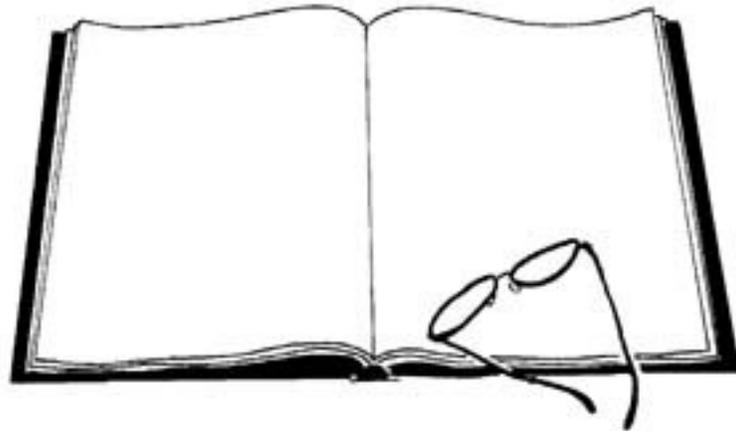


# **Alamo City Apostolic Church**

**The “What the Bible Says” Discipleship Series**

## **Unit 5**



**What the Bible Says About**

# **THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST**

**BY PASTOR KELLY NIX**

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

### ***Lesson objective:***

To establish the identity of the Holy Ghost; to define the gift of the Holy Ghost; to explain the purpose and essentiality of the gift of the Holy Ghost, and how to receive it.

### ***Key verses:***

#### **Acts 1:8**

But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

#### **Acts 2:38**

Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

### **SECTION 1: WHO IS THE HOLY GHOST?**

The Holy Ghost is known in the Bible by various titles, such as "the Holy Spirit", "the Spirit of God", "the Spirit", "the Spirit of the Lord", "the Spirit of Christ", "the Spirit of Jesus", "the Spirit of Jesus Christ", "the Spirit of Truth", and "the Comforter". However, all of these titles refer to the same divine Being.

Perhaps the best way to begin a discussion about the Holy Ghost is to simply say that He is God.

**"God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).**

**"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).**

Specifically, the Holy Ghost is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ, in His spirit form.

**"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9).**

**"For I know that this shall turn to my salvation through your prayer, and the supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:19).**

Lest you become confused by the Bible's use of many different titles for the Holy Ghost, remember that the Scriptures clearly establish the fact that there is only one divine Spirit.

**"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling" (Ephesians 4:4).**

When the Bible refers to God as the Holy Ghost, it is normally referring specifically to God in operation. The one true God has revealed Himself in different ways to suit His purpose at different times: as the Father in creation, as the Son in redemption, and, today, as the Holy Ghost in operation in His church. Each one of His manifestations has a specific function.

## SECTION 2: WHAT IS THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST?

The simplest way to define the gift of the Holy Ghost is as follows: when we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Jesus literally comes to live inside our bodies.

**"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory" (Colossians 1:27).**

**"Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you" (John 14:17).**

No wonder Jesus said you would receive power after you receive the Holy Ghost! The great Creator of the universe, the Almighty God, lives inside of you!

## SECTION 3: THE PURPOSE OF THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

There are many reasons why it is essential that we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost in order to be saved. Here are a few of them:

1. The Holy Ghost is the "visa" that grants us entry into the kingdom of God. A visa is a stamp (seal) in a passport that grants entry into a country (providing all other immigration requirements are met).  
**"And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30).**  
**"Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5).**
2. The gift of the Holy Ghost causes us to belong to God; without it, we cannot be saved.  
**"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9).**
3. The gift of the Holy Ghost sets us free from sin.  
**"Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (II Corinthians 3:17).**

4. The gift of the Holy Ghost teaches us the truth.  
**"Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come" (John 16:13).**
5. The gift of the Holy Ghost gives us comfort, joy, righteousness, and peace.  
**"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).  
"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost" (Romans 14:17).**
6. The gift of the Holy Ghost fills us with the love of God.  
**"And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).**
7. The gift of the Holy Ghost sanctifies us, in whom no good thing dwells naturally, by placing His holy nature within us.  
**"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Romans 7:18).  
"And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God" (I Corinthians 6:11).**
8. The gift of the Holy Ghost gives us power to be witnesses.  
**"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8).**
9. The gift of the Holy Ghost will resurrect us at the coming of the Lord.  
**"But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11).**

#### SECTION 4: RECEIVING THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST

Contrary to what many churches teach today, the gift of the Holy Ghost is not something that is received automatically and without external evidence when a person is water baptized. We can look to the Biblical account of the conversion of the Samaritans to prove this:

**"Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost" (Acts 8:14-17).**

Notice that the Samaritans had **already** been baptized in water in the name of the Lord Jesus, but still had not received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Another good example is Cornelius, along with his household. In their case, they received the gift of the Holy Ghost **before** they were water baptized:

**"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44).**

**"Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" (Acts 10:47).**

How, then, does one receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? There are several things we must understand. First of all, the Holy Ghost is received by faith.

