DR. BILL HAMON

SEVENTY REASONS FOR SPEAKING IN TONGUES

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YOUR OWN BUILT IN SPIRITUAL DYNAMO

DR. BILL Hamon

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DEDICATION

This book is written for the benefit of the 600 million Christians who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit's gift is the divine ability given to a Christian to pray in "other tongues" with a gifted spirit language. It is estimated that 90 percent of those who have received the gift of the Holy Spirit are familiar with less than 10 percent of the reasons for praying in tongues with their spirit languages.

This book is also dedicated to my wife and our three children who are major leaders in Christian International and to CI's great leaders around the world who kept the ministry functioning while I took the time to write this book. And finally, it is dedicated to my grandchildren and their generation, which has had little teaching on the value and purpose of speaking in one's spirit language.

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THE PURPOSE OF THIS BOOK

More than 600 million Christians have received the gift of the Holy Spirit, yet most do not utilize this precious gift to its full potential. And many who do speak in tongues on a regular basis do not fully understand all the benefits this gift brings. This book is being written primarily for these believers, but hopefully many who have not received the gift that the Holy Spirit has for them will also be enlightened enough to believe and receive the gift.

I am also concerned about the new generation—that of my grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Many books were written about speaking in tongues during the Charismatic Movement in the 1960s and 1970s. However, most of those books are no longer in print. The majority of Pentecostal and Charismatic ministers currently do very little teaching and preaching on the gift of the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues. They rarely preach on all the benefits and purposes for praying in tongues. Seeing the current lack of teaching and books on God's purpose in giving Christians a spirit language was my main motivation for writing this book at this time.

In the 1950s and 1960s, I preached much on the Holy Spirit and prayed for thousands who received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Since that time, I must admit that I haven't preached on the value and benefits of praying with one's spirit language as often, though I have made comments about this subject in my other messages. Most of my preaching over the course of my ministry has focused on the restoration of the Church and the present moves of God. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was the main truth that was taught in the Pentecostal Movement in the first decade of the 1900s and the Charismatic Movement in the 1960s. I have focused more on pioneering and preaching the Prophetic-Apostolic Movement, which began in the 1980s; the Saints Movement, which is now underway; and the Third and Final Church Reformation.¹

Now it has become apparent that revelation about the gift of the believer's spirit language needs to again become a priority in the Body of Christ. Recently I have taught most of what I have written in this book to the students at Christian International's Ministry Training College. I believe there is definitely a need to put the various teaching and preaching on this subject together into one volume to reveal all God's purposes for baptizing His believers with the Holy Spirit.

The purpose of this book is to enlighten Christians to the many and varied ways God intends for believers to use their spirit languages. I will cover the scriptural reasons given for praying in our spirit language. I will pull from my years of being a Spirit-baptized believer who has had many experiences in praying and ministering in my spirit language and from fifty-eight years of praying for thousands of Christians who received the Holy Spirit's gift of their own spirit languages.

WHAT IS "BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT" OR "THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?"

A Christian is "baptized with the Holy Spirit" and receives "the gift of the Holy Spirit" when the Holy Spirit gifts his or her

redeemed spirit with the ability to pray in a spirit language. The spirit language originates from and is directed by the person's baptized spirit, which means his or her spirit has been immersed in the Holy Spirit. The spirit language is given by the Holy Spirit and directed by the Holy Spirit.

Paul, the apostle, explained that praying in the spirit language is a function of the mind of the spirit and not the natural mind. When we pray in tongues our praying originates and flows from our inner spirit and not from our natural mind. It is not a learned language, but a gift from the Holy Spirit. The natural mind does not understand it. "For if I pray in tongues, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful" (1 Cor. 14:14).

Approximately 90 percent of all that the Bible says about speaking in tongues comes from the writings of Apostle Paul. He spoke in tongues more than anyone else he knew: "I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all" (1 Cor. 14:18). That is the reason Paul wrote more about speaking in tongues and the proper use of this gift than all the rest of the biblical authors. Paul is the greatest authority on the value and purpose of our spirit language.

