



How Does the Holy Spirit Work?

"Opportunity is often missed because we are broadcasting when we should be tuning in." - Anonymous



Christians everywhere talk about the Holy Spirit and how it generates influence, strength and peace in their lives. We all want more of it because we all see it as a way to continually draw closer to God through Jesus. But how does the Holy Spirit work? Does the Holy Spirit give us miraculous powers in the same way it did back in New Testament times? How do you know the Holy Spirit is working in your life? Stay with us as we look into this common yet little-understood phenomena of Christian life.

When did the Holy Spirit begin its begetting work for Jesus' followers?

Baptism of the Spirit introduced:

Luke 3:16-17: (NASB) ¹⁶John answered and said to them all, As for me, I baptize you with water; but one is coming who is mightier than I, and I am not fit to untie the thong of his sandals; he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand to thoroughly clear his threshing floor, and to gather the wheat into his barn; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

John's audience is a wide cross-section of the Jewish population. This included the Pharisees, the average person who was trying to live up to the Law, those that weren't trying but were curious nonetheless, those working with the Roman government, and others. John prophesies to this mixed crowd the fact that all will not accept the coming Lord - some will need to be cut down and some will be destroyed. It is in this context that the baptism of the Spirit is introduced, a brand new concept at this time.

Next, we jump to the risen Lord appearing to his disciples:

Luke 24:47-49: (KJV) ⁴⁷And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸And ye are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.

The risen Lord's eleventh and final appearance:

Acts 1:4-9: (NRSV) ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. This, he said, is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Jesus gave his Apostles a very specific instruction to stay in Jerusalem until something important happened. We can assume they would have been very confused.

What observations can we make so far about this coming baptism of the Spirit?



- It was typified in the rituals of the Law, shown by its arrival on Pentecost. (*Pentecost is the Greek name for the Jewish harvest festival known as the Festival of Weeks in Exodus 34:22 and Deuteronomy 16:10, occurring 50 days after Passover. This was a day of ritual and sacrifice commemorating God giving the Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai fifty days after the Exodus.*)



- It was clearly prophesied by John the Baptist even before the *beginning* of Jesus' ministry.
- It was to be a critical event - the risen Lord labeled it as a "new beginning" for the disciples. Jesus talked to them specifically about this event.
- It was to be a one-time event - the risen Lord emphatically instructed their whereabouts. Jesus focused them on this event on the day of Pentecost. This never happened again.

Is speaking in tongues a sure sign of the Holy Spirit in your life?



Pentecost - Duccio di Buoninsegna (1308)
Tempera on wood
Museo dell'Opera del Duomo, Siena

Let's review the event that changed Christianity forever:

Acts 2:1-3: (NASB) ¹When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them.

So, what happened here?

Prophetic timing: The day of Pentecost had arrived.

Obedience: The Apostles were where they were supposed to be - Jesus had told them to stay in Jerusalem and wait there for the promise of the Father.

Sound: There was a sound like a rushing mighty wind.

Immersion: It filled all the house where they were sitting. This indicates their complete immersion, their baptism by the Spirit. So *that's* what was meant by being "baptized by the Holy Spirit!"

Acts 2:3: *And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.*

(Source: Bible Commentator Matthew Poole) Like as of fire; which represented, 1. The light that the apostles should impart; 2. The fervent heat and zeal which they should be endowed with; 3. The Gospel's spreading in the world, and carrying all before it, prevailing over all errors; 4. The purity and holiness which they and all that preach the gospel ought to appear withal.

Some Bible commentators believe there were up to 120 people in that room, not just the Apostles.

Acts 2:4: (NASB) *And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*

There was definitely a sequence: The Spirit came upon them, and they then spoke in tongues. What does that mean? We can all agree that it was a miracle, but what was actually happening? What was the miracle?

 **Introduction, Speaking in Tongues Study, Nightline ABC online**

- (Interviewer) *Those outside the church often say it's nothing more than gibberish. But some Christians claim that it is the purest form of prayer,*



beyond the constraints of normal language. It is an ancient practice mentioned in the Bible. St. Paul called it "speaking in the tongues of angels." Jesus' apostles were first said to do it at Pentecost.

