

# TONGUES OF FIRE

## *Session 3 – Diverse Kinds of Tongues*

### I. Of Tongue and Tongues

#### 1. I Will Pray

##### A. Speaks in a Tongue – Speaks to God

1 Corinthians 14:2

For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries. KJV<sup>1</sup>

As an aside, why an unknown tongue? After all, God could supernaturally teach you a language that you could understand. What are some of the gains of praying in a language we don't know?

- It confounds our worldly wisdom (1 Cor 1:27).
- Reminds us of its supernatural origin.
- It totally bypasses the carnal mind.
- It allows us to pray at a greater faith level than we may have.

##### B. Speaks in a Tongue – Edifies Himself

1 Corinthians 14:4

He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

##### C. Pray in a Tongue – My Spirit Prays

1 Corinthians 14:14-15

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

15 What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.

In Biblical language, the heart of man is synonymous with the spirit of man. When we pray in the spirit, it is *our* spirits that are praying through the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit to pray from the heart because our heart is deceitful.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

10 I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

We aren't even aware, often times, of the hidden motives of our hearts. Left to our own devices, we would pray amiss.

James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

The Lord doesn't say we shouldn't pray with our understanding because of this. We have a responsibility to renew our minds according to the truth of God's word. But prayer in the Spirit draws up the true desires of God out of our regenerated hearts and prays them – man to God under the enablement of the Holy Spirit.

## 2. Dividing Severally as He Wills

Hebrews 2:3-4

3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

4 God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will?

### A. Gifts, Administrations, and Operations

1 Corinthians 12:1-7

1 Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.

2 Ye know that ye were Gentiles, carried away unto these dumb idols, even as ye were led.

3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.

4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.

5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord.

6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all.

7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.

The manifestation is the end result of the combination of any several of these gifts, administrations, and operations.

*Gifts:*

NT:5486 *charisma, charismatos*, a gift of grace; a favor which one receives without any merit of his own.<sup>2</sup>

1 Peter 4:10-11

10 As every man hath received the *gift*, even so minister [*diakoneo*] the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.

11 If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified

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<sup>2</sup> from Thayer's Greek Lexicon, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2000, 2003 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.

through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

*Administrations:*

NT:1248 *diakonia* (dee-ak-on-ee'-ah); from NT:1249; attendance (as a servant, etc.); figuratively (eleemosynary) aid, (official) service (especially of the Christian teacher, or techn. of the diaconate): KJV - (ad-) minister (-ing, -tration, -try), office, relief, service (-ing).<sup>3</sup>

2 Cor 3:5-6

5 Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God;

6 Who also hath made us able *ministers* of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.

*Operations:*

NT:1755 *energema* (en-erg'-ay-mah); from NT:1754; an effect: KJV - operation, working.

NT:1754 *energeo* (en-erg-eh'-o); from NT:1756; to be active, efficient: KJV - do, (be) effectual (fervent), be mighty in, shew forthself, work (effectually in).

Phil 2:13

For it is God which worketh [*energeo*]in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

B. Gifts of the Spirit – 1 Cor 12:8-10

1 Corinthians 12:8-10

8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit;

9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit;

10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

- Diverse kinds of tongues include praying in a tongue. (You have to have one to have two or more!)
- *Kinds* – *genos* [NT:1085] race, species.
- Listed 8<sup>th</sup> – eight is the number of resurrection and new beginnings.

2 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.

These “new things” are birthed and released in us through the operation of diverse kinds of tongues.

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<sup>3</sup> from BibleSoft's New Exhaustive Strong's Numbers and Concordance with Expanded Greek-Hebrew Dictionary. Copyright © 1994, 2003 BibleSoft, Inc. and International Bible Translators, Inc.

C. As He Wills

1 Cor 12:11

But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.

1 Cor 12:11

All these [gifts, achievements, abilities] are inspired and brought to pass by one and the same [Holy] Spirit, Who apportions to each person individually [exactly] as He chooses. AMP

Though He imparts it, we must be willing to receive it. This is no different than revelation or power gifts. I am not guaranteed that I will receive a gift of healing every time I lay hands on someone in a prayer line. But if I never reach out to minister, I'm sure not to get one!

