to all who desire to trust in Christ whom John the Baptist had said about:

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit [...]” Luke 3:16

I especially dedicate this biblical booklet to the believers who are hungry for a bigger spiritual strength in their Christian life, and in particular to those who are bound by fear.

“YOU WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Acts 2 :38

The story takes place on the day of Pentecost. Jesus Christ had risen to heaven 10 days earlier. 120 disciples have just been filled with the Holy Spirit and spoken in new languages in an upper room located in Jerusalem on Mount Zion. Peter the apostle is among them and speaks to thousands of pious Jews who were next to the place where this event took place. He explains to them that this is the fulfilment of Joel's prophecy:

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.” Acts 2:17

After he shared with them the Good news of Christ's death and resurrection for men's salvation, he made this promise:

“ You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

Peter is definite and sure about what he's proclaiming. He does not use the word "maybe". "YOU WILL RECEIVE" He says, There is no possible doubt.

Jesus communicated this certainty to his disciples in his last meal with them before he left the earth:

" I will pray the Father, and he **SHALL GIVE YOU** another Comforter, [...] the Spirit of truth." John 14:16-17 (American Standard Version Bible)

And He GAVE it on the day of Pentecost.

God is rich in mercy, like the psalmist David said in the Psalms. His love was displayed through the sending of Jesus his son to save humanity:

"For God so loved the world that he **GAVE** his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life." John 3: 16

God proved his love by **giving** his son and through his Son, He **gives** the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:33)

One day, after finishing praying, Jesus taught his disciples how to pray.

He used a very simple argument to convince them that, in his goodness, God is prepared to **give** them the Holy Spirit:

"If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!" Luke 11:11-13

Did you ask him sincerely ?

God offers a gift and what a gift ! The GIFT OF HOLY SPIRIT.

Asking for this gift, and accepting to receive IT FROM HIM, demonstrates that we honour Him.

THE WORD « GIFT »

The word « GIFT » is the translation of the Greek word « dôrea ». It means a present, a pure gift which is free, a present given without expecting anything in return.

As I was reading the biblical texts concerning the Holy Spirit, I was struck by the use of the word « GIFT » and the verb « TO GIVE » by Jesus Christ and his apostles.

Therefore, there is a **teaching** to draw from the word "GIFT" concerning God's actions and those of the believers:

God does not have to receive anything. He gives.

The believer does not have to give in return, He simply receives.

“God has given us GIFTS coming from his Spirit.” (Interpretation of 1 John 4:13)

“You will receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

JESUS' INVITATION TO THOSE WHO ARE THIRSTY FOR THE SPIRIT

During the Feast of Tabernacle in Jerusalem, Jesus who was standing said these words with a loud and solemn voice:

“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to **receive**. Up to that time the Spirit had not been GIVEN, since Jesus had not yet been glorified.” John 7:37-39

Now the Spirit IS GIVEN. It is a GIFT, ALL THOSE who believe in Jesus can RECEIVE IT today just like at the time of the apostles.

CONDITIONS TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Jerusalem, after the Pentecost, the number of those who believed in the Lord was increasing more and more and people were rushing from the neighbouring towns since many miracles were performed by the hands of the apostles.

Because of that, the religious leaders threw them into the public jail. An angel opened the door during the night and delivered them, he told them to announce the Good News to the people in the temple. They were arrested again and brought before the High Priest, the Sanhedrin and the elders of Israel. They told them:

“We must obey God rather than human beings! [...]The God of our ancestors raised Jesus from the dead [...]God exalted him to his own right hand as Prince and Savior

that he might bring Israel to repentance and forgive their sins. We are witnesses of these things, and so is the **Holy Spirit, whom God has GIVEN** to those who obey him.” Acts 5: 12-32

- “ **What shall we do ?**”

This question was asked to Peter and the apostles by the Jews who were determined to obey God in order to be saved.

Peter replied to them :

- “ **Repent** ,
and be baptized, **every one of you**, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive **THE GIFT of the Holy Spirit.**”
Acts 2:37-38

**“HE
JESUS -
Will baptize You
In the
HOLY SPIRIT”**

Matthew 3 :11

GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT OR BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

While Peter was staying in Jaffa, at Simon the tanner's house, God sent him to a devout and God-fearing man called Cornelius and who lived in Caesarea.

As Peter was sharing the Gospel to Cornelius and his family & friends, stating that "everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Acts 10:43), the Holy Spirit came down on all of them.

Some Jewish people, who believed in Jesus and were called at that time 'circumcised believers', came with Peter. They were astonished and surprised to see that the "GIFT of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." (Acts 10:45).

In those days, those who were not from a Jewish origin were called 'Gentiles' by the Jews.

The news of this miracle spread out in all of Judea and Peter had to face the criticisms of the circumcised believers of Jerusalem: he went against the Jewish custom which forbade a Jew to enter into the house of an uncircumcised man and eat with him. (Acts 10:28 and 11:3)

Peter told them about the events, reminding them how God had spoken to him through a vision, a voice and the Holy Spirit. Then He said to them:

"As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as **he had come on us at the beginning**. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be **baptized with the Holy Spirit**.' So if **God gave them the same GIFT he gave us** who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could stand in God's way?" Acts 11:15-17

The very same experience is expressed in these two texts:

"You will be baptized in the Holy Spirit."

"God gave them the same gift he gave us."

It is the SAME GIFT which the 120 disciples received on the day of Pentecost in Jerusalem since Peter says: "the Holy Spirit came on them as **he had come on us** at the beginning."

There are not two kinds of GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT or two sorts of BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. All those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ receive THE SAME GIFT.

Being baptized in the Holy Spirit implies having received the GIFT and conversely having received the GIFT implies having been BAPTIZED in the Holy Spirit. The statements of Peter the apostle concerning this topic are unambiguous.