Acts 2:5-8: (NASB) ⁵Now there were Jews living in Jerusalem, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And when this sound occurred, the crowd came together, and were bewildered because each one of them was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷They were amazed and astonished, saying, Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born?

So, the original speaking in tongues in the Scriptures was prophesied by John, reinforced by Jesus, and then defined very clearly. How could they spread the Gospel in the multi-cultural city of Jerusalem with different languages? The miracle was that the Gospel was being heard in their own language. Speaking in tongues was speaking somebody else's human language.

This would be unmistakable proof of something supernatural happening! Is it still an unmistakable proof of the Gospel today?

Is all speaking in tongues the same as that done at Pentecost?

There are two other New Testament accounts where speaking in tongues is a recorded event:

Acts 10:30-47: (NIV) ³⁰Cornelius answered: Four days ago I was in my house praying... Suddenly a man in shining clothes stood before me ³¹and said, Cornelius, God has heard your prayer and remembered your gifts to the poor... Now we are all here in the presence of God to listen to everything the Lord has commanded you to tell us. ³⁴Then Peter began to speak: I now realize how true it is that God does not show favoritism ³⁵but accepts men from every nation who fear him and do what is right... ⁴⁴While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. ⁴⁵**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. ⁴⁶**For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God.** Then Peter said, ⁴⁷Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.

Now the Gentiles had the ability to be called into the family of Christ. Peter's reaction was remarkable - "we can't keep these people from being baptized!" The Gentiles were able to speak in languages they didn't know and others could understand them.

 **Speaks through them, Speaking in Tongues Study, Nightline ABC online**

- *We say things in our own English language but speaking in tongues is a heavenly language that we're going to God and Jesus intercedes for us.*
- *(Interviewer) They say they have no control over what comes out of their mouths, that they're swept up in a rush of ecstatic religious feeling and that the Holy Spirit is speaking through them.*

In today's speaking in tongues, what happened to the scriptural version of tongues where the speaker suddenly could speak in foreign human languages?

Acts 19:1-8: (NIV) ...¹Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples ²and asked them, Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed? They answered, No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit. ³So Paul asked, then what baptism did you receive? John's baptism, they replied. ⁴Paul said, John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in



Jesus. ⁵On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. ⁶When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. ⁷There were about twelve men in all. ⁸Paul entered the synagogue and spoke boldly there for three months, arguing persuasively about the kingdom of God.

They were communicating with those who did not know the Gospel. Ephesus was a great city with many languages spoken there, just like Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost. This was a Greek-oriented environment where the Temple to Diana was located. To be able to speak other languages would have been very important.

What do the only three recorded events of speaking in tongues in the New Testament have in common?

1. Day of Pentecost
(Gospel went out to Israel.)
2. Conversion of Cornelius
(Gospel went out to the Gentiles.)
3. Jewish Christians at Ephesus
(Gospel went out to the rest of the earth.)

Newly spirit-begotten individuals, the preaching of an Apostle to a Jewish or Jewish-Christian audience, and the speaking of human languages for the purpose of expanding the Gospel.

So should we be striving for this as an evidence of a high level of spirituality?

1 Corinthians 14:1-5: (NASB) ¹Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. (In other words, the gift you really want is to be able to expound upon spiritual matters.) ²For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. ³But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. ⁴One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying.

Apparently there was a problem of order in the Corinthian church. They were given some of these miraculous spiritual gifts but weren't using them correctly. Just speaking another language without an interpretation isn't teaching anyone or edifying the church.

It makes perfect sense to see this as referring to the same speaking in a foreign language - without someone to interpret, it is just noise! Could this be talking about a language of angels?

Can Christians speak in the language of angels?

1 Corinthians 13:1: (NASB) *If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.*

Aha! The *tongues of angels!* What did he mean by that?

Let's go back to an event the Apostle Paul recalls before he wrote his two letters to the Corinthians:

2 Corinthians 12:2-4: (KJV) ²*I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven. ³And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the*



body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) ⁴How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

The Apostle Paul is talking about his own experience, a unique heavenly vision. He wasn't even sure if he was actually there or if it was a dream. He saw and heard unspeakable glory. Did he hear the language of angels? This is the only recorded event of such a thing happening. The only evidence we have of angelic language being witnessed by a human being is the Apostle Paul through this apparent vision, and he tells us that those unspeakable words are not to be uttered.

