

Patrick J Hoban



The  
Holy Spirit  
For  
Everyone

“twelve simple steps to  
receiving the Holy Spirit”

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# Introduction

In April of 1987 I received the Baptism in the Holy Spirit just two weeks after my conversion. All my life, up to that time, I had wondered why Christianity was so powerless, why the same signs and wonders that were recorded in the Acts of the Apostles were not happening today. The truth was that Christianity was not powerless but *powerful*, but I had never been told the truth. The Christianity I had experienced was not what the early church had known in the New Testament, and it wasn't what God desired His church to be in the 20<sup>th</sup> or 21<sup>st</sup> centuries. The Bible declares, "*Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever.*" *Hebrews 13:8*. His plans for His church are the same. He wants a powerful church taking authority over the kingdom of darkness and setting people free in His name. To do this we need the power of the Holy Spirit.

Before I was saved, I was bound by sin and the devil's power. I needed something stronger to set me free and keep me free. I found it in Jesus and all that He availed to me. He gave me power when the Holy Spirit came upon me. Since then I have travelled in various countries and preached in many churches, proclaiming throughout the Full Gospel message of Jesus Christ as Saviour, Healer, Baptiser in the Holy Spirit, Redeemer from the curse, and Soon Coming King. It has been my

privilege to witness countless people receive the fullness of the Spirit.

In this short book I want to share with you keys to receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit and I also believe that the steps here will help you receive ***all*** the promises of God. I am confident that if you follow the steps in this book you ***shall*** receive heaven's power. It has been used around the world to help people receive this wonderful gift. You can receive it too and your life will never be the same!

Patrick Joseph Hoban

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## *Chapter 1*

# **You Must Hear About It**

Faith comes by hearing the Word (Romans 10:17). Jesus said to the woman at the well in John 4, *“If you knew the gift of God...You would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water”*. The first thing is to know that such a thing exists and to understand what it is. If a person had never heard about steak, he would have no desire to taste it. That is why we have advertising. When we see a new advertisement for a car or any other product, we might have a desire for it. If we had never heard about a car, we would not have a desire to get it. It is the same way with the things of God. We need to first hear about it, then we can desire it. Vine’s definition of faith is “persuasion through hearing”. When we hear the word of God concerning the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, we are persuaded that God wants to give it to us.

What is it? To baptise means to immerse. When those who translated the Bible into the English language several hundred years ago saw this word they didn't know what to do. At that time the church in England used sprinkling to baptise people in water. Some people, on the continent of Europe, baptised by completely immersing converts in water. The translators didn't want to be caught up in controversy so they decided to transliterate the Greek word. That means they took the word "baptizo" and made it into baptise. The Greek word means to immerse. When people in the Bible were baptised in water, they were completely immersed in the water.

When someone is immersed in water we can know it simply because he is wet. Everywhere he goes you can see wet footprints. There is evidence that he was in water. From this we get the idea of what it is like to be baptised in the Holy Spirit. In John's gospel we read the story of John the Baptist announcing the coming of the Messiah. John was baptising in water in the river Jordan when he made an announcement concerning Jesus. He said,

*"I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptise with water said to me, 'Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptises with the Holy Spirit.'"*  
*John 1:33.*

Jesus did not do any miracles until the Spirit had come upon Him after He was baptised in the river Jordan. In the same way the church needed that power to continue His work when He ascended to heaven. Jesus, after His resurrection, told the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the Holy Spirit to come. *“And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which,”* He said, *“you have heard from Me; for John truly baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now”* Acts 1:4-6.

In Acts 2:1-4 we read the historical account of how the disciples were baptised in the Holy Spirit:

*“When the day of Pentecost had fully come, they were all with one accord in one place, and suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues as of fire. And one sat upon each of them, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

When the Spirit came and the disciples were filled, they all spoke in tongues. Tongues was the initial physical evidence that they had received. In Acts chapter ten we hear about how God led Peter to the house of Cornelius. As Peter was preaching the Good News to them of Jesus they were all baptised in the Holy Spirit.

*“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Then Peter answered, ‘Can any forbid water, that these should not be baptised who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.’” Acts 10:44-47.*

These gentiles received the Spirit with the evidence of speaking with tongues. They received the Spirit just as the apostles did. That is how they knew that the Spirit had been poured out on them also. When you get baptised in the Holy Spirit, you speak in tongues. God had promised this in the Old Testament.