They will speak
in
new
tongues

Mark 16 :17

THE GIFT
IS RECEIVED
BY FAITH

Five years before the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Cornelius and all those who joined him to listen to Peter the apostle's message in Caesarea, the Holy Spirit came on the Samaritans:

“Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. When Simon saw that the Spirit was GIVEN at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money.” Acts 8:17-18

Simon, a former wizard, had seen the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and had not understood that it was A GIFT FROM GOD.

He believed that the power of giving the Spirit was found in men. He was still influenced by his witchcraft procedures. Nowadays, some writings attempt to make people believe that some pagan and demonic manifestations are comparable to authentic Holy Spirit manifestations. Let us not listen to them for the devil can only produce counterfeits.

Peter rebuked him very severely and told him :

“May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy THE GIFT OF GOD with money!” Acts 8: 20

THE GIFT of the HOLY SPIRIT is A GIFT FROM GOD. It is a DIVINE GIFT.

Neither riches, nor human, material, intellectual and moral values, neither sacrifices nor any merit can give access to the GIFT OF GOD.

The GIFT is received by faith.

It does not represent a reward or a certificate of good conduct.

“[...] God gave them the same GIFT he gave **us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ.**” Acts 11:17

Because they BELIEVED in Jesus as their Saviour, the apostles received “the Spirit, whom **those who believed in him WERE later TO RECEIVE.**” John 7:39

FAITH in JESUS and his Work at the Cross precedes the receiving of the GIFT of the Holy Spirit. This faith gives access to Salvation, and Eternal Life, the free gift of God (Romans 6:23). *(To really understand Salvation, see the Booklet n°1 on: THE SALVATION of the SOUL*

And by faith in Jesus’ promises, we receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit.

The word **receive** is linked to the word **GIFT**:

“You WILL RECEIVE THE GIFT of the Holy Spirit”, Peter says (Acts 2:38)

“Did you RECEIVE the Holy Spirit?”, Paul says (Acts 19:2)

To receive is to take what is offered “freely”.

“ [...] let the one who wishes, **TAKE** the free gift of the water of life.....” Revelation 22 :17

“**LET** anyone who is thirsty come to me and **DRINK.**” Jesus says (John 7: 37)

“Let him take... let him drink” are these not invitations to exercise our faith?

- ‘Can you give us a little bit of water to drink?’

The farmer we have been talking to hastens to go and fetch some water. This is in India where I am on a mission trip with friends. The heat is scorching. We have just finished crossing the fields, taking small paths to reach a village populated with the Lambadi's tribe families, a village which was extremely remote, on top on the hills.

When the farmer offers a glass of water to every one of us, we do not stay still and observe the water to ask ourselves questions about it.

We are so thirsty that we immediately make the gesture of lifting the glass of water to our lips. We then drink with great satisfaction, and are happy to be able to quench our thirst.

Jesus asks everyone to make a step of faith concerning the receiving of the Holy Spirit's GIFT, he teaches us to take an attitude of faith in prayer:

“Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, BELIEVE THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED IT, and it will be yours.” Mark 11:24

MEETINGS TO RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

IN SAMARIA: When the apostles Peter and John arrived, they gathered all those who believed in Jesus and had been baptized by immersion. They laid hands on them in order that they might receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and “They RECEIVED the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8:17

IN EPHESUS: The apostle Paul met with 12 Ephesians after they had been baptized in water and he laid hands on them for them to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, then: “ [...] the Holy Spirit came on them [...]” Acts 19:5-6

IN JERUSALEM : The 120 disciples who received the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost were sitting, **expecting it** since Jesus told them to wait for it. The reason was important for Jesus knew that on the day of Pentecost, many Jews from different nations would be gathered on Mount Zion where the Upper Room meeting was held. In fact, on that day, thousands of Jews came running when they heard the loud noise and they became disciples of Jesus Christ after the preaching of the apostle Peter (Acts 2: 5-41)

Now it is no longer necessary to wait but to take by faith what is promised. "The promise is [...] FOR ALL WHOM THE LORD OUR GOD WILL CALL." (Acts 2:39) It is available for every one of us who responds to God's calling and have Jesus as our Saviour.

This is why I suggest calling the prayer meeting set apart for obtaining the Gift of the Holy Spirit, "meetings to Receive the Holy Spirit" rather than "tarrying or seeking meetings".

When they were 14, my twin sons, Paul and Etienne, were attending a Christian convention during which 4 nights were devoted to receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Etienne was going there every night. On the last day, I asked Paul who did not attend the first meetings why He did not go to these. He told me: "It's not necessary to go there every night, what matters: is to have faith. I am going there tonight." Thus he went on the last night. After the exhortation, the preacher began to lay hands on everyone. Instantly, Paul received the Gift of the Holy Spirit and started to speak in tongues.

At the end of the meeting, Etienne who did not receive this Gift said to me: "Dad, it is unfair because I went there every night and I did not get anything."

I later encouraged him and reminded him that the Gift is received by faith. He then received it a little bit later.

Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit is a matter of faith and not of merits since this is a free GIFT.

It is pointless to be in a feverish, tense and anxious wait or to nervously search for it as if this gift has to be acquired by pious efforts.

One day I paid a visit to three Christians from the same family, near Rennes in Brittany. I talked to them about the Gift of the Holy Spirit, then we had a moment of prayer during which I laid hands on them. The grand mother as well as the young man of fifteen received the gift immediately and began to speak in tongues. The mother did not. She was constantly begging God to forgive her sins. Her voice expressed sadness and her prayer was like a type of moaning. I interrupted her and spoke to her about the certainties of Salvation, reminding her of this Scripture text: 'those who believe in Jesus have eternal life and their sins are wiped out' (1 John 5:13 and Hebrews 10:17).