How does this fit into modern day speaking in tongues?

 Knows what needs healing, *Speaking in Tongues, Nightline ABC online*

- *It's almost as if I am able to tap into God's heart and what He wants. You can feel Him all around you and you can feel Him speaking through the words you are saying.*
- *(Interviewer) It almost sounds like a foreign language, but actually those speaking in tongues are not saying anything in a known language.*
- *With the gift of tongues, I can trust the holy spirit to figure out what needs to be healed. He will use what sounds like gibberish like any other language sounds like gibberish.*

Is that something the Scriptures tell us we *should* be doing? Or is it something we *shouldn't* be?

Let's examine the Apostle Paul's reasoning surrounding his one-time comment about speaking in a tongue other than an earthly language.

Here is the context immediately before he says *tongues of angels* back in 1 Corinthians 13:1:

1 Corinthians 12:28-31: (NASB) ²⁸And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues. ²⁹All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of miracles, are they? ³⁰All do not have gifts of healings, do they? All do not speak with tongues, do they? All do not interpret, do they? ³¹But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.

- Several gifts of the spirit are here listed.
- A divide between the greater and lesser gifts is established.
- The path of spiritual gifts is shown to be a lesser path, as a more excellent way exists.
- Paul is absolutely teaching by giving his personal experience: *I show you a still more excellent way.*
- 1 Corinthians 13 follows his personal experience. He is *not* telling us to speak in the tongues of angels.

1 Corinthians 13:1-3: (NASB) ¹If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. ²If I have the gift of prophecy, and



know all mysteries and all knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. ³And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.

The Apostle Paul had experience with all of these items, but he advises that without love, none of these gifts are meaningful. The gifts are secondary to the true call of God.

Nowhere else in Scripture is it even alluded to that any Christian had or has access to the tongues of angels outside of Paul's experience, and he even said it was unlawful for a man to utter.

Speaking in tongues today appears to be out of context with scriptural guidelines and understanding.

Romans 8:26-27: ²⁶And in like manner the Spirit also helpeth our infirmity: for we know not how to pray as we ought; but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered; ²⁷and he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because it maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

How does the Holy Spirit work? It helps us when we don't even know what to ask. *Groanings* are not tongues. It is not a language, but an internal expression of deep need.

Here is the only other use of *groaning* in the New Testament:

Acts 7:34: I have seen, I have seen the affliction of my people which is in Egypt, and I have heard their *groaning* <Strong's 4726>, and am come down to deliver them. And now come, I will send thee into Egypt.

It is expressing how God understood the internal strife of his people. When we have that internal turmoil, the Spirit helps us to bring that expression before God. It isn't a language.

Do the gifts of the Spirit ever stop?

Let's see where speaking in tongues fits as to the Gospel message:

1 Corinthians 14:1-2: (NASB) ¹Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries.

In other words, because no one is understanding, only God can hear. The purpose of the gift was to spread the Gospel to others.

1 Corinthians 14:9-11: (NASB) ⁹So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. ¹¹If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.

The Apostle addresses a misuse of speaking in tongues.

1 Corinthians 14:13-14: (NASB) ¹³Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful.

If you were to pray in a foreign language but you don't understand what you are saying, your mind is unfruitful. It isn't even helping you.



1 Corinthians 14:19: (NASB) *however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue.*

1 Corinthians 14:22-23: (NASB) *²²So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. ²³Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad?*



So, what do we observe so far? According to the Bible:

- Speaking in tongues was always the speaking of another human language.
- Speaking in tongues was a gift - and a "lesser" gift at that.
- Speaking in tongues was always implemented for the furtherance of the Gospel.
- No one in Scripture is ever recorded speaking some heavenly language.
- The "groanings of the spirit" are not at all connected with the gift of speaking in tongues.
- Speaking in tongues was not to be done without an interpreter, as disorder would prevail.
- Paul absolutely discouraged this practice unless it was to communicate with non-believers.



