Sealed By The Holy Spirit

by Douglas L. Crook

There is much confusion about the work and ministry of the Holy Spirit among God's people today. There are many contradictory doctrines taught by various denominations and church groups. There are the fundamentalists who reject the miracle of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue as the Spirit gives utterance. There are other Pentecostal groups that teach that one is not truly saved unless and until they speak in tongues. Both extreme teachings are wrong. We need a balanced understanding of what the Bible teaches about the person and work of the Holy Spirit.

I have always considered myself a Pentecostal believer because I believe in and teach the importance of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I also teach that the gifts of the Spirit as described in 1 Corinthians 12 are still in operation today and are for the edification of the body of Christ. However, I believe there is much dangerous error taught by the vast majority of Pentecostal believers. One of these false teachings is that if an individual has not spoken in tongues he or she does not possess the Holy Spirit and is not saved. The Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in everyone who believes that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is their Savior who died for their sins and rose again the third day. Many Pentecostal believers do not believe that the Holy Spirit is in every believer unless they have spoken in an unknown tongue. However, when we compare scripture with scripture it becomes clear that every true believer possesses the Holy Spirit, but needs to learn to recognize and yield to the fullness of the working of the Holy Spirit in their life. One of the steps necessary in yielding to the fullness of the working of the Holy Spirit is to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in an unknown tongue as the Spirit gives utterance.

<u>2 Peter 1:3-4</u>

3 as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

4 by which have been given to us exceedingly great and precious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

Since every believer possesses the divine nature of God, every believer possesses the nature of the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is one; one in purpose and one in nature. If someone possesses the life of Christ, he or she possesses the Holy Spirit because it is the same divine nature.

<u>Romans 5:5</u>

5 Now hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out in our hearts by the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

The Holy Spirit pours out in our hearts the understanding of the love of God for us. Without the work of the Holy Spirit we cannot be saved.

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

I believe it is clear that Paul, writing to the carnal Corinthians, is saying that the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer who has accepted Jesus as their Savior. The Holy Spirit even dwelt in those carnal Corinthians. God dwells in us and therefore the Holy Spirit dwells within us. We have the life of Christ, the Anointed One, within us. You cannot separate the Triune Godhead and the nature they share.

<u>1 John 5:7</u>

7 For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one.

This truth does not annul or lessen the importance of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. Receiving this gift is an experience separate from the experience of being born again through faith in Jesus Christ. In fact, only those who have been redeemed first can receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39

38 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.

39 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."

<u>Acts 19:2</u>

2 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."

The unbelievers cannot receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, only the children of God can.

<u>John 14:17</u>

17 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.

Since the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer in Jesus. Those that teach that the individual is not saved until they speak in tongues are denying the clear evidence of the Bible that salvation is by faith alone in the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. Speaking in tongues is not a part of the process of redemption.

Acts 16:30-31

30 And he brought them out and said, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

31 So they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household."

<u>Romans 10:9-13</u>

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

11 For the Scripture says, "Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame."

12 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek, for the same Lord over all is rich to all who call upon Him.

13 For "whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."

When we accept Jesus as our Savior, we are acknowledging that God the Father is our Creator and that we have sinned against Him. We are affirming and acknowledging that Jesus is the Son of God and that He is the Way, the Truth and the Life. The Holy Spirit is the One that convicts us of sin and reveals to us that Jesus is the Savior, but He does all of that without us realizing that it is the working of the Holy Spirit. In other words, when the individual feels the conviction that he or she is a sinner and understands that Jesus is the Savior that died on the cross for their sins, they do not understand that the conviction and revelation are the work of the Holy Spirit, they just feel the burden of the conviction and the joy of the revelation.

<u>John 16:8-11</u>

8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: 9 of sin, because they do not believe in Me; 10 of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more;

11 of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

The Holy Spirit is the One that makes us new creatures in Christ.