*“For then I will restore to the peoples a pure language (lip) that they all may call on the name of the Lord to serve Him with one accord.” Zephaniah 3:9.*

When you receive the Holy Spirit you can pray in tongues with purity because the Holy Spirit is praying through you. It is a pure language. Wow! What a blessing!

The Baptism endows you with the power of God in your life. “you shall receive power” Acts 1:8. It is the gateway to all the other spiritual gifts, and it’s for you.

## *Chapter 2*

# **There Is More Than Being Born Again**

Many Christians fail to receive the Baptism in the Spirit because they think that being born again is all that God has for the believer. Being born again is the greatest miracle one can ever experience. It's greater than healing or any of the other great things God does in our lives, but it is not all there is. When we are born again, we become a new creature. Praise God! But there is more.

The Bible says that after the people in Samaria believed and were even baptised in water the apostles went down to lay on hands that they might receive the Holy Spirit.

*“Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. And the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip,*

*hearing and seeing the miracles that he did. For unclean spirits, crying with a loud voice, came out of many who were possessed; and many who were paralysed and lame were healed. ...But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptised. Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8:4-17*

Many say that when you get born again you get the Holy Spirit in His fullness and that there is no more to receive. But in this passage of the Bible we see something else. The Bible says,

*“if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in you heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with*

*the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” Romans 10:9-10.*

The people in Samaria heeded the word of God and believed the Gospel, and were baptised. This act of faith on the part of the Samaritans shows that they were saved, born again, and members of the body of Christ. They had believed and confessed Jesus. They were baptised in water, which confirmed their faith. But the Bible says that the Holy Spirit had not yet fallen upon any of them. There was a gap between the time they were born again and the time they were baptised in the Holy Spirit. In ancient times it would have taken several days for the apostles to go up to Samaria from Jerusalem. Imagine if Philip had told the Samaritans that they had received everything. They would have gone on in ignorance, not knowing that God had more for them. There are many today like those in Samaria who have believed with all their heart the truth about Jesus and have made Him Lord and Saviour of their lives. They were even baptised and are members of churches. They sing worship songs on Sunday morning in church, they read their Bibles and love the Lord with all their heart; but someone told them that there isn't anything more to receive. Or maybe they have never heard. Maybe you are a person like that. Don't get angry or sad because you haven't known about the baptism in the Holy Spirit, just praise God right now and ask Him to fill you.

In Acts Chapter 19 we also read a similar story about people who waited after they believed before they received the baptism in the Spirit.

*“And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples he said to them, ‘Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?’ So they said to him, ‘We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.’” Acts 19:1.*

These people did not know about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. They were followers of Jesus but didn't have the fullness. Later, when Paul had baptised them in water, we read,

*“And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.” Acts 19:6.*

Paul laid his hands on them, and they received. Notice that they spoke in tongues. Paul could have said nothing. He could have said, “They're just not of the same persuasion as I am.” He could have said, “They must be of another denomination.” No, he told them the Full Gospel. He wanted them to have everything. If Paul the apostle met you today,

he would make sure that you had everything God had promised to you also.

### **Chapter 3**

## **You Must Desire It**

The Bible says, *“Open your mouth wide and I will fill it”*, *Psalm 81:10*. When desire is present in your heart, God can fill it. I don't know if you have ever tried to give a baby food when he doesn't want to eat. When my wife and I were in Ireland, my sister Rosemary asked Tami to baby-sit for her. Grainne, my sister's little girl, sometimes didn't want to eat. Tami would hold the spoon at her mouth, but she just didn't want to take the food. We tried to coax her by doing something funny, but if she didn't open her mouth, we couldn't fill it. It is like that with us sometimes. God wants to fill our lives with good things, but sometimes we will not open our lives to Him. God is a gentleman. He will not force you to receive the Holy Spirit. You have to open up to it. You open up to Him by believing His Word and asking Him.

On the Day of Pentecost, when the disciples were gathered in the upper room, their hearts were hungry for what God promised to them. They had seen Jesus do miracles and wonders for three and a half years, and now they wanted to continue the work. They saw the power that Jesus had at work in Him before his ascension to heaven, and they were hungry to see that power work through them also. They wanted people to be set free from the devil's control, but they needed power to achieve it. That hunger enabled them to wait for ten days in Jerusalem until it came. Are you that hungry? They were hungry and were not disappointed. God filled them with the Holy Spirit. Some people are just not hungry enough. They won't even pray for ten minutes. Many say that they have been prayed for, that hands have been laid on them for the baptism in the Holy Spirit and nothing happened. If you are hungry enough, you will continue to seek the baptism in the Holy Spirit until you get it.