I led her to a place of faith and thanksgiving: she started to give thanks to God for the forgiveness offered in Jesus Christ and the promise of the Gift of the Holy Spirit. Immediately, she received it and began to speak in tongues.

These examples of receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit are plentiful. In the 34 nations where I shared the Gospel, I have seen a multitude of believers who received the authentic Gift of the Holy Spirit by faith in Jesus. Every Christian can obtain it. It is the same for every one.

- **"I am against the noise."**

A reformed pastor expressed this remark to me.

He went to a Darby brother – who was open- to pray for receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit. I pointed out that on the day of Pentecost, there was a lot of noise but nevertheless I respected his conviction.

We began to pray and when I laid hands on this Darby brother, he started to pray in tongues, softly and quietly almost without noise. Then I prayed for the pastor of the Reformed Church and laid hands on him. Suddenly, as He was filled with the Holy Spirit, he began to speak in tongues in a very, very loud voice...

Everyone can display different emotional and expressive reactions according to his temperament, but the experience is the same spiritually, it is the same Gift of the Holy Spirit.

In his book “They speak with other tongues”, the writer John F. Sherril says this about the baptism in the Holy Spirit:

« Du tréfonds de moi-même, d'une profondeur d'où j'ignorais que la voix fut capable de venir, jaillit un torrent de sons joyeux...les syllabes venaient d'elles-mêmes, déjà toutes formées...plus abondantes qu'auraient pu en former ma langue et mes lèvres d'homme de la terre. Je n'avais nullement le sentiment que la situation échappait à mon contrôle. Jamais je ne m'étais senti plus réellement maître de moi...J'aurais pu arrêter les langues à tout instant, mais pourquoi l'aurais-je fait ?J'aurais voulu au contraire qu'elles ne s'arrêtassent jamais. »

« From the depths of my being--- at a depth that I ignored existed there came a voice and there was a torrent of joyful sound... The syllables came by themselves without being formed... more abundant than I could have formed with my own tongue and lips as a man. I never had the impression that the situation was outside my control. Never have I felt so surely in control of myself... I could have stopped the tongues at any moment, but why would I have done that? I would have preferred that they never stopped. »

The baptism in the Holy Spirit has nothing to do with the psychic or demonic counterfeits I witnessed in India especially among the Hindus and those who practise yoga. There is no link with the mystical cultic trances.

When Christ baptizes in the Holy Spirit, it is really He who does it and He does not give anything else than what He promised:

'I will send you the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth...' John 16:7 and 15:17

Let us trust in Jesus totally.

“YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED IN THE HOLY SPIRIT”

Acts 1 :5

On the Mount of Olives, Jesus who had risen appears for the last time to the disciples He chose. During their encounter, He gave them orders and made promises like these ones:

“ [...] but in a few days YOU WILL BE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

“ [...] and YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES.”

Acts 1:5 and 8

Jesus promised them they would receive power to be witnesses in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. He specifies that this power will be given by the Holy Spirit:

“ [...] when the Holy Spirit comes on you; [...]” Acts 1:8

After he finished pronouncing his last words, Jesus ascended to heaven and the apostles went down the Mount of Olives, crossed over the brook Kidron and entered into Jerusalem where they went to the Upper Room: their usual meeting place. Other disciples joined them there to pray. They were about 120. Among them, there were Jesus' brothers, some women and Mary: Jesus' mother.

Ten days later, the promise was fulfilled. Luke the evangelist recalled this event in Acts 2:1-5.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.”

Besides the manifestations of tongues of fire, noise and violent wind, one has to notice two important facts during their baptism in the Holy Spirit:

1. An inner manifestation :

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit. ”

Here is the first action of the Spirit: filling them completely with Himself. Without this fullness, the second manifestation cannot be of God. It is the starting point of the rivers of living water.

2. The external manifestation comes after :

“They began to speak in other tongues.” This is the manifestation of tongues such as the Spirit gives everyone utterance, through the human voice.

The people who came running because of the loud noise caused by the violent wind – and by the 120 individuals who were speaking in tongues at the same time- said: “ How is it that each of us hears them in our native language? [...]” Acts 2:8

« Speaking in tongues » has a divine origin.

It is GIVEN by the Spirit.

It is written:

“ [...] They began to speak with other tongues, as **the Spirit was GIVING them** utterance. [...]” (NASB)

« Speaking in tongues » is a miraculous gift.

“These are the miraculous signs that will accompany believers: [...] They will speak new languages. ” Mark 16:17 (God’s Word Translation)

This is the external outpouring of an inner life which fills the disciples .

Did Jesus not say this :

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:38

“By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were later to receive.” John 7:39

After he received the Spirit, Peter the apostle said to the thousands of Jews gathered close to the Upper Room:

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all WITNESSES of it. ³³ Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear.” Acts 2:33

Those witnesses, who were clothed with the power of the Holy Spirit, asserted through Peter’s voice that the promise had been fulfilled. It is Christ who pours out the Holy Spirit. It is a GIFT. This GIFT is seen and heard.

As John the Baptist, Jesus Christ’s forerunner, was baptising people at the edge of the Jordan River, near Jericho, He told his audience:

“I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me comes one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit** and fire.” Matthew 3:11

The 4 gospels repeat this part of John the Baptist’s message (Mark 1:7, Luke 3:15, John 1:22). This shows the great importance of this word. John the Baptist declared the outpouring of the Holy Spirit prophetically. He was certain:
“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

I noticed in my Greek New Testament, the used of the small word “ev” which should have been translated by “inside, in” instead of “of”. Therefore, it is more logical to use this phrase “baptism in the Holy Spirit” rather than “baptism of the Holy Spirit”.

