Be Filled With the Spirit

Kelly McDonald, Jr.

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The In this full length book, you will learn in-depth spiritual revelation on the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. You will learn more about this incredible gift from God. This book also has in-depth chapters on the gifts of the Spirit, the Fruits of the Spirit, and the Five Fold Ministry. The title of the book is "Restoring Spiritual Vision: A Guide to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

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You Have A Gift Waiting On You!

If you have repented of your sins, then you have received the Holy Spirit. You are a child of God the Father. There is a second blessing of the Holy Spirit called the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is also called the infilling of the Holy Spirit. When you receive the Holy Spirit at salvation, you have a well inside of you. This well is capped. When you are filled with the Spirit, the cap is removed and the Holy Spirit will rush out of you like a mighty river.

In the Bible, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is compared to both a well and a river. In John 4, Jesus walked up to a Samaritan woman at Jacob's well. He said to her, "If you knew the **gift** of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water" (John 4:10). In verses 13-14, He said, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water that I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." In John 7:37-38, Jesus said, "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water."

To have this well or river that flows out of us, we must be filled with the Spirit. In fact, one of the reasons Jesus came was to Baptize us with the Holy Spirit. John the Baptist said, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire" (Matthew 3:11). This is reiterated in Mark 1:8, Luke 3:16, and John 1:33. John the Baptist, who was a prophet of God, promised that this was going to come.

Jesus is our Savior, but He is also our Baptizer. He Baptizes us in the Spirit. Jesus Himself spoke of this Baptism in the verses above, but also in the book of Acts. Acts 1:4-5 reads, "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence."

In Acts 2:1-4, the Bible reads, "1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them." The disciples in Acts 2 were filled with the Spirit. As a result of this, they spoke in tongues. This is the outward evidence that the Holy Spirit of God was flowing out of them like a river of water.

Jesus said that this was a promise of the Father. He promised it and it was poured out upon the disciples. When this was poured out, the Apostle Peter said, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the **gift** of the Holy Spirit. The **promise** is for you and your children and for all who are far off-for all whom the Lord our God will call." (Acts 2:38-39). This Baptism of the Holy Spirit is also referred to as a gift from our Heavenly Father. On another occasion when the Baptism of the Holy Spirit was poured out, the Bible reads, "44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. 46 For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, 47 'Surely no one can stand in the way of their being baptized with water. They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.' 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days." (Acts 10:44-48). This Baptism of the holy spirit is called a gift in these verses. A gift is something that we receive not through working for it, but something given.

Our gracious Father has gifts for His children. It is a gift just between you and Him.

Are Tongues for Today?

There are some verses used by people and churches to say that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is non-existent. The first is I Corinthians 13:8-12: "8 Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. 11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. (or be fully known in the NIV)" Those with this view say that "...the perfect which is to come..." in these verses is a reference to the New Testament Cannon. They also say that Paul's reference to prophesy, tongues, and knowledge are references to the nine spiritual gifts listed in I Corinthians 12. Thus, they believe that the complete New Testament caused spiritual gifts to cease.

There are several problems with this view. First of all, when a writer of the Bible refers to the Bible, the writer always specifically calls it the Word of God, the Scriptures, or the writings. Sometimes more specific references are used such as the Psalms and Law. Since no mention of a holy text is given here, then this interpretation is incorrect. Secondly, perfection in these verses refers to humans being made perfect in the image of our Creator. In Hebrews 5:9 and Hebrews 7:19, the writer mentions Christ being made perfect. Since Paul was an apocalyptic Jew and believed in the resurrections, the perfection he references is the resurrection of the dead. At that time, a believer will not need to prophesy because they will be a resurrected spirit-being. They will be perfect like Jesus (I John 3:2). Third, the Bible says that everything must be confirmed by the testimony of two or three witnesses. There is not a second verse or set of verses to support the view that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is done away with. The combination of these facts means that the verses in I Cor 13.8-12 have

nothing to do with tongues. They speak of the future time of the resurrection.

