

Heal the Man, Heal the Land

Mountain View Community Church

February 2024



Entering the Kingdom of God Via the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Pastor Rob Gross

February 4, 2024

I met Jesus on August 20, 1980, via an End Times newsletter. Hungry for the Word, I joined a local church and began reading the Bible.

Seven years later I moved my family to Mill Valley, CA to attend Golden Gate Seminary. During this time Barb and I decided to plant a church as a Baptist pastor.

God used the transformation of a college coed to grab my attention. I noticed a significant change in her hunger for God after she received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Later, while visiting a Small Groups conference at First Assembly of God, I met the conference teacher, Karen Hurston. She **spoke in tongues and had an intimate relationship with God** that I wanted. But as a Southern Baptist pastor, I really didn't want to speak in tongues and even spoke against it.

Later, I met a woman who had been having a hard time who was freed from depression. She said, "A man named Dean prayed for me and now I'm doing better!"

I contacted Dean and told him, "I want to speak in tongues." He prayed for me for over one hour, but nothing happened. Then Dean asked me, "Rob, have you ever taught that tongues is not of God? If so, try repenting."

I repented and was baptized in the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues. The evidence of the baptism of the Holy Spirit is primarily speaking in tongues.

The baptism of the Spirit opens the door into the kingdom of God and activates the gifts of the Holy Spirit in your life.

*To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good. For to one is given through the Spirit **the utterance of wisdom**, and to another the **utterance of knowledge** according to the same Spirit, to another **faith** by the same Spirit, to another **gifts of healing** by the one Spirit, to another the **working of miracles**, to another **prophecy**, to another the **ability to distinguish between spirits**, to another **various kinds of tongues**, to another the **interpretation of tongues**. All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as he wills.*

(1 Corinthians 12:7-11 ESV)

What else does the Bible say?

*Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. **But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.**"*

(Luke 24:45-49 ESV)

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The **Holy Spirit's power is needed to set people free from spiritual darkness.**

*When the **day of Pentecost arrived**, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a **sound like a mighty rushing wind**, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And **they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.***
(Acts 2:1-4 ESV)

*Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, **because each one was hearing them speak in his own language.** And they were amazed and astonished, saying, "Are not all these who are speaking Galileans?
And **how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language?**"*
(Acts 2:5-8 ESV)

Two Types of Tongues: Glossalalia and Dialectos

Glossa means "tongue" and **lalia** means "talking." **Dialectos** is the "language" of a specific ethnic group.

Glossalalia is the supernatural ability given to a believer, by the Holy Spirit, to speak in a spiritual language that builds up his or her spirit.

*The one who speaks in a tongue **builds up himself.***
(1 Corinthians 14:4 ESV)

*But you, beloved, **building yourselves up** in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit.*
(Jude 1:20 ESV)

Dialectos is a supernatural gift of the Holy Spirit to speak in a language that you have never spoken before.

I was in a meeting with my friend, **Pastor Cal Chinen**, when suddenly, **the Spirit of God came upon him, and he began to speak in fluent Samoan and fluent Fijian.**

Another time in college I met a group of **Korean classmates** who told me they had this experience while visiting San Francisco. They came across a man of Arab ethnicity, and **one of the guys in their group began to speak fluent Arabic to share with him the gospel of Jesus Christ.**

The **baptism of the Holy Spirit** seems to be a secondary experience to salvation.

*Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had **received the word of God**, they sent to them Peter and John, who came down and **prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit**, for he had not yet fallen on any of them, but they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **Then they laid their hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit.***
(Acts 8:14-17 ESV)

Sometimes a person will receive Christ and be filled with the Holy Spirit simultaneously.

*And it happened that while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul passed through the inland country and came to Ephesus. There he found some disciples. And he said to them, "**Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?**" And they said, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." And he said, "Into what then were you baptized?" They said, "Into John's baptism." And Paul said, "John baptized with the baptism of repentance, telling the people to believe in the one who was to come after him, that is, Jesus." **On hearing this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.***
(Acts 19:1-6 ESV)

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While Peter was still saying these things, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard the word. And the believers from among the circumcised who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out even on the Gentiles. For they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God...

