



Filled
— with the —
SPIRIT

EMEKA ANSLEM

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anslem.emeka@gmail.com
www.emekaanslem.com.ng
facebook.com/OfficialEmekaAnslem
Phone: +2349024529639
WhatsApp: +2348065582482

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Unless otherwise stated, all scriptural reference are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Holy Bible. Bold and Italicized scriptures are for emphasis only.



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Just Before You Begin...

Over time I've realized that many Christians experience difficulties in understanding how to live or operate in the spirit. Many of them ask questions like:

- *What does it mean to be in the spirit?*
- *What is the difference between praying in tongues and praying in the spirit?"*
- *If I don't speak in tongues, does it mean I've not received the Holy Spirit?"*

In an attempt to find answers to these questions, many of them have dabbled into errors that is causing unwarranted delays in their lives. In this book, I'd attempt to reveal as much as the Holy Spirit permits, and I believe that whatever is revealed will enlighten the eyes of your understanding forever. Have a good read!

NOW LET'S BEGIN...

We may never really have a full grasp of the spirit life until we understand what really happens at salvation. So, let me begin by explaining what really happens when we get saved.

We live in a time and age where a lot of young folks want to relocate in search of greener pastures. While some have met their end because they tried to relocate without proper documentations, others have succeeded by acquiring the necessary documents to both travel and live abroad. Those who took the back door and eventually broke-in are compelled to live as though they are not living at all. Many of them even wish they never left their country.

This is relative to how things work in the realm of the spirit. You can't travel and live in the spirit without the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit cannot come inside you until you receive

Jesus. Salvation isn't just about redeeming man from sin and Satan, it also includes reconciling man to God by activating his spirit. Remember that relationship Adam had with God, the very one that Adam could hear God's voice without restraint? Yes, salvation brings us back into that relationship. A relationship where man can live in the spirit, not flesh. God is a Spirit, and we can only communicate with Him in the spirit. If your spirit is not alive, how then can you reach God?

This lack of connectivity to God is actually the cause of ninety percent of man's limitations. Limitation is something that was introduced into this world after the first man sinned against God. Prior to that time, man was unlimited as far as his dominion in this world is concerned. Man had supernatural intelligence; he never went to school, yet he gave names to all the animals that existed at that time.

Man could operate with unrestricted divine abilities because God had breathed His Spirit into man. Genesis 2:7 made that clear when it

said, ***“And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”***. The word “Breathe” was the same word used by Jesus the first time He gave the Holy Ghost to His disciples. John 20:22 says, ***“And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Ghost”***. This validates that the breathe Adam received was the Holy Ghost.

When sin became more prevalent, one of the things that God withdrew from man was His eternal Spirit. Lets see how scriptures put it:

Genesis 6:

1 And after a time, when men were increasing on the earth, and had daughters

2 The sons of God saw that the daughters of men were fair; and they took wives for themselves from those who were pleasing to them.

3 And the Lord said, My spirit will not be in man for ever, for he is only flesh; so the days of his life will be a hundred and twenty years.

5 And the Lord saw that the sin of man was great on the earth, and that all the thoughts of his heart were evil.

6 And the Lord had sorrow because he had made man on the earth, and grief was in his heart.

7 And the Lord said, I will take away man, whom I have made, from the face of the earth, even man and beast and that which goes on the earth and every bird of the air; for I have sorrow for having made them.

8 But Noah had grace in the eyes of God.

Did you notice verse 3? God decided to withdraw His eternal Spirit from man because man's flesh was naturally subject to sin. What that means is that sin could now limit the operation or possibilities of man. The more man sinned, the less of God man saw.

That's the cure to man's limitation right there; the manifestation of the Spirit of God. When man had the fullness of God's Spirit, man had no limitations, but as sin continued to gain dominion, limitations began to set in. If long life could be shortened by sin, then it means length of days is possible by a conscious effort to walk

in the spirit. Possibilities will be endless for a man that lives a spirit life.

After Adam, the next person that operated with supernatural intelligence is Jesus. Let's read from scriptures:

John 7:

14 Now about the midst of the feast Jesus went up into the temple, and taught.

15 And the Jews marvelled, saying, How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?

16 Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me.

17 If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.

18 He that speaketh of himself seeketh his own glory: but he that seeketh his glory that sent him, the same is true, and no unrighteousness is in him.