Another verse often used to say that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is done away with is Ephesians 4:4-6, which reads, "There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (KJV). Based on these verses, many people say that there is only one baptism - the baptism in water. The problem with this is that Christ Himself spoke about this Baptism in the Holy Spirit, so it is a legitimate, valid experience. Paul is referring to being baptized in water in Ephesians. It is the one baptism necessary for salvation. The writer of Hebrews mentions that there are baptisms plural.

Hebrews 6:1-3

"1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, let us go on to perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, 2 of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment. 3 And this we will do if God permits."

The doctrine of baptisms (plural) is a foundation of the Christian faith. It is listed beside repentance, faith, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. It is not something we are supposed to neglect. The baptisms of water and the Holy Spirit are supposed to be fundamental teachings that all believers are familiar with. One of the reasons why Jesus came was to Baptize us with the Holy Spirit.

In Acts 18:24-26, a man named Apollos was ministering to a group of people. In Acts 18:25, it is written, "He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though **he knew only the Baptism of John**." In verse 26, the Bible records that Priscilla and Aquila invited this man of God to their home to explain to him

the way of God more adequately. Apollos only knew the Baptism of John. He needed to learn about this Baptism. This means there is another Baptism we need. We need the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is a precious promise of the Father.

Why Tongues?

As we reviewed in Chapter 1, being filled with the Spirit and the tongues that follow is a gift. Some people say that tongues is just one of many gifts. This discourages some believers from seeking this wonderful gift. In Acts 2:38-39, Peter said that the gift of the Holy Spirit is for all who are called. This means it is for everyone who is a Christian. While it is not necessary for salvation, it is important we realize that this gift is freely available to all believers who ask for it.

People are confused about this because Paul discussed nine specific gifts of the Spirit in I Corinthians 12. The Greek word used to describe these gifts is *charisma*, which refers to a free gift. The nine spiritual gifts are distributed so that not every person has all of them. Each person is given one or more of these gifts in which to operate. Jesus determines which gift each person receives. Paul identifies one of the gifts as "speaking in different kinds of tongues" or "various kinds of tongues" (RSV). Literally, this phrase means a different kind of tongues than what is commonly available. The fact that Paul uses this phrase denotes that there is a common form of tongues for everyone in the Body of Christ. There is a separate gift given to only certain believers which manifests differently. The kind that he is referencing in I Corinthians 12 is only for certain people in the Body of Christ. In verse 7, Paul says that these gifts are for the common good. This means that the gift of different kinds of tongues is to benefit other people.

The gift of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is for all believers. It is a personal gift that we share with the Father. Its chief benefit is to build up our personal faith in God. As Paul wrote, "Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves" (I Corinthians 14:4a). In Jude 1:20, Jude wrote, "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit." Praying in the Spirit is praying in tongues. We will examine this more in the next chapter. It builds up our confidence in God to trust and obey Him.

You might ask yourself: Why is it that God chooses to use the tongue for this gift? Think about the tongue for a minute. The human mouth is the main way that we communicate with other people. When people compliment you, you feel good. When people talk badly about you, you are hurt. The tongue can be used for good or bad. It's how we express what is within our heart and mind. When the Holy Spirit is flowing out of our heart like a river, it cannot be contained. Our tongue must speak because the Spirit of God is what we want to express. God wants to set apart the tongue so it can be used for Him. Instead of hurting others and ourselves, the tongue becomes a source of revelation and blessing. God wants us to use that part of our Body to communicate with Him

He wants to use the member which can cause the most damage to be used for the most good! He wants to ignite the tongue with His fire! God always wants to turn things inside out in our lives. Consider Saul (also called Paul). Paul was one of the biggest persecutors of the Church. He consented to the death of many Christians. This same Saul was chosen by Christ to be one of His Apostles. God wants to turn the things that cause the greatest damage and biggest source of conflict into the greatest source of blessing in our lives! Amen! When the Holy Spirit flows out of us like a river, the tongue is how we let that river flow into our surroundings.

The first language given by God was so that man could communicate with God. In Christ, we are a new creature (2 Cor. 5:17). Tongues is the language of the new man or Second Adam. God is restoring a holy form of communication between us and Him just as Adam and God had a special communication that only they shared. One of the things I learned in Anthropology is that the human mouth is able to make the sounds of any human language that exists. Paul identifies that we can speak in the tongues of angels (I Cor. 13:1). We just need to trust Him with our tongue. We can have faith to pray for God to forgive us of our sins. We also need faith to allow Him to use our tongue to praise Him.