**"In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive...)" (John 7:37-39).**

Second, we must understand that the Holy Ghost is received through obedience to God.

**"And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32).**

**"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38).**

## **SECTION 5: THE SIGN OF RECEIVING THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST**

Since receiving the Holy Ghost is so essential to our salvation, God has chosen to give us a miraculous and unmistakable sign when He fills someone with His Spirit. This way, there will be no doubt that that person has received the gift of the Holy Ghost.

The sign God has chosen is known in the Bible as "speaking with other tongues", or "speaking in tongues". This phenomenon occurs when God, to signal that He is now indwelling a person, uses his or her tongue to speak in a language he or she does not understand while praying and worshiping.

Why did God choose something as dramatic and supernatural as speaking in tongues? The Bible gives us a clear answer: the tongue is the one thing that man has been unable to tame by his own strength. How many times have we regretted things that our tongue has uttered, that in some cases have caused irreparable harm! If you want to know just how untamable the tongue is, try to learn a foreign language with the skill and accent of a native speaker. Your tongue will rebel at the strange sounds a new language requires. So, what better way for God to show He is now in control of our body than for Him to take our tongue and do what we cannot do: instantly cause it to speak fluently in a language we have never studied?

Consider what the Apostle James had to say about the tongue:

**"For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body. Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body. Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth. Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:2-8).**

**"We all make many mistakes, but those who control their tongues can also control themselves in every other way" (James 3:2, *New Living Translation*).**

Let's do a Biblical case study to determine whether or not speaking in tongues was the standard in the early New Testament church.

- 1) On the Day of Pentecost, when the gift of the Holy Ghost was poured out for the first time on the church, all who received the Holy Ghost spoke in tongues. **"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).**
- 2) In Acts chapter 8 (verses 5-25), while tongues are not specifically mentioned, it is obvious that something phenomenal and highly unusual happened when the apostles prayed for the people to receive the Holy Ghost. Were this not the case, Simon the Magician would never have attempted to purchase this awesome power. No need to purchase something that produces no visible or audible results! Since the other accounts of people in the Bible receiving the Holy Ghost clearly state that they spoke with tongues, there is no reason whatsoever to believe the Samaritans had a different experience. Remember, God is no respecter of

persons, meaning He treats everyone the same, and two or three witnesses (scriptures, in this case) are sufficient to establish a matter as truth.

**"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34).**

**"...In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established" (II Corinthians 13:1).**

- 3) Cornelius and his household spoke in tongues when they received the Holy Ghost.  
**"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 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. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God..." (Acts 10:44-46a).**
- 4) The Ephesian disciples spoke in tongues when they received the gift of the Holy Ghost.  
**"And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:6).**
- 5) Did the Apostles speak in tongues?  
**"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" (Acts 1:13).**  
**"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).**
- 6) Did the Apostle Paul speak in tongues?  
**"I thank my God, I speak with tongues more than ye all" (I Corinthians 14:18).**
- 7) Since God is no respecter of persons, you, too, will speak in tongues when you receive the Holy Ghost!  
**"Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34).**
- 8) The promise is for you!  
**"For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call" (Acts 2:39).**  
**"If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:13).**

**Student Exercises – Unit 5**  
(Please complete, detach, and give to teacher)

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

1. Which verse of Scripture commands us to be "born of water and of the Spirit"?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
2. List three purposes for receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, with scriptures:  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
3. Who, specifically, is the Holy Ghost (give references)?  
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4. What is the Biblical sign of receiving the Holy Ghost (give 2 references)?  
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5. Describe, in your own words, what the Apostle James wrote about the tongue:  
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6. Did the apostles speak in tongues when they received the Holy Ghost?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_  
If yes, give chapter and verse:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. Have you received the gift of the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues?  
Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_ When? \_\_\_\_\_
  
8. If not, do you believe you need to do so in order to be saved? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_
  
9. Would you like to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost? Yes\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_