Did you see that? They knew that Jesus didn't go to school, so they wondered how he had knowledge of what he was teaching. You'd recall that prior to this time, the Holy Ghost had

already descended upon Jesus. Jesus didn't even hesitate to tell them that the knowledge he was sharing was coming directly from the God that sent him.

The Holy Spirit is truly the cure for the limitations of man. Speaking about the coming of the Holy Ghost, Jesus reveals that the Holy Ghost will teach us all things. Let's see how scriptures put it:

John 14:

16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever

26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

I remember how I was told to stand in for a senior colleague in a computer school I worked with years ago. At that time, I had only taught the Basic Class of that course while the Advance Class was reserved for a senior colleague. But since the senior colleague

wasn't around, I had to save the day. After much perambulating, I had to ask the Holy Spirit to teach me. I went into that class after that short prayer, and I was amazed by what happened. I taught the entire course within 2 hours. The course was a 3 weeks course, yet I completed it in one class. The Holy Spirit gave me supernatural intelligence that day, and it was so beautiful.

You need the Spirit of God to deal with the limitations in this world. He's the only personality that can teach you all things. Now you'd understand what Apostle Paul meant when he said "I can do all things through Christ that strengthens me". The strength of Christ to believers is the Holy Ghost. So I can do all things through the strengthening of the Holy Spirit - which also is the Spirit of Christ. I can buy a house, buy a car, start a family, run a business, pursue my purpose, advance the kingdom, I can do all things through the strengthening of the Holy Spirit.

SINNERS CANNOT LIVE A SPIRIT LIFE

As a sinner, attempting to live a spirit life is like wanting to travel without documents. According to scriptures, a sinner cannot live in the spirit because he's dead to the spirit realm. His visa is his spirit which unfortunately is dead. The only way a person can gain access to the spirit realm is if he receives Christ. Once he receives Christ, the Holy Spirit comes into him and activates his spirit - which is more like giving him a traveling visa. Let me show you a few scriptures:

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins

John 6:63: It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Colossians 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses

Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

Ephesians 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,

1 Corinthians 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

The Holy Spirit is like the office that grants the spirit or visa to live in the spirit realm. It's more like saying the American Embassy gives you visa to live in America. Without a visa, you can't live there.

This also means that every born again believer has the Holy Spirit working inside of him. It is the Holy Spirit that gives us a spirit that

witnesses to us that we are sons of God. Without this, salvation is not complete.

BEING BORN AGAIN MAKES THE FOUNDATIONAL LEVEL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AVAILABLE

Now that we've settled that, it's important that I mention that being born again or living in the spirit is just the foundational or entry level of functionality in the realms of the spirit. When a child is born, although he is born with all he needs to function in life, he has to be nourished to develop that capacity that is already resident in him. This means that living in the spirit is not enough, you need to be filled with the Spirit.

The disciples of Jesus were the first set of people to receive Jesus and Lord and Saviour, yet He didn't allow them to witness Him to the world until they were filled with the Holy Spirit. Remember how He told them to wait in the upper room until they received power? The aftermath of their obedience to that instruction is stated in Acts of the Apostles:

Acts 2:

2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.

3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Earlier in John 20:22, Jesus gave them the Holy Ghost, the same measure that every born again Christian receives. But in Acts, they were filled with the same Holy Spirit, and the first sign that showed that they were filled is that they began to speak in other tongues, as the same Holy Spirit gave them utterance.

That's the very first time speaking in tongues was mentioned in scriptures. The first time Jesus gave them the Holy Ghost, they didn't speak in tongues. As a matter of fact, they still had doubt and fear in them. They still hid themselves, they couldn't manifest their full spiritual potential as they did in Acts, and that's

clearly because they were not filled with the Spirit.

If we're to consider the law of first mention and the subsequent times this happened, then we can make that a doctrine. If you claim to be filled with the Holy Ghost, then you should speak in tongues. Personally, I've noticed that anytime my spirit is really charged, I just burst into tongues. Have you ever been in a situation where you suddenly received revelation to something and your reaction was in tongues? If you have, then you'd understand what I mean. Speaking in tongues is a proof that one is filled with the Holy Ghost.

If you spoke in tongues after the paragraph you just read, then I congratulate you, because you've just been filled. If you also had a strange sensation coming up from your belly to your throat but somehow you restrained it, I encourage you to let it out, that's the infilling at work. It's a spiritual thing, stop trying to make sense of it. The more you try to make sense of

it, the longer it takes for you to eventually speak in tongues.