How Do We Practice Tongues in Church?

How should tongues be used in the church? The Apostle Paul wrote an entire chapter of the bible, I Corinthians 14, to address this very subject. Before we delve into this chapter, we must first understand the context of what is going on in the Corinthian Church. They also had a problem with order in the congregation. People were coming in front of the congregation with a revelation, a hymn, song, or tongues and it was causing confusion in the church. The focus of how God was moving in the church was unclear. There was no order in the service. Paul is trying to correct them as to the proper use of tongues and restore order in the church.

1Corinthians 14:1-6

"1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire gifts of the Spirit, especially prophecy. 2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. 3 But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. 4 Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves, but the one who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be edified. 6 Now, brothers and sisters, if I come to you and speak in tongues, what good will I be to you, unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or word of instruction?"

For the reasons aforementioned, he starts out by promoting prophesy. In Acts 19:1-6, the disciples did not prophesy until after they spoke in tongues. Therefore, he is not promoting prophesy as more important or in the place of tongues, but as something which is of greater benefit to the Corinthian body in a church service. This will be clearer later. He does say that prophesy is greater than tongues unless someone brings an interpretation. Again, this chapter has to do with what course of action will bring the greatest good to the entire Body. It has to do with some-

one speaking in front of the gathered Body in a church service setting. Keep in mind that Christ said we must be faithful in little things before we can be trusted with greater things. If prophecy is greater than tongues in front of the Body, then we must be first trusted with tongues!

In these verses, we learn some very important things about tongues. We learn that tongues is speaking between you and God (verse 2). In other words, speaking in tongues is a private communication line between you and God. It is a phone line directly to His throne room. It is encrypted code (like Morse Code) shared between you and God. Moreover, Paul says that it is a supernatural download of the mysteries of God (verses 2). This special language builds us up (verse 4). It also can lead to revelation, knowledge, prophesy, and understanding the doctrines of the Bible (verse 6). Later in the chapter, we learn some more aspects of tongues.

I Corinthians 14:13-19

"13 For this reason the one who speaks in a tongue should pray that they may interpret what they say. 14 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. 15 So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding. 16 Otherwise when you are praising God in the Spirit, how can someone else, who is now put in the position of an inquirer, say 'Amen' to your thanksgiving, since they do not know what you are saying? 17 You are giving thanks well enough, but no one else is edified.18 I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you. 19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue."

From verse 13, we learn that when we speak in tongues in front of the church (as the preacher would stand and present a sermon), we should ask God for an interpretation. Additionally, we can ask God for the interpretation of tongues in which we pray. In verse 14, we also learn that our mind is unfruitful when we speak or

pray in tongues. When we pray in tongues, we are not praying with our mind. The Spirit of God within us is praying. The tongues are flowing from our belly straight out of our mouth. The brain is bypassed in this process. This means our natural minds are not in control of what is being said. It is simply trusting God to speak through us.

In verses 14-15, we also learn that there are two other manifestations of tongues: praying in tongues and singing in tongues. Thus far, this gives us three manifestations of tongues: speaking, praying, or singing. Each of these uses corresponds to human communication with the mouth. The mouth can be used for different forms of communication in the natural and these parallel to their spiritual uses. These manifestations of tongues can also be used to just praise God for His greatness, His mighty acts in our lives, or to minister to others. Notice that Paul said in verse 15 that he WILL pray and sing in the Spirit. This is something we should seek in our lives.

Paul says in verse 18 that He speaks in tongues more than all of us! So much for not speaking in tongues! This is the Apostle who was directly taught by Christ (see I Cor. 9:1, 11:23-26). He reiterates in verse 19 that when he teaches, he would rather speak five words of understanding rather than speak thousands in tongues. Again, the Corinthians thought that only the spiritual people in the church understood teachings in tongues. Paul is refuting this. Towards the end of the chapter, Paul expresses the proper form of tongues in front of the church.

I Corinthians 14:26-28

How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying. If any man speak in an unknown tongue, let it be by two, or at the most by three, and that by course; and let one interpret. But if there be no interpreter, let him keep silence in the church; and let him speak to himself, and to God.