I remember when I was talking with a man in Ireland about the doctrine of the baptism in the Holy Spirit. He didn't believe that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was a distinct experience subsequent to salvation, when one is born again. He also didn't believe that the gift of tongues and praying in the Spirit were one and the same or that tongues was the initial physical evidence that a person had received the Spirit. For hours I carefully explained to him about its truth from scriptures. I showed him all the

relevant passages from the Bible. After a long time he turned to me and said that I had proven to him the truth of the baptism in the Spirit and that praying in the Spirit was speaking in tongues. Then he surprised me by asking me “Do you know how much I desire to speak in tongues?” When I asked him, he simply replied, “none.” I had to tell him that he would never receive, because God would never force Himself on anyone. Without desire you just cannot receive. That brother sure missed a great blessing from God. You don’t have to.

The Bible says that we are to desire the best gifts. 1Corinthians12:31. In the life of Jesus, none of the gifts of the Spirit were manifested before he was empowered with the Holy Spirit. Jesus never did a miracle, healed anyone, or cast out a demon until the Holy Spirit came upon Him. When we desire to operate in the gifts of the Spirit, we must first be endowed with the power of the Holy Spirit. Then we can press on to receive the other manifestations of the spiritual gifts. If we love people we want them to be set free. This love for people creates in us a desire to possess God’s power to bring God’s healing to the nations. Think of all the people you could help if you were filled with His power. Believe God to fill you and use you to bring His goodness to those who are hurting.

## *Chapter 4*

# **You Must Ask**

Jesus said, *“Ask, and it shall be given to you.” Luke 11:9.* The Bible also says, *“You have not because you ask not.” James 4:2.* Jesus is waiting for you to ask. Many people use the excuse that if God really wanted them to have the baptism in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, He would just give it to them. That mindset is not found in the Bible. Jesus said, *“Ask, and it shall be given to you.”* Jesus, when he was speaking to the woman at the well, said, *“If you knew the gift of God and whom it is speaking to you, you would ask.” John 4:10.* It’s not enough just to desire it, we must ask. Jesus wanted her to ask.

In the Gospel of Mark we read:

*“Now they came to Jericho. As He went out of Jericho with His disciples and a great multitude, blind Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, sat by the road begging. And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, ‘Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!’ Then many warned him to be quiet; but he cried out all the more, ‘Son of David, have mercy on me!’ So Jesus stood still and commanded him to be called. Then they called the blind man, saying to him, ‘Be of good cheer. Rise, He is calling you.’ And throwing aside his garment, he rose and came to Jesus. So Jesus answered and said to him, ‘What do you want Me to do for you?’ The blind man said to Him, ‘Rabboni, that I may receive my sight.’ Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go you way; your faith has made you well.’ And immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the road.” Mark 10:46-52*

There are many things we can learn from Blind Bartimaeus about asking. There were many blind people in Jericho, but Bartimaeus was the one who called out to Jesus. There are many people today

in need of the power of God in their lives, but Jesus only gives it to them that cry out to Him. When he did cry out, the people tried to stop him; but Bartimaeus called out all the more. This represents spiritual warfare. The devil does not want us to be filled with all the good things that God has for us. He discourages us from believing and calling out to God for our needs. Sometimes when people cry out to God in prayer, the devil comes to stop them. He wants them to stop asking because he knows that God hears. That's why people give up praying. They believe the devil. Bartimaeus was not going to be stopped. He cried out all the more. When Jesus called for him, Bartimaeus threw aside his garment. That's important because in those days if a person could not work, because of an illness or handicap, he was given a beggar's garment by the city officials to verify that his begging was legitimate. He needed that garment to beg. There was no social security system to help. That garment was his bread and butter. But he threw it off because he knew that he was going to be healed. He had faith. He didn't come to God doubting, but believing. You need to do the same. Bartimaeus could see himself healed through the eyes of faith. In the same way you need to see yourself baptised in the Spirit before you even get it. That's faith!

Then an astounding thing happened. After Jesus called for the man and he came to Him, Jesus asked what he wanted Him to do for him. That's

amazing! Surely Jesus could see that he was blind. Why didn't He just stretch out His hand and heal him? Why did he need the man to ask? Because that is the way of God! He wants us to ask. He is more than willing to give, but we must ask. Look at how many people need salvation, but God requires them to ask. They must do something first, and then God responds. God knows that we need the baptism in the Spirit, but He is waiting for us to cry out to Him.