You may be living in the Spirit, but not filled with the Spirit. You may be able to hear God and even talk to God, yet not be filled with the Spirit. The second time an infilling was mentioned again was when Apostle Paul met with some disciples in Acts 19. They believed in Jesus, but they had not received the Holy Ghost. In verse 6, after he had laid his hands on them, they spake with tongues and prophesied.

So no, not speaking in tongues does not mean you have not received the Holy Spirit, it only means you are not filled with the Holy Spirit. And if you are not filled, your spiritual possibilities will be limited. Now that you understand this, ask Jesus to fill you with the Holy Spirit, He's ever willing and ever ready.

Please note that asides speaking in tongues, there are many other things that can happen once a person is filled with The Holy Spirit, I'd

show you a few of them from scripture as we make progress. You just need to understand what happens when you are filled is entirely up to the Holy Spirit. However, speaking in tongues is non-negotiable, seeing that it was established on three different occasions in the bible.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PRAYING IN TONGUES AND PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT

Now it's clear that once you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour, the Holy Spirit comes inside of you and activates your spirit. This is necessary because God is a Spirit, and those who worship Him can only worship Him in the spirit, not in the body. We glorify God with our body, but worship and connectivity to Him can only be done through our spirit.

One of the mysteries that has confused many believers for so long is the possibility of having a spirit being inside us, yet if you open or dissect our body, you won't find a spirit. Well, this is simply because our spirit can only be

located inside the Holy Spirit. In other words, you can't be alive in the spirit without the Holy Spirit. And you can't receive the Holy Spirit except you receive Jesus as Lord and Saviour. Once you receive Jesus, the Holy Spirit comes into you and activates your spirit.

Once you receive Jesus, you've become a person who lives in the spirit. In other words, you can now communicate with your heavenly Father who is a Spirit. But being filled with the Spirit or the Holy Spirit is entirely different from the encounter you had with the Holy Spirit at the point of salvation. Being filled with the Spirit in literal terms means to be equipped with the power of God or to be assisted by The Spirit of God. I believe this is why Jesus told the disciples that they would receive power after the Holy Ghost comes upon them. It was Apostle Paul who began to teach us the different dimensions, workings or gift of the Holy Spirit, of which one of them is the gift of diverse kinds of tongues.

I've mentioned that one of the signs that show when a person is filled with the Spirit is that he'd speak with tongues. There are 3 instances where this happened in the Bible, and so we can consider it a doctrine or a pattern. It is therefore possible to be living in the spirit but not be filled with the Spirit of God. You live in the spirit because the Holy Spirit activated your spirit at the point of salvation, but you get empowered by God to witness Jesus to the world when you are filled with the Spirit.

Let me also mention at this point that speaking in tongues simply means speaking in languages. Apostle Paul reveals two types of tongues in 1 Corinthians 13:1, it says, ***"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal"***. Clearly, the tongues that the disciples of Jesus spoke on the day of Pentecost were tongues of men. I don't expect a mortal man to hear or understand the tongues of angels. The tongue of angels is most likely that which is communicated to God directly. However, it's important to note that we

don't decide which tongues to speak, we only speak as the Holy Spirit gives us utterance. That's why attempting to speak in tongues without being filled will remain a religious practice.

What happened on the day of Pentecost was phenomenal, they spoke in tongues after they were filled. Coincidentally, the people around heard what they were saying in their local languages. And all they heard was about the good works of God. Now this doesn't mean that you'd be able to hear me each time I pray in tongues as a result of being filled, it just means that the Holy Spirit does the prayer according to God's will. And God's will at that moment was that the people around would hear of the good works of God. If you'd recall, the tongues that Cornelius and the other disciples that Apostle Paul prayed for were never interpreted, they probably spoke tongues of angels.

Once you're filled, you'd speak in tongues. And if the will of God is that you or someone else hears what you're praying, then that's exactly

what will happen. If the will of God is that someone somewhere should have a breakthrough or be delivered from trouble, then that's what will happen as long as you pray in tongues.

If you understand what I've shared so far, then you'd understand the difference between praying in the spirit and praying with the spirit or in tongues. But let me show you a few scriptures:

1 Corinthians 14:15 (NKJV)

What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.

