**Myths & Marvels**

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**Acts 2:1-4**

**Part One: A Bakers Dozen Myths about Pentecost and Pentecostals**

1. **Myth 1**- Pentecostals believe weird stuff that isn’t in the Bible.  **Fact**- Pentecostals like the Assemblies of God believe the entire Bible and that Bible alone is the only rule for faith and practice. They believe the Baptism in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, just like what happened on Pentecost and throughout the Book of Acts, is still for today (Acts 2:38).
2. **Myth 2** – Pentecostals are isolated to a few small denominations. **Fact** – There are Pentecostal Anglicans, Pentecostal Methodists, Pentecostal Lutherans, Pentecostal Baptists and huge numbers of Pentecostal Catholics. A 2011 Pew Research Center study revealed that Pentecostals and charismatics make up more than a quarter of all Christians today. And last year the leader of all Anglicans, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, admitted that he speaks in tongues. <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44531-10-top-misconceptions-about-pentecostal-christians>
3. **Myth 3** – Islam is the fastest growing faith in the world. **Fact** – “Islam is not the fastest-growing faith family in the world. Pentecostalism is. While Islam has gone from zero in 610 AD to 1.6 billion today (1,403 years), Pentecostalism went from zero to (about) a billion from 1906 to the present day (107 years).” <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44242-10-things-you-didn-t-know-about-pentecostals>
4. **Myth 4** - Pentecostals are usually uneducated. **Fact** – Pentecostals have built more than just schools, hospitals and orphanages around the world for the poor; they have also built thousands of colleges and universities like Regent University, Oral Roberts University and Evangel University. “The largest seminary in the Church of England (and perhaps the entire Anglican communion) is St. Mellitus College/St. Paul's Theological Center in London, spiritually godfathered by (Charismatic) Holy Trinity Brompton Church.” <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44242-10-things-you-didn-t-know-about-pentecostals> FYI – Your pastor has 7 Diplomas/Degrees including two bachelors, a double masters and a PhD.
5. **Myth 5** - Pentecostals are snake handlers. **Fact** – There are only a few small churches that practice “snake handling” and***the Pentecostal denominations like the A/G have all condemned the practice.***
6. **Myth 6** – People who speak in tongues are psychologically unstable. **Fact** - The New York Times reported in 2006 that a study of Christians in England suggested that those who spoke in tongues "were more emotionally stable than those who did not." <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44531-10-top-misconceptions-about-pentecostal-christians>. Also, Luther P. Gerlach, PhD Professor emeritus of Anthropology, University of Minnesota in his longitudinal study of charismatics/Pentecostals concluded they tend to be “outstandingly stable individuals.”
7. **Myth 7** – Pentecostals tend to be racially segregated.  **Fact** – “Pentecostal and charismatic churches are more likely to be racially mixed than other denominational groups. This is primarily because the essence of the Pentecostal experience, as described in the Book of Acts, involves the breaking down of racial and cultural walls by the power of the Holy Spirit.” <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44531-10-top-misconceptions-about-pentecostal-christians>
8. **Myth 8** – Pentecostalism is a passing fad. **Fact** – “Pentecostals only represented 6 percent of all Christians in the year 1980. Today that number has jumped to 26 percent. And the Pulitzer Center reports that 35,000 people join Pentecostal churches every day. <http://www.charismanews.com/opinion/44531-10-top-misconceptions-about-pentecostal-christians>
9. **Myth 9** – Pentecostals believe you must speak in tongues in order to be saved. **Fact** – That is NOT true. While there is a very small group (UPC) that believes that error, the Assemblies of God (The largest Pentecostal denomination in the world) along with almost every other Pentecostal group does NOT believe you have to speak in tongues to be saved. Salvation comes by grace through faith alone. <http://ag.org/top/Beliefs/topics/baptmhs_faq.cfm#heavenwithout>
10. **Myth 10** – Tongues are not for today. **Fact** – The only ones who believe that are the Jehovah’s Witnesses and a small group of cessationists like John MacArthur. Although they occasionally grossly distort a verse from I Cor. 13 to support their error, there is not one scripture saying that tongues are not for today.
11. **Myth 11** - The Baptism in the Holy Spirit happened at salvation. **Fact** – The Holy Spirit seals us and baptizes us into the body of Christ at Salvation. That is the Baptism ***OF*** the Holy Spirit. However, the Baptism ***IN*** the Holy Spirit is scripturally a subsequent experience; the disciples were saved and received the Holy Spirit in John 20:22 (after the resurrection) and were subsequently Baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.
12. **Myth 12** - Speaking in tongues is the least of the gifts. **Fact** - . There is nowhere it says “tongues is the least of the gifts”; this is a misnomer from wrongly interpreting I Cor. 12:28. This false theory purports that since tongues is mentioned last, it is therefore the least of the gifts and furthermore unnecessary. By that errant logic, in I Cor. 13:13love is mentioned last. Is love therefore the least? Love is in fact called the “greatest.” If one follows their errant logic, the next mention of tongues places it first in I Cor. 13 so by that standard it is greatest gift. Self-control is the last fruit of the Spirit mentioned (Galatians 5:22-23). The flawed logic of those who promote tongues as the least, and therefore imply it is unnecessary, means self-control is the least and therefore unnecessary!
13. **Myth 13** – According to I Corinthians 12:30 Paul teaches that tongues is not for everyone. **Fact** - . The error of this myth is due to the failure to delineate between the public use of the gift of tongues as a message vs. the prayer language of tongues. The passage of I Cor. 12:30 refers to the gift of tongues as a public message during church to be given by two or at most three, and in conjunction with interpretation (I Cor. 14:27&28). The gift of tongues, which is a personal prayer language, is the initial physical evidence of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. This gift of tongues is used in personal prayer and worship. Concerning tongues as a prayer language, Paul says in I Corinthians 14:5 “I wish you all spoke in tongues” and concludes in vs. 15 that we should not only all speak with tongues but also sing in them.

