

Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada Archives Transcript

Sermon by Ruth Pinkston, April 17, 1993

WM Retreat

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

We're glad for everyone that is here this afternoon. I have given out notes, and for you who are listening to this on tape, if you are really anxious to have the notes that go with this teaching tape, you can write me: Ruth Pinkston, 62 Furman Drive, Guelph, Ontario, N1H 7M8. And if you just send a self-addressed stamped envelope I will be glad to send you the notes.

Well, I tell you that it's a joy to talk to you about the baptism in the Holy Spirit because I believe that this experience and life in the spirit is on the explosion edge of building the body of Christ. I want us to look at the scripture. *All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable ---*

The doctrine of the baptism in the Holy Spirit is based on scripture. And we need to understand that it's not just something spurious that has happened within the last few years. But we see the work of the Holy Spirit and the evidence of the Holy Spirit from the Day of Pentecost when they were all filled until this present time. We can trace it through church history.

On your teaching sheet you will have some instances. It's just a summary but what I want to do today is to build your faith that what is happening in the body of Christ today with people being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit is not just something that happens to a very small group in the body of Christ. So let's start at the beginning in Acts 2. The work of the Holy Spirit started in Genesis 1 because the spirit moved upon Creation and that's why we have the earth and the trees and the birds and the fish and the land and the flowers and the gardens and the trees. God breathed and spoke and the Holy Spirit moved and Creation happened. When God created man he breathed on him the breath of life. So we see the Holy Spirit at work at Creation. And we see the

Holy Spirit all through the Old Testament. We read how the Holy Spirit came upon the prophets and how the Holy Spirit came upon kings and there was a prophetic utterance.

But Jesus said -- it's his words -- he that is with you shall be in you. Jesus is in us by the work of the Holy Spirit. And it's nice to say, oh, I would love to have been here on earth when Jesus lived. But really it's better now because Jesus could just be in restricted areas of the human being but now he's at the right hand of the Father interceding for us all the time and he sent his Holy Spirit that will abide with us forever. So we really have it made. Praise God! So Jesus said that I will not leave you comfortless but I will ascend to my Father and I will pray to the Father and he will send the comforter to you. Now, he said, "... *tarry in Jerusalem until ye be endued with power from on high.*" And about a hundred twenty received that promise of Jesus and in obedience went to Jerusalem, praising God and in obedience they began to wait for the promise of the Father.

What does Pentecost mean? First of all, it means fifty, the fiftieth day after the Feast of Passover. It was given other names. It was also called the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Harvest and the Day of First Fruits. The Feast of Passover is also called the Jewish Feast of Unleavened Bread. They had this commemoration day to celebrate the deliverance from Egypt and it was the first month of the religious year.

So it was on this feast day that we read the record in the scriptures that the Holy Spirit came as Jesus had promised, the promise of the Father. And it says they were all filled. Chapter 2 of Acts. *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come they were all with one accord in one place and suddenly there came a sound from heaven as a rushing mighty wind and it filled all the house where they were sitting and there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as a fire and it sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance.*

The Holy Spirit is a person with intellect, emotion and will. On the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2, all were filled, both men and women. It says that the women were there. That's a most interesting phenomenon because Jewish religious life didn't recognize women. In fact, the teachers, the rabbinical teachers of that day, prayed every day *I thank God*

I'm not a Gentile or a woman. But you see the Holy Spirit is no respecter of persons and this was a fulfilling of Joel's prophecy in Joel 2. *In the last days I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh and your sons and your daughters will prophesy.* So on the Day of Pentecost Mary, the mother of Jesus was there. Other women were there. We can read it in the record and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit.

As we proceed in the book of Acts we read that at Caesarea in the household of Cornelius when they were filled with the Holy Spirit the scripture says in Acts 10 that they heard them speak with tongues. At Ephesus when the apostles went there the scripture says in Acts 19:6 they spoke with tongues and prophesied. Regarding the apostle Paul it says that he was filled with the Holy Spirit and when that line is in there it doesn't say that he spoke with tongues but he gives his own personal testimony in 1 Corinthians 14:18 when he says *I thank my God I speak with tongues more than ye all.* So he really prayed in the Holy Ghost.