This was part of Apostle Paul's discussion on speaking in tongues. He was comparing the act of speaking in an unknown language (unknown to those listening and speaking) and of speaking in a language that the listeners and speaker knew. Apostle Paul used the term to speak or pray in tongues to distinguish it from

speaking or praying from the mind or a language you know. Therefore, when a person who is filled with the Spirit begins to speak in tongues, his mind does not know the language or what is being said.

Ephesians 6:18 (NKJV)

Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, being watchful to this end with all perseverance and supplication for all the saints?

Jude 20 (NKJV)

But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit.

These two scriptures refer to something very different from 1 Corinthians 14:15. Many Bibles use a convention when referring to God. You will notice the capital “G” when the Bible text is referring to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The same convention is used here with respect to the Holy Spirit or the Spirit. The capital “S” means that it is referring to the Holy Spirit and not the spirit of man.

So while praying with tongues engages the influence or gift of the Holy Spirit to pray, praying in the Spirit relies on the word of God to have an effective prayer time. Praying in the Spirit means to pray in alignment to God's word. It refers to a prayer that is birthed from an understanding of God, as opposed to mere words from the mind. We're told in scriptures that God's word is a Spirit that has life in it, so each time we pray the Word, we're simply praying in the Spirit, and that action will birth the life that word carries within us. That's right! Oftentimes we may not look anything like the Word we are praying with, but because the Word is a Spirit that has a life, when the Spirit of that what comes alive in us, it will create the life it speaks about (I really hope you understood that. I tried to explain it in the best way I could)

Whether you are praying in tongues or in the Spirit, true prayer is one that comes from within one's inner being, which is our spirit. True prayer is more than words put together in the mind and spoken. Although praying in tongues

is a special and advantageous case of praying in the Spirit - considering all that has been said, every born again believer should practice praying in the Spirit as Apostle Paul admonishes. You don't need a special influence to pray in the Spirit, you just need salvation. Praying in the Spirit simply needs alignment and meditation on God's word. The Spirit flows anywhere the word of God flows.

IF YOU CAN'T FEEL THE HOLY GHOST AFTER A WHILE

If you've not felt the Holy Spirit in a while, the truth is, many things could have gone wrong, but from experience, there's one thing you can do that covers for everything else. Let me show you a scripture;

John 16:

12 I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear,

that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

Did you notice the words, "He shall glorify me..."? That's right! The Holy Spirit doesn't get involved in any activity that Jesus isn't glorified. If Jesus isn't the subject matter, you can't feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. The more you glorify Jesus, the more you see the manifestation of the Holy Spirit.

Show me a person who Jesus is not being glorified in his life, then I'd confidently tell you that the person doesn't have the Holy Spirit.

I don't start my prayers by speaking in tongues, I start by glorifying the name of Jesus. I start by exalting Him above all my cares; I start by blessing His name and declaring His wondrous works, including His sacrifices for me. It's always in the process of enthroning or glorifying Jesus that I begin to feel the majestic presence of the Holy Spirit.

I know that the Holy Spirit is right here with us, but just because He's right here with us doesn't change the position of Jesus when it comes to accessing our God. Jesus is the Way, and He'd remain the way through which we get to God, either God the Father or the Holy Spirit.

When you see a miracle in your life, the one who did it is the Holy Spirit, but He did it because Jesus was glorified. If Jesus wasn't glorified, that miracle would not have been established.

Talking of speaking in tongues, I've mentioned that we speak in tongues when we are filled with the Holy Spirit. According to scriptures, one of the signs that shows that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit is that He'd begin to speak in other tongues as the same Spirit gives him utterance. So the moment you attempt to speak in tongues and it's not flowing, it simply means you're not filled with the Holy Spirit yet. And all you have to do is to get filled or secure His presence by glorifying Jesus.

Don't get me wrong, you may have received the baptism of the Holy Spirit with evidence of speaking in tongues, but once filled doesn't mean you'd always be filled. And while many preachers would tell you to maintain a steady prayer life to keep the fire burning or to remain filled, you must ensure that the subject of focus in your prayer glorifies Jesus. Because, there are many prayer warriors who are literally void of the Spirit. They pray, but the content of their prayer doesn't necessarily glorify Jesus.