Jesus always links faith to prayer. In Luke Chapter 18 Jesus gave a parable that men always ought to pray and not lose heart. When a woman wanted the king to give her justice, she was persistent. She didn't give up and the king gave to her the request she asked for. Then Jesus, in verse 8, asks, "When the Son of Man comes, will He really find faith on the earth?" He links prayer to faith. Or, in other words, the person who has faith will pray. Jesus said to Blind Bartimaeus that his faith made him well. Your faith, coupled with asking, will acquire for you the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

God is also a gentleman. He is not going to force you to receive it. In James 4:2, the Bible says we have not because we ask not. It's time to ask, not time to wonder.

## Chapter 5

# You Must Know That Your Sins Are Forgiven

When people are not sure that God has forgiven all their sins, they can't believe that God will bless them with His wonderful gift of the Spirit. The Bible says,

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive our sin and to cleanse us of all our unrighteousness” 1John 1:9*

*“For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more.” Hebrews 8:12.*

The devil knows how to hinder us from receiving all that God wants us to have. He knows that if we feel condemned we are not likely to go to God for anything. Like Adam in the Garden of Eden, we will

try to hide from Him. We won't feel confidence to enter His presence and receive. Instead of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, we think that God is going to dish out punishment. Satan will bring to our minds all the reasons why God shouldn't give us the Holy Spirit. If we listen to his lies, we feel unworthy. The truth is we *are* unworthy, and we will never be worthy in and of ourselves. When we confess and turn away from our sins, Jesus forgives us and makes us worthy by his grace. We must believe His word that we are forgiven. If there is sin, just confess it, and He promises that He will forgive. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is given to help us to live a more holy life. If you have temptations, you need the Spirit's power all the more.

God's forgiveness is not like human forgiveness, they are worlds apart. People often say, "Just forgive and forget." God's forgiveness is not like that. God never forgives and forgets; He forgives and *chooses* never to remember again. That's powerful. In the past I have been noted to forget things. Sometimes I couldn't remember where I put my car keys or something else very important. I really wanted to remember, but my mind just forgot. I can't imagine that God would forget where He put something. He would never say to Himself, "I wonder where I left planet Earth. Maybe I put it in another galaxy." No, God never forgets. When we confess our sins, He takes them and puts them

away and chooses “to remember them no more.” Even if we do, He never will.

This must be the assurance in your heart if you want to receive. When the devil comes to steal your blessing, just say to him, “The Bible says, He remembers my sins no more”. Praise God!

## *Chapter 6*

# **Surrender**

The Bible says, “Repent...and be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”. Acts 2:38

God won't live with the devil. Someone has to go. The Holy Spirit is grieved if we hold on to our sin. Just like any person, if you grieve them, they usually want to avoid you. The person of the Holy Spirit is the same. The Bible says that He is too holy even to look at sin. Habakkuk 1:13. When we do what we know God's Word says not to do, we are in rebellion, we are unsundered. God cannot come and dwell in a heart that is like this. Many people want all of the benefits of the Gospel, but none of the cross. Jesus said that if anyone would come after Him he would have to carry his cross daily. The cross signifies death, death to self. The cross we must bear is not sickness or illness, but death to

the ego. Jesus surrendered to the Father's will and went to the cross where He died. He said, "*not my will be done but yours, Father.*" Luke 22:42. When we come to Jesus, we need to have the same heart attitude. God will point out things we need to change before He can fill our hearts with His Spirit.

Often when I am ministering on the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I ask people to pray at the altar and allow God to show them things which might be hindering them. When they fully surrender to His will in their lives, they receive. Unforgiveness can often be an area that God wants us to surrender before we can receive. God has forgiven us of all our wrongdoing; likewise we should forgive those who've sinned against us. Unforgiveness will stop the flow of God in our lives.

People often say that if you surrender God is not going to ask you to go to China or some other foreign country. But God might ask you, in the course of time, to go to China, India, or maybe a jungle. That's part of surrendering to His will. The great thing about it is that when you receive the Holy Spirit He works in you the surrender needed to obey God. It's not hardship that God wants to bring into our lives but righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit.