At Samaria when Peter and John laid hands on them and they received the Holy Ghost it does not mention tongues. But there was something significant that happened in the record at Acts 8:15-17 that Simon wanted to buy that power. So it was something significant that happened. So when we read the record of the infilling of the Holy Spirit with the initial evidence of speaking with other tongues, four out of the five times it speaks of the release of tongues, the companion scripture of course was Paul in 1 Corinthians 14.

It is interesting to note that as you trace church history in every generation there was a nucleus of people who had this release, even during the Dark Ages there were people who were filled with the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking with other tongues. In the fourth Century Chrysostom, if any of you have ever read anything about church history, he said that whoever was baptized, the apostles, straightway they spoke with tongues. That was in the fourth Century. In the second Century Tertullian said that spiritual gifts and tongues were manifested among spiritual people of his day. Augustine, in the fourth Century, said we still do what the apostles did when they laid hands on the Samaritans and called down the Holy Spirit. It is expected that converts should speak with tongues. I think we need to know this historical background. It

strengthens our faith when people today come and say it is something that has happened in recent days. We need to understand that all down through church history and even in the record in the Encyclopedia Britannica, speaking in tongues recurs in Christian revivals of every age. Isn't that something for the Encyclopedia Britannica to record?

This continued on. There was continuing evidence in the thirteenth Century Mendicant Friars spoke in tongues. In the sixteenth Century Sabines in Germany and France and Holland, Switzerland, England were murdered and imprisoned and tormented because of their vibrant faith in God and the manifestation of the gifts of the spirit. In the eighteenth Century, Tom Walsh, one of Wesley's preachers, this was his testimony. This morning the Lord gave me language I knew not of, raising my soul to him in a wonderful manner. In the nineteenth Century under the ministry of Moody and Sankey and Calvin and Wesley and Finney, tongues accompanied the gifts of healing.

In the twentieth Century on January 1, 1901 in Topeka, Kansas, the first person to be baptized in the Holy Spirit was a woman, Agnes Osmond. That ushered in the twentieth Century. Isn't that neat? And then of course many of you have heard of the work of the Holy Spirit in Azusa Street in California, which is known all over the world.

Just recently in the *Pastor's Packet* a very interesting bit of news came that I feel I want to share with you today. It's called *Breakthrough in Greece*. One of our missionaries, Andy Papadopoulos – I'm not saying it right but forgive me brother if you ever hear this for mispronouncing your name. He's a missionary in Greece. He reports in *Living Witness*, an evangelistic direct mail magazine has brought results. One lady who found a copy of the magazine phoned him for help with marriage and personal health problems. After prayer on the phone she began a new life in Christ and was healed of her health problems. Then in a few weeks her husband had also become saved and they started a home Bible study group of seven people. All this happened without further contact with Andy. Within a few months the Bible study had grown to thirty-five people and she had phoned Andy to ask what it means when a member of the group starts to speak in a foreign language while praying. This is but one of the fifteen home churches that the Lord has started in the last two years.

Alan Duncalfe, our other missionary in Greece, reports we have distributed over three hundred of our newly published New Testaments which are being enthusiastically accepted, especially by the university students. In November we distributed ten thousand tracts.

Here's a move of the spirit in Greece without any teaching but as the people are praying they are being filled with the Holy Spirit and have this wonderful release. Praise the name of the Lord. I thought that was just great. I mean, this is the March 1993 bulletin from our Head Office. It's not something that happened in the grey past.

It's interesting to note that in the scripture there is teaching about a number of baptisms. We have a chart here but it doesn't show very much. If you want to look, I think it's on the second page of your notes, you will see this chart. It shows the four types of baptism. When we are saved we are baptized into the Holy Spirit. When we are baptized in water the pastor immerses us in water. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is Jesus immersing us in the Holy Spirit. I heard one Greek and Hebrew scholar say that *baptize* means to vat dye. How many know what it means to vat dye? Well, I'm going to give you an illustration from my past.

My mother was quite a stylish lady to dress. She could do it on a very stringent budget. But whatever style of colour was in for that season she would get out her old clothes and dye them to that colour.

