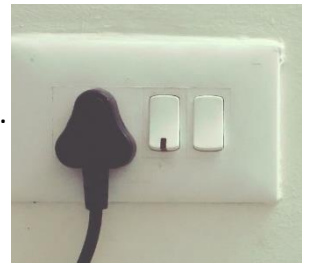




When I was putting some clothes in the washing machine the other day it caused me to think back to my mother's washing day. Our wash-house was across the yard. Every Monday the fire would be burning under the copper boiler in the corner and heating the water. The dolly tub, dolly pegs and a small 'blue bag' were all ready to use. There was a large old mangle with two big wooden rollers that was used to squeeze the water out of the clothes. It needed arm muscles like a wrestler to turn the handle, especially as the rollers would be set as tightly as possible in order to squeeze out the maximum amount of water! The clothes line was about forty yards long and was slung across the field, tied to the swing at one end and the damson tree at the other. Of course, the length was far too long for the weight of the very wet washing that was to be pegged onto it, so when there was a bit of a wind the line would snap and all of the washing would end up on the grass. Poor Mam. I was quite oblivious to how she must have felt at such times as she just tied the two pieces together and propped it all back up with a long clothes prop.

I do not have a copper boiler, dolly pegs or mangle; all I have to do is put the clothes into the washing machine, plug it in and switch on the plug to send the electricity into the washer. Simple. No arm muscles needed! As we are coming up to Pentecost it reminded me of the Holy Spirit. When we accept Jesus into our lives then the Holy Spirit comes within us and He changes us. We have a desire to want to follow Jesus, to pray, to read our Bibles and to meet with other Christians.



Putting the plug into the socket and switching it on sends the electricity into the washer, but, does not cause the washer to spin round and wash the clothes. We then have to turn the dial at the front of the washer to make the power drive the motor. In a similar way, we can give our lives to Jesus, but are short of the power that drives us to desire a closer relationship with God and enhance all of the aspects of being a Christian. Receiving the 'Baptism of the Holy Spirit' gives us this extra drive to our Christian walk with God.



BAPTISM OF HOLY SPIRIT

When we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit, God enables us to speak in another language that is not our native tongue – often referred to as ‘tongues’. It tells us in the Bible that when we speak in tongues it is the Holy Spirit speaking to God the Father on our behalf. This is something that is very powerful. The Holy Spirit knows our deepest desires and thoughts better than we ourselves do and is able to pray much more exactly than we are able to pray using our own human efforts. Our desire to pray, to read our Bibles and to tell others about Jesus are all strengthened and taken to a new level.

DENOMINATIONS

Even though I am a member of a Pentecostal Church, can I please emphasize that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not only for those who attend a Pentecostal church. God makes this gift available for **ALL** Christians, regardless of which denomination of church is attended. Each denomination has its own method of church service but the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not a denominational belief; it is something that is Biblical and is meant to be an innate part of every Christian’s life and does not depend on what form a service takes.



Sometimes we can keep God in a box and put limits on what He is able to do. Some reject the Baptism of the Holy Spirit because it may seem to be rather a weird phenomenon, but who are we to question the way in which God decides to do things? We are not able to fully understand how the Holy Spirit works in this way any more than we can grasp how electricity is transferred by a bit of wire, yet this does not prevent us using electrical equipment without giving it a second thought!

Do not be satisfied with just competing in the race – GO FOR GOLD – and pray for everything that God has available for you.

Please note: The Doodle titled ‘Raising the bar’ describes in detail what happens when we receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and is found in the ‘Doodles Archives’.