DIFFERENT TERMS AND PHRASES BUT THE SAME GIFT

The Bible writers used different phrases to refer to the same experience and operation. The King James Version of the Bible calls it "speaking in other tongues" and "unknown tongues." Apostle Paul also called it "praying in the spirit" or "praying with the spirit." Other terms Jesus, Peter, and Paul used to refer to this experience include:

- » the Promise of the Father
- » another Helper
- » Comforter

- » Spirit of Truth
- » gift of the Holy Spirit
- » baptism of the Holy Spirit
- » praying in unknown tongues
- » praying in tongues
- » other tongues
- » praying with the spirit
- » praying in the spirit

The expression and term that best expresses and includes the meaning of all the other terms is our "language of the spirit" or our "spirit language." I will use "spirit language" most frequently in this book to describe the gifted ministry of praying in other tongues.

THE TERMS "PENTECOSTAL" AND "CHARISMATIC"

The Pentecostal organizations called this divine experience "the baptism of the Holy Spirit," "speaking in unknown Tongues," and "the gift of the Holy Spirit." They were called "Pentecostals" because they preached that one could receive the same gift that the early Church received on the Day of Pentecost.

The Charismatic Movement ministers called this divine experience the *charismata* with *glossalalia* which caused them to be called "Charismatics." The terms the Charismatics used came from the Greek words *charismata* (meaning "the gift") and *glossalalia* (meaning "tongues"), which is another way of saying praying in an unknown tongue.

At the present time when anyone asks a Spirit-baptized person, "What type of Christian are you?" they will often say "Charismatic."

A true Charismatic Christian is one who has received the gift of the Holy Spirit with speaking in other tongues. He or she has been born again by the Spirit of God and baptized in the Holy Spirit with his own spirit language.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE HUMAN SPIRIT

When the Bible spells the word "Spirit" with a capital "S" it is speaking of the deity of the Holy Spirit. When it uses the lower case "s" it is speaking of the human spirit. The lower case is used for spirit language because it is our redeemed and Holy Spirit-baptized human spirit that is doing the praying. Our spirit language is motivated, covered, and directed by the Holy Spirit, yet it is my spirit or your spirit that is actually doing the praying. This is similar to prophets prophesying or believers operating in the gift of prophecy: the Holy Spirit inspires the person to speak the prophetic words, but the person does the actual speaking. In the initial receiving of the Holy Spirit's gift, the disciples spoke in tongues "as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4); that is, He gave them the ability to pray in a spirit language from their newly baptized spirits. Paul explains it this way, "If I pray in tongues, my spirit prays" (1 Cor. 14:14).

So why does Paul say that it is his spirit praying in tongues? The Bible says in First Corinthians 6:17 that he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit. Our born-again, baptized spirit becomes united with the Holy Spirit, who has the mind of Christ and His Spirit enables us to pray from the mind of Christ and not from our natural minds.

When I teach on this subject I ask the audience, "When you pray in tongues is it your spirit praying or the Holy Spirit praying?" Most of the time everyone will raise their hands in agreement that it is the Holy Spirit praying. I will then have them read what the Scripture says about speaking in tongues in First

Corinthians 14:14-15, "My spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful. What is the conclusion then? I [me, my redeemed spirit] will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding..." The Holy Spirit does not replace our spirit and do the speaking, but He gifts our spirit to direct our speaking in the language of the spirit.

NATURAL VERSUS SPIRITUAL

The children of Israel are God's chosen natural people. The Church saints are God's chosen spiritual people. Israel is a natural race of natural people. The Church is a supernatural race of spiritual people. Christians have a supernatural birth by the Spirit, supernatural baptism with the Spirit, supernatural grace and gifts of the Holy Spirit. What does it mean to be spiritual? It means you are born again by the Spirit, baptized in the Spirit, filled with the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, and live in the Spirit.

God made man like Himself: three in one. God is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three different functions or beings of the one God. Adam, the first man, was made body, soul, and spirit. Paul prayed for the Thessalonian Christians: "May the God of peace himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Thess. 5:23). The Bible speaks of people being spiritual=spirit, soulish=natural self, and carnal=physical senses. I often say, "I am a spirit with a body, not a body with a spirit." This means my spirit directs and controls my body. My body is the car and my spirit is the driver. The Bible says my spirit is hidden with Christ in God (see Col. 3:3).