In those days, you know, all the godly women wore hats and then they would have to have a matching scarf and gloves. That was the thing. She would get out her last year's stuff and think I can tint this to match what is in style this spring. So she would go down to the drug store or Woolworth's and buy some dye. She would proceed to dye a blouse or a dress or a scarf or a ribbon for her hat. She was very versatile. I can still see my mother standing at the stove with that big pot of dye. It would be boiling away and she would take that dear scarf and gloves or blouse and she would put it in that boiling vat of dye and she would pound it. She had a dye stick. She would pound it with the stick and lift up the item to see if every fibre got all the same colour and if she saw a few streaks, down it would go in the pot again. She pounded it with the stick to make sure that it was vat dyed and it was all the same colour.

I want you to know that Jesus, the Baptizer, wants to bathe us. He wants to immerse us in this wonderful river of God until we are completely saturated. Bless the name of the Lord.

So then there is also the baptism of suffering and this is identification with our suffering Saviour. You can look over that little graph later on. But I just want to acknowledge that there is more than one baptism taught in the scriptures. What we're zeroing in on this afternoon is the baptism in the Holy Spirit that Jesus does. He immerses us in his wonderful baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Now I mentioned earlier that it is identified as the promise of my Father in Luke 24:49, Acts 1:8. Jesus said that I am going to ascend to the Father. I like what Elder Morton said many years ago. He was a black pastor out of Detroit. And he said every time I hear someone speak in tongues I hear Jesus saying "yes, I'm still at the Father's right hand. I arrived safely. I'm still here." I think that's rather neat. So the promise of the Father was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost.

Let's talk about the signs on the Day of Pentecost, the arrival of the Holy Spirit. There was wind, there was fire and there was tongues. The ongoing sign or the initial evidence in the early church was speaking in tongues. Was one sign more important than the other in the household of Cornelius in Acts 10? They heard them speak with tongues. There was no wind. There was no fire. Of the three unusual things that happened on the Day of Pentecost the one sign that continued was the speaking with tongues.

Why in the world would God choose that sign? I believe the answer is found in the book of James, James 3. The tongue is the hardest to control. It shows that the whole body is controlled by God. That's one of the hardest things for you and I to give up is the control of the tongue, which is the rudder of the ship of our lives. It's a small little appendage in our body but it is so very, very powerful and this is the instrument that God wants us to release to Him.

What are the principles, anyway, to receive this gift? Some of you might say why are you emphasizing speaking in tongues so much? You should be exalting Jesus. Well,

wherever the Holy Spirit is released he will exalt Jesus but we must first partake of the release in order that we may more fully exalt Jesus. I hope that as I continue with this teaching you will hunger and thirst for this new dimension in prayer.

Now first of all we have to recognize that it is a gift. It's a gift. We don't earn it. We don't buy it. I have prayed, I suppose, over my ministerial lifetime with thousands and I have never yet seen someone receive who begged and cried and boo-hoo-d because you know even as parents we shouldn't respond to our children because they cry. If they don't cry they don't get it. I mean, that's a poor way to raise kids. Is that right? So our heavenly Father is a perfect parent and he wants us to rejoice in his provision, not beg for something that he's already provided for.

At Christmas time when we give our children or our grandchildren a gift they don't say after we've given the gift, oh please, please, can I have it, can I really keep it! And the Lord wants to lift our understanding so we realize that when he says he will give us the gift, I mean, he means it. Hallelujah!

Acts 2:37, 38 & 39 says, what shall we do? The people who were around that great celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit, they were convicted so they said to Peter: "*What shall we do?*" And Peter said: "Repent and be baptized every one of you and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." Why? Because this promise is for you. And do you know what he was doing? He was quoting Joel, chapter 2. He says this is that. You know about Joel and his prophesy about the coming of the spirit. Well, guess what, this is that. Hallelujah!

Salvation is a gift and the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift. Praise the name of the Lord.

Now, how do I get to have the gift of the Holy Spirit? First of all, we need to receive Christ and his cleansing. Acts 4:12 makes it very, very clear. *Neither is there salvation in any other for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.* So if we have been cleansed by the precious blood of Jesus and we know our sins are gone, we're ready to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Then we need to believe the promise. Every one of us enjoy getting something for nothing. Well,

the gift of the Holy Spirit is something for nothing. It's a gift. It's a gift. It's a gift. You don't buy it. You don't earn it. You don't beg for it. You don't cry for it. It's a gift. Ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Hallelujah! So you need to believe the promise.