You have to understand this; once filled doesn't mean you'd always be filled, and the filling of the Holy Ghost or the manifestation of His presence only happens when Jesus is glorified. Remember how the disciples of Jesus were captured because they preached in the name of Jesus. After they were released, they obviously needed to be refilled with the Holy Ghost - even though they had just been filled not too long ago. Let's see what they did from scriptures:

Acts 4:

23 And being let go, they went to their own company, and reported all that the chief priests and elders had said unto them.

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and

they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Did you see that? The content of their prayer simply glorified or revalidated Jesus's mandate, and the result was that they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with boldness, the same boldness they spoke with the first time they were filled.

So, the next time you approach your prayer altar, enthrone your Jesus above those situations and circumstances, declare His word into your life or into the situation, remind the Lord that it was for that reason that Jesus died, and you'd be amazed how the Holy Spirit will show up. When the Holy Spirit finally comes, then you can communicate with Him first hand - all through your day.

For the record, asides your prayer time, your actions of faith also glorify Jesus, which also means the Holy Spirit will be more active with you. This is why we encourage believers to live by faith.

WHEN YOUR TONGUES ISN'T AS POWERFUL AS IT USED TO BE

One of the most beautiful things about praying in tongues is that the Holy Spirit gives the utterance. Which means you can be so synchronized with the Spirit of God that whatever you'd be speaking would be from the Spirit. Even you would be able to tell that it's not a carnal tongue. It's really not possible for the Spirit to give you utterance and not feel the power or connection, the same connection you felt the very first time you spoke in tongues.

I remember the first time I spoke in tongues, it was a Holy Ghost Baptism class. The tongues were sweet, nothing that I've experienced in the ordinary. Even when I wanted to stop, it just kept flowing. I guess I was too filled to stop blasting in tongues. Before we got dismissed from the class, the pastor in charge told us to nurture the tongues with continuous practice, which means we should speak in tongues more often so that the gift won't go away.

That would have been a great advice except that I soon realized that I struggled to get the same feeling I had the first day. Which also means that continuous or much speaking in tongues didn't really nurture the tongues as they said, it probably idolized the tongues.

Speaking in tongues isn't a carnal language you train your mind to speak, it's an angelic language that only the Holy Spirit can give. Trying to speak in tongues without active fellowship with the things of the Spirit of God may only produce carnal tongues. That's why Apostle Paul thanked his God that he spoke in tongues more than all of them. They all spoke in tongues, but he spoke more, and that's certainly because he had more fellowship time with God.

Speaking in tongues is one of the first signs that proves that a person is filled with the Holy Spirit. If you check the 3 instances I referred to, which is on the day of Pentecost, Peter's encounter with Cornelius's family, and Paul's

meeting with the other disciples of Jesus, you'd discover that they all spoke with tongues after they were filled with The Holy Ghost.

As we all know, that first filling was a gift from God, you didn't really do much to receive it. It's almost like saying I gifted someone a car that came with a filled fuel tank. He'd be able to move around with the car as long as there is still fuel in the car. But the moment the tank is empty, he'd either park the car or refill the tank for continuous use. You'd be surprised to know that there are many Christians who could speak in tongues at some point in their lives but are currently barren of tongues.

If you understand what I've said so far, then you'd realize that your aim shouldn't be train your tongues or practice speaking in tongues, rather it should be to keep doing the things that would make you filled and refilled with the Spirit. Let me show you a few things you should always do;

1. STUDY AND MEDITATE ON GOD'S WORD

John 6:63 (NIV)

The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you - they are full of the Spirit and life.

Notice the second time spirit was mentioned in that scripture, the "S" was in Capital letter. In other words, there's something about God's word that fills you with the Spirit of God. And like I said, once you're filled with the Spirit, tongues will flow naturally. You'd literally feel the connection.

Each time I receive a revelation from scripture, I usually don't know when I burst into speaking in tongues. It just happens unplanned. Speaking in tongues at the entrance of a revelation couldn't have been a coincidence.

2. PRAY

I would have put this first except that some believers have now idolized prayer. Prayer is a spiritual thing, and if it's not done based on

what you understand from God's word, it would soon become an idol to you.

Any gift from God that isn't used based on a relationship with God won't stand the test of time. If you neglect the relationship, you can't possess the benefits for long. Man was supposed to live forever, but when he continued to sin, God had to cut down that possibility. Don't expect to continue walking in a grace without an active relationship with the one that engrafted you.