The Scriptures exhort us to be filled with the Spirit, live in the Spirit, walk in the Spirit, be led of the Spirit, have the fruit of the Spirit, manifest the gifts of the Spirit, and go from glory to glory until we are transformed into His same image by the Spirit of the Lord. And we live the life of Christ and manifest His works

"not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,' says the Lord of hosts" (Zech. 4:6). Our spirit language is the major key that unlocks the door to our spirit life and all of the attributes and manifestations of the Holy Spirit. The whole Christian life is lived and empowered by the Word of God and the Spirit of God. The promises of God and the attributes of the Spirit are appropriated by faith. Our spirit language brings enlightenment on the Word and produces the fruit and manifestations of the Spirit. This book will contain many illustrations that reveal all the blessings and ministries that are involved in speaking in tongues in our spirit language.

A TESTIMONY OF REST

One of the couples who serves on my Board of Governors, Heeth and Jacqueline Varnedoe, wrote the following testimony. Heeth was president of a multi-billion dollar corporation before he retired. Jacqueline is a dignified, stately, southern Christian lady. This testimony comes from her new book, *Come Walk With Me*:

Speaking in tongues carries many benefits for our spiritual lives. The more I speak in tongues, the more I flow as one with the Holy Spirit. When I am exhausted and weary, praying in tongues brings refreshing to my spirit and soul. It is like being in a flowing river on a hot day. Along with delving into God's Word and spending quality time with Jesus on a daily basis, speaking in tongues is one of the best ways to get refreshed.²

Apostle Paul applied Isaiah 28:11-12 to the experience of speaking in tongues in First Corinthians 14:21. Isaiah prophesied, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest,' and, 'This is the refreshing.'" Speaking in tongues causes the river of God to flow through us, bringing refreshing and rest in the Lord (see John 7:37-39).

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Prophesied by Prophets—Promised by Jesus Prophesied:

Whom will he teach knowledge? And whom will he make to understand the message? Those just weaned from milk? Those just drawn from the breasts? For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, Line upon line, line upon line, Here a little, there a little. For with stammering lips and another tongue He will speak to this people, To whom He said, "This is the rest with which You may cause the weary to rest," And, "This is the refreshing"; Yet they would not hear (Isaiah 28:9-12).

Fulfilled:

In the law it is written: "With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak to this people; And yet, for all that, they will not hear Me," says the Lord. Therefore tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophesying is not for unbelievers but for those who believe (1 Corinthians 14:21-22).

Prophesied:

And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your old men shall dream dreams, Your young men shall see visions. And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days (Joel 2:28-29).

Fulfilled:

But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men

shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy (Acts 2:16-18).

Prophesied:

I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them (Ezekiel 36:27).

Fulfilled:

The Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you (John 14:17).

Prophesied:

I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire (Matthew 3:11).

Fulfilled:

Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 11:16).

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 anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?" (Acts 10:45-47)

Prophesied by Jesus:

On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me

and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified (John 7:37-39).

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you (John 14:16, 17, 26).

But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me (John 15:26).

Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you (John 16:7).

Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high (Luke 24:49).

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 baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now. But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem,

and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth (Acts 1:4-5, 8).

Fulfilled:

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 (Acts 2:1-4).

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 baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:14-17).

And Ananias went his way and entered the house; and laying his hands on him he said, "Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you came, has sent me that you may receive your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 9:17).

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." And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?" So they said, "Into John's baptism." Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance,

saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus." When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied (Acts 19:1-6).

PROMISED TO ALL FOR ALL GENERATIONS

The people who heard Peter's preaching on the Day of Pentecost at the outpouring of the Holy Spirit were convicted of their sins. They cried out to Peter asking, "What must we do to get right with God and receive the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit you have just experienced?"

Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized 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).

ENDNOTES

- 1. Bill Hamon, *Prophetic Scriptures Yet to Be Fulfilled* (Shippensburg, PA: Destiny Image, 2010).
- 2. Jacqueline Varnedoe, *Come Walk With Me* (Tulsa, OK: Word and Spirit Resources, 2010), 61-62.

