

Ten years ago after an in-depth study of the Book of Acts, I developed an affinity with it, as it combines theology with historical narrative to show how believers should be operating. Acts 2:38 became a key scripture for me and I developed a firm belief that every believer needed to receive salvation, baptism in water, and baptism in Holy Spirit right at the very start of their Christian life. I subsequently had this confirmed as I prayed for six people in my home group and church to receive the baptism of Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

In Acts when the believers had a testimony of great things happening, they took seriously their obligation to report all that God had done through them so this is my opportunity to say what I saw on my second trip to visit Pastor Daniel in India.

In December 2011, I visited Pastor Daniel for the first time in Trichur, Kerala district, India. During that visit, we met a church member who previously had taken out on the 0% interest loans that Daniel provides. He had used this money to invest in bakery equipment to produce traditional Indian bread, and had been so successful that the loan had been paid off, he had purchased a car, and taken on additional workers from his family, and purchased even more equipment.

I went there with Pastor Daniel and an American brother as well and we had a fascinating time listening to how this man's business had taken off. As we left his house, the man did something very unusual as he took some money and thrust it into the hand of both myself, and the American brother. I was amazed that this native Indian was prepared to thrust money into the hands of two white, well off Westerners, and I said to the American that we had just witnessed the miraculous.

After the trip was over, I arranged a second visit to see Pastor Daniel in January 2013. However, this baker man started to grow in my spirit and a plan was developing in my mind to bless this man. Over the months, especially as I prayed in tongues, I developed a definite desire to go back and see him, and invest a financial gift into his life. I nurtured a belief that just as this man had sown a financial seed into my life; it was to be my good pleasure to reap back to him a financial harvest in his life.

Over the months, I started to visualize meeting the man again, and I rehearsed in my mind what I would say to him. I was reminded from John 16:13 that Jesus said the Holy Spirit would 'Tell you what is yet to come.' I believe that I was being given a glimpse of the future in my spirit as I prayed and several scriptures were impressed upon me to deliver to the baker, all of which speak of being blessed for being generous and faithful. I departed for India in January with a firm conviction that I had to deliver both the financial gift and the scriptures to the baker.

Matthew 25:29 'For everyone who has will be given more, and he will have abundance'.

Proverbs 11:25 'He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed'.

On the first night in India, we went to see the baker in his house again, along with his wife, mother, brother, local Pastor Vincent, and a friend of the family. We exchanged pleasantries and the financial gift and the scriptures and I believe the

family was much encouraged by all this. They then put on a spread of food and tea for me and as I sat down, I had a definite burden to inquire of the spiritual state of the friend of the family who was there. I was told he was not a Christian and there were reasons for him not being ready to make such a decision. I sat him next to me and got Daniel to interpret as I strongly believed I had to speak into his life. I said that he had seen the love, generosity and fellowship that had taken place amongst us in the baker's house that night, and explained that this is what the Kingdom of God is all about. I explained that just as the family had put on a spread of food for me, there was a place at the heavenly banquet for him.

I asked him if he would like to join our faith, and he said he was indeed ready and I explained that I would pray with him and that he would be given a heavenly language of speaking in tongues. We prayed and he spoke in tongues, to the delight of everyone in the room. Prior to this Daniel had given me some money for tipping and buying any small items, and I felt led to take all the money and give it to him so this friend of the family in the space of two minutes received salvation, speaking in tongues and a fist full of money!

I then turned to the baker, his wife, mother and brother and asked if they all spoke in tongues to which they replied that whilst all of them were believers, none of them did. So one by one, we prayed for them and each person spoke in tongues.

We then went to visit another family around the corner who were living in less than desirable conditions. In the humble house were the husband, his wife, a son, two daughters, and the husband's sister. I started by giving a financial gift to the husband as I was reminded of Proverbs 18:16 'A gift opens the way for the giver', and I sought to use this for the advantage of the Kingdom. Only the wife and son were saved, the other four were not and one of the daughters wanted to be saved but was waiting for her father to go first. The husband's sister was going through a divorce and said the time was not right for her.

I then spoke at length with the husband giving him the message of salvation and speaking in tongues. Eventually the husband said that the whole family was ready to be prayed for so we prayed for all six and every person spoke in tongues. The husband, both daughters and the sister received salvation and speaking in tongues at the same time. When we left the house was full of joy, and I was reminded of Acts 13:53 'And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit'.

I am convinced that the financial gift opened the door for me to be able to speak into this family's life, and the words of Jesus in Luke 16:9 also spring to mind, 'Use worldly wealth to gain friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings'.

At the end of the evening, Daniel made a comment that seared into my spirit, namely that I had a freedom to do what I did in India, that Daniel himself would never have.

I believe this is due to there being something extra special when someone of a different skin colour, language, nationality and culture comes to talk about the gospel. Nevertheless I could not have done in the UK what had happened that

evening - 11 people speaking in tongues, 5 of whom received salvation at the same time. Indeed, the week was my 19th anniversary of becoming a Christian, and I reflected that I achieved more in that evening in India than I had done in the previous 19 years in the UK

Three days later, I attended an engagement party and a group of teenage boys came to try out their English. I managed to talk about Acts 2:38 and to pray for one of them and he spoke in tongues. Finally, on my last day in India Daniel invited me to speak to his Friday morning bible study to about 50 people. Once again, I spoke about Acts 2:38 and the three steps of salvation, baptism in water, and baptism in Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues. I invited people for prayer and Pastor Daniel later confirmed that 6 men and 16 women came forward.

The Holy Spirit fell on some people and they spoke in tongues straight away without anyone praying for them, which I believe is exactly what happened in Acts 10:44, 'While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God'. The others were prayed for by myself and Daniel and all 22 people spoke in tongues, taking the total for trip to 34 people speaking in tongues, 5 of whom received salvation at the same time.

I would like to conclude with these thoughts:

Acts 2:38 is a key scripture and the three provisions of salvation, baptism in water and Holy Spirit should be appropriated all together at the start of a believers walk.

Financial giving is the gateway to releasing the Kingdom of God into our lives. The baker financially blessed myself and the American, and triggered of a long chain of blessing. My financial gift made a way for myself with the second family that I visited, leading to the whole family speaking in tongues. Prior to the trip the book of Acts became alive to me again and I followed the story of Barnabas who achieved a huge amount. The first mention of him is that at the start of his ministry, he gave a financial gift, and it is my belief that this gift early on in his Christian life released his future ministry. Acts 4:36 'Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement), sold a field he owned and brought the money and put it at the apostle's feet'.

Finally, I am reminded of the words of Jesus in Luke 16:11, which show that we will not be given true riches if we have not been trustworthy in our financial affairs, 'If you have not been trustworthy in handling worldly wealth, who will trust you with true riches?'

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