The word “baptize” means in Greek: “to dip, to immerse, to submerge”, therefore, we should literally say : “I immerse you in water. He will immerse you in the Holy Spirit.”

The one who is baptized in water lives a tangible experience, in the same way, the one who is baptized in the Spirit KNOWS when He is since it is SEEN and HEARD. (Acts 2:33) It is not an invisible or inaudible baptism.

Jesus Christ is the only who baptizes in the Spirit. When He does it, it is as real and striking as when a preacher baptizes a Christian in water.

It has nothing to do with an invisible “spiritual baptism”. There is no possible confusion with the New Birth that Paul called ‘the baptism into Christ Jesus’ or ‘the baptism into his death’ Romans 6:3-4. (*This is clearly explained in the “Biblical Truth” Booklet N°5 on ‘The Biblical Baptism’*)

If conversion was in fact the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, Paul the apostle would not have asked this question:

“Did you receive the Holy Spirit after you believed?” Acts 19:2

When He heard their negative answer, the apostle then asked them this other question:

“Then what baptism did you experience?” Acts 19:3

It is clear that the link between these two questions shows distinctly and unmistakably that Paul was asking if they received the GIFT of the Holy Spirit or the BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT. And when Paul laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them.

It was not an intangible coming and just an inward experience, since immediately “they spoke in other tongues and prophesied.” Acts 19:6

When there is a baptism in the Spirit, according to the Biblical standards, there is an audible and visible manifestation which is “speaking in tongues”. This is a defined, precise and personal experience.

Have faith in Jesus and in his promise and you will also:

“ Be baptized in the Holy Spirit”, by Him.

THE HOLY SPIRIT: WHO HE IS

The Bible is inspired by the Holy Spirit and enlivened by his action from the first chapter of Genesis where we read that “the Spirit of God was hovering over the surface of the waters”, until the last chapter of the Book of Revelation when the Spirit gives a pressing invitation to those who are thirsty.

The Bible affirmations indisputably demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is neither a power nor a source of energy nor a fluid but a **real PERSON** who manifests himself and communicates power.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you;” Acts 1:8

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” Romans 15:13

These texts talk about the power of the person of the Holy Spirit.

There is no possible confusion between the person of the Holy Spirit and his manifestations. To make this distinction clear, it is useful to know **WHO HE IS** according to the Bible, through his names, attributes and symbols:

HIS NAMES

. **THE HOLY SPIRIT.** He is often presented under this name. Jesus called Him like this when He made this promise to the disciples: “ [...] you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” Acts 1:5

On the day of Pentecost, Peter said in his speech: “ [...]You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.” Acts 2:38

The Spirit is HOLY. His mission is to lead the souls to the perfect image of Christ (2 Corinthians 4:18)

. **THE SPIRIT.**

“these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:10

“The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Acts 8:29

“I saw the Spirit come down from heaven [...].” John 1:32

“There is one body and one Spirit,[...]”; Ephesians 4:4

. **THE SPIRIT OF GOD.** “Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit dwells in your midst?” 1 Corinthians 3:16

And to really point out that the Spirit of God is a distinct person of God, the apostle writes in this same epistle: “What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God.” 1 Corinthians 2:12

. **THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD.** “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.” Ephesians 4:30

. **THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD.** “the Spirit of the Lord suddenly took Philip away,” Acts 8:39. “be transformed into the same image [...]as of the Spirit of the Lord.” 2 Corinthians 3:18 (Wycliffe Bible)

. **THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.** “trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing [...]” 1 Peter 1:11

. **THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH.** “the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him,[...]” John 14:17

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth.” John 16:13

This justifies our entire faith in the apostles’ teachings.

. **THE COMFORTER.** We come across this name four times in John’s Gospel.

The Greek original word is “Parakletos”. This is the same word used to designate the person of Jesus in the first of John’s epistles in the verse 1 of chapter 2. It literally means: “called to one’s side”, “called to one’s aid”. He can be translated by: advocate, defender, intercessor, aid, helper, supporter, comforter. “

“if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I go, I will send him unto you.” John 16:7 (American Standard Version), Jesus says to his disciples. Jesus sent the very PERSON of the Holy Spirit to always be with THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN HIM (John 14:16-17). What a blessing to know that the Spirit is always there to help us when facing temptations, life’s difficulties and evil attacks.

HIS ATTRIBUTES

. HIS KNOWLEDGE

“The Spirit SEARCHES ALL THINGS, even the DEEP THINGS OF GOD.” 1 Corinthians 2:10.

“For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows THE THOUGHTS OF GOD except the Spirit of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:11

Without the Spirit of God’s help, the knowledge of the things of God is not accessible to human intelligence.

Man only knows what God reveals to him by the Spirit, while the Spirit searches the DEEP THINGS OF GOD.

The knowledge of the Spirit is unlimited:
“The Spirit searches EVERYTHING”
Since He knows EVERYTHING, He is able:

To teach everything,

“But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things” John 14:26

To guide into all the truth,

“But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into ALL THE TRUTH. [...]” John 16:13

. HIS POWER

Before the existence of man on earth, the Spirit of God was taking part in creation:
“and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters.” Genesis 1:2

Therefore, it is not surprising to read in Job 33 :4 : “The Spirit of God has made me”.
We cannot explain this with our limited intelligence.

It is He who formed Jesus’ body in Mary’s womb by His power:

“The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God.” Luke 1:35

When he receives the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the believer receives this Power clothing of the Holy Spirit, called “Power from on High”.