WAITING FOR THE PROMISE

MAINTAINING BUT WITH MANY QUESTIONS

Peter, James, John, and the other apostles and disciples had been waiting for seven days in an upper room in Jerusalem. Each day they had all been continually meeting together, seeking the Lord and praising God. Nevertheless, I'm sure they had many unanswered questions. What was the real purpose for their gathering together in one place and waiting? What were they waiting for? How long would they have to wait and how would they know when they had received "the Promise of the Father?" They were simply following Jesus' last commandment, "He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4).

The following is how I imagine the events described in Acts 2 unfolded. The disciples only knew that just seven days ago they had watched Jesus ascend to Heaven. Yet just before He ascended, He had commanded them to go back to Jerusalem and wait until the Father's Promise came. Peter remembered that Jesus did not make a suggestion, but an emphatic definite command. He emphasized that this was the most important thing they needed to do. He had charged them earlier to go into all the world and

preach the gospel to every creature. Now, the last thing Jesus had said was, "Don't try to fulfill the great commission until you are endued with power from on high." He told them to wait until they were baptized with the Holy Ghost and fire. But they were wondering how long they would have to wait, and how they would know when the Promise had arrived.

The disciples had risen early that morning, just a little before dawn, got themselves ready, and gathered together again. The apostles began to reminisce about how they had come to this time and place. They discussed among themselves how Jesus had called each of them to be one of His special chosen disciples, whom Jesus called "apostles." Impulsive and inquisitive, Apostle Peter asked the others if they could remember anything that Jesus had said that would give them a clue as to what they were waiting to receive. Matthew remembered that John the Baptist had preached that he was preparing the way for the Messiah. John had baptized men and women with the baptism of repentance, but told them that when the Son of God came He would baptize them with the Holy Ghost and fire.

John spoke up and said, "I remember Jesus saying that if we would fully believe on Him, out of our innermost being would flow rivers of living water. But Jesus said that He was talking about the Holy Spirit baptism, which He had not yet given to us because He had not ascended back to the Father. I remember Jesus saying emphatically that it was necessary and in our best interest for Him to leave this world, for if He did not, then the Holy Spirit could not be given to us." John continued, "I also have in my notes several things He promised while He was with us. He promised He would send us another Comforter, a divine Helper who would bring all things to our remembrance and teach us new truth by illuminating our minds with revelation. And He would give us power to do His works. In fact, I remember Him saying that if

we believed in Him, we would also be able to do the miraculous works He was doing, and even greater works."

James began expressing his memories, "We all experienced the full-time fellowship we had with Jesus for the last three years. We had great expectations that He was the Messiah whom the rabbis had spoken of for years; that He would come and restore Israel to be a sovereign nation as it was in the days of King David and Solomon." James recalled, "When we asked Jesus about that just before He ascended, He told us not to be concerned about that at this time, but to go back to Jerusalem and wait 'until....' At this moment we still do not know what that 'until' involves—wait until what, when, and where?"

Thomas chimed in, "I remember how disappointed and heart-broken we all were when our Jesus, whom we had trusted and followed faithfully for three and a half years, was crucified and buried." He paused. "I know I was completely discouraged and disillusioned over the whole thing. But then He appeared to many of you in His resurrected body, only I was not present. When you told me you had seen Jesus arisen and alive, I said that I would not believe He was resurrected unless I saw Him in that same body with the nail prints in His hand and the spear cut in His side."

Thomas continued, "Do you remember how He appeared again when I was there? He said to me, 'Thomas, see My hands and side, place your fingers there and touch Me and see that this is the same flesh and bone body, except now it has been resurrected into a glorified immortal human body. I am the same One who was walking and talking with you just a short time ago.' I was so overwhelmed and convinced that I cried out, 'My Lord and my God!' I am just as convinced now that since He commanded us to wait until we received that which would empower us, He will be faithful to send it in His timing and purpose."

Peter spoke up, "What else can we do? We have replaced Judas' apostleship with Mathias, which restores our number back to

twelve which is the number Jesus wanted and appointed. We have searched the Scriptures and searched our minds to remember what Jesus taught and prophesied about our future and still we cannot figure out with our natural minds where, when, and how all that He promised is supposed to take place."