(Acts 10:44-46 ESV)

Why do we need the baptism of the Spirit?

- It releases a supernatural boldness to witness.
- It releases the gifts of the Holy Spirit for ministry.
- It is effective for spiritual warfare against the devil.

Guidelines for Speaking in Tongues

- Go for it any time when you are praying.
- Utilize the gift during spiritual warfare.
- Speak softly when in a large worship setting (interpretation).

Time Now to Repent (Prepping for the Baptism of the Holy Spirit)

- Repent of any unbelief or mindsets.
- Repent of any way you have bashed tongues.
- Repent of any past involvement in the occult.

Activation Time (3 simple steps)

- Receive the gift by faith.
- Acknowledge that Jesus is your baptizer.
- Move your mouth by faith (flip the switch).



Worship Director Alan Esparza and Audria Moorefield lead the MV Ohana in the song, *Praise*, by Elevation Worship as

prayer, praise, and worship break out.

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.
(Psalm 150:6 NIV)



Position Yourself through Speaking God's Word

February 11, 2024

Karen Lewis: When you come to me in the **times of doubt and uncertainty, desperation and lack, sickness, or fear**, and when you cannot see two feet in front of you, **know that I am the author of your lives and destiny**. I know what is going on.

In those needs, **come to Me** because, as your **loving Father, I am concerned with every little single detail, every emotion, every circumstance of your life. Come to Me! My mercy abounds**; it swirls around you. I delight to be there as **your problem solver**.

There is grace in the gatherings. **When two or more gather in My name, My grace abounds**. In the book of Acts as they all met in the upper room, they were hanging on and wondering what had happened, where were they going, what was tomorrow going to hold without their precious Jesus with them. Then the **power came because of the grace in their gatherings of two or more**.

There is **power in the positive position. Position yourself for the purposes and power of God to move in your life**. For we know Hebrews 11 says, *"Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."* It is like holding the title deed before you have it.

Many of us are **busy focusing on the circumstances, and declaring the circumstances as though it is fact this is happening**. However, it says in the book of James that **there is life and death in the power of the tongue**. So, my beloved, **position yourself for My power; position your tongue in My Word** having been written on the table of your heart. When those things come against you, you will have already positioned yourself because out of your mouth you are already declaring and decreeing that I am the solution and the problem solver in your lives.

Yes, there is **more and more resistance** coming because **you are stepping into the more, the greater, the revelation. You are hungrier every day and I am so pleased with that**.

I am always with you. Position yourself standing on Me, your cornerstone, your Savior, because no weapon formed against you shall prosper if you position yourself in these areas. Know that I love you and am with you always.

Pastor Rob: Sometimes when we go through a **tragedy**, it understandably can shake our **faith**. We might still believe that **God can heal others, but not ourselves or our family**. We can **pray and believe for others, but not ourselves**.

We need to be careful. We need to be careful about our declarations. We may say words of unbelief or lack of faith: "I am sick. It is my cancer. God does not love me. God will heal others but not me or my family."

Instead, there are words that we can speak that can **position us to see God's breakthrough in our lives**. Instead of saying, "I have cancer or diabetes"; we can say, "I am **fighting or battling cancer**." **Do not own it**.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, forgive me and forgive us for speaking negative words, debilitating words, words that are not filled with faith to receive healing. I bring these negative words to death on the cross in full repentance, in Jesus' name. Continue in my journey to cleanse my heart and therefore my mind of all words that speak death, reckless words, careless words that do not speak life over my life and others.

*Death and life are in the power of the tongue,
and those who love it will eat its fruits.*

(Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

Return to Your First Love
February 18, 2024

Pastor Rob: Pastor Miguel's message today is about intimacy with God and love. Jesus said in Matthew 22:37-39, "***You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.***"

God is calling us to this. The church is not a place you attend; it is a family you belong to. When we come together, **all He wants is for us to love on Him.** He is just gathering His kids. He just wants to spend time with us.