<u>Titus 3:4-7</u>

4 But when the kindness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared,

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior,

7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

It is important that the believer acknowledge the person and ministry of the Holy Spirit as the Third Person in the Trinity and that he or she lay hold of the fullness of the gift of the Holy Spirit if he or she desires to mature spiritually. The word in the Greek translated "receive" in Acts 19:2 means to seize or lay hold of. The response of the 12 men in that passage cannot mean that they had never heard at all of the existence of the Holy Spirit for they were disciples of John the Baptist and knew the Old Testament scriptures with its many references to the Spirit of God. John pointed his disciples to Jesus as being the Lamb of God. Paul knew that these men were saved and that the Holy Spirit had convicted them of their sin and revealed to them Christ as the Savior. Paul knew that the Holy Spirit dwelt in them. Paul's question was have you seized the fullness of the Holy Spirit since being saved. These men had not heard that such a gift of the fullness of the Holy Spirit was being offered to believers in Jesus Christ. The same is true today about many Christians that have been born again through faith in Jesus Christ.

By receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues the believer acknowledges in a very personal and practical way the presence and ministry of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer. This is why it is so important that every believer receive, seize, this precious gift of the Holy Spirit. If we are going to walk in the Spirit like we should, we must learn to yield ourselves fully to Him and receive from Him all that He has to offer. We must acknowledge that the Spirit is the Third Person in the Trinity that dwells in us and was sent to enable us to do the will of God.

Galatians 5:16

16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

The experience of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is only one step in learning to walk in the Spirit.

<u>Ephesians 5:18</u>

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,

In Ephesians 5 when Paul writes "be filled with the Spirit," he is not referring to a one-time experience of speaking in tongues, but rather of being filled and overflowing everyday with the power of the Spirit. We should daily be under the influence of the power of the Holy Spirit to do and say what He directs. Many that have received the gift of the Holy Spirit and spoken in tongues are not necessarily filled with the Spirit today. Many of them are carnal and not spiritual Christians. Nevertheless, the Spirit does not leave them or stop dwelling in them. He simply is not allowed to direct their lives. The carnal Christian that has spoken in tongues but is not yielding to the direction of the Holy Spirit cannot benefit from the power of the Holy Spirit that would cause them to enjoy the fullness of the blessings of God in this life and in eternity.

When we study the Word of God we quickly understand that there are aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit that every believer experiences by the provision and faithfulness and grace of God by virtue of being a child of God. There are other aspect of the work of the Holy Spirit that are only experienced by those Christians that are faithful to obey God's instruction in His Word. The gift of receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, the daily state of being filled with the Holy Spirit, walking in the Spirit and being characterized by the fruit of the Spirit are all experiences and blessings that are only experienced by the believers that are faithful to obey God's Word. These experiences and blessings are not experienced automatically by every believer just because they are a child of God. These experiences and blessings are automatically available to all of God's children, but are not automatically received by every child of God.

In 2 Corinthians 1:21 and 22 we read of four works by the Trinity that every believer experiences

the moment they believe in Jesus Christ as the Savior that died for their sins and rose again the third day.

<u>2 Corinthians 1:21-22</u>

21 Now He who <u>establishes</u> us with you in Christ and has <u>anointed</u> us is God,

22 who also has <u>sealed</u> us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a <u>guarantee</u>.

In this passage Paul lists 4 things that God does for the believer upon faith in Christ. These things are accomplished by the work and ministry of the Spirit and every believer receives these assurances upon believing in Jesus Christ as their Savior. These works of the Holy Spirit are not accomplished when we speak in tongues, but when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. These works are accomplished by the grace and faithfulness of the Triune God and not by the works or faithfulness of the believer.

Establishes –

The Spirit of God makes us to stand firm and constant in the grace of God that is found in Jesus Christ. Nothing can change our standing in grace, because the Spirit of God has established us.

<u>Romans 5:1-2</u>

1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

2 through whom also we have access by faith into this grace <u>in which we stand</u>, (in which we are established) and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

God, through the work of Jesus on the cross and by the power of the Holy Spirit lifts us from the miry clay pit of sin, death and condemnation and sets our feet firmly on the solid rock of eternal life and the eternal favor of God and nothing can move us from that place of safety, security and eternal blessing.

We didn't establish ourselves in that place by our good works and we can't maintain ourselves in that place by our good works. God established us in grace by the miracle of regeneration.