Peter spoke to Matthew, who, in his former profession, had been a tax collector who kept meticulous records, to check his notes one more time. Had Jesus revealed how many days they would have to wait or how they would know when they had received the Promise of the Father, the Helper, the Spirit of Truth, the baptism of the Holy Spirit? "All these descriptive statements and yet we do not know if these are several different experiences or different names for one experience that will be received during one event," said Peter.

Preparation for Sovereign Visitation

After all the confusion, wonderment, and discussion, the group decided that since they had stayed this long, they might as well continue to act on His command and keep waiting, regardless of how many days or weeks it may take before it all happened. Apostle John, the encourager, exhorted everyone, "Let us come together in unity and begin celebrating, for this is our Jewish Day of Pentecost. Our fellow Jews have gathered from the nations to come to Jerusalem to celebrate this day. It is to be a day of rejoicing and celebrating."

John continued to explain his thoughts to the 120 gathered together: "The feast of Pentecost takes place fifty days after the Passover. Jesus was crucified and buried in the grave for three days and three nights. He then arose from the grave and appeared to us many times during the next forty days, and it was seven days ago that He gathered us all together at the Mount of Olives. About 500 people were there and heard His last words and then watched

Jesus ascend up and out of our sight into Heaven. Only 120 of us obeyed His command and have daily gathered together waiting for His prophetic promise to be fulfilled. Let us all in unison begin to praise God for His faithfulness to fulfill His promises and especially for Jesus Christ. He is our promised Messiah who was crucified and rose again in order to fulfill His promise and accomplish His purpose in us."

They all began singing, praising, and worshiping God, and they continued until something suddenly happened.

THE PROMISED GIFT—NOT THE NOISE, WIND, OR FIRE BUT OTHER TONGUES

The sun had been up for awhile, and now it was about eight o'clock in the morning. As they were waiting on God in worship and praise, suddenly there came a sound like a rushing mighty wind. It sounded like the roar of a twisting tornado! Peter opened his eyes and looked over at John and asked, "Do you hear that tremendous sound of rushing wind?" John replied, "I not only hear it, but I see the women's hair blowing about their heads."

Matthew joined in by raising his voice above the roaring sound, "This is all exciting, but I don't think this is the Promise. Jesus said nothing about noise or wind, but He did say something about fire."

Peter excitedly shouted over the roar of the wind to Matthew, "Maybe that flame of fire several feet high that just appeared on the top of your head is the promised fire!" As everyone looked around, each of the 120 had a flame of fire hovering over them. From a distance it looked like the whole upper room was on fire, for the flaming light was brighter than the sun.

John spoke, saying, "These flames of fire are wonderful to see and thrilling to experience, but still I do not think this is what Jesus promised. He said it would come to be 'in us and

flow out of us like a river' and that would be the promised gift of the Holy Spirit."

THE PROPHETIC PROMISE FINALLY FULFILLED

Before John could finish talking, suddenly the Holy Spirit came into each one of them, and they all began to speak in tongues. One moment John was speaking in Hebrew, and in the next instant he was speaking in other tongues. The Holy Spirit had just baptized them by giving each person present in the upper room his or her own spirit language.

They all continued speaking in tongues over the next hour. Their time of persistently waiting had paid off. The Promise had been sent, the Holy Spirit had come, and the gift of the Holy Spirit was now received and activated into manifestation. The river of living water was flowing out of their innermost beings. It was a river of abundant life and such joy that it could not be expressed in their native tongue but was being expressed with their spirit languages. There was such a surge of power that they spoke out in tongues loudly and for a long time. It was so fulfilling and satisfying, after having to wait so long, that it made them desirous to continuously pray, praise, and magnify God with their new spirit languages.

SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATION ATTRACTS PEOPLE

While the 120 believers in the upper room were excitedly praising God in their new languages of the Spirit, things were happening in the streets below. Jerusalem was full of people, as many Jews from outside the city had come to participate in the Feast of Pentecost. The great roaring sound of wind and the brilliant light of 120 flames of fire that preceded the disciples receiving

the gift of the Holy Spirit had attracted a great crowd of people. The wind and fire had faded away, but the noise of the 120 praying in tongues could be heard for blocks in all directions. Several thousand Jews gathered around the building with the majority in the big open area in the front.