He starts out addressing one of the present problems. There are too many people coming in front of the church to present a revelation or other manifestation of God's Spirit. It was not clear how God was moving or who He was using at any one time. This caused confusion. He is trying to restore order in the church so that everyone can properly receive these manifestations. When it comes to tongues, his admonishment is that only two or three should speak in tongues at one time in front of the church. Only one person should interpret. If there is no interpreter, Paul wrote that the person should keep silent and speak to himself and God. Let's read the fine print. Notice that he says the person who spoke without an interpretation **can still speak to himself and God**. What does it mean to speak to yourself and God?

In I Cor. 14:2, Paul said that speaking in tongues is speaking between you and God. In other words, he says that someone who presents a tongue in front of the church without an interpretation can still speak in tongues. He or she should go somewhere else in the church and speak in tongues so that it does not distract the flow of the service. Paul reiterates this by closing the chapter in verses 39 and 40.

I Corinthians 14:39-40

Wherefore, brethren, covet to prophesy, and forbid not to speak with tongues. Let all things be done decently and in order.

In I Corinthians 14, Paul is not forbidding tongues in a church service. The command to prophesy was specifically to them because they needed to focus on edifying the church. They were too self-focused. Tongues should never be forbidden in a church service. It should be done in such a way where God is getting the glory, not people. They should be expressed in an orderly fashion. If people are worshipping God and people speak in tongues, it is acceptable.

A Changed Life

Do you ever get frustrated by your behavior? Are there things about your life you would like to change for the better? Do you get angered by things in life and act in destructive ways? You may feel like something keeps you from making these changes. By human effort, we cannot make true change. We will always be frustrated with change. When you are filled with the Spirit of God, you are going to experience the power of God. It is the power to help you change.

If you remember, Jesus spoke to the believers about being filled with the Spirit in Acts 1. In verse 8, Jesus said, "8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth." When the Baptism of the Holy Spirit comes into your life, you will be clothed with power. You will be filled with power! It is a force that will cause both inward and outward change! Instead of being power-less, you will be powerful. This power will help you to overcome.

This power will help you to be a living witness of Christ's life! As you use the infilling of the Spirit by speaking in tongues, your view of the world will change. You will not view the world the same as you did before. Love will overflow from your vessel so that you have a desire to reach out to others who are hurting and spiritually blind. God is going to download understanding into your heart, mind, and spirit. This understanding is called a revelation. It is something God supernaturally imparts into you. Revelation is understanding given directly by God. You will have visions and dreams, which are supernatural experiences where God speaks to you.

You will begin to manifest the fruits of the Spirit, which is Christ's character in your lives. These fruits are the character needed to be fruitful for God's Kingdom. These fruits are discussed in Galatians 5:22-23. You will also manifest gifts of the Spirit. These gifts are the power of God used to help other people

experience God's Kingdom provision. They will also confirm that Christ lives in you. Paul discusses these nine gifts in I Corinthians 12. Your calling will also become abundantly clear. Your calling is your identity in Jesus Christ because it defines the nature of your Kingdom work.

As you learn to operate in the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, letting His fruits grow, His gifts flow, and your calling show, you will have experiences with God such as visions and dreams. Your life will truly change.

Be Filled With the Spirit

In Ephesians 5:15-18, Paul wrote, "15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. 18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit." Paul informs us that the will of the Lord for our lives is that we be filled with the Spirit. It is a wise thing to do, and it is how we make the most of the evil days we live in. We are commanded in the Bible to be filled with the Spirit. This means that it is something we should seek with all of our hearts. This literally should be translated that we should "...keep being filled with the Spirit."

Something important to remember about this passage is that the phrase "be filled with the Spirit" is written in the Greek present tense. This means it should properly read, "keep being filled with the Spirit." This indicates that being filled with the Spirit is not a one-time experience in our lives. There is an initial point in which we receive it, but we must keep being filled with the Spirit.