We need to surrender our hurts. In life we can pick up many hurts along the way. If we hold on to those

hurts, we hinder God's love in our lives. Remember that the Spirit of God is the Spirit of love, because God is love. Holding onto hurts and bitterness stops God's love from healing us and allowing the Spirit to fill our hearts. Jesus came to bind up (heal) the broken hearted. Allow the in-filling of the Holy Spirit to heal your heart. Don't be afraid; just let go of the hurts and embrace God's love, and He will fill you with His Spirit.

Our lifestyles need to be surrendered, too. Thank God that Jesus came to save that which was lost. You and I were lost before we knew Jesus. Part of the saving power of the Gospel (good news) is that He saves us out of our sinful lifestyle. If a person is in a sexual relationship outside of marriage, God requires them to stop that kind of lifestyle and now live as the Bible commands. If a person has bad movies in his home, the Lord commands him to get rid of them. A homosexual lifestyle is opposite to what God commands. Everything which is contrary to what God says in the Bible has to go. People who hold onto a lifestyle that is sinful and rebellious toward God cannot expect the Lord to bless them and give them the Holy Spirit's power.

We also need to renounce any occult, new-age, Wiccan, worship of false gods, necromancy, and all that God forbid in the scriptures. Simple repentance and renunciation of anything to do with the occult, praying to the dead, séances and asking God to

break the bondage or association with spirit guides sets us free so we can have a true relationship with the Holy Spirit. The blood of Jesus can set us free from any bondage to Satan power.

God is also a jealous God. He wants His Name to be glorified in the earth. If you or I were claiming to be filled with the power of God and continued in sin, we would bring dishonour to Jesus and His message. To think that God will overlook my sin is to dishonour Him. It is to test His mercy and the Bible says, “you shall not tempt (test) the Lord your God.” Deuteronomy 6:16. God is jealous over the gift of the Holy Spirit. He will not allow His Name to be disgraced. A surrendered life brings honour and glory to Jesus. Where do you stand? Are you willing to lay down everything?

## *Chapter 7*

# **Know That It Is A Gift**

Just like with salvation the believer in Jesus Christ receives the baptism in the Spirit not because he has earned it but because God the Father gives it freely to all that believe in His Son.

*“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’ Acts 2:38.*

The first thing we learn about the Gospel is that salvation is a gift. Salvation cannot be earned. Our good works cannot buy us our right standing with God. It's a gift. In the same way the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. You cannot earn a gift. Jesus said to the woman He met at the well, *“If you knew the gift of God...you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water.”*

*John 4:10.* Jesus again called the Holy Spirit a gift that the Father wants to give all those who ask Him. Again in the book of Acts, the Bible called the Holy Spirit a gift.

*“And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also.” Acts 10: 45.*

If I bought a gift for my wife out of my love for her, she would not ask me first what she would have to do to open it. She wouldn't ask me if she had to prepare a special meal before she could get it. No, she would just thank me for it and enjoy the gift. She wouldn't say that she was unworthy or that she wasn't good enough, she would receive it as an unconditional gift of love from me to her. God, our heavenly Father, wants to give us the gift of the Holy Spirit because He loves us. He knows how much we need His power to overcome the flesh, the world, and the devil. He is not a cruel father who will not aid us but only leave us at the devil's mercy. He is a good father who will do everything to help us.

In the book of Colossians we can read, *“Giving thanks to the Father who has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light.” Colossians 1:12.* When we become

Christians, the blood of Jesus cleanses us from all unrighteousness. Jesus, on the cross, paid for all our sins. He took our punishment. We became justified (just as if we never sinned) in the sight of God through faith in Jesus. That is how God qualified us. It takes certain qualifications to enter into Heaven. It takes the righteousness of God Himself. The Bible says that we are the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus, 2Corinthians 5:21. When we believe in Christ we become the righteousness of God and are born again. Prince Charles has become an heir to the throne of England because he was born into that family. He has an inheritance because of his birth. Jesus made the way for us to become children of God, and that is exactly what happens when we become born again. Because we are children of God, we have an inheritance. Part of that inheritance is the fullness of the Holy Spirit's power. We just have to partake of it. When I order a meal at a restaurant, I just partake of it. It is rightfully mine. God offers us the Spirit to partake of. All the glory goes to Him.