The newly baptized disciples had been speaking in tongues for almost an hour when the sound of the crowd from below penetrated Peter's conscious mind. He walked out onto the balcony and was surprised to see a great crowd of people had gathered. Some were yelling, "What's happening up there?" Others were saying, "They all must be drunk to be acting that way and making that much noise." Others replied, "They are not likely to be drunk as it is only nine o'clock in the morning. People do not gather to get drunk in the morning, but at night."

Then the crowd began to quiet down and listen more intently. They were amazed at what they were hearing! It was not just non-sensical noise; the listeners could understand what some of the believers were saying. The crowd consisted of Jews from many nations who spoke not only Hebrew, but also the languages of the nations in which they were born. They were amazed, for each Jew heard some of the 120 speaking in his national home language. The amazing thing was that all those speaking in the different languages were Galileans, and the majority of them only knew one learned language.

The doubters and skeptics among the crowd were still ridiculing, mocking, and accusing the disciples of being drunk or something similar. But the majority were saying, "That cannot be the case. This is creating a holy, peaceful atmosphere, and the ones we can understand are speaking words describing the wonderful works of their Jehovah God. They are praising His majestic glory and glorious power." They began to say, "This is something mighty to behold. But what does it mean?"

PREACHING EXPLAINS WHAT HAS PROPHETICALLY HAPPENED

When Peter stepped out onto the big balcony, he listened for a while to what the crowd was saying. He felt inspired to answer their inquiries and explain to them what was happening. The other apostles joined Peter on the balcony as he began to preach to that great gathering of Jews. He preached a long message, some of which is not recorded, but the following are some highlights of what was recorded. Peter proclaimed to these Jews that Jesus Christ of Nazareth was their long-awaited Messiah, but their leaders had Him crucified. Jesus was crucified, but He rose again. Peter quoted several Scriptures to prove that Jesus was the Messiah.

He then prophetically explained to them, "What you are seeing and hearing is a fulfillment of the prophecy of the Prophet Joel, what John the Baptist prophesied, and what Jesus prophetically promised." He explained it this way, "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. Therefore, being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear." Peter said in his closing comments, "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

When they heard his anointed message, great conviction came upon them and they cried out to Peter, "What shall we do? What must we do to take away our guilt and sin and receive the wonderful gift of the Holy Spirit that you have been manifesting?"

A TRUTH AND PROMISE FOR ALL GENERATIONS

Peter's answer to the inquiring Jews has become an established truth for all generations: "Everyone of you must repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of

sins, and then you can receive this gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is unto you and to all future generations. For as many as the Lord shall call for salvation are also called to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

About 3,000 people in the crowd believed and were baptized in the name of their newly discovered Messiah and Savior, Jesus Christ. In one day the Church was born as the number of believers grew from 120 to 3,000. This fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that a nation would be born at once in one day (see Isa. 65:8). This all happened because of God's Promise, Jesus' provision, man's preparation, and Heaven's participation.

HEAVEN'S VIEW AND PARTICIPATION

Whenever God does something special on the earth, His heavenly host of angels work with Him. Certain activities on earth cause corresponding activity in the heavenlies. Several illustrations in both the Old and New Testaments reveal this reality.

When the four leprous men in Two Kings chapter seven started marching toward the Syrian army, Heaven's angelic army began marching above them in the heavenly realm. God allowed the Syrians to hear the sound of a million soldiers marching, the sound of horses and chariots, and the thunderous shouts of warriors. The sound was so frightening that they fled for their lives leaving everything behind. The four leprous men came and gathered some of the Syrian army's wealth and then let the besieged city of Samaria know about the abundance (see 2 Kings 7:1-29).

David received direction from the Lord on how to win his battle against the Philistines. God told him he would know the time to launch the battle—it would be when the heavenly angelic armies began to advance against His enemies. This is the way King David would know they were positioned above him in the heavenlies and moving toward the battle: he would hear and see the tops of the mulberry trees swaying forward as if a strong wind

was blowing. When David saw that, he and his army engaged the Philistines in battle and won a great victory. In the spirit world, God's angelic army defeated the evil army of Satan's angels that was with the Philistines, while on earth David and his warrior soldiers defeated the Philistine soldiers (see 1 Chron. 14:8-17).