I've met people who say well, the Lord knows where I live. (Laughter) And if he wants me to have this gift he'll bring it by. You need to believe the promise and then if you really believe you will obey. When I say to my grandchildren if you come with me I will give you a sucker, they believe me and they follow me and they receive. So we truly show that we believe when we obey. And how do we express our obedience? By asking. It's not passive. We ask. The scripture says, "*For every one that asks receives.*" Ask, seek, knock. And if you read the Amplified it says *ask and keep on asking. Seek and keep on seeking. Knock and keep on knocking.* I mean, I'm hungry, Lord. For everyone that asks receives.

I had a dear old uncle. His name was Alvin, Uncle Alvin. They lived on the farm up in the Bruce County area. He had come under the teaching of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. He was really hungry for God. He said to his wife, my aunt Lydia, he says, "I'm going to hire someone to do the fall plowing and I'm going up into the attic and I'm going to seek until I'm filled with the Holy Spirit." So he hired someone to do the fall plowing because he wasn't going to come down until he was filled. I call that hunger.

The scripture says they that hunger and thirst after righteousness shall be filled. Well, first morning he thought it kind of cool, you know how it is in the Bruce Peninsula in late August, it can get a little nippy. So he thought well, since I'm awake and up I'll go and get the wood chips and start the fire in the kitchen stove for Lydia. So he went down to the kitchen and he made the wood chips. He was waiting on God and blessing the Lord and praising the Lord. Before he ever got the fire lit, when Aunt Lydia came down he was speaking in tongues in the kitchen!

Now to me he really wanted to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. That's what you call hunger and thirst. The Lord saw my dear Uncle Alvin in that cold kitchen and graciously baptized him with the Holy Spirit. Hallelujah!

I have a dear friend by the name of Kay, a dear Baptist missionary. She said, "I think I need to know more about the Holy Spirit." She was hungry for God. Well, she said, have you got anything that I can study? She was a Bible School graduate and had been a missionary to Ecuador, a studious soul and didn't want to get off track or get into false doctrine. I said, "Yes, I have an excellent book, a study book called *The Spirit Himself* by Ralph Riggs. Well, she says, will you loan it to me? And I said, "I'd be glad to." So I loaned it to her. She studied it for several weeks. She handed me the book and said, "I am ready to receive." We were at a retreat in Bolton. The first night of the retreat she says, you know Ruth, I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit. But it's quite late and I promised my husband I would go to bed before midnight and if I don't, he'll be mad at me because I haven't been feeling that well. "Well," I said, "it doesn't take God all night or all day to fill you with the Holy Spirit. If you're hungry he'll fill you now."

So we went down into the little chapel. There was nobody there to sing fill me now, there was no organist, no pianist, just her and I. I said, "Kay, do you believe that God wants to fill you with the Holy Spirit?" She said, "I do." I said, "Do you believe he wants to fill you now?" She said, "I do." Do you believe that when the Holy Spirit comes you will be released and you will pray in tongues? She said, "I do." I said, "I'm going to lay my hands on you and when I lay my hands on you, you'll know that out of your innermost being rivers of living water are supposed to flow. Expect the release of the Holy Spirit." There we were, just the two of us, both in our night attire. Everybody else pretty well had gone to bed. We were just sitting there quietly. I laid hands on her. I don't know what I prayed. It wasn't anything special, just according to the word of God. I said, "Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, Kay." Out of her innermost being flowed rivers of living water. That artesian well sprung up. Hallelujah!

I like what one Mennonite woman said. When I got saved my pilot light turned on but when I got baptized in the Holy Spirit my furnace turned on. (Laughter) So the Lord Jesus Christ wants to immerse us in the Holy Spirit.