3. Tongue/Tongues Comparison

<b>Speaking in Tongues<sup>4</sup></b>	
Prayer in the Spirit	Diverse Kinds of Tongues
Anointing IN By the will of man One tongue (prayer language) Prayer Man to God Earth to heaven Worship A gift of the Spirit	Anointing ON By the will of the Holy Spirit (Multiple) Kinds of tongues Proclamation God to man Heaven to earth Service (Could be) A ministry of the Lord

**II. Speaking in Tongues**

1. The Day of Pentecost

A. Who and Where

Luke 24:49, 53

49 And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

53 And were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen.

Recall that His apostles were Galileans. They didn't live in Jerusalem. But He asked them to stay in the city until such time as the Holy Spirit was poured out. We know that this happened on the day of Pentecost. But they had no way of knowing when this would happen.

Pentecost is fifty days after the Feast of First Fruits, which occurred on the second day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread (Lev 23:4-16). Jesus was crucified on the day of preparation, the day before Passover. He was entombed for three days, meaning that He was resurrected on the Feast of Firstfruits (1 Cor 15:20, 23).

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Dale M. Sides, *Diverse Kinds of Tongues*, Liberating Ministries for Christ International, Bedford, VA, © 1999, p. 13.

Jesus was seen of them for forty days after the resurrection. We begin counting from Sunday, the first day they saw Him. This leaves only ten days that they had to wait before the outpouring. What did they do with that time? Verse 43 says that they were continually in the temple.

Acts 1:13-14

13 And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, where abode both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James.

14 These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.

Verse 13 tells us where they lived, not necessarily where they met. Acts 2:46 gives indication that they met in the temple and from house to house. Pentecost was one of the feasts at which it was required for all the males of Israel to present themselves. Where do you suppose the apostles, who were continually in the temple, would be found on the day of Pentecost? The most likely conclusion is the temple.

Who originally received the outpouring is also important in light of the subject of diverse kinds of tongues.

Acts 1:26-2:4

26 And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles.

1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The nearest antecedent of “they” in verse 1 is the 11 apostles (plus Matthias). That verses 1-4 are dealing with the apostles is born out by the language of Acts 2:13-14.

Acts 2:13-14

13 Others mocking said, These **men** are full of new wine.

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:

The mockers said, “These **men** are full of new wine.” Recall that the about 120 included women. Peter stood up with the eleven not simply because they were the leaders but because they were the ones being accosted. The witness of the people was

that all who were speaking in tongues were Galileans (Acts 2:7).

B. Began to Speak with Tongues

Acts 2:5-11

5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.

6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language.

7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?

8 And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?

9 Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,

10 Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,

11 Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak in our tongues the wonderful works of God.

Fifteen different geographic regions are mentioned. We've already noted that only twelve apostles were speaking in tongues. This means that at the very least, one of them spoke in more than one tongue! But the indication is that all of them spoke in more than one tongue, for regions are mentioned and not languages. Our experience as Americans has conditioned us to a monolingual society. But this is not the case in the rest of the world (modern or ancient). It really isn't the case in America, either! Be that as it may, Scripture is clear that these apostles began to speak with other tongues [plural] after that the Holy Spirit had come *upon* them [indicated by the tongues of fire sitting *upon* each of them].

C. The Wonderful Works of God

These people all heard them speak in tongues the wonderful works of God. You would think such a miraculous event would have been received by all, but it wasn't.

Acts 2:13 "Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine."

My guess would be that these others were people who didn't understand what the apostles were saying. Peter addresses his rebuttal to this accusation to "ye men of Judea, and all ye that dwell in Jerusalem." This would be Aramaic speaking peoples to whom their countrymen would appear drunk due to their incomprehensible speech. But all did not mock that day, many believed.

Acts 2:41

Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.

As well as being a harvest feast, Pentecost also became a commemoration of Moses bringing down the Law from Sinai. The Holy Spirit brings the Law of God into our

hearts, the fleshy tables of the new covenant (2 Cor 3:3). When Moses first came down the mountain with the Ten Commandments, he found the children of Israel worshipping the golden calf. About three thousand people died that day at the hands of the Levites (Ex 32:25-28). When this feast was prophetically fulfilled, God got His people back! When the tables of stone came down the mountain, the people were found naked. When the Spirit was poured out, the people were clothed with power from on high.

## 2. Tongues of Men and Angels

1 Corinthians 13:1

Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal.

### A. Both/And not Either/Or

Note that Paul says the “the tongues of men **and** of angels.” He doesn’t say “men *or* angels.” This verse not only teaches us that our spiritual language can be of the earth or of heaven; it also tells us that it is available to speak in both.

Also note that he says “though I speak.” Who did the speaking? Paul did. Remember, we are responsible for supplying and operating the instruments and mechanics of speech. The Holy Spirit supplies the utterance.