<u>Titus 3:5</u>

5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

Anointed –

I don't believe this is a reference to the experience of receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. That is not what is being referred to here.

Receiving the infilling of the Spirit is certainly an anointing, but its not the only one. In the Old Testament individuals were anointed with oil as a sign that they had been chosen and given the authority to occupy a position or office and to exercise the authority of that office. Kings, Priests, Prophets. It symbolized that they had been set apart for a special place.

I believe the believer can experience many anointings of the Holy Spirit to enable and equip them for specific tasks and callings and we don't receive all the same anointings or callings. However, all believers have been set apart from the world and unto God and all will bring God and His grace glory in eternity.

<u>1 Corinthians 6:11</u>

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were <u>sanctified</u>, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

I believe it refers to the same anointing and work that John refers to in:

<u>1 John 2:20</u>

20 But you have <u>an anointing from the Holy</u> <u>One</u>, and you know all things.

<u>1 John 2:27</u>

27 But <u>the anointing which you have received</u> <u>from Him abides in you</u>, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the <u>same anointing teaches</u> <u>you concerning all things</u>, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

<u>1 Corinthians 12:3</u>

3 Therefore I make known to you that no one speaking by the Spirit of God calls Jesus accursed, and no one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.

<u>Romans 8:16</u>

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

The Holy Spirit has been poured out into the heart of every believer to anoint them as the children of God and as kings and priests unto God. How do our fundamentalist brothers that reject the experience of the gift of the fullness of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues understand that they are saved eternally? How do they understand other fundamental truths of the Bible? They confess that Jesus is Lord. How do they have that revelation? By the anointing of the Holy Spirit that is spoken of in 2 Corinthians 1:21 and in 1 John 2:20-27. Every believer has been sanctified by the anointing of the Holy Spirit for the glory of the grace of God.

Seals -

The seal in ancient times and modern times alike has been used to convey certain clear and unmistakable principles. By referring to the Holy Spirit as a Seal, the meaning is not obscure at all. The Spirit acts for the believer in the same way that an official seal acts in the affairs of man.

We have been sealed with Seal of the Living God. His Seal is not a mere symbol, but the person of the Holy Spirit. There is no greater Seal than this One. A revelation of this truth will bring great assurance, rest and confidence.

Guarantee –

In ancient times, instead of signatures, contracts were marked with the sign or seal of the participants. The bearer is guaranteed the full payment of the contract.

The seal is a guarantee of several things:

Security –

Not so much as a fail-safe lock, but as a declaration and a warning that it is not to be opened or tampered with except for the one for whom it is intended. To break the seal is to suffer the wrath of the authority represented by the seal.

Ownership –

A seal marks something as belonging to the one to whom the seal belongs.

Authority, Genuine –

Authentic, officially sanctioned, deputized, sent.

Secrecy –

Privacy.

The presence of the Spirit that bears witness with every believer that they are a child of God is a guarantee that they will enjoy the eternal inheritance in heaven.

How can I be so sure I'm going to heaven? The Spirit has revealed it to me through God's Word and has personally stamped it on my heart that I am God's child. I have God's signature on my heart.

<u>Ephesians 1:13-14</u>

13 In Him you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise,

14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.

I know that I will enjoy an eternal inheritance in heaven as a child of God because God has made the transaction sure and official by the seal of His Spirit.

Now we know that there are degrees of inheritance and that we can add to our inheritance and receive a full reward. We know that rewards can also be lost, but there is a guaranteed inheritance for all believers that cannot be lost.

Some teach that the believer is not sealed until they receive the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. If the Seal is the infilling of the Spirit, then those who are not filled have no guarantee of any inheritance at all and that is the same as saying they are eternally lost. Every believer is sealed until the day of redemption and not just those who have spoken in tongues.

Some who teach that the seal is the infilling of the Holy Spirit say that it does not symbolize security, but approval as a special possession or treasure. Though a seal may very well represent such an approval, the symbolism doesn't hold up because all who are filled with the Spirit and speak in tongues don't go on to be be led by the Spirit and will not attain to that special place in heaven as the Lamb's wife.