When Prophetess Deborah and General Barak fought with Sisera, commander of the Canaanite army, God's heavenly army and nature worked with them to win the battle. God's heavenly army provided the air force while Deborah's human army provided the ground troops who destroyed the evil army and possessed the land (see Judg. 4:1-24).

At the most important event ever to take place on planet earth, a great multitude of angels flooded the area around Bethlehem during the birth of Jesus. They extended all the way from the manger in Bethlehem to outside the city where shepherds were tending their sheep (see Luke 2:8-20).

ANGELS ARE WARRIORS AND MINISTERS FOR THE HEIRS OF GOD'S SALVATION

The Bible says that God's angelic spirit beings are commissioned to minister to those members of God's humankind creation who are called to receive and demonstrate His great salvation (see Heb. 1:13-14; 2:2-3). Angels make divine announcements, war against evil forces, clear the atmosphere, and saturate it with God's presence for the fulfilling of God's purposes (see Luke 1:26-38; Dan. 9:21; 10:13). With this biblical insight concerning angels and their participation in God's work on earth, let us go back in time to the Day of Pentecost where all of Heaven was in attendance and involved in the birth of Jesus' beloved Church.

As all of the heavenly host had been present and participating at the birth of Jesus, now they were all gathered at Jerusalem for the birth of Jesus' beloved Church. The Holy Spirit had already arrived with His gift that would empower the new Spirit-born Church to begin immediately talking in their spirit languages. We will now view what was taking place in the heavenlies while the Church was being birthed on earth.

HEAVEN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE BIRTH OF THE CHURCH

For the past fifty days there had been much more angelic activity around Jerusalem than usual. But as the sun began to rise on the Day of Pentecost, multitudes of angels began descending from Heaven. Mighty divisions of the armies of Heaven began to position themselves to participate in the great event that would take place this day in Jerusalem. Heaven had been watching and listening to the small group gathered in the upper room. A short time after eight in the morning, the disciples ceased their discussions and joined together in unity and accord to praise and magnify God.

Suddenly, God the Father raised His hand to signal that the appointed time had arrived. Jesus, the Commander of all the heavenly armies, gave an excited commanding shout, "The time has arrived for the birthing of My beloved Church, which I purchased with My own blood!" The Archangel Michael, the general of the angelic army, positioned himself to lead the army. The Archangel Gabriel lifted his special events trumpet to his lips and began trumpeting the appointed time. Millions of angels began descending straight down from Heaven like a great waterfall heading straight for the upper room in Jerusalem.

As the angels descended toward the upper room, they suddenly exploded into all directions. With light brighter than the sun, it looked like an atomic bomb exploded. The divine light removed all the spiritual darkness as the rising sun had removed all natural darkness. The force of the great army of angels moving out in all

directions cleared the atmosphere of all evil forces and saturated the area with the presence of God. A portion of the angels fulfilled their assignments by roaring into the room on the wind of the Spirit. Other angels carried flames of fire, which they placed on the heads of each of the disciples.

The Holy Spirit flooded into the upper room and baptized everyone, giving each believer his or her gift of other tongues, which enabled them to begin speaking the wonderful works of God in a new spirit language.

THE PATTERN AND PRACTICES REMAIN THE SAME

When God gave Moses the pattern for the Tabernacle, He commanded him to make sure he made it exactly according to the pattern. God gave Moses the Law and all of its ceremonies, sacrifices, and feasts, which were to be practiced during the dispensation, or age, of the Law. The dispensation of the Law ended when the age of the Church began. The Law became the Old Covenant of God with His Israelite people while God's New Covenant was with His new people called the Church. The Church Age started when Jesus came and purchased the Church with His blood, authorized it by His resurrection, and birthed and empowered it on the Day of Pentecost with His Holy Spirit (see Acts 20:28; Rom. 1:4; Acts 1:4, 8; 2:4).

The age of the mortal Church will continue until the second coming of Christ Jesus. When Jesus returns, He will resurrect and translate the mortal Church into the immortal Church. The pattern, principles, and spiritual practices that are established at the beginning of a new covenant of God remain the same during the duration of that covenant. All the teachings, practices, and spiritual experiences of the Church, as recorded in the New Testament of the Bible, are for the entirety of the mortal Church Age.