## Chapter 8

# Do Not Fear

Many fear that something strange might happen and are not sure that what they will get is from God. Jesus said,

*“If a son would ask his father for bread, he would not give him a stone...how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask.”  
Luke 11:11-13.*

We fear because we don't know and believe God or His word. God is faithful to His word. *“[He] is not a man that He should lie,” Numbers 23:19.* We need to trust Him. The Bible says, *“Every good and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights,” James 1:17.* The gift of God will be good not bad or something that will harm us. It will also be perfect. God made us, and only He knows exactly how we work. When the Holy Spirit

comes into our lives, He works perfectly with us. He is better than any psychologist or human counsellor. We don't need to worry or fear.

People ask, "What if, when I receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I won't be able to control myself? Maybe one day while I'm walking down the street I will begin to shout out in tongues and people will think I've gone crazy." The Bible says, "*the spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets.*" *1Corinthians 14:32*. This verse tells us that when we receive the gift of the Holy Spirit we are still in control. The Holy Spirit will not force us to do anything. The gifts He brings to our lives as a result of His indwelling presence are subject to our will. The Spirit may sometimes prompt us to pray or witness, but we still have the choice to act. It is subject to our willingness.

When the people of Israel came out of Egypt and were about to enter the Promised Land, they sent out spies to see what kind of land it was. When they came back, ten of the twelve spies brought back an evil report. The people became afraid and refused to enter the Promised Land and partake of the blessing of God. The Bible tells us that they didn't enter in because of their unbelief. They feared instead of believing God's promise. Those people never partook of the promise. We need to believe what God says about the gift of the Holy

Spirit and partake of His gift. If we fear, it will hinder us from partaking of what He has provided for us.

The Bible says that God is good and does good (See Psalm 119:68). He will not do evil to you if you put your trust in Him, only good. Make a decision to trust in Him and His word today and allow Him to bless you.

## Chapter 9

# ***Stand On The Promise***

*“And being assembled together with them, He (Jesus) commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father,” Acts 1:4.*

In this passage of the Bible, we see that Jesus said that the baptism in the Holy Spirit was a promise. God promised it to all those who would believe on Jesus. Unlike humans, when God promises something, it will come to pass. The Bible also says, “All the promises of God are in Him (Jesus Christ) Yes, and in Him Amen.” 2Corinthians 1:20. This means we can trust all God’s promises to us and stand on His word. If we are struggling to receive, we can rest assured that it will come to pass because He promised. We don’t give up. If the devil comes to us to steal our blessing and speak lies to us, we can quote the promise. It is written, “wait for the Promise.” We can hold our

ground. We can take the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, and fight off the devil's lies.

When the people heard the Gospel in the book of Acts, they asked Peter what they should do. The following is the account of Peter's reply:

*“Then Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let every one of you be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.’” Acts 2:38-39.*

We can learn a lot from this passage of the Bible. First of all Peter says that everyone who is a believer *shall* receive. That makes it a promise. Everywhere you see the words ‘shall’ or ‘will’ in the Bible, it's a promise. Peter didn't doubt it, neither should we. Then he said that the promise is to *all*. He didn't say some would receive, but that *all* would receive. He didn't say only the Pentecostals, or the Charismatics, or the Jews, but *all*. You and I are included in that ‘all.’ Jesus said that we could not come to Him unless the Father called us (see John.6:44.). The fact that we believe in Jesus shows us that we have been called to receive all that God has for us. That includes the baptism in the Spirit. We can therefore stand on these

scriptures and confess, “God promised it to me, so I shall receive it.” We can thank him for it even before we see it manifest, because He promised it. Why not thank and praise God for it now, confessing that it is yours through faith in Him?

God promised things to people in the Bible, and they received them. One great example is when God promised to Moses that He was going to deliver the Israelites from the bondage of the Egyptians. He did exactly as He said. Moses travelled back to Egypt and went before Pharaoh. At first it seemed the promise wasn't coming to pass. Pharaoh refused to let the children of Israel go. Sometimes there can be a period after the time the promise is given to the moment it is fulfilled. In the case of Moses and the children of Israel, it took ten wonders; but the promise was fulfilled. Pharaoh did let the people go.

It won't take the same amount of time for us to receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit, but there might be a little waiting. In any case we need to stand on God's word.

## *Chapter 10*

# **Do It The Bible Way**

Some people say, “If God wants to give it to me, then I can receive it in my bedroom or in my car.” That is very true...God can and does baptise people in the Spirit when they are alone. But this is usually the exception, not the rule.

When Philip was at Samaria, the Bible tells us that Peter and John went down because the Holy Spirit had not as yet fallen on any of them.