“I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with POWER from on high.” Luke 24:49

. HIS WILL

“But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually JUST AS HE WILLS.” 1 Corinthians 12:11 (NASB°)

The Holy Spirit has his own will. He is sovereign. He acts freely ‘like He wants’. However, He only acts in agreement with God the Father.

“And he who searches our hearts knows THE MIND OF THE SPIRIT, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.” Romans 8:27.

He has his own thoughts which are completely in harmony with the perfect will of God. In fact, what He wants is what God wants. What He thinks is what God thinks.

. HIS FRUIT

“But the fruit of the Spirit is LOVE, [...]” Galatians 5:22

He has got Love: “I urge you,[...] by the love of the Spirit [...]” Romans 15:30

And this love comes from God: “God is Love” (1 John 4:8), it is the Spirit who pours it in us: “[...] God’s love has been poured out into our hearts THROUGH THE HOLY SPIRIT, who has been given to us.” (Romans 5:5)

. HIS ACTION

IN UNITY WITH THE FATHER AND THE SON

“When all the people were being baptized, Jesus was baptized too. And as he was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” Luke 3:21-22

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever...” John 14:16

“God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of it.[...] he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit [...]” Acts 2:32-33

“May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14

The Holy Spirit is an infinitely wise and powerful PERSON, He is a loving individual.

He dwells in us to help us draw closer to God, to lead us into the truth, to mould in us the image of Christ Jesus and cloth us with strength so that we testify to Christ in the world and edify the Church.

THE SYMBOLS

. THE OIL

In the Old Testament, anointing with Oil was a sign that God had chosen someone for a specific office : king, prophet, priest.

At Nazareth, Jesus applied this text of Isaiah 61 to himself: “ The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has ANOINTED me [...]” Luke 4:18

The oil is the symbol of the Holy Spirit hence the use of this phrase: “The Anointing of the Holy Spirit.”

. THE DOVE

It is when Jesus got baptized in the Jordan River that the Spirit of God descended on Him like a DOVE. This manifestation occurred to confirm Jesus was the Messiah. Among the characteristics of the fruit of the spirit; the scriptures mentions about: PEACE and GENTLENESS which are the dove's attributes.

. THE FIRE

John the Baptist says of Jesus that He will baptize with "the Holy Spirit and FIRE" Luke 3:16. On the day of Pentecost, tongues of FIRE came to rest on each disciple when the Spirit descended on them. The FIRE symbolizes the purifying work of the Spirit.

. THE WATER

In order to symbolize the abundant life of the Spirit, Jesus referred to the water. He talked about "rivers of LIVING WATER that will flow" John 7:38. It is the picture of a permanent LIFE constantly renewed by grace.

. THE WIND

The Spirit's action is compared to a breath like the WIND. In his vision of the dry bones, Ezekiel the prophet hears God saying: "Come, breath, from the four WINDS and breathe into these slain, that they may live." Ezekiel 37:9. During his conversation with Nicodemus, Jesus talked about the WIND which no one knows where it goes or comes from and he added this: "So it is with everyone born with the Spirit." John 3:8. At Pentecost, when the 120 disciples got baptized in the Holy Spirit, there was a violent WIND. This illustration of the Holy Spirit as a wind gives an idea of mystery and sovereignty to the powerful work of the Spirit.

THE HOLY SPIRIT : WHAT HE DOES

. HE TEACHES:

" [...] The Holy Spirit [...] will teach you [...]" John 14:26

. HE REMINDS US OF THINGS:

" [...] and will remind you of everything I have said to you." John 14 :26

. HE TESTIFIES :

" [...] the Spirit of truth, [...] he will testify about me." John 15:26

. HE CONVICTS :

"[...] And He, [...] will convict the world [...]" John 16:08 (NASB)

. HE GUIDES :

“ [...] he will guide you into all the truth.” John 16 :13

. HE SPEAKS :

“He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears.[...]" John 16:13

. HE HEARS :

“[...] he will speak only what he hears.[...]" John 16:13

. HE FORETELLS :

“ [...] and he will tell you what is yet to come.” John 16:13

. HE GLORIFIES :

“He will glorify me.” John 16:14

. HE COMMANDS :

“The Spirit told Philip, “Go to that chariot and stay near it.” Acts 8:29

“ [...] the Holy Spirit said, “Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul [...]" Acts 13:2

. HE SENDS :

“The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit, [...]" Acts 13:4

. HE FORBIDS :

“ [...] having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit [...]" Acts 16:6 (NASB)

. HE WARNS :

“ [...] the Holy Spirit warns me that [...]" Acts 20:23

. HE HELPS :

“In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness.” Romans 8:26

. HE INTERCEDES :

“ [...] but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.” Romans 8:26

. HE THINKS :

“ [...] What the Holy Spirit is thinking [...]" Romans 8:27 (New Life Version)

. HE SEARCHES ALL THINGS :

“The Spirit searches all things, [...]" 1 Corinthians 2:10

. HE KNOWS :

“ [...] no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.” 1 Corinthians 2 :11

. HE DISTRIBUTES :

“All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.’ 1 Corinthians 12:11

. HE WILLS :

“ [...] just as He wills.” 1 Corinthians 12 :11 (NASB)

A thing cannot teach, convict, guide, command or think, therefore, the HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT A THING BUT A PERSON. A thing cannot tell, hear, warn or intercede like the writings mention it about the Holy Spirit. It certainly proves that the Holy Spirit is a person.