I was at another retreat not long after that. A dear woman came to me after the morning session. She said, "I would like to talk to you." I said, "That's fine. We'll arrange something." So at mealtime I said, "Why don't you come back to the room with me and

we can talk.” I thought maybe she had some deep burden or problem that she just wanted to talk one-on-one. As we were walking down the gravel road to the little room where I was staying, she said, “You know dear, I want to be filled with the Holy Spirit.” She was from some historic church. Anyway we went to my room and I told her the simple story of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and how it came on the Day of Pentecost and God isn’t partial and he hasn’t closed off the tube, you know, this promise is for you and your children and for all that are afar off, as many as the Lord our God shall call. She said, “I believe it.” I just prayed a simple prayer and she was a dear lady, she must have been in her seventies, and she just sat on the side of the bed and the rivers of living water just flowed out of her. Praise the name of the Lord!

So this promise is for us. It’s a gift. We don’t deserve it. We don’t need to beg for it. We just need to receive it. I’m not negating the fact that we should wait upon the Lord. It is always profitable to tarry in the presence of the Lord. However, we don’t need to tarry to receive. It’s a gift and we can receive. But once we have received the gift of the Holy Spirit we will want to linger in the presence of the Lord because Jesus will be magnified and glorified. We’ll sense his presence in a deeper dimension. So how will we know that we have been filled? When you have a disease they look for signs, don’t they, symptoms? So the sign, the initial sign is that you receive a wonderful prayer language.

There are many other signs of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. That is not the only one and I hope I can shout that loud enough. But I want to zero in on the initial evidence. Let’s give the example of Peter. Peter could walk. He walked with Jesus as a disciple. But then when he saw Jesus walking on the water, he said, “Bid me come to you.”

Remember the story? He stepped out of the boat. He already could walk but he had never walked on water. So the natural thing was he walked. The supernatural thing was that he walked on the water. And that helps us to understand the release of the Holy Spirit. We all can speak. That’s the natural. The supernatural is “as the Spirit gives the utterance.” We do the speaking but the spirit gives us the utterance, gives us the faith to believe that we can pray in a heavenly language. It might be a language of men or angels. God is Creator Lord. Just because we know there are a thousand or

two thousand languages and dialects in the world doesn't mean he can't create more. He might create a special language for you, I know not. But Paul said in 1 Corinthians 13, "*Though I speak with the tongues of men or angels.*" Sometimes it is a known language and I've had a few wonderful experiences in my own life when I spoke in other tongues a language I did not know. But on one occasion there was a linguist who was at the meeting and she came up to me afterwards and she said, "You spoke in Hebrew." So, you know, every once in a while the Lord will have someone who translates. I spoke to a woman just the other day and she said that when I was baptized in the Holy Spirit years ago in Manitoulin Island I spoke in Cantonese. So God has such a phenomenal variety in his kingdom. It's exciting to be a part of the body, part of the church of the redeemed. Hallelujah!

I've seen people with their monotone sad face, I asked for the gift of the Holy Spirit but I didn't speak with tongues. I have been praying for years and years for this release. In other words, do you realize what a hard case I am? I don't think the Lord will give me that release because I am one of the hard cases. Jesus said that if we ask we will receive. If we're thirsty we will be filled.

Just within the last three years I felt the Lord spoke to me really quite unusually. I was at a retreat out west and a woman came up to me, a young woman, and she said, "You know, I've been a Christian since I was a little girl. I was raised in Pentecost. But just recently I thought maybe I should be filled with the Holy Spirit. It was like an option. I have this car but now I would like a car with clothes." It was so flippant. I said, "How long have you known about the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" Well, she had known about it for many years but, you know, she didn't know whether she wanted to receive or not. She said, "Now what do I do?" I said, "I think you better repent." I mean, we all have loved ones in our family and when they buy us a gift and they give it to us, maybe they've gone to great sacrifice to get that gift and they hand out the gifts and you say, well, I don't know if I want that or not. Let me think it over. Can you imagine the grief that will go across their face? I think of what it cost God the Father for us to have a personal Pentecost. We can't take it lightly. It cost him the death of his Son that we might have this wonderful anointing. So if you have had a flippant attitude about, well,

it's like an option, you know, I can have it or I can manage without it, I would ask you to talk to the Lord about that and he probably will say you need to repent.

