

## Would you like to hear the Good News?

God still loves you. He never stopped loving you. He loved you so much that He sent His Son Jesus to bring you back. All you have to do is let Him bring you back. Will you pray with me?

*"Lord Jesus... I want to stop trusting in myself...and what I can do...and start trusting in you...and what you have already done...when you died for me on the cross. I know that I am a sinner...and I am sorry for my sins. I ask you to forgive me...I believe you rose again...and I invite you to come and live inside of me. I want you to be my Savior and Lord...which means being #1 in my life. I want to repent and turn away...from everything you and the Bible call sin...and I totally commit myself...to obeying you...every day, for the rest of my life. Lord Jesus baptize me in your precious Holy Spirit. Thank you Jesus."*

Now that you have made peace with God, He is ready for you to begin to grow in a personal relationship with Him.

Receiving More Of Jesus? "The Baptism in the Holy Spirit"

Who is the Holy Spirit? He is God. You might ask, "If the Holy Spirit is God, and Jesus is God, and the Heavenly Father is God, are there three Gods?" No. There is only one God as stated earlier. But God is unified as One and exists in the three Persons of Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. This threefold nature of God is exhibited even in creation. Humans have a body, a mind, and an eternal spirit. Our mind is not our body. Our spirit is not our mind. Are we then three people? No. We are just one person with three manifestations.

- After we receive eternal life through confessing Jesus as Lord and Savior, we can also receive what the Bible calls the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. The purpose of this Baptism is to be anointed like Jesus and do the works that He did. Through this Baptism we receive the power of God, the supernatural fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.

- The fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, long-suffering, and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). We receive these supernatural capabilities in our lives when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit.

- Some of the gifts of the Holy Spirit are listed in 1 Corinthians 12. Through the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, God distributes these great gifts to each one individually as He wills for each situation (1 Corinthians 12:8-11).

- Would you like to receive this great gift?

Yes No

- Throughout the New Testament, the Bible shows the manifestations of the gifts after receiving the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. Initially the gift of utterance, a language not previously known to the person is received, or interpretation of tongues, or prophesy. The gifts of power are faith, healings, or miracles. The gifts of revelation are also available: word of knowledge, word of wisdom, or discernment of spirits, or any combinations of these gifts. The Holy Spirit will manifest His presence differently at different times depending on which gift or gifts are needed at that time.

- Do you believe these things?

Yes No

- The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is received by faith just as salvation is received. Pray the following prayer or one similar to it.

- Dear Heavenly Father. I believe You are the source of all love and power. I ask right now for the gift of the Holy Spirit. I have faith in You, and that You will give me this great gift. Because I have asked, I believe I have now received the Power of God, the fruit of the Holy Spirit, and the gifts of the Holy Spirit in my life. I have received all these wonderful gifts by faith. I also ask that You will show me how to use these gifts for Your glory by Christ Jesus. I pray now thanking you in the name of my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

- Do you believe you have received these great gifts?

Yes No

- You have received these gifts. You should begin to use these gifts now that God has given you.



# Hearing His Voice

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## The Power of a Testimony

They overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony

**Revelation 12:11**



**Thomas Kodel**

My name is Tommy Kodel, and I would like to tell you my story. As a young kid, I always had an awareness of God. My mom used to pray for me and tell me about Jesus. She also used to drop Bible verses into my mind every now and then. However, because we could not find a real, believing church in our area, my relationship with God slowly began to slip away and that awareness I once had of God eventually vanished.

By the time I got to high school, I was all

messed up. Due to a few hurtful experiences during my middle school years, I was internally filled with so much hurt and hatred. My relationships with my family and fellow peers were not good at all. I closed myself off to many people, hardly ever smiled, and just tried to live for my own self and pleasure. By the age of 15, I was seduced by so many temptations and was overtaken by the lusts of the world. I was also highly influenced by hardcore rap music. And I wanted to be just like all the rappers I was listening to. My life was heading in the wrong direction fast, and the stuff I was being taught in school about the big bang theory did not help. Nor did it give me any kind of hope or purpose. I was so confused about what I believed about God, and my heart was filled with doubt toward Him.