Last but not least, as with everything else in life, if we do this without love it is to no profit.

### B. Tongues of Men

If it is a tongue of men, then someone on earth can understand it (or could have understood it). We saw this in Acts 2. Look at Acts 10:46.

Acts 10:46

For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

This was the Gentile household of Cornelius. Peter had brought six Jewish brothers with him on this mission (Acts 11:12). More than likely, these men understood Latin and/or Greek. But it is also highly probable that the members of Cornelius’s household didn’t know Aramaic or Hebrew, they both being more obscure languages. Could it be that members of this household spoke in an Aramaic or Hebrew tongue? The indication is that these men understood what was being said for they “heard them...magnify God.”

It is just in this fashion that diverse kinds of tongues become a sign to unbelievers.

1 Corinthians 14:22

Wherefore tongues are for a sign, not to them that believe, but to them that believe not: but prophesying serveth not for them that believe not, but for them which believe.

If an unbeliever were to hear his native tongue in a foreign context it would certainly grab his attention. To those who didn't know the language it would simply be gibberish and their understanding would not benefit. But for the man who did understand the language, he would hear them speaking the wonderful works of God. Note that it says "tongues" are a sign, not tongue.

[Read Example 1 in *Diverse Kinds of Tongues*, p. 25]

### C. Tongues of Angels

Speech is the common facet of all spirit beings. Even a cursory skim through the Bible would be sufficient to show one that angels have speech and talk. 1 Cor 13:1 makes a clear distinction between the languages of men and angels. They are as different a *genos* of languages that one can get! Who understands the language of angels? Why, angels do!

Col 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:

These "thrones, dominions, principalities, or powers" refer to the heavenly host, the army of the Lord. They are angels.

Eph 6:12

For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

These "principalities, powers, and rulers of darkness" are fallen angels. How are these allies and foes addressed?

Eph 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

Through prayer and supplication "in the Spirit."

Psalms 103:19-21

19 The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all.

20 Bless the LORD, ye his angels, that excel in strength, that do his commandments, hearkening unto the voice of his word.

21 Bless ye the LORD, all ye his hosts; ye ministers of his, that do his pleasure.

The angels excel in strength and do the commandments of His word. But in God's economy, these commands are to be spoken through the yielded authority of mankind.

Luke 11:2

And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

Our portion in bringing heaven's will to earth is to PRAY IT! When a diverse tongue of angels is brought out of the well of our spirits through the anointing of the Holy Spirit, we dispatch angels from heaven to do God's work on earth.

Matt 16:19

And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

When the Holy Spirit releases the tongues of angels through us, evil spirits are bound and heavenly messengers of power are loosed on the errands of the King.

### 3. Deploying Diverse Kinds of Tongues

#### A. In the Prayer Closet

We need to pray in our prayer language much. It is when we press *in* with our prayer language that diverse kinds of tongues are typically released.

Ephesians 6:18

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;

1 Thessalonians 5:17-19

17 Pray without ceasing.

18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

19 Quench not the Spirit.

I challenge anybody to pray without ceasing in their understanding. For that matter, I challenge anyone to pray an hour a day in their understanding (that's a block hour, not five minutes here, five minutes there). The apostles even had a hard time accomplishing that (Matt 26:40). But one can pray in the spirit hours on end without really tiring.

If we are not daily praying with our prayer language, we are quenching the Spirit in our lives. Speaking in tongues is the gasoline for the fire of walking by the Spirit.

## B. In the Church

The primary keys to spiritual utterance are: walking in love and being led by the Spirit.

Romans 8:14

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

Children cry, sons are led. Spiritual utterance isn't all about do's and don'ts and excessive protocol. It is about being led by the Spirit (and He will lead in decency and order, not confusion).

1 Cor 14:6-11

6 Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?

7 And even things without life giving sound, whether pipe or harp, except they give a distinction in the sounds, how shall it be known what is piped or harped?

8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

9 So likewise ye, except ye utter by the tongue words easy to be understood, how shall it be known what is spoken? for ye shall speak into the air.

10 There are, it may be, so many kinds of voices in the world, and none of them is without signification.

11 Therefore if I know not the meaning of the voice, I shall be unto him that speaketh a barbarian, and he that speaketh shall be a barbarian unto me.

The condition being presented here is one in which no one understands the tongue. All this is flipped on its head if someone in the congregation *does* understand. They would know what is piped and harped and would be able to prepare themselves for battle. What if the one who understands is an angel standing in the congregation? How will you know it is time to speak? If the Holy Spirit tells you to do so.