Study tells what not why, *Speaking in Tongues*, Nightline ABC online

- *What happens in the brains of Buddhist monks and Franciscan nuns praying is noticeably different than what happens to "tongue speakers."*
- *There was a stark contrast to the monks and nuns who in prayer were very intensely focused; in those individuals their front lobe activity increased.*

When we pray, we are focused on communicating. Those speaking in tongues are not actually communicating; it is an emotional response.

1 Corinthians 13:8-11: (NASB) *⁸Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away. ⁹For we know in part and we prophesy in part; ¹⁰but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away. ¹¹When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.*

So, this miraculous gift, along with others, were just there for a time - but love never fails! *Perfect* here means "complete." Once the Gospel was put in place and written down, the need for tongues and prophecy through instantaneous spiritual knowledge ceased. Now we have the Bible as the written word that would be passed from person to person, generation to generation, and across all languages.

1 Corinthians 14:26-29: (NASB) *²⁶What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; ²⁸but if there is no*



interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. ²⁹Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment.

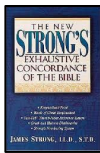
The Apostle is very firm in his instruction that our fellowship be orderly and a pure example of those who truly follow Christ, not only in his teaching, but also in his style of living.

What are the purposes for the Holy Spirit in our lives?

God's spirit was and is a witness - a proof or record of His plan being carried out



Acts 5:32: (NASB) *And we are **witnesses <3144>** of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey Him.*



Witness/Record: Strongs #3144, martuv martus *mar'-toos*; of uncertain affinity; a witness (literally [judicially] or figuratively [genitive case]); by analogy, a "martyr": martyr, record, witness.

2 Corinthians 1:23: *Moreover I call God for a **record <3144>** upon my soul, that to spare you I came not as yet unto Corinth.*

The Holy Spirit is part of the recorded history of the miracles of Christianity.

God's Spirit tell us what to do and shows us the way



Luke 12:12: (NASB) *for the Holy Spirit will teach you in that very hour what you ought to say.*

This is if our hearts and minds are focused on the word of God and we are actively seeking the will of God.

God's spirit builds our hope



Romans 5:5: (KJV) *And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us.*

Our hope is strange in comparison to the rest of the world. Our hope is heavenly. God's power and influence in our lives makes that hope not just an idea or a fantasy, but a real, concrete goal for which we strive.

God's spirit dwells within us, therefore making us God's own



1 Corinthians 6:19: (KJV) *What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?*

Our lives are not to be governed by the things that we *want* to do, what we *want* to say, the things that we *want* to think, the places we *want* to go. Our



lives are to be governed by the influence of God's power because we no longer own our own will. We gave our will over to God to be a follower of Christ. That's why Christianity is looked upon as "stewardship." When you are a steward, you are taking care of someone else's goods. With Christian stewardship, we have given our lives to God through Jesus. We give God everything we have and He in turn allows us to use it for Him. That is the lot of a Christian life.

God's spirit gives us specific direction in our lives



Acts 16:6: (NRSV) *They went through the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.*

It's like our GPS, but we have to be listening in order to know where to go. The Holy Spirit is a mechanism by which we are able to listen and understand the will of God in our lives. It works not through how we feel emotionally, but how we understand the scriptural principles. We aren't supposed to walk outside of those principles. The Holy Spirit won't keep guiding us down that road.

God's spirit teaches us



1 Corinthians 2:13: (NRSV) *And we speak of these things in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual things to those who are spiritual.*

The things we have been given to learn, the book we have been given to learn from doesn't come from human cleverness. It has the keys to living a spiritual-oriented life. That doesn't bring what I like, it brings what I must do.

God's spirit brings prophecy to light



2 Peter 1:21: (NASB) *for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.*

This gives us great comfort. The power and influence of God was working through the prophets of old. We need to focus on how important it is that we apply God's word.

We know there are a lot of different points of view on this subject throughout Christianity, so we urge you to review 1 Corinthians 14 and the Apostle Paul's instructions.