Besides, since He is a person, we understand that it might be possible for someone to:

. LIE TO HIM :

“[...] that you have lied to the Holy Spirit [...]” Acts 5:3

. TEST HIM :

“How could you conspire to test the Spirit of the Lord?” Acts 5:9

. RESIST HIM :

“You always resist the Holy Spirit!” Acts 7:51

. GRIEVE HIM :

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, [...]” Ephesians 4:30

. INSULT HIM :

“ [...] and who has insulted the Spirit of grace?” Hebrews 10 :29

. BLASPHEME AGAINST HIM :

“ [...] but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. [...]” Matthew 12:31

**“ Do not quench
the Spirit. ”
1 Thessalonians 5 :19**

**EXPERIENCES IN RECEIVING
THE GIFT OF
THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**DURING THE FIRST
YEARS OF CHURCH EXISTENCE**

. **IN JERUSALEM**, on the day of Pentecost,

Acts 1:4-8: The Lord's promises: " [...] you will be baptized in the Holy Spirit. [..]you will receive power [...]"

Acts 2:1-4: Fulfillment of the promises: "ALL of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began **to speak in other tongues** as the Spirit enabled them."

The 120 individuals who received the Holy Spirit on that day had been praying for 10 days, including Mary and the apostles. (Acts 1:14)

. **IN SAMARIA**, three years later.

Acts 8: 16-17 : "When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they **received** the Holy Spirit."

These Samaritans had already believed and were baptized (Acts 8: 12)

Thus the baptism in the Holy Spirit is not to be confused with conversion!

. **IN CAESAREA**, eight years later.

Acts 10:44-46: “ [...] the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. [...] the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. FOR they heard them **speaking in tongues** and praising God.”

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift that God gives to all those who believe in the Lord Jesus without exception. “ [...]God gave them the same gift he gave us who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, [...]” Acts 11:17

God often goes beyond our conceptions, our preconceived ideas, and our prejudices. He looks at the heart, at the faith in His Word.

. **IN EPHESUS**, twenty one years later.

Acts 19:6 “When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and **they spoke in tongues** and prophesied. ”

They received the gift of the Holy Spirit after the water baptism and the laying on of hands.

These examples demonstrate to us that the Holy Spirit was outpoured everywhere in the same way.

MANIFESTATIONS

WHEN THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RECEIVED

Receiving the Gift of the Holy Spirit implies two distinct phases:

1. INNER MANIFESTATION

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.” Acts 2:4

This phrase “filled with the Holy Spirit” is mentioned several times in the Word of God:

Acts 4 :8 : “Then Peter, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, said to them...”

Acts 7 :55 : “But Stephen, FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, looked up to heaven...”

Acts 9 :17 : « Jesus- has sent me so that you may [...] be FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Acts 13 :9 : “Then Saul, who was also called Paul, FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, [...]”

During Pentecost, the 120 disciples had been FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT before they started to speak in tongues. Being filled is the foundation and what's essential, it is sometimes called 'the fullness of the Holy Spirit'. Acts 6:3 and 5 “ Men full of [...] the Holy Spirit”.

2. EXTERNAL MANIFESTATIONS, visible and audible

Speaking in tongues normally comes out of the fullness of the Spirit.

“All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit AND began to speak in other tongues^[a] as the Spirit enabled them.”

“Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now SEE and HEAR.” Acts 2:33

“When Simon saw that the Spirit was given [...]” Acts 8:18

“[...] the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them SPEAKING with tongues and exalting God.” Acts 10:45-46 (NASB)

Speaking in unknown languages is the NORMAL AND BIBLICAL 'manifestation' of the Holy Spirit which outwardly demonstrate an inner fullness.

In this Holy Spirit baptism experience, we find this :

- 1. A STATE: They were 'filled'**
- 2. AN ACTION : 'they began to speak'**

In this observation, it is easy to conclude that we cannot be baptized without being filled with the Spirit. Speaking in tongues occurs simply and normally when there is fullness of the Spirit, provided we let the Spirit lead us.

“They began to speak in other tongues AS THE SPIRIT ENABLED THEM.”

The disciple does not speak on his own and create the speaking in tongues.

THE SPIRIT

AND THE CHURCH

“The church became stronger, as the Holy Spirit encouraged it and helped it grow.”
Acts 9: 31 (Contemporary English Version)

It is the Spirit who assists the Church and builds it up.
Without Him, the Church cannot be alive.

Since the day of Pentecost, it is the Holy Spirit who made power and spiritual dynamism burst forth. The self-assurance of the apostles launched by the Spirit into the conquest of souls for Christ, and the Christians' zeal in spreading the Gospel in spite of persecution were the results of a permanent action of the Spirit in the Church.

When a man connects with the Holy Spirit, his personality is transformed. It is the Spirit who makes people to be born again. By HIS FRUIT, he sows the image of Christ in the believer. He also manifests his presence by spiritual gifts distributed to the members of the Church: Christ's body.

The presence of the Spirit is in every Christian who belongs to Christ by faith even though he has not received the baptism of the Holy Spirit yet.

“And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, they do not belong to Christ.”
Romans 8:9. This text is not about the gift of the Holy Spirit but about the person of the Holy Spirit.

“The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children.” Romans 8:16
“Because you are his sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts [...]” Gal 4:6
All those who are saved are regenerated by the Spirit. They HAVE the Spirit because they belong to Christ who ransomed them with a great price.

And all of them are insistently invited by Christ and the apostles to RECEIVE THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT and then to EAGERLY SEEK FOR THE SPIRITUAL GIFTS for the building of the Church (1 Cor 14:12).

A Christian community which is conformed to biblical teaching is normally enlivened by spiritual gifts distributed to everyone by the Spirit for the benefit of all.

“Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is GIVEN for the COMMON good.” 1 Corinthians 12:7

The Holy Spirit baptism is FOR THE WHOLE CHURCH, for every SINGLE CHRISTIAN.

