

Testimony to Receiving
The Baptism of the Holy Spirit
By
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I had the privilege of growing up in a Christian home where I was taught about Jesus and taken to church my entire life. I made the decision to follow Jesus at the age of twelve. Although still rather young, I realized that I was a sinner; and that I was in need of a Savior (Romans 3:23). I repented of my sins (Luke 13:3); asked Jesus to forgive me (1 John 1:9); and accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior (Romans 10:9-10). I joined my mainline denominational church and was baptized by immersion. Unfortunately, upon entering college I was drawn to worldly things. While never denying Jesus, I just wasn't living a life indicative of a true follower. After college, I married my hometown honey and we settled into living life. But something was missing— a close relationship with Jesus. So shortly after our marriage we made a commitment to be “all in” with following Jesus! Four years into our marriage, work took us to another state where I immediately began to look for a church whose main focus was preaching the Word of God! By this point in my life, I was very eager to learn all I could about being a Christ follower. I met some Christian friends who seemed to have something more than I was experiencing. I couldn't quite put my finger on it but they had a peace and joy that I didn't have and were actually seeing miracles take a place! This was all new to me and so when they issued an invitation to attend a Praise and Worship gathering, I readily accepted! After some very animated praise and worship (remember I had only attended a very traditional church), the speaker began to teach on the Holy Spirit. I was very uncomfortable with the whole situation and was in the process of leaving when the speaker looked directly at me even though there were hundreds of people in the room! I can still remember the words he spoke to me because it was as if the Lord was speaking to me directly! He told me that the Lord had a gift that He wanted to give me, if I would only open my heart to receive it! I had never had the Lord speak to me so clearly before, so needless to say I sat down and listened intently to what was said! I had many questions and spent the next two weeks studying my Bible to discover every scripture concerning the Holy Spirit. I also read a book ‘The Holy Spirit and You’ by Dennis and Rita Bennet. As a result of this intensive personal study, I sat at my kitchen table by myself and prayed a simple prayer. I ask the Lord to give me all that He wanted me to have and I immediately felt an urge to begin to sing and literally from my innermost being (John 7:38-39) flowed the most beautiful song I had ever heard! I was singing in the Spirit! I felt a peace and joy like I had NEVER experienced in my entire life! Hence began a spiritual journey with Jesus that I have been on for over forty years! I can't even imagine life without the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. When I'm faced with a difficult situation in which I have no idea how to pray, I know that the Holy Spirit will always pray the perfect prayer (Romans 8:26-27)! This gift is yours for the asking as the Lord shows no favoritism (Romans 2:11); He gives His gifts freely to those who ask! *What are you waiting for????*