That said, the disciples of Jesus understood their assignment and were carrying it out until they began to experience oppositions - including from priests. They decided to pray about it, and the result was that they were filled with the Holy Ghost. Let's see how scriptures put it:

Acts 4:31

And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they

were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Praying from a scriptural understanding will always fill you with the Holy Ghost. Most believers pray in the flesh, that's why they don't get filled. Even if what you need is an earthly thing, find the scriptural solution and pray with it. It's only when you pray according to His will that He hears you. The disciples had the scriptural solution to their earthly problem, and that's what they prayed with. They didn't have to bind and cast the devil, they just prayed with an understanding of the scripture they knew.

3. PRAISING THE NAME OF JESUS

Recall what I said about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will not go to anywhere Jesus is not glorified. If you want to be filled with the Holy Spirit, then don't joke with praising the name of Jesus.

I've realized that many Christians do not understand the power in the name of Jesus. Let me show you briefly.

Revelation 19:

11 And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war.

12 His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.

13 And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God.

14 And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

15 And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.

16 And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.

Did you notice the description of the personality from verse 11? His eyes were as a flame of fire, he had many crowns on his head - which obviously meant He is King of kings as verse 16 later revealed. He was clothed with a garment dipped in blood, and his name is called "The Word of God". Besides that the armies of heaven followed him about, a sharp sword went out of his mouth, and that's what he uses to subdue the nations of the earth.

Recall that according to John chapter 1, this same Word of God was in the beginning with God and all things were made by Him. We've all thought that The Word of God must have been like the literal word of a person, but the scriptures we just read clearly reveals that The Word of God actually had the figure of an independent being. He was a being whose name was called "The Word of God". He was in charge of ruling the nations. Hebrews 1:3 further confirms that God controls all things by His Word. This means that anytime you engage the word of God, you should understand that you're engaging a controlling power that the

world cannot resist. You can even paint the picture of that being each time you declare the word.

Now that I think about it, there are many more scriptures that clearly reveals that The Word of God has a figure or personality. An example will be 1 John 5:7, it says, "For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one". Did you see that? The Word of God is also part of those who took records of the events that happen in the world.

If you understand what I've shared so far, then you'd understand John 1:14. It says, "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth". The Word was made flesh! That personality that was described in Revelations was made flesh and dwelt among humans.

Asides the fact that He became flesh to redeem man from sin and Satan, He also made that

sacrifice to give man a name that no devil can resist, and that's the name of Jesus. Before he became flesh, sin and Satan had a field day in oppression believers. But after He gave believers His name, even the devil was put under subjection. The disciples of Jesus confirmed this in Mark 16:20; they said "even the devil was subject to us in your name".

You have to understand that believers had the word before Jesus came, but they couldn't exercise real power until the name of Jesus was given to them. In Mark 16, Jesus specifically told them that believers could cast out devils, heal the sick, and be delivered from harm, all in his name. You'd recall that it was the name of Jesus that Peter used to heal that scrippled man at the Gate called Beautiful. He didn't preach a long sermon; neither did he declare scriptures on the crippled man.

When they summoned them for questioning to know what power or name they used to do the things they did, Peter didn't hesitate to tell them

that it was the name of Jesus. Let's see how scriptures put it:

Acts 4:

7 And when they had set them in the midst, they asked, By what power, or by what name, have ye done this?

10 Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.

Did you notice the question? By what power or by what name have you done this? That's another revelation on its own. Which means there are two ways by which you get things done in this world, either by power or by a name. Peter could have used financial power to assist that scrippled man, but he decided to use a name. Wow! I'd probably expand this in a different book.

So verse 10 is where Peter expressly told them that it was by the name of Jesus that he did the miracles.

If you understand all that I've shared so far, then you'd realize that the name of Jesus is equal to the Word of God. So instead of looking for a scripture to pray with or declare, engage your faith in the name of Jesus. It will deliver as much as the Word will.

Now this is not a license to become lazy in studying the scriptures, you need to study the scriptures to have a stronger relationship with God. The purpose of this is to help you understand that you have authority in the name of Jesus. You can go anywhere and start any venture by that name. The fear of an attack or failure should not be found near you when you have the name. Engage that name in confidence, you own it, it was given to you.

Having understood this, it's now clear what praising the name of the Jesus will do. As you begin to praise that name, the glory of the Lord will surround you by His Spirit.