I like to think of the baptism of the Holy Spirit with the release to speak a prayer language is like unwrapping a gift. Let's untie the gift. Do you believe the promise is for you? Do you believe the promise is for you now? Are you afraid? Are you concerned about what others might think? Do you believe you can speak with tongues? You say well what about the deaf mute. Can they speak with tongues? Do you know, they do? When they are baptized in the Holy Spirit even the deaf mute will speak with tongues. We have a young family in our church. She is deaf. He speaks. And he told me not too long ago that when his wife was baptized in the Holy Spirit he heard her speak with tongues. Praise the Lord!

At the Bible College where my husband went, Central Bible Institute in Springfield, Missouri, he said that the deaf when they were baptized in the Holy Spirit, spoke in other tongues as the spirit gave them utterance. Isn't that neat? Hallelujah! So I trust your faith is being built up. So take off the wrappings. Rejoice in the presence of the Lord. Praise and worship out loud. I have never heard anybody having the experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit with their mouths pursed shut. You need to open your mouth and the Lord will fill it. Praise the Lord! And you say well, I'm shy and I'm timid. Well, lay that at Calvary. Amen. Put the pride there, too. And lift up your hands. Shake off those heavy bands and lift up those holy hands. Let all God's people praise the Lord and expect the release. Expect to speak in tongues because the promise is for you and for your children. You do the speaking. It's an act of faith and the spirit enables.

I've heard some say it sounds a bit like baby talk. Well, so what if it does sound that way. It's beautiful to the ears of God. And many of you are mothers and grandmothers and you know when that first grandchild or that first child begins to say da-da you're on the phone calling long distance saying the baby is starting to talk. Because that child is trying to communicate with you and you are just so thrilled and so proud. Well, you know the Holy Spirit desires to communicate with the Father through us. Hallelujah. And even if it's just faltering words the heart of the Father rejoices. Oh, she's entering

into a new dimension of communion. Hallelujah! Angels rejoice. Here she comes. Hallelujah.

Well, I want to emphasize that the baptism of the Holy Spirit, that initial experience is not a goal but it's a gateway to a life in the spirit. I've met some and I feel so sorry for them. They are still sitting at the gate. They never really entered into the life in the spirit. Yes, they had the experience of that release but they just sat down at the gate. I liken it to friends coming to visit. Let's go down to the Toronto Exhibition. I'll pay your way. Oh, I would love to go. So we get down to the Princess Gate and I pay my friend's way and we just get inside the gate when I say now you've been to the Exhibition, let's go home. Well, she would say, "We haven't seen anything." "I said I would pay your way down to the Exhibition, pay the gate, you've been to the Exhibition, let's go home." There are a lot of people that are just like that as far as the things of God are concerned. They have an experience with God but they don't follow on to know the Lord. The purpose of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gateway that we pass through and the scripture says in 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 to keep on. And in Ephesians 5:18 it talks about keep being filled with the spirit, is a better translation. There is one baptism. There are many fillings. It is the privilege of a spirit-filled believer to pray in tongues every day, anywhere and everywhere. Hallelujah. It's a life.

Romans 8:6 & 14-16 are more scriptures. It's a walk. Walk in the spirit and don't fulfill the lusts of the flesh. And then scripture tells us that the Holy Spirit has come to make us witnesses and to exalt Jesus. Praise the name of the Lord. And then we can go on and enjoy the fruit of the spirit, the gifts of the spirit. The Holy Spirit enables us to function in the body of Christ, to manifest the life of Christ in us to the glory of God the Father. Hallelujah. The scriptures speak of growing up into him and it speaks about growing in grace and the Holy Spirit wants us to pass through the gateway of release into a life in the Holy Spirit.

Now on the back page is a list of seven values of speaking in tongues. I want to emphasize that there is one baptism but there are many fillings. So we need to keep being filled. We need to exercise the gift that the Lord has given us. I must confess here I thought I couldn't live without a marble slab to roll out my pastry. And my son,

when he heard that, he rushed down to The Bay and bought me this marble slab that I've used about twice. (Laughter) It's a pain to wash up after and I find it is just as easy to use the cloth, the baking cloth that I've used for thirty years. So there is that marble slab beside the stove. My son gave it to me and I feel real bad, but it just isn't practical to use. I do so little baking now, you know, this high cholesterol stuff. Well, you know, the Lord has given us this wonderful gift. It's not a marble slab that you can use it or you can live without it. But we all need to be filled with the spirit and to keep being filled with the spirit. Hallelujah.

