

Testimony of Pastor Chris:

"When I got saved, I was gloriously saved. For a few months I became the most radical Christian I knew. I won many people to Christ those first few months. I was so on fire for God. I did prayer meetings around the flag at school. I was witnessing boldly to people I had been intimidated by. Almost all of my friends got saved during that time. But I realized more than ever before, because of my deep love for God, how much of Him I did not have. "My appetite and hunger for the power I saw in other people's lives grew. I would think, 'I want that!' Growing up I wasn't exposed much to miracles, signs and wonders, and people who walked in the Holy Spirit. When I began to get exposed to the power of God, I was starving for it. I was never a skeptic even though I was raised in a church that didn't believe in miracles. I was raised in a church that taught that miracles happened in the Bible, but not today. After I was saved as a teenager, I never even thought about that teaching again. I knew I wanted to have God's power. I could see the fruit of it. I could see the evidence of it, and I was starved for it. I had been in church since I was born – I was full of the word and could quote scriptures, but I never saw the verses in the Bible that are everywhere about the gifts of the Spirit and the Holy Spirit's role in my life! I had never seen the verses on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I read the Bible with fresh eyes and I was fired up. I became immediately convinced that I wanted it.

I have to say, though, that there was a part the 'spirit-filled' world that I was turned off by. I didn't like anything that looked man-made. I could have read it wrong, but some of it looked artificial and excessively emotional. I wanted the experience described in the Bible. All my life since then, I have been open to the fullness of the Spirit of God while at the same time truly honoring God and not glorifying man. With that being said, I want to tell you what is the most significant part of my Christian life – outside of salvation – and that is Spirit-filled prayer. About three months after I was saved, I started learning about this second experience described in the Bible. I asked the Lord to fill me with the Holy Spirit. At first because of my background and headiness, nothing really seemed to happen. I knew that I was the problem, and I came to a place where I was so hungry and desperate for God! Soon after, I was at a small group and we were discussing the baptism in the Holy Spirit. I knew my brain had reached its capacity. The hard drive was full, and I had all I could get in my natural man. I asked the people in the group to pray for me. I told them that I was struggling with it, but I really wanted it. I got down on my knees and the people laid hands on me and explained it to me. That night I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and my prayer language. This was in March of 1979, during my sophomore year in high school. Every day I pray in the Spirit – every day of my life. Every day that is a meaningful time for me."

Prayer

God, I want Your glory, the full weight of who You are. Holy Spirit, I desire more love, more power, more grace. When others see me, I want to reflect your beauty. I covet Your gifts - all of them. Jesus, You said that the Father would give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him. Father, I ask you now, in the name of the Lord Jesus, to fill me with the Holy Spirit. Father, I ask that I could experience Your presence and Your power as I never have before. Help me to win over my natural mind. I lay down every barrier – unforgiveness and pride and sin. I want to be innocent and take You at Your word. I trust You! I want everything You have for me. I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit now, in Jesus name. It's mine! Immerse me in wisdom and counsel and might. I desire knowledge and understanding beyond my limited mind. I want a fresh baptism in You. I step into the fullness and power that are available to me. I confess that I am a Spirit-filled Christian. I yield my voice and tongue to you and expect to pray in the Spirit as You enable me.

Praise the Lord! Amen