When we go through life, we are bombarded from Satan the devil and the world. We have daily irritations and trials that we go through. We sin as well. We have to use the Holy Spirit inside of us to gain victory over the temptation of the devil. We use the Holy Spirit to persevere in trial. Sin and daily irritations drain the supply of the Holy Spirit within us. When we serve God, it requires that we operate in the Spirit of God. As these events go on in our lives, we learn that we need to be filled with the Spirit again. In Acts 2, the believers were filled with the Spirit. In Acts 4:23-31, we learn about them being re-filled.

This chapter will walk you through receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. If you have already been filled with the Spirit, then this chapter will be for you to receive a fresh infilling of the Spirit. At this point, you will want to get in a place where you can spend some time alone with God. You also want to allow some time for God to work with you.

There are a few basic things you must understand before you can receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. First, you must forgive people who have wronged you. Think about people who have hurt you from your past. Forgive them from your heart. Secondly, you must repent of sin. You must ask God to forgive you of your sins and then make the free will decision to turn away from a life of sin. Once you have forgiven others, you can be forgiven. Jesus compared the Baptism of the Holy Spirit to a river of living water which flows up from our belly. If we have a stony heart, then there is a rock preventing that river from flowing. We must pray for God to give us a soft heart. Forgiving others and repentance of sin does just that.

Remember that when you feel the Holy Spirit begin to rise up in you, you will feel like speaking in tongues. The Spirit of God is going to flow from your belly up and straight out of your mouth. It will not enter into your mind. You do not have to think about what is coming out of your mouth; just let it flow out. Just do it speak in tongues. Paul informed us that our minds would be unfruitful when we speak in tongues (I Cor. 14:14). You have been called by God the Father and chosen by Jesus Christ to receive this.

In Luke 11:9-13, Christ said, "And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

The Holy Spirit is a good gift for us. We do not have to beg for it, but simply ask with an earnest heart. Are you ready? If so, pray the following prayer:

My Heavenly Father, the Great God, the One and True God, I forgive all those who have hurt me. I release unforgiveness, hurt and pain from my heart towards them. I repent for my sins, and I want to live a holy life. I want to receive your Holy seed; I want to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with fire and evidence of speaking in tongues in Jesus name.

Allow Jesus time to work with you after you pray this.

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Meet the Author

Kelly McDonald Jr. is an ordained Evangelist at Hungry Hearts Ministries in Jackson, TN. For 21 years, Kelly attended Trinity Baptist Church in Bemis, TN, where he was saved in 1992. While at Trinity, a small independent Baptist church, Kelly learned boldness for the Kingdom of God and that being a Christian is an all or nothing experience. In June 2006, Kelly was called to his first ministry, going door to door in the Bemis community and inviting people to church. In September 2006, Kelly was called to begin a Christian men's group at his then college, Lambuth University. In February 2007, Kelly was called to preach. Less than a month later, he became introduced to Hungry Hearts Ministries.

Since becoming a member of Hungry Hearts, Kelly has taken on many roles to further the ministry's work, from going door-to-door to pass out booklets, preaching, administering the prison ministry, teaching Bible Studies, and starting churches. Due to his service in the ministry, he was ordained a Deacon during the Feast of Pentecost on May 31st, 2009. His spiritual growth and desire to serve God led to his ordination as an Evangelist during the Feast of Pentecost on May 25th, 2012.

Kelly has written for a local Christian magazine, *The Christian to Christian Connection*, and for the international Sabbatarian magazine, *The Sabbath Sentinel*. He currently writes for and serves as the Editor for the Ministry's magazine, *Pursuit*. Kelly has written five books on how to live a holy life. Kelly graduated *summa cum laude* from Lambuth University in Jackson, TN in 2009. He earned a Bachelor of Science with a double major in Political Science and Sociology with a minor in Legal Studies. As a Torah Observant/Spirit Filled minister, Kelly has spoken at several different congregations in four different states, and is available to speak at your church upon request.

This booklet will help you learn more about being filled with the Spirit. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a wonderful gift for you. When you read this booklet, you will have a more in-depth understanding of why God gave this gift to humanity. The Spirit-filled life will cause the power of God to overflow in your life like you have never experienced before! This booklet is a shorter version of the full-length book "Restoring Spiritual Vision: A Guide to the Baptism of the Holy Spirit". The book is available on www.hungryheartsministry.com.



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