The Church started with its members speaking in tongues. Believers have continued receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the ability to pray in a spirit language, and the Church will finish with praying in tongues. Speaking in tongues was a practice established in the foundation of the Church. First John 5:8 says there are three things that bear witness on the earth: the blood, the water, and the Spirit. The witness of the blood of Jesus comes with the baptism of repentance. The witness of water comes with water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus. The witness of the Spirit comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The doctrine of baptisms is the third of the six major doctrines of Christ, which are foundational blocks of the Christian faith (see Heb. 6:1-2). All three witnesses and baptisms are still valid and present practices in the Church.

The gift of one's spirit prayer language comes with the baptism of the Holy Spirit. The gift of the Holy Spirit is for every Christian to receive and practice, just as every Christian is to receive water baptism. The Holy Spirit's gift of speaking in tongues is part of the practices and doctrines of the New Testament Church. Therefore, it is essential that we be thoroughly established in the biblical truth of the gift of the Holy Spirit, its purpose, and all of the valuable benefits of praying in our spirit language.

ABOUT DR. BILL HAMON

Dr. Bill Hamon is co-founder with his wife, Evelyn, of Christian International Ministries (CI) which is involved in apostolic oversight in churches around the globe and has a world-wide presence in education and training. His many years of ministry experience provide a balanced, biblical approach to church restoration with focus on the offices of the prophet and apostle.

Dr. Hamon's family stands as a testimony to his character. He has been married fifty-seven years. Their three children and their spouses are ordained ministers, working full-time with them in the ministry and giving them eleven grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren (two more on the way) who are joyfully serving the Lord. This speaks loudly of the man, his message, and his ministry.

In addition to national conferences and ministry engagements wherein he personally ministers to thousands each year, Dr. Hamon has written several books revealing and bringing church restoration to the forefront, including *The Eternal Church, Prophets, Pitfalls and Principles, The Day of the Saints, Prophetic Scriptures Yet To Be Fulfilled,* and "Apostle Prophets and the Coming Moves of God".

Dr. Bill Hamon, Th.B., Th.M., D.D., is respected by church leaders around the world as a senior leader of the prophetic/apostolic company God is raising up in these last days.

- » 62 years as a born-again, Spirit-filled, baptized Christian.
- » 60 years as an ordained minister and has prayed for tens of thousands to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- » A Bishop to over 3,000 ministers and churches around the world.

» Bishop and his ministers have taught and trained over 250,000 Christians in spiritual ministry.

Through his fifty-eight years of ministry, Dr. Hamon has gained much insight to the value and purpose of praying in a spirit language which has enabled him to develop these seventy reasons for speaking in tongues.

1,000,000 Spirit Language Warriors

Read again Chapter 10 The Pages under Heading "Nothing is Accomplished Without Prayer" and Reason #57!

BE ONE OF THE 1.000.000

We are believing for One Million Saints around the world to pray thirty to sixty minutes every day in their spirit language; What power could we produce?

The Challenge goes out to:

- » Individual Christians
- » Apostles of Networks
- » Pastors of Churches
- » Watchman Intercessor Lists
- » Non-Profit Organizations
- » Facebook Friends

Everyone who has a list:

Contact them to commit to praying daily thirty to sixty minutes in tongues. Keep reporting to drbill@bishophamon.org the count of people that have committed to being an instrument of the Holy Spirit for thirty minutes every day.

The Holy Spirit wants 1,000,000 saints to pray thirty minutes a day in tongues with the spirit language that He gives to each believer.

IN THE RIGHT HANDS, THIS BOOK WILL CHANGE LIVES!

Most of the people who need this message will not be looking for this book. To change their lives, you need to put a copy of this book in their hands.

But others (seeds) fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundred-fold, some sixty-fold, some thirty-fold (Matthew 13:8).

Our ministry is constantly seeking methods to find the good ground, the people who need this anointed message to change their lives. Will you help us reach these people?

Remember this—a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who plants generously will get a generous crop (2 Corinthians 9:6).

EXTEND THIS MINISTRY BY SOWING
3 BOOKS, 5 BOOKS, 10 BOOKS, OR MORE TODAY,
AND BECOME A LIFE CHANGER!

Thank you,

Don Nori Sr., Founder

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