And if you're here this afternoon thinking well, you know, I asked but I haven't received yet, I just pray that there will be such a hunger for more of Jesus and you will unwrap the gift today. Check yourself. Have you really believed the promise that it's for you? Do you really believe it's for you? Do you really believe it is for you today? If you really believe it is for you today you will receive. Praise the name of the Lord.

Now I would like to just go quickly over these seven values of speaking in tongues.

First of all it is the evidence of the release of the Holy Spirit initially. It is not the only evidence. It is the initial evidence. There are many other evidences of the spirit-filled life, as I mentioned before. The fruit of the spirit, the gifts of the spirit, Christ likeness, a hunger for God, a hunger for his word, a hunger to be with God's people, a desire to share the good news. These are some of the other evidences.

And then speaking in tongues is a sign to the unbeliever. It's amazing the things that happen in church life when God's people are together and someone speaks in tongues. It really is a sign to the unbeliever and you can read it in 1 Corinthians 14.

And then it edifies the individual. The apostle Paul says that *he that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifies himself*. It builds you up. Jude 20 says *rise like an edifice* in the Amplified. Rise like an edifice, higher and higher. Pray in the Holy Ghost. I can tell you there have been times when I've been burdened down and discouraged and I began to pray in the Holy Spirit, and as I prayed in the Holy Spirit I figuratively see myself climbing up a ladder, or going up in an elevator and pretty soon I'm seeing things from God's perspective. The circumstances may not change for quite a while but I have

a lift in my life because I have a new viewpoint. I'm seeing things from God's viewpoint and that is what praying in tongues will do. You will rise like an edifice, higher and higher, praying in the Holy Ghost. I believe it is part of the business of mounting up on wings as eagles so we can run and not be weary and you can walk and not faint. Hallelujah.

Then another value of tongues is that we can pray in the will of God. There are many times that I have a burden but I really don't know how to say it in English. God doesn't need my directions. He doesn't need my suggestions. But I know I need help in prayer and I'm glad that the Holy Spirit has come, the spirit helps our infirmities. He knows how to pray through us in the will of God. And when I'm praying in the spirit I know I'm praying according to the will of God. And then we can do spiritual battle against the enemy as we pray in the Holy Ghost. *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against spiritual wickedness in high places.* We need to be strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. We need the whole armour of God. It talks about praying with all prayer in the spirit. Our weapons are mighty through God to the pulling down of strongholds.

We give imperfect praise to God. But we can have the language of heaven on our lips and perfect our praise. There are times when I begin to say in English about how good the Lord has been to me and you've blessed me and you've answered prayer and I praise you and I thank you for Jesus, and then I run out of how I'm going to express my love to the Lord. And then I go into overdrive. Hallelujah! The Holy Spirit says, Ruth, you can't just do it perfectly so I'll do it through you. Hallelujah! And that's one of the values of having this glorious release.

Isaiah 28:11-12 talks about it being the rest and refreshing: "*So with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people.*" This is the rest and this is the refreshing. This is the strength in the midst of battle. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. Oh, may I encourage you to receive the promise if you haven't already. You may say, "Well, ten years ago at a retreat I was baptized in the Holy Spirit but I really don't have the freedom to pray in tongues." He wants to give you that freedom. If you have been filled and you have an up-to-date experience of praying in

the Holy Ghost I would just encourage you to minister to others and wet their appetite for the things of God. God is a good God and any gift he gives is good and it is perfect. Hallelujah. And don't be afraid. Don't be dismayed. Don't say it's me doing the speaking. Yes, it is you. But it's the Holy Spirit working in you that allows you to speak forth the wonderful praises of God and lifts you out of yourself into a new dimension in God that the world can't give and it can't take away. Hallelujah. Praise the name of the Lord.

Are you hungry and thirsty for more of God? Do you believe that you can unwrap the gift today? He wants to fill your heart today to overflowing. Hallelujah. Hallelujah. And if you're hungry and thirsty to have this glorious release, and you believe that you can receive right now, I want you to stand to your feet.

--- End of recording