

any number of things, but you made a new beginning last night. Now you must live that new beginning in faith.

Consider the facts. When you are baptized in the Spirit, the Holy Spirit is in you in a new way. You are not yet fully controlled by the Holy Spirit, you still have to grow into the life of the Spirit, but he is in you in a new way.

Satan is also concerned with you in a new way. Since you now have more spiritual power you are more dangerous to him, and he would like to stop you. After Jesus was baptized he entered into spiritual battle in a new way (Luke 4:1-13). In the same way, now that you have been baptized in the Holy Spirit, you enter into spiritual battle in a new way.

Have no fear. Simply put your faith in God. Resist all doubts and anxieties. Let the joy and peace and praise of God fill you. In humility begin to learn from God and from your brothers and sisters how to live the life of the Spirit. Remember that you are only a beginner.

Do not let the gift of tongues worry you. If you did not pray in tongues last night, just look for it to happen. It could happen almost anytime. If you said something last night but are not sure whether it was tongues or not, keep on saying it. If it was tongues, it will grow and develop. If it was not tongues, it can turn into tongues. If you did pray in tongues but it sounds like stuttering, keep on doing it. It will grow and develop.

Pray in tongues every day. It will grow in value for you. . . . When you live in the Spirit, the Spirit prays in you. Let him pray in you often during the day, sometimes in English, sometimes in the new tongue he has given you. Even if you have only a few syllables in a new tongue or if you are not sure of it, pray in that tongue every day and it will grow.

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Dennis and Rita Bennett (pp. 66-67, 71-75) write:

There are a number of people who have spoken in tongues, but don't know it! Every now and then when talking about this manifestation someone will say: "oh, you mean that funny little language I have spoken ever since I was a child -- is that it? It makes me feel happy and close to God!"

A pleasant little Dutch lady, perhaps thirty-five years of age, was talking with Dennis after a meeting recently.

"I spoke in tongues once, about eight months ago," she said, a bit wistfully, "and I'd like to do it again!"

"Why don't you?"

"Oh, I wouldn't dare to try. You see, I have a little play language that I talk for my children when we're having fun together. They think it's funny, and we have a good time. I'm afraid that if I tried to speak in tongues, that little play language would come!"