“The promise is for you and your children and FOR ALL who are far off —for all whom the Lord our God will call.” Acts 2:39

THE SPIRIT AND THE WORD OF GOD

“All Scripture is inspired by God.” 2 Timothy 3:16

The fact that we received the gift of the Holy Spirit does not mean that we possess a perfect knowledge of all the truths of God’s Word. Against all expectations, this gift does not exempt us from searching the scriptures. In fact, after receiving the gift, it is essential to build our faith on the WORD OF GOD and not on religious traditions.

The Holy Spirit helps to understand the Word spiritually.

“For who knows a person’s thoughts except their own spirit within them? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is FROM GOD, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in WORDS TAUGHT BY THE SPIRIT, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words.” 1 Cor 2 :11-13

The Holy Spirit is also a SPIRIT OF TRUTH and he leads into all truth; but men can reject this truth. If he turns away from it and gets bogged down in the practices disapproved by the inspired Word of God, he may quench the Spirit within him.

As a consequence, after you receive the Holy Spirit baptism, keep on strengthening your faith. Establish it in a solid and steadfast manner on biblical truths, the Word of God.

The Bible represents the essential for every teaching, even when we are baptised in the Holy Spirit.

It is necessary to act like the Berean Jews who “examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” Acts 17:11

USEFULNESS OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

. The Gift of the Holy Spirit gives access to spiritual GIFTS.

The range of gifts is introduced by the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 12 :

“To one there is **GIVEN** through the Spirit a message of wisdom,
to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit,
to another faith by the same Spirit,
to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit,
to another miraculous powers,
to another prophecy,
to another distinguishing between spirits,
to another speaking in different kinds of tongues,
and to still another the interpretation of tongues.”

“There are DIFFERENT KINDS of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them.” 1
Corinthians 12:7-10 and 4

In the original Greek, there are three different words to indicate the word ‘GIFT’:

‘Dorea’, ‘charisma’, ‘Pneumatika’.

Here are a few texts where they are used :

Acts 2 :38 « And you will receive the gift (**dorea**) of the Holy Spirit. »

Romans 12:6 “We have different gifts.(**charismata**)”

1 Cor 1:7 “[...]you do not lack any spiritual gift (charismati)”

1 Cor 12:4 “There are different kinds of gifts (charismata).”

1 Cor 12:31 “Now eagerly desire the greater gifts (charismata).”

1 Cor 12:1 “Now about the gifts of the Spirit,[...] (**pneumatikon**).”

1 Cor 14:1 and 12 “Eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit (pneumatikon).”

Nowadays, some individuals consider it as a good thing to replace the word ‘GIFT’ by the word ‘charisma’ the root of which comes from the Greek word ‘charisma’. This word has become common, even in the unbeliever’s language. It is used to designate not only spiritual gifts but also natural talents. ‘Charismata’ is derived from the verb ‘charidzestai’ which means: to be pleasing, or which affords pleasure (the root is the word ‘chara: joy).

The greek word 'pneumatikos' comes from 'pneuma' which means wind, breath, spirit. The text in 1 Thessalonians should literally be translated by 'Do not quench the breath (pneuma)'. 1 Thess 5:19

The word 'charisma' introduces the gifts with their free nature whereas 'pneumatika' characterizes their origin.

Therefore, the spiritual gifts are manifestations of the divine breath of the Holy Spirit and not of natural abilities.

Thus it seems better to use the words 'SPIRITUAL GIFTS' rather than 'CHARISMA' to avoid any confusion.

The simple words of the Bible are enough to enlighten our spiritual intelligence. Scholarly words allow us to express ourselves in our theological and intellectual language but not necessarily in a spiritual language accessible to any reader. Simplicity and spirituality in conformity to the Biblical Truth really go together.

. The gift of the Holy Spirit empowers for witnessing.

Christ promised it to his disciples:

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my WITNESSES.” Acts 1:8

On the day of Pentecost, the fearful Peter who denied his Master, spoke with authority when he was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Evangelists like Philip and the apostles were accompanied with miracles and divine healing, having received from the Holy Spirit the gifts of performing healings and miracles.

The apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth: “My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the SPIRIT’S POWER, [...]” 1 Cor 2:4

. The gift of the Holy Spirit allows us to access to the gifts which EDIFY THE CHURCH.

“[...] the one who prophesies edifies the church.” 1 Cor 14:12

“ [...] since you are zealous of spiritual *gifts*, seek to ABOUND for the edification of the CHURCH.” 1 Cor 14:12 (NASB)

Earnestly desire the gifts so that you use them to serve others, it is the most excellent way, the way of Love.

“Each of you should use whatever gift you have received to serve others,” 1 Peter 4:10.

“If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.” 1 Cor 13:1

LOVE: a fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22) and the GIFTS distributed by the SPIRIT are two inseparable rails in the Church Life.

“Seek Love” The Apostle Paul says but he also adds: “[...] eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit”, he even says: “I would like EVERYONE of you to speak in tongues [...]” (1 Cor 14:1 and 5)

THE GRACE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES

It is appropriate to recall that speaking in tongues is MIRACULOUS:

“And these SIGNS will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;”

In this verse, it is not about the natural ability to speak in foreign languages that we learn through our intelligence and remember with our memory.

During my mission trips, sometimes I happen to travel with companions who speak six or seven languages. It makes things easier for our evangelistic work in some foreign countries but ‘SPEAKING IN TONGUES’ is totally different.

The MIRACULOUS GIFT lies in the ability to speak in tongues that we do not understand and that we pronounce as we are filled with the Holy Spirit.

These tongues are not gibberish but real languages.

At Pentecost, the tongues which were spoken by the disciples -who only knew Hebrew and Aramaic- had been understood by the Jews coming from several foreign countries. They were then amazed and said in astonishment:

“Cretans and Arabs—we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” Acts 2:11

While I was in a service, during the worship time, I heard a pastor next to me speaking in English although he did not know a word of it. Actually, he was saying: "I'm coming back soon to take my flock."