*So how does the Holy Spirit work?
For Jonathan and Rick and Christian Questions,
Think about it...!*



*And now even more to think about...
only in the **Full Edition** of CQ Rewind!*



Here is a question for you:

John the Baptist talks of baptism with the holy spirit and with fire - why does Jesus NOT mention the fire part?

John's proclamation in context:

The context of our discussion actually begins in [Luke 3:7-17](#). We will begin by inserting [verse 7](#) from the [Matthew 3](#) rendering of this account to clarify some detail:

Matthew 3:7: *But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them,*

Luke 3:7-17: (KJV) ⁷...O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham. ⁹And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. ¹⁰And the people asked him, saying, What shall we do then? ¹¹He answereth and saith unto them, He that hath two coats, let him impart to him that hath none; and he that hath meat, let him do likewise. ¹²Then came also publicans to be baptized, and said unto him, Master, what shall we do? ¹³And he said unto them, Exact no more than that which is appointed you. ¹⁴And the soldiers likewise demanded of him, saying, And what shall we do? And he said unto them, Do violence to no man, neither accuse any falsely; and be content with your wages. ¹⁵And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; ¹⁶John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire: ¹⁷Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and will gather the wheat into his garner; but the chaff he will burn with fire unquenchable.

Jesus focused on the fulfillment of this proclamation.

The risen Lord's eleventh and final appearance:

Acts 1:4-9: (NRSV) ⁴While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. This, he said, is what you have heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.

Could it be that the fire part was referring to the Pharisees? See [Verse 17](#) above.

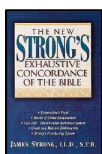
More on the day of Pentecost and how it worked with the coming of the Spirit:

Acts 2:1-4: (KJV) ¹And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ²And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Sound: Strongs #2279 echos (ay'-khos); a loud or confused noise ("echo"), i.e. roar; figuratively, a rumor:

Luke 4:37: And the **fame <2279>** of him went out into every place of the country round about.

Hebrews 12:19: And the **sound <2279>** of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:



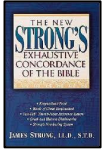


This sound was the audible announcement of the monumental change to come:

Rushing: Strongs #5342 phero (fer'-o); a primary verb to "bear" or carry (in a very wide application, literally and figuratively):

AV-bring 34, bear 8, bring forth 5, come 3, reach 2, endure 2, carry 1, misc 9; 64
1) to carry 1a) to carry some burden 1a1) to bear with one's self

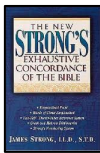
1b) to move by bearing; move or, to be conveyed or borne, with the suggestion of force or speed



So, this "rushing" means that something is being borne or carried.

John 15:2: Every branch in me that **beareth <5342>** not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that **beareth <5342>** fruit, he purgeth it, that it **may bring forth <5342>** more fruit.

Hebrews 13:12-13: (KJV) ¹²Wherefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered without the gate. ¹³Let us go forth therefore unto him without the camp, **bearing** his reproach.



Mighty: Strongs #972 biaios (bee'-ah-yos); violent. *Lexicon - forcible*
(This text is the only use)

Wind: Strongs #4157 pne (pno-ay'); respiration, a breeze: KJV-- breath, wind.

Acts 17:23-25: (ASV) ²³For as I passed along, and observed the objects of your worship, I found also an altar with this inscription, TO AN UNKNOWN GOD. What therefore ye worship in ignorance, this I set forth unto you. ²⁴The God that made the world and all things therein, he, being Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; ²⁵neither is he served by men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing he himself giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;

Think about this - the sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind was the audible announcement that bore to those present the mighty respiration of the Holy Spirit! Just as God had breathed into Adam the breath of life, the Almighty would now impart the mighty breath of New Creature life into the church!

A bit more on the speaking in tongues question:

(Source: Bible Commentator McGee) We will see in this chapter that there are three gifts which Paul emphasizes: prophecy, tongues, and the interpretation of tongues. Have you ever noticed that there is very little reference to tongues in the Bible except in these three chapters? There are references to it in Mark 16:17, Acts 2:3-4,11, Acts 10:46 and Acts 19:6. Cornelius and his household spoke in tongues. The disciples of John in Ephesus spoke in tongues after Paul had preached the gospel to them. We find, therefore, that tongues were used at the institution of the dispensation of grace. Every time tongues were used, they were used in that connection. There was speaking in tongues on the Day of Pentecost when the gospel went to the nation of Israel. There was speaking in tongues at the home of Cornelius when the gospel was opened to the Gentiles. There was speaking in tongues in Ephesus when the gospel moved out into the uttermost parts of the earth. Those are the three instances.