The Scripture teaches that there is a guarantee of inheritance for everyone who puts their faith in Jesus Christ and that the Holy Spirit is that guarantee. *Romans* 8:15-17

15 For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

16 The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and <u>if children, then heirs</u> (an heir is one who inherits)— heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together.

The Spirit reveals to you that you are God's child and that you will share an eternal portion with God, your Father in heaven. The very revelation that

He gives is a seal and guarantee that you will receive the portion of a child of God.

<u>1 Peter 1:3-5</u>

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

4 to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you,

5 who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Our inheritance is reserved for us and we are reserved for it. Eternal life, home in heaven, share in His glory.

Security –

A natural seal in and of itself doesn't make something secure. It is not a lock. Example – a letter sealed with a wax seal is not able to keep someone from physically opening a letter. It is however a deterrent. It is a warning that anyone not authorized to open the envelope will suffer the wrath of the owner of the seal.

My destiny is glory. I'm not afraid that along the way somewhere or somehow I'm going to be stolen from the destiny God has intended for me. The seal that He has placed on me is not just a deterrent, but the Spirit of the Almighty God.

<u>John 10:27-30</u>

27 My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.

28 And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

29 My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father's hand.

30 I and My Father are one."

Together with the seal of the Holy Spirit, I'd say I'm going to make it to heaven without fear of being snatched by the enemy.

Romans 8:29-30

29 For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brethren.

30 Moreover whom He predestined, these He also called; whom He called, these He also justified; and whom He justified, these He also glorified.

Foreknown, predestined, justified, glorified. The promise and transaction of my redemption, all the way to my glorification in heaven, was signed and sealed from passed eternity. My experience only awaits and anticipates my certain destiny in glory.

When you have a revelation of this wonderful truth it will enable you to rest from the bondage of self-works and self-righteousness and rejoice in His grace. Resting in His grace results in good works that spring from a heart of love and appreciation for what God has done for you. It will allow you to go on to spiritual maturity instead of thinking you have to keep going back and setting the foundation again, thinking you have to keep getting saved.

Ownership –

A seal is also used simply to mark something as belonging to the owner of the seal. The presence of the Spirit of God in my life is the mark of His ownership of my life.

<u>1 Corinthians 6:19-20</u>

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

My responsibility is to conduct myself as one who belongs to God. I'm to live to please Him and not myself. In doing so I enjoy the abundance of life. <u>2 *Timothy 2:19*</u>

19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

God's knows I'm His, but do I know it? Do I act like it so others may know?

Authority, Genuine

With the Spirit's seal we have been authorized by God to proclaim His truth.

<u>2 Corinthians 5:20-21</u>

20 Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Ambassadors who are authorized to speak in Christ's stead. We have been commissioned and

authorized to offer the message of reconciliation to a lost and dying world. The world my laugh and scorn, but we are not to be ashamed. We have the seal of the Holy Spirit that will one day prove that we spoke with the authority of Heaven.

Secrecy

Sometimes a seal is placed on an envelope or a door to warn others that it is private and is not for anyone else's eyes.

Though we are to live our life openly and publicly for all to see, our fellowship with the Triune God is very private and personal. Though we live before others and serve others and minister to others, all that we do and say we do as unto Him.

Colossians 3:23-24

23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men,

24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Colossians 3:3-4

3 For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

4 When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

Solomon's described his wife as a garden enclosed and a sealed fountain whose love and fellowship was for him and him alone.

Song of Solomon 4:12

12 A garden enclosed Is my sister, my spouse, A spring shut up, A fountain sealed. God's eternal work of His grace in us is something that has not yet been fully and openly revealed. But there is coming a day when what God has done for us, in us and through us will be readily seen by all –

<u>1 John 3:1-3</u>

1 Behold what manner of love the Father has bestowed on us, that we should be called children of God! Therefore the world does not know us, because it did not know Him.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Again this is true of all believers. This revelation of the sealing work of the Holy Spirit won't make you want to go out and live recklessly and carnally, but will cause you to live in such a way as to please the One who has sealed you by His Grace.

<u>Ephesians 4:30</u>

30 And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Don't grieve Him, but rather fully surrender to His ministry and be led by Him that you might enjoy an abundant entrance into heaven. Don't be satisfied with just standing in grace, but wade into the depths of all that His grace offers the children of God.