During a pastoral meeting, as we were praying, a pastor spoke loudly in tongues. He was speaking in Hebrew even though he did not know this language. Another one who did not know it either exercised the gift of interpretation and shared the message in French. It was an excellent exhortation and its accuracy had been confirmed by another pastor who spoke Hebrew fluently since he studied at the University of Jerusalem.

A gypsy Christian lady who went to Algeria to witness, spoke in tongues in Arabic and she was understood by people who knew the language.

I also heard someone speaking in 'Romany' the gypsy language whereas she could not normally speak this language. Some of the sentences she said were: 'I am God, I am the Great God, the Holy God, the God who saves'

In his book "The Gifts of the Spirit" the pastor Horton says that in 1927, in China, a Christian man named Wang spoke in tongues. The spoken tongue was English, the languages of the current English missionaries. Wang did not know a word of it.

Here are some of his sentences: "Those who walk in white clothes and are faithful will be taken away."

These examples are numerous across the world, among Christians baptized in the Holy Spirit. They confirm that it is truly spoken languages and not a flow of meaningless sounds, even though it seems unintelligible since it is not understood.

Speaking in tongues is not only an external and normal biblical manifestation of the fullness of the Spirit and an obvious proof of the baptism of the Spirit, but it is also a GRACE which provides an inner edification inciting to glorify God for the one who possess this gift:

"For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God." Acts 10:46

"FOR ANYONE WHO SPEAKS IN A TONGUE DOES NOT SPEAK TO PEOPLE BUT TO GOD." 1 Cor 14:2

What a blessed communion!

He receives new strengths from it. He edifies himself and He 'builds himself up spiritually'.

It is a grace accessible for all the children of God.

Paul spoke a lot in tongues and thanked God for it (1 Cor 14:18).

If the apostle possessed and used this gift, why should we refuse it?

**“Do not forbid speaking
in tongues.”**

1 Corinthians 14 :39

“BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT”

The apostle Paul expressed this wish to the Christians of Corinth:
“I would like EVERYONE of you to speak in tongues.” 1 Cor 14:5

And he also addressed this pressing exhortation to the Ephesus Christians concerning the fullness of the Holy Spirit :

“BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.” Ephesians 5:18

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit is first of all an inner experience. It represents a fullness of the Spirit whose visible result is the speaking in tongues. Being filled of the Holy Spirit should be the first longing of the Christian. Then, when he is filled with this fullness, the Holy Spirit enables him to speak in other tongues.

Speaking in tongues is the verbal expression of an inner abundance of the Holy Spirit's life; it leads you into a blessed communion with God.

The personal and spiritual edification which results from speaking in tongues is only possible if these two elements are linked together: the fullness of the Spirit and the speaking in tongues.

When you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you do not need to force yourself to speak in tongues. It is the Holy Spirit who empowers you to speak in other tongues. You just need to let these rivers of living water of the Spirit lead you.

As Jesus said: **“rivers of living water will flow from within them.”** (John 7:38).

Let them flow within you remaining in an attitude of quietness and trust.

Perhaps you are wondering: what is the difference between ‘being filled with the Holy Spirit’ and ‘being baptized in the Holy Spirit’.

The answer is very simple. To explain and reconcile these two verbs: “filled” and “baptized” which means “being plunged into or immersed” we use the picture of an oil lamp.

For the oil lamp to light up, firstly the wick must be plunged into the oil and then when it is done, the oil impregnates and fills the wick which is thus ready to be lit.

When the apostle Paul was converted, he had been paid a visit by a Christian called Ananias who said to him: “Brother Saul, the Lord—Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you were coming here—has sent me so that you may see again and **BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**” Acts 9:17

Then later Paul is described as this: “Then Saul, who was also called Paul, **FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**, [...]” Acts 13:9

It is also said about the apostle Peter: “Then Peter, **FILLED** with the Holy Spirit, [...]” Acts 4:8

If after being baptized in the Holy Spirit, you are no longer filled with the Holy Spirit for various reasons: neglected prayer life, because of doubt, fear, trials or discouragement etc. It is then essential to be renewed.

In order to experience this renewal, it is good to devote oneself again to the Lord in reverence and sometimes join brothers and sisters in fervent prayers like the apostles did: “they raised their voices **TOGETHER** in prayer to God [...] And they were **ALL FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT.**” Acts 4:24-31.

May God fill all Christians with the Holy Spirit !

It is possible since Jesus Christ has not changed. He is still the same **TODAY** (Hebrews 13:8). He still baptizes with the **BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** like at the apostle’s time. The **GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT** he grants today is **IDENTICAL** to the one he gave at the beginning of the Church.

You can receive it now just like the first Christians did.

When you will be **FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT**, you will speak in other tongues as the Spirit enables you. (Acts 2:4)

REMIND YOURSELVES THESE PROMISES :

« [...] You will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. »
Acts 2:38

“ [...] You will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.”
Acts 1:5

AND THIS EXHORTATION:
“ [...] Be FILLED with the Spirit.”
Ephesians 5:18

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TABLE OF CONTENT

50 years of experience in the Movement of the Holy Spirit.....	
“You will receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit ”	
Gift or Baptism.....	
The gift is received by Faith.....	
Meetings to receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit.....	
“You will be baptized in the Holy Spirit”	
The Holy Spirit: Who He is	
The Holy Spirit: What He does.....	
Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.....	
Manifestation when the Gift is received.....	
The Spirit and the Church.....	
The Spirit and the Word of God.....	
Usefulness of the Gift of the Holy Spirit.....	
The grace of speaking in tongues.....	
“Be filled with the Holy Spirit ”	