

I can't say what will happen when you admit that you can never fully know or experience enough of the Holy Spirit yet choose to seek Him regardless. I know only that when you surrender fully to the Spirit, Christ will be magnified, not you (John 16:14).

Francis Chan in *Forgotten God*

Prayer Study #271

**PERSONAL TESTIMONIES OF THE BAPTISM IN THE
HOLY SPIRIT**

First Love Ministries, Inc. of Perry, Georgia

And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:11

Smith Wigglesworth

“The Holy Spirit was being poured out in an Anglican church in Sunderland, England, under the ministry of the Reverend Alexander Boddy. The first major outpouring of the Holy Spirit in modern times had occurred the year before at Azusa Street in Los Angeles, California. It was spreading to England and other parts of the world.

Shortly after his healing, a man who had been remarkably cured of leg cancer under Wigglesworth's ministry heard about what was occurring in Sunderland. He told Wigglesworth as much as he knew and offered to pay Wigglesworth's expenses should he like to go to find out what was happening.

Wigglesworth was forty-eight years old when he made the journey to Sunderland. This trip would radically alter his life and ultimately change thousands upon thousands of other lives, as God used him to take the message of Pentecost to many nations around the world.

Up to this point, Wigglesworth had experienced several events that had been labeled the baptism in the Holy Spirit. In his early days with the Salvation Army, people would often fall on the ground under God's power during their prayer meetings; sometimes they would be there all night. Some thought that this was the baptism.

Later on, after a ten-day fast, Wigglesworth experienced a level of blessing and sanctification that had a profound effect on his life. He was delivered of a previously unmanageable temper, and afterwards he was able to speak a little more freely. At the time, he considered this to be the baptism in the

Holy Spirit. In fact, he believed that he had been baptized in the Spirit right up until the time he went to Sunderland, telling those in the meetings so.

Even with this preconception, Wigglesworth's intense hunger drove him on, seeking for more. He disturbed many of the meetings because he spoke out what was on his mind, sometimes very bluntly. Many of the people there rebuked him for this.

A missionary from India especially criticized him for spoiling the meetings. Wigglesworth, trying to justify himself, ended up in a very unpleasant discussion with the missionary. However, God brought them together the following night. Wigglesworth had misplaced his key and was locked out of his room. Spending the night together in the missionary's room, the two men prayed as God led them. As they interceded through the night, a mighty blessing and anointing filled the room.

For four days, Wigglesworth sought God intensely in prayer, wanting 'nothing but God.' Though the power and blessing of God were upon him, Wigglesworth still hadn't received what those at the 'seeking' meetings talked about. He decided it was time to go home. In the course of leaving, he dropped by the vicarage to say good-bye. Mrs. Boddy, the pastor's wife, told him boldly that he needed the baptism in the Holy Spirit despite what he thought, and she proceeded to lay hands on him in prayer.

Shortly afterwards, Mrs. Boddy left the room to answer a knock at the door, and the fire of God fell. Wigglesworth was bathed in a glorious power and received a consciousness that he was cleansed by the blood of Jesus. So real was this consciousness that he cried out, 'Clean, clean! Hallelujah!'

He had received his Pentecost. But this wasn't all! Filled with joy, he had a vision of the empty cross and of Jesus Christ, exalted at the right hand of the Father. Finally, praise in an unknown language started flowing from his lips—he was speaking in '*other tongues, as the Spirit gave [him] utterance*' (Acts 2:4).

Wigglesworth's hunger had at last won through all his preconceptions, through all that was thought about him, and through the rebukes he had received. Spiritual hunger is the driving factor, the force that will carry us through all opposition. It is the characteristic that makes a man or woman stand out in the kingdom of God."

(taken from *The Wigglesworth Standard: The Standard for God's Endtime Army* by Peter J. Madden)

Dwight L. Moody

“There came a great hunger into my soul. I did not know what it was. I began to cry out as never before. I really felt that I did not want to live if I could not have this power for service.

While Mr. Moody was in this mental and spiritual condition, say his son, Chicago was laid in ashes. The great fire swept out of existence both Farwell Hall and Illinois Street Church. On Sunday night after the meeting, as Mr. Moody went homeward, he saw the glare of flames and knew it meant ruin to Chicago. About one o'clock Farwell Hall was burned, and soon his church went down. Everything was scattered.

Mr. Moody went East to New York City to collect funds for the sufferers from the Chicago fire, but his heart and soul were crying out for the power from on high. ‘My heart was not in the work of begging,’ he says. ‘I could not appeal. I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the city of New York...oh, what a day!...I cannot describe it. I seldom refer to it; it is almost too sacred an experience to name. Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years. I can only say that God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths; and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world-it would be as the small dust of the balance.”

(taken from *Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians* by James Lawson)

Charles G. Finney

“As I turned and was about to take a seat by the fire, I received a mighty baptism of the Holy Ghost. Without any expectation of it, without ever having the thought in my mind that there was such thing for me, without any recollection that I had ever heard the thing mentioned by any person in the world, the Holy Ghost descended on me in a manner that seemed to go through me, body and soul. I could feel the impression, like a wave of electricity, going through and through me. Indeed it seemed to come in waves and waves of liquid love; for I could not express it in any other way.

It seemed like the very breath of God. I can recollect distinctly that it seemed to fan me, like immense wings.

No words can express the wonderful love that was shed abroad in my heart. I wept aloud with joy and love; and I do not know, but I should say, I literally bellowed out the unutterable gushings of my heart. The waves came over me and over me, one after the other, until I recollect I cried out, "I shall die if these waves continue to pass over me." I said, 'Lord, I cannot bear any more; yet I had no fear of death.'"

(taken from *Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians* by James Lawson)

The Disciples

"When Jesus called fishermen from the Sea of Galilee to come and follow him, he promised to make them fishers of men (Matthew 4:19). On the day of Pentecost, this promise was fulfilled. Jesus had promised that they should do even greater works than he did (John 14:12), and this promise was also fulfilled at Pentecost. During Christ's earthly ministry, very few people seem to have been converted to God through him. The greatest number of Jesus' converts mentioned is about five hundred (1st Corinthians 15:6). But after he ascended to the Father and sent the promised Holy Spirit, the disciples led three thousand converts to the foot of the cross in one day (Acts 2:41), and several days later the number of those converted appears to have grown to five thousand (Acts 4:4). In a moment of time, God changed the fishermen of Galilee into the world's greatest preachers. In a moment of time, they learned more about Christ than they had learned in three years of walking and talking with him."

(taken from *Deeper Experiences of Famous Christians* by James Lawson)

Other famous Christians of the past who have spoken of their own experiences of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit include George Whitfield, John Wesley, Charles Spurgeon, George Mueller, Andrew Murray, A.J. Gordon, General William and Catherine Booth, F.B. Meyer, A.B. Simpson, F.B. Meyer, and R.A. Torrey.