*“Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid*

*hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.” Acts 8:14-17.*

The apostles laid hands on those who received the Holy Spirit. If someone needs the baptism in the Spirit, he should go to someone who is already baptised in the Spirit (usually his pastor or an evangelist) and ask that person to pray for him and lay hands on him so he can receive. The laying on of hands is always associated with transference. In the Old Testament the High Priest laid his hands on the goat on the Day of Atonement, and the sins of the people were transferred to the animal. When Jesus laid His hands on sick people, the Bible says that power went out from Him. Jesus transferred healing power by laying His hands on the sick.

We should always look to Jesus for the baptism in the Holy Spirit and not to man. John the Baptist said that Jesus would baptise in the Holy Spirit. When we ask someone to pray for us, we must remember that that person stands in the place of Jesus; but it is Jesus who gives us the Spirit not the man or woman praying for us.

We should never look to some physical manifestation other than the gift of tongues as the evidence that the Spirit has been poured out. Many times there are physical manifestations as the power of God is released. Some people may fall down under the power of God, or some shake as

the Spirit fills a person. Some people feel a manifestation of heat or electricity, but these are not necessary. The only manifestation that can prove that we have received is when we speak in an unknown tongue. When I received the baptism in the Spirit I experienced many wonderful manifestations. I felt the Spirit come into me like liquid flowing electricity. But as I have travelled in various countries and laid my hands on countless people, both young and old, many receive the Spirit and speak in tongues without any feeling or manifestation other than speaking in tongues.

The purpose of the baptism in the Spirit is twofold. The Bible says that we would be baptised in the Spirit and with fire. The Spirit empowers us to live the Christian life and to be witnesses of Jesus in this world. See Acts 1:8-9. The fire of the Holy Spirit (remember, tongues of fire settled on each of them in the upper room) is the purifying work of God. It sanctifies us from sin just as fire purifies gold. Therefore when someone is waiting for the Baptism, he should never look for feelings but the purpose for which Jesus wants to give it to us. It is to empower us and to purify us.

We must also go to someone who believes, not to someone who doubts. Faith releases God's power. There is no use in going to a person who, when it seems that nothing is happening, will only speak

doubt. Go to a faith-filled person, one full of the Holy Spirit.

## *Chapter 11*

# **Press Through**

Jesus said to His disciples to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with Power from on High. Many times people will not wait long enough and press through in prayer to receive. There are sometimes obstacles that have to be broken and dealt with before God can fill and immerse someone in His Spirit. See Luke 24:49.

I remember ministering in a church in Illinois. The pastor had just taken the position and wanted someone to come and minister at his church. He asked me to come for four days. On one night I preached on the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Lord led me to ask those who wished to receive the gift to come forward and kneel at the altar. I knew by the Spirit that some of them were battling unbelief, so I asked them to pray through. Then I asked those in the congregation who already had received and spoke in tongues to come forward and

kneel beside those wanting to be filled. I asked them to not give advice to those seeking but just to pray and wait with them. As I gently led them in seeking the infilling of the Spirit, one by one they all began to speak in tongues. There were seven in all. No one was left out.

When I administer the baptism in the Holy Spirit, I usually ask people to come forward and line up near the front of the church so I can lay hands on them. Mostly people begin to speak in tongues as the Spirit gives utterance after only a few moments of prayer. On a few occasions I have asked people who came forward for the gift to pray at the altar for a while. When I had finished praying with the other people, I came back to those people to press through with them. They needed to pray a little longer before they received. Sometimes there was demonic possession that had to be dealt with. Other times there needed to be deeper repentance or healing. Many people who have been involved in the occult need to renounce it and have the devil's power broken in their lives. Some youth who have saturated their minds with wicked music need to break through all the bondage that music brought. But if people will press through and deal with each thing that God brings to mind, they will receive.

I have ministered to so many in this way, and it is just glorious to see the tremendous results. We are so used to the instant fix and the microwave lifestyle

that sometimes we don't have the patience to help those who are struggling to receive.

If you have struggled to receive in the past, don't think for one minute that God won't give it to you. Just seek Jesus faithfully and allow Him to work on your heart. Pray and maybe fast and ask God to show you what is hindering the full manifestation of His Spirit in your life. The Bible promises that *"those who seek Him with their whole heart, will find Him."* Deuteronomy 4:29.

