

Pentecostal Distinctives, part 2 of 2—

The Holy Spirit and You

(The first part of this article discussed three key principles about the baptism in the Holy Spirit and listed the first four of seven truths about the Holy Spirit that children need to know. Those seven truths continue below.)

5 **The baptism in the Holy Spirit will not be scary, even though it is different from anything else.**

The idea of speaking in unlearned languages as the Holy Spirit fills him can be hard for a child to understand. Help him realize that the Holy Spirit loves people. He will not force them to do anything—including speaking in a language they have not learned.

The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a wonderful experience to be desired, not one to make a child feel frightened or uncomfortable. Help the children understand that if they want the Holy Spirit to fill them, the Holy Spirit will give them the ability to speak in an unknown language as He fills them.

6 **The baptism in the Holy Spirit is the beginning of an ongoing relationship.**

Emphasize the ongoing nature of the Spirit-filled life. Help children avoid the trap of seeking only the initial evidence of speak-

ing in tongues. Speaking in unknown tongues is not a sign that a Christian has “arrived” in his Christian walk. It is instead the sign of a beginning, the beginning of God the Holy Spirit dwelling inside as a teacher, counselor, and comforter.



7 **The gifts of the Holy Spirit are for today.**

The gifts of the Holy Spirit can be hard for children to understand. As they see the gifts of the Spirit in operation in your church, they may have questions. Answer those questions. Be prepared to talk to your pastor if you need help.

Stress to the children that the gifts of the Holy Spirit are not just

tongues and interpretation. These are special, useful gifts, but the Holy Spirit has other gifts, such as the gifts of knowledge, discerning of spirits, healing, and other gifts that are valuable to accomplish God's work.

Also help the children realize that people who are used in the gifts of the Spirit are not any more special than any other Christian. They are just willing to be used by God to help His Church. The people who are used in the gifts do not own or control those gifts. They are just obeying as God the Holy Spirit gives them each gift. And God wants to give each Christian gifts to help His Church.

Teaching by Example

Students learn best through example. It is important to teach about the Holy Spirit. However, it is more important that the children see the Holy Spirit at work in your life. Here are three keys to teaching by example:

1 **As a Pentecostal teacher, you must be Spirit-filled.**

In the business world, it is said that the best advertisement is a satisfied customer. If you are Spirit-filled and walking in the Spirit in your daily life, you are the best “commercial” the children will see for the desirability of being Spirit-filled.