*As a deer pants for flowing streams,
so pants my soul for you, O God.
My soul thirsts for God,
for the living God...
(Psalm 42:1-2 ESV)*

*How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
go the living God...
For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather be a doorkeeper
in the house of my God
than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
(Psalm 84:1-2, 10 ESV)*

Pastor Rob: Marisa, what did you feel God put in your hand to give to Pastor Miguel?

Marisa Lee: During worship, the Lord placed a **beating heart in my hand.** He wants us to know how much He loves us and wants us to receive more of His love and grow in a deeper level of intimacy with Him.

Pastor Rob: Amy also felt she had a word from the Lord for us.

Amy Sugawa: A couple of days ago I woke up with a stiff neck. I figured it was due to my pillow and how I had slept. It was getting better until this morning when I woke up and my neck really hurt. I blamed my pillow again.

Then this morning during prayer time, I was reminded of the **Israelites** and how **God called them stiff-necked.** I cried out to God and said, "Oh no, Lord! I am so sorry, Lord! **I repent for whatever I have done or did not do.**"

Pastor Rob: **Stiff-necked** means **self-sufficient or prideful; not leaning on or going to God but leaning on yourself.**

Amy Sugawa: I also felt this was not only for me, but that **God may be calling all of us stiff-necked.** I looked up stiff-necked. Here are two short scriptures:

*I know how **rebellious** and **stiff-necked** you are.
If you have been **rebellious** against
the **LORD** while I am still alive and with you,
how much more will you rebel after I die!
(Deuteronomy 31:27 NIV)*

*But they would not listen and
were as **stiff-necked** as their ancestors,
who **did not trust in the LORD their God.**
(2 Kings 17:14 NIV)*

Jen Yeung also called my attention to **1 Samuel 15:22-23.** **King Saul had been disobedient, and Samuel tells him:**

*...To **obey** is better than sacrifice,
and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
For **rebellion** is like the sin of divination
[witchcraft],
and **arrogance** like the evil of idolatry.
Because you have rejected the word of
the **LORD,**
he has rejected you as king."*

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Stiff-necked refers to being prideful and self-sufficient, not needing God, rebelling against the Lord, not trusting the Lord, being arrogant like the evil of idolatry, and rejecting the word of the Lord.

Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.

(John 14:21 ESV)

This is love, that we walk according to his commandments; this is the commandment, just as you have heard from the beginning, so that you should walk in it. (2 John 1:6 ESV)

We are strong in God's Word and about the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I love Pastor Miguel's message about intimacy with the Lord. Pastor Rob is always telling us about loving our Lord God first and loving one another. God is really talking to us, especially in light of all that is going on in the world right now. He really wants to spend time with us. He wants that intimacy with us.

Intimacy comes with spending time with Him, seeking Him first to find out what He wants us to do, trust Him, and obey Him. As Pastor Miguel says, it will take dying to ourselves because it is all about Him. We need to die to ourselves to live more for Him. It starts with seeking Him, trusting, and obeying Him. His great commandment is to love Him first with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength, and then to love one another.

But from there you will seek the Lord your God and you will find him, if you search after him with all your heart and with all your soul.

(Deuteronomy 4:29 ESV)

Pastor Rob: The Lord wants to know if He is our first love. You know, our career can be our first love. We can be so busy that we forget God and we give Him our leftovers and our crumbs.

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, forgive us as your family and me as a member of your family; for the tyranny of the urgent. Life here in Hawaii is so busy and I am always running around, and I leave little room for You. Forgive me, Lord, and forgive us as your church family.

Lord, my heart today is to know you more intimately. My commitment today is to take small steps each day to spend time with you, to get to know you more, to read your Word, and to be encountered by you.

Put your heart in me. Remove, Lord, any heart of stone, that my heart may be supple and tender. Like David, Lord Jesus, I want my heart to be after your heart. I pray this all in the name of Jesus