The Holy Spirit may lead you to speak in a diverse tongue in a public context without interpretation for the benefit of:

- People who may understand – vs. 6, 9-10
- Angels who take direction – vs. 8 [Numb 10:1-14]

1 Corinthians 14:23

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

What if the whole church comes together into one place<sup>5</sup> and no unlearned or unbelievers are present or come in? Are we going to look at each other and think

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<sup>5</sup> This is the epistle to the Corinthian church, so what Paul is describing here is a city-wide church meeting, not the typical house church meeting.

ourselves mad because we are speaking in tongues out loud? No, we will know what is being done and gather strength from the synergy!

All this being said, in primary operation, diverse kinds of tongues in the church meeting context are intended to be interpreted.

1 Corinthians 14:4-5

4 He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church.

5 I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

Tongue (singular) edifies self (singular). Tongues (plural) with interpretation edifies the church (plural). From verse 5 we learn that tongues with interpretation is equivalent to prophecy.

#### C. Intercession and Warfare

1 Corinthians 14:14, 18

14 For if I pray in an unknown tongue, my spirit prayeth, but my understanding is unfruitful.

18 I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all:

Note the distinction that Paul draws between praying in an unknown tongue (singular) and speak with tongues (plural) in his own life. Paul told the Corinthian church that he spoke in diverse kinds of tongues more than the entire church. What is your estimation of Paul's spiritual walk? Would you consider him to be a spiritual warrior?

1 Corinthians 12:10

To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues:

This is the listing of the *gift* of diverse kinds of tongues. It is mentioned 8<sup>th</sup>.

1 Corinthians 12:28

And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues.

This is a listing of *ministries* within the church. These ministries are administered by the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Cor 12:5). This verse is speaking about the *ministry* of diverse kinds of tongues. It is listed 8<sup>th</sup> as well. As has already been stated, eight is the biblical number for new beginnings and resurrection. The Lord uses the ministry of diverse kinds of tongues in the church to birth new things and resurrect parts that

may be dead or dying. We know this ministry popularly as the ministry of intercession.

Revelation 8:2-5

2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

3 And another angel came and stood at the altar, having a golden censer; and there was given unto him much incense, that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne.

4 And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel's hand.

5 And the angel took the censer, and filled it with fire of the altar, and cast it into the earth: and there were voices, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.

This is a dramatic picture of what occurs when we pray in a tongue. Our prayers ascend to heaven and fill the throne room with sweet smelling incense to our God. God then responds by reversing the flow and sending the fire of His Spirit down to earth – “and there were **voices**, and thunderings, and lightnings, and an earthquake.” This is the result of the release of the angelic host in response to diverse kinds of tongues being spoken on earth.

### III. Receiving Diverse Kinds of Tongues (Activation)

#### 1. Understand God's Desire

1 Cor 14:5

**I would that ye all spake with tongues**, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying.

1 Cor 14:18

**I thank my God, I speak with tongues** more than ye all:

1 Cor 14:39

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and **forbid not to speak with tongues**.

1 Cor 14:23

If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and **all speak with tongues**, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

This is a gift of the Spirit. It is God's desire that all believers receive it and walk in it.

#### 2. Receive the Impartation

##### A. From the Holy Spirit

Acts 10:44-46

44 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word.

45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter,

In this situation, the Holy Spirit came upon them sovereignly while Peter was preaching. No one laid hands on them and there wasn't an altar call.

#### B. From a Minister

Acts 19:6

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

We studied this section already. These people had not been properly instructed. They had not heard the word for their faith to rise. Paul laid hands on them and prayed and they spoke in diverse kinds of tongues.

#### C. In Faith

Galatians 3:1-5

- 1 O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?
- 2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?
- 3 Are ye so foolish? having begun in the Spirit, are ye now made perfect by the flesh?
- 4 Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.
- 5 He therefore that ministereth to you the Spirit, and worketh miracles among you, doeth he it by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?

Our faith must be engaged when we approach God for it is what pleases Him.

#### 3. Press into the Spirit Realm through Tongues

- Pray in your tongue out loud often and for long periods of time.
- Listen for when your tongue changes.
- Perceive through your spirit how it “feels” when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.
- Sense the mood of the Holy Spirit. You will often hear it in the manner He is giving you utterance. Is it soft, loud, stern, pleading, joyful, sad?

## ACTIVATION