



## HOW TO CORPORATELY MINISTER THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

What I am about to share with you are guidelines. Guidelines are not rules or laws. They DO NOT carry the force of law. They are simply proven avenues of accomplishing the will of God, in this case, to impart the gift of the Holy Spirit to everyone who comes to receive.

Now, our goal is that EVERYONE receives, not just that most people receive. You are responsible to minister effectively to everyone who comes to receive. Do not fall into what I call 'the hungry preacher syndrome,' which is where you do everything in a hurry because you want to get it over with. This is sin. You must take the time necessary to fulfill your responsibility to everyone who comes to receive, or don't offer the ministry in the first place. Do I make myself clear?

The Holy Spirit can tell you beforehand to minister the Baptism. He can also tell you 'spontaneously' to minister the Baptism during a general time of ministry. If He tells you beforehand, then plan the whole service around the receiving of the Baptism.

When I know beforehand I am to minister the Baptism, I plan to preach the Word on the subject.

Let's talk for a minute about preaching and teaching. They are two very distinct ministries. The goal of preaching is to bring people to the point of making a decision. When you are done preaching, you want people to say, "Preacher, what shall I do?" ( Acts 2:37 ). The goal in teaching is to impart understanding systematically. In teaching, you will move from point A to point B, then C, D, and E, laying a foundation of understanding, then building upon it. In preaching, you may jump from point A to point E, as you joyfully announce what God is saying, and encourage people to make a decision to agree with God. Preaching stirs up turmoil in the ears of the listener ( they have to make a decision ), while the true effect of teaching is to impart peace, strength and understanding. We need both preaching and teaching at different times!

As a teacher, you will tend to do a lot of teaching even as you are bringing people to the point of making a decision. There is nothing wrong with that...just simply be sensitive to when the Holy Spirit tells you to move from preaching or teaching to actual ministry. Don't go over that time, or you may miss the timing of God.

Before you minister, first pray over the atmosphere in the building where you are meeting. Bind any demons that you sense in the atmosphere ( for instance, a 'coldness' or 'religiosity' or 'formalism' may be in the air, or even 'anger towards the Holy Spirit' ). These must be bound and driven away as they will effect the response of the people. You can loose angels of joyful praise and worship into the atmosphere to prepare for the manifested presence of God. How you do this is between you and the Holy Spirit, but it may involve dancing, singing and praise on your part.

As I preach on the Baptism, I have a number of different scriptural ways to show them it is the will of God for them. I can handle the five records in the Book of Acts where believers spoke in tongues. I can preach just the two records where the Jews received ( Acts 2 ) and where the Gentiles received ( Acts 10 ). I can teach 1 Corinthians 12 and 14, or Matthew 3:11, 12 and John 7:37 -39. Or I can handle the benefits of speaking in tongues from Romans 8 and Ephesians 3. Or show how speaking in tongues builds faith from Jude 20 and Galatians 5:6. Or how speaking in tongues builds up your spirit to walk in the other gifts from 1 Corinthians 14:4. You have all these different ways ( and more ) to present the Baptism, and bring people to the point of wanting to

receive. This is why you have studied so thoroughly, so that you have options the Holy Spirit can work in you to prepare you to speak perfectly.

## DOING THE ALTAR CALL

I will always explain to the whole congregation that there are only two requirements to receive the Baptism: They must be born again, and they must want to receive.

Then I will ask that those who have not spoken in tongues to raise their hands. After a few moments I will ask those whose hands are raised to stand up. Usually, if one or two stand, then all the rest will stand. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT. No one is coercing them to stand. They must do it on their own. Then I will have them come forward. As they come forward I will explain that they are not coming to me, they are coming to Jesus, as John 7:37 and 38 says. He is the One, not me, who will fill them with the Holy Spirit.

After the 'first-timers' are up at the altar, I will ask for those who are weak in speaking in tongues to come up behind them, or even those who have tried to receive in the past. I have had people receive in my meetings who have waited thirty five years to receive. They receive because we know what we are doing, and how to help them.

Finally, I will ask those who are strong in speaking in tongues to come up behind these, and surround them like a fence with their faith. I will ask them to do exactly what I tell the 'first-timers' to do, to support them in their faith.

I will explain to the whole group that there are two things they must understand: what a language is, and how to speak. They must understand that it is their job to speak, not the Holy Spirit. I will have them say, I love the Lord Jesus Christ. When they do that, I will explain that they had to move their lips, throat and tongue to say those words, just like what they will have to do to speak in tongues. Their job is to speak. It is the Holy Spirit's job to make the sounds they say into a language. A language is simply sounds or syllables where two people agree on the meaning of those sounds or syllables. So, they are not to worry about what the sounds sound like, but just to make the sounds.

I will also demonstrate speaking in tongues myself while I am explaining this to them.

I will explain to them that I am going to pray and then say, "Now, speak in tongues!" When I say that, I want them to move their lips, throat and tongue and speak out new syllables or sounds.

I will ask them, "Are you ready?" Their excitement and joy will make it very easy for them to receive.

Finally, I will have them close their eyes and open their mouths. Jesus said to come unto Me and drink. They are to 'drink' in the Spirit. To drink you have to open your mouth. THIS IS IMPORTANT. As they ask to be filled, they will be ready to receive.

Finally, as the Spirit is leading me, I will pray a short prayer, and tell them to speak. If I have done my job right ( and many times even if I haven't ), the Holy Spirit will come in joyful power and they will all be filled.

My job at this point may be simply to encourage them. If I am a guest preacher, at this point I will have the pastor come up and take control of the meeting.

Now listen, people react to God differently. Some may fall under the power, some may weep and groan, some may have no visible reaction at all except to be speaking. Some may get tongues with interpretation, or prophecy, or revelation. BE CAREFUL NOT TO INTERRUPT OR INTERFERE WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. Try simply to move with Him. Be kind and gentle, especially with people who are struggling ( don't try to grab someone's jaw and make them speak, or any of this foolishness ).

## WHAT TO DO WITH PEOPLE WHO DON'T RECEIVE

Don't let them leave, unless they are angry or rebellious. Have them wait until you can get them alone or in a small group. THE GREAT REASON PEOPLE DON'T RECEIVE, IF THEY ARE BORN AGAIN, IS BECAUSE OF FEAR DUE TO IGNORANCE OR A DEMON. First check if they are born again or not. Then make sure they understood what you asked them to do. Many times, I have seen where someone has misunderstood because of poor translation. If they understand, and they want to receive but can't, it is a demon that is blocking them.

If it is a demon, have them confess their sins thoroughly. Take your time doing this. Be thorough. Then have them thoroughly forgive anyone who has hurt them in any way. Finally, lay hands on them, and ask God to show you 'what is in their jug.' The Spirit may give you specific names of spirits to cast out, or situations to minister to. Don't stand in front of them when you lay hands on them, as people tend to sneeze, cough and vomit when demons are coming out. When they have a 'clean house,' then you will be able to easily lead them into the Baptism.

The receiving of the Holy Spirit may be the greatest spiritual event in the life of any believer, except for the new birth. Remember, Jesus Himself is there to baptize them. Treat the whole time with the reverence, joy, awe and wonder it deserves. I have helped thousands upon thousands to receive, and I never fail to be in awe of the greatness of our God as He does it again. Always remember that the Holy Spirit comes to glory Jesus, not you or I. Reflect all the glory to Him, and you will be a faithful minister of Jesus Christ.

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