1 Corinthians 14:1-39: (NASB) ¹Pursue love, yet desire earnestly spiritual gifts, but especially that you may prophesy. ²For one who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God; for no one understands, but in his spirit he speaks mysteries. ³But one who prophesies speaks to men for edification and exhortation and consolation. ⁴One who speaks in a tongue edifies himself; but one who prophesies edifies the church. ⁵Now I wish that you all spoke in tongues, but even more that you would prophesy; and greater is one who prophesies than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may receive edifying. ⁶But now, brethren, if I come to you speaking in tongues, what will I profit you unless I speak to you either by way of revelation or of knowledge or of prophecy or of teaching? ⁷Yet even lifeless things, either flute or harp, in producing a sound, if they do not produce a distinction in the tones, how will it be known what is played on the flute or on the harp? ⁸For if the bugle produces an indistinct sound, who will prepare himself for battle? ⁹So also you, unless you utter by the tongue speech that is clear, how will it be known what is spoken? For you will be speaking into the air. ¹⁰There are, perhaps, a great many kinds of languages in the world, and no kind is without meaning. ¹¹If then I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me. ¹²So also you, since you are zealous of spiritual gifts, seek to abound for the edification of the church. ¹³Therefore let one who speaks in a tongue pray that he may interpret. ¹⁴For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. ¹⁵What is the outcome then? I will pray with the spirit and I will pray with the mind also; I will sing with the spirit and I will sing with the mind also. ¹⁶Otherwise if you bless in the spirit only, how will the one who fills the place of the ungifted say the "Amen" at your giving of thanks, since he does not know what you are saying? ¹⁷For you are giving thanks well enough, but the other person is not edified. ¹⁸I thank God, I speak in tongues more than you all; ¹⁹however, in the church I desire to speak five words with my mind so that I may instruct others also, rather than ten thousand words in a tongue. ²⁰Brethren, do not be children in your thinking; yet in evil be infants, but in your thinking be mature. ²¹In the Law it is written, BY MEN OF STRANGE TONGUES AND BY THE LIPS OF STRANGERS I WILL SPEAK TO THIS PEOPLE, AND EVEN SO THEY WILL NOT LISTEN TO ME, says the Lord. ²²So then tongues are for a sign, not to those who believe but to unbelievers; but prophecy is for a sign, not to unbelievers but to those who believe. ²³Therefore if the whole church assembles together and all speak in tongues, and ungifted men or unbelievers enter, will they not say that you are mad? ²⁴But if all prophesy, and an unbeliever or an ungifted man enters, he is convicted by all, he is called to account by all; ²⁵the secrets of his heart are disclosed; and so he will fall on his face and worship God, declaring that God is certainly among you. ²⁶What is the outcome then, brethren? When you assemble, each one has a psalm, has a teaching, has a revelation, has a tongue, has an interpretation. Let all things be done for edification. ²⁷If anyone speaks in a tongue, it should be by two or at the most three, and each in turn, and one must interpret; ²⁸but if there is no interpreter, he must keep silent in the church; and let him speak to himself and to God. ²⁹Let two or three prophets speak, and let the others pass judgment. ³⁰But if a revelation is made to another who is seated, the first one must keep silent. ³¹For you can all prophesy one by one, so that all may learn and all may be exhorted; ³²and the spirits of prophets are subject to prophets; ³³for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints. ³⁴The women are to keep silent in the churches; for they are not permitted to speak, but are to subject themselves, just as the Law also says. ³⁵If they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is improper for a woman to speak in church. ³⁶Was it from you that the word of God first went forth? Or has it come to you only? ³⁷If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment. ³⁸But if anyone does not recognize this, he is not recognized. ³⁹Therefore, my brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy, and do not forbid to speak in tongues.