Finally, one day after my mom got out of the hospital after a serious operation, my parents decided to take us to a church in my area that my aunt attended. They literally had to force my brother, sister, and

me out of the house in order to get us to go. However, when we finally got there, I actually found the preaching to be extremely interesting. I heard stories about how God still speaks to people today, how He still does miracles, and heals people too. I was blown away by it all! After a few weeks of attending, all my doubts began to turn into faith the more I heard the Word.

One Sunday, while my family and I were in church, a guest speaker was invited to give his testimony. After hearing how close he walked with God, I suddenly began to desire that same kind of relationship with Jesus. I saw that what he had was better than all the stuff I was experiencing in the world, and I wanted it. After he was done preaching, he gave an invitation to people in the church to come up front and give their lives to Jesus. Immediately, my dad ran up to the front to pray, and my brother, sister, and I followed close behind him. While my dad prayed to rededicate his life to the Lord, my siblings and I all asked God to forgive us, and then we all prayed to receive Jesus. My mom cried when she witnessed all her prayers being answered on that day. Although I didn't quite understand fully what I was doing at the time, I felt a huge difference in my life. During the next couple of days, I felt a love and a presence that I had never felt before. I felt so much lighter, as if a heavy weight had been lifted off me. God came back into my life, even during a time when I was not seeking Him. The truth is, He was seeking me all along.

Ever since that moment, a fire started to burn in my heart. I didn't want to just hear about this Jesus anymore. I wanted to know Him for myself. I started reading the Bible from cover to cover. I was amazed at what I read. I could not believe that I went 15 years of my life without ever hearing a word about who God really was, as He revealed Himself in the Bible. My life began to be transformed as I started talking to Him and seeing Him for who He really was. All this happened while I was still a sophomore in high school.

As the years went by, I got baptized in water, and then eventually baptized in the Holy Spirit as He fell in a healing meeting late one night in Old Saybrook, CT. As a young believer, I prayed all the time that God would reach the young people in my hometown, in Norwalk, CT. Not too long later, God began to answer my prayers. I met an older man at my church named Jerry, who was actually a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship in America. He had an idea to do some kind of outreach to the youth and young adults in the area. As he shared the idea with me, I was willing to do whatever I could to help. I had the

same desire in my heart to reach this younger generation with the Truth. After I got back from college the outreach was up and running, and many lives were being touched. It was called "Holy Smoke Hangout," and it was held on the bottom floor of a local library in the area.

I am now 24 years old, and for the past couple years I have been helping lead this outreach ministry that God raised up in my own hometown. Through it, I have seen Him do amazing things. A young man who was on the verge of suicide came to one meeting, heard the testimonies, and dropped to his knees to encounter God. Now he is alive and well, married with a wife and son. At another meeting, a young girl who was bound to cutting herself came and received the Lord and has been free ever since.

**OUR VISION is based on a vision that God gave to a businessman- a dairy farmer. In that vision, he saw hundreds of despondent men who felt they had no chance of making it in the world. Then they heard a message of hope and they came alive! Their heads held high; they were transformed into productive men with dignity and purpose.**

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#### **GOD'S PURPOSE FOR OUR FELLOWSHIP**

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- To reach men everywhere for Jesus Christ with the same social, cultural or business interests.
- To call men to God: to help men become born again, baptized in the Holy Spirit, operate in the Gifts of the Holy Spirit.
- To mentor young men who have never had a positive male role model by being a spiritual father to them.
- To provide a basis of fellowship among all men everywhere, regardless of church affiliation.
- To bring about a greater measure of unity and harmony in the Body of Christ.
- To train and equip men to succeed in the business world.

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#### **Learning about Business**

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