If the minimum of the provision of God's grace and the ministry of the Holy Spirit is this glorious, imagine where learning to be led by Spirit will lead. Well, we are not left entirely to our imagination. We are told that we can sit with Christ in His throne as His Bride if we will simply walk in the light of His Word and walk in the Spirit, letting Him govern our choices, attitudes words and deeds.

You'll never obtain to the best God's grace has to offer until you learn to rest in His Grace that has sealed you by His Spirit as a Guarantee of the eternal things to come.

As important as the experience of receiving the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues is in the life of the believer it will not make you more loved by God or more saved than what you already are.

<u>2 Corinthians 1:21-22</u>

21 Now He who <u>establishes</u> us with you in Christ and has <u>anointed</u> us is God,

22 who also has <u>sealed</u> us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a <u>guarantee</u>.

In Conclusion:

It is my conviction that everything Paul writes the Corinthians in 1 Corinthians 6 applies to every believer, both those that have spoken in tongues and those who have not. In other words, I believe that every believer by virtue of being saved by faith in Jesus Christ and His work on the cross is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

<u>1 Corinthians 6:19</u>

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? Paul wrote in this same chapter the following verses.

<u>1 Corinthians 6:11</u>

11 And such were some of you. But you were washed, but you were sanctified, but you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:20

20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

According to these verses either every believer is washed, sanctified, justified and bought with a price and should glorify God in their body and spirit which are God's because they are the temple of the Holy Spirit or only those that have spoken in tongues are washed, sanctified, justified and bought with a price and should glorify God in their body and spirit which are God's because they are the temple of the Holy Spirit. The teaching of the Apostle Paul in all of his writings is clear that justification is by faith alone in the redemptive work of Jesus on the cross and that the description found in verses 11 and 20 describes all those redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ.

Since verses 11 and 20 clearly apply to every believer by faith in Jesus, I have to conclude that verse 19 also applies to every believer even if they have yet to receive the gift of the fullness of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

I understand that this conclusion will not be accepted by many who have always been taught that the Holy Spirit is <u>with</u> every believer, but only <u>in</u> those who have spoken in tongues. Early in my ministry I also taught that same distinction, but after comparing scripture with scripture I must conclude that is not what the Bible teaches.

Those who believe that it is important for every believer to seek the gift of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, as I do, believe that teaching that the Holy Spirit is already in every believer lessens the importance of seeking to be filled with the fullness of the Spirit. They are wrong in that assumption. My conviction that the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer simply puts the gift of receiving the fullness of the Holy Spirit in its proper place in God's purposes for His people. My conviction that Paul is describing every believer in 1 Corinthians 6 guards against the error of the teaching that only those that have spoken in tongues are truly saved. Also, the teaching that reveals that the Holy Spirit dwells in every believer by virtue of the work of regeneration agrees with the teaching that every believer is sealed by the Holy Spirit upon accepting Jesus as their Savior.

When I teach on the importance and need to receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues, I emphasize that it is an experience by which the believer acknowledges in a very personal way the presence, the person and the ministry of the Holy Spirit in their life. Such an acknowledgment of the Holy Spirit is essential if we are going to be led by the Spirit in a way that is the most beneficial and that brings the greatest glory to God. The objection of many to my conviction presented in this article is really based on the use of prepositions: "with" and "in." Jesus spoke of the difference in the position of the Holy Spirit in relation to the believer in John 14:17.

<u>John 14:17</u>

17 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.

Upon studying the teaching of Paul and comparing scripture with scripture I have to conclude that Jesus was talking about the difference of the experience of the disciples before the day of Pentecost and after the day of Pentecost. After the day of Pentecost the Holy Spirit would dwell "in" every believer upon being born again.

I won't debate or argue with those who teach that the Holy Spirit is with every believer, but only in those who have spoken in tongues as long as they don't come to the dangerous and false conclusion that only those who have spoken in tongues are truly saved. I won't debate prepositions. When it is all said and done God's people need to be taught that we should desire, seek and receive everything that our Heavenly Father has provided for us by His grace.