## *Chapter 12*

# **Step Out In Faith And Move Your Mouth**

As a last word we need to remember that the Holy Spirit wants our cooperation. The Bible says, *“they all spoke in tongues as the Holy Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4.* The Bible says that *they* spoke, not the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit gave them the utterance (ability), but they did the speaking. Speaking in tongues requires an act of faith on our part. When our Lord healed he always asked people to do something. He asked the lame man to pick up his bed and walk. He asked the lepers to “go show yourselves to the priests.” In the same way we must do something to see the power of God released. We must do the speaking.

How does it work? The gift of tongues comes directly from the Holy Spirit, through our spirit, to our tongue. Paul, when writing to the Corinthians, said *“when I pray in a tongue, my mind is unfruitful.”*

*1Corinthians 14:14.* That means that we don't use our minds. Our brain does not first receive the words and we simply repeat them. No, we speak directly from the Spirit. We are not learning a language like someone might learn French or German. This means that we yield our tongue to Him. I often encourage people, when I pray for them to receive and I sense that they are receiving, to speak in tongues as I begin to speak in tongues. As soon as they start speaking, I stop and encourage them to continue to allow the flow of the gift to manifest. This inspires their faith. Then I encourage them to pray often, many times every day.

The gift of tongues can be a known or unknown language. *1Corinthians 13:1* says, "If I speak with the tongues of men or of angels". That shows us that it can be either. It has happened that people standing close to someone speaking in tongues have heard them in their own language. This happened on the day of Pentecost when the 120 received the Spirit. The people close by said, "how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? We hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God." *Acts 2:9,11.* The 120 were praising God in the language of the Spirit and people standing by heard them. Now, the speaking in tongues recorded here was not preaching, as some people say, but praising. If it were preaching, then Peter would have had no

need to preach. Peter explained what was happening and used it as an opportunity to preach Jesus to them.

When I was a young boy I remember hearing this passage of Scripture read at church. The church that I went to believed that this gift died with the apostles. They never preached that we could have this today. But even as a young boy I knew that someone, somewhere, must be speaking in tongues. So I prayed for it. When I went to my first Full Gospel meeting, where I also surrendered my life to Jesus as Lord and Saviour, I heard people speaking and singing in tongues. I was so thrilled when I heard it. I knew that this couldn't happen unless God was present. I was converted to Jesus that day and felt His tremendous power. Soon afterward I desired to be filled with the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Several times I asked people to lay hands on me for the baptism in the Spirit, but nothing happened. I was feeling a little bit discouraged and had difficulty believing that I would get it. Day after day I read the Bible finding out everything I could about the gifts of the Spirit. One night a lady prayed for me, and two words in a language I had never learned came out of my mouth. I was so thrilled. Walking home that night I continued saying the two words that I could say. Suddenly I began to speak a stream of words that I had never heard before. The flowed and flowed until I realised where I was. So I walked briskly

home and went to my room. There I spoke in tongues for several hours until I was convinced that it wouldn't go away. I had little faith in those days.

The Bible says that when I speak in tongues I build myself up. 1Corinthians 14:4. I know that when I don't know how to pray for something or run out of things to say to God I can pray in tongues. This allows me to pray for long periods of time. When I feel empty I can build myself up by praying in the spirit. What a great blessing! It is my prayer for everyone who reads this book, that they too, shall experience the fullness of the gift of God in their lives. Amen.

## ***Prayer***

Dear Lord Jesus, I thank you for offering to me the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Humbly I seek you to fill me just like in the days of the apostles. I surrender my whole being to you. Empower me to witness for you through the power of the Holy Spirit; and give me the gift of speaking in tongues so I can pray more effectively. Jesus, I believe your promise and expect to receive, in your holy name, Amen.

## About the Author

Patrick Hoban is a native of Ireland where he had a profound conversion experience in 1987. Patrick was mentored in the gifts of the Spirit by a local businessman, Al Ryan with whom he traveled across Ireland ministering in small meetings. In 1990 he moved to the continent of Europe to work. After living two years Patrick felt the leading of God to go into full-time ministry.

Since that time Patrick has travelled to four continents and has conducted large open-air meetings to crowds of more than 35,000. He has been the main speaker in countless churches across American, Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Patrick Hoban is noted for his leadership skills and his apostolic gift and has mentored and encouraged many to become leaders in the body of Christ. In 2000 he planted a successful church in the suburbs of Chicago which he led for 12 years.

Currently he resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA





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**PATRICK HOBAN**

Patrick Hoban  
P. O. Box 23626  
Minneapolis, MN, USA

[www.patrickhoban.com](http://www.patrickhoban.com)

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