That said, none of these 3 can work independently for too long. They are the 3 major tools required for effective fellowship with God. A continuous mixture of all 3 will continually keep your spirit connected.

Remember, it's not about mastering the tongues, but about mastering fellowship. Fellowship generates the tongues. It's better and more effectual when you follow this pattern.

AT WHAT TIME DO I PRAY IN TONGUES DURING PRAYER?

So in Luke chapter 11 when Jesus taught the disciples how to pray, He didn't say anything about speaking in tongues. We know that they had not received the Holy Spirit as at that time, but if speaking in tongues needed to have a special section during our regular prayer time, then Jesus would have mentioned it. Let's read from scriptures:

Luke 11:

2 And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as in heaven, so in earth.

3 Give us day by day our daily bread.

4 And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.

Jesus's lesson on effective regular prayer must begin with hallowing or blessing the name of your heavenly Father. And hallowing His name means to make a joyful shout of His numerous names. And while you do that, accompany it with thanksgiving and praise. According to Psalms 100:4, it is this first level of prayer that grants you access to God's presence. If you do this well, you'd definitely feel His presence in your heart.

And then the next thing is to focus on His kingdom's manifestation on earth. And the way you do that is to pray that His will be done on earth just as it is in heaven or in the bible. So anything you find in the bible that is yet to be made manifest on the earth, you can pray

about it at this point. Once you're done with the kingdom, every other prayer is optional.

The disciples knew all of these, and even after the Holy Ghost came, they still practiced this pattern of prayer. Let me show you a scripture where they practiced this prayer pattern:

Acts 4:

24 And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is:

25 Who by the mouth of thy servant David hast said, Why did the heathen rage, and the people imagine vain things?

26 The kings of the earth stood up, and the rulers were gathered together against the Lord, and against his Christ.

27 For of a truth against thy holy child Jesus, whom thou hast anointed, both Herod, and Pontius Pilate, with the Gentiles, and the people of Israel, were gathered together

28 For to do whatsoever thy hand and thy counsel determined before to be done.

29 And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak thy word

30 By stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that signs and wonders may be done by the name of thy holy child Jesus.

31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.

Just look at that! Did you notice how they followed Jesus's lesson carefully? And it's even amazing how powerfully that prayer pattern worked for them. Notice also that the bible didn't mention anything about praying in tongues as they prayed, they only followed Jesus's pattern of prayer.

The emphasis on praying in tongues began with Apostle Paul. In 1 Corinthians 14:2, he said, ***"For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries"***.

This means that speaking in tongues is an exclusive language or spiritual dialect used by a baptized man to communicate with God or for God. I could pray in English and God will still hear, but if I need to shut the devil and everyone else out, I switch to tongues once I am filled. This is something we even practice naturally, we generally speak in English, but when we are in a crowd and we want to keep our conversation private, we use our local dialect. Of course, when a conversation requires that you switch to your dialect, then it means something deep needs to be communicated.

If this is correct, then it means you can pray every segment of Jesus's pattern of prayer in tongues - if you're filled and if the Holy Spirit wills it. You can hallow God's name in tongues, just as you can pray about His kingdom in tongues. Praying in tongues doesn't need to have a special moment, just as praying in Igbo language doesn't need a special moment.

I'm really glad that you read this book. As your testimonies begin to arrive, please do not hesitate to share them with me.

Remain ever blessed!



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Emeka Anslem is a critically acclaimed inspirational writer, Founder of In-spirited Writers Training School, and President of The Solutionists. His strong social media presence has served as a medium that satisfies the spiritual hunger of many Christians and brought even many more to Christ. He received a divine call to be a teacher in April 2013, with an assignment to "Add value to lives by bringing knowledge to the people". By God's grace, he has committed his life to that assignment, and he's always willing to add value to lives.

Through his passion for his assignment, he's been privileged to author over 50 e-books which are mostly downloadable for free at the E-BOOKS section of his website (www.emekaanslem.com.ng). His rare teaching gift has attracted several public speaking engagements in seminars, conferences and the likes. Considering his track record in writing, God inspired him to convene a yearly writers conference, which has been a medium of transformation for many writers.

He also runs a business where he operates as a content developer. He has written for great men within and outside his country of residence, and the testimonies have been phenomenal.

Emeka Anslem is accessible. So do not hesitate to contact him through any of his social media platforms.