**Part Two: The Baptist IN/WITH the Holy Spirit**

1. I encourage anyone with questions to view Pentecost 101 and 102, online at

<http://i-fwc.com/Media/archive.html>

1. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is in all 4 Gospels and Acts.

A. **Matthew 3:11** “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.”

B. **Mark 1:8** “I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

C. **Luke 3:16** “John answered, saying to all, “I indeed baptize you with water; but One mightier than I is coming, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to loose. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.”

D. **John 1: 32** And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. 33 I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’

E. **Acts 1:5** Jesus said “for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

F. For the many fulfillments of this in Acts please see Pentecost 101 and 102.

1. The Release of the Holy Spirit already inside of you.
2. Fr. Dennis Bennett in his book “How to Pray for the Release of the Holy Spirit” explains how the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a release of the Holy Spirit who already lives inside of you as a believer.
3. You already have the Holy Spirit in you when you are born again. Therefore, the Baptism in/with the Holy Spirit is not trying to get the Holy Spirit to come to you. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is releasing the Holy Spirit who is in you to flow through and from you.
4. You are three fold in your existence; spirit soul and body (I Thess. 5:23).
5. The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is letting the person of the Holy Spirit flow from your spirit through you.
6. When you let the Holy Spirit into your soul (the psychological part of you) He baptizes your intellect (thoughts), your emotions (feelings), and your will (motivations and desires).
7. When you let the Holy Spirit into your body (the physical part of you) He gives you strength and health and flows in the prayer language of tongues praying the perfect will of God and building you up.

**Closing: On this Pentecost Sunday, join our almost one billion brothers and sisters around the world in allowing the Holy Spirit to baptize you and flow through your life.**

**Discussion Items and Questions for Home and Small Group**

1. Which myth or myths have you believed or heard other people share?

2. In your own words, explain the facts about why that myth or myths are false.

3. Which **FACT** shared blessed you to hear?

4. Why is it so significant that the promise of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is found in all four Gospels?

5. In your own words, how is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit a “release of the Holy Spirit” as Fr. Bennett shared?

6. If you are Baptized in the Holy Spirit take time to exercise you prayer and worship language. If you are not yet Baptized in the Holy Spirit please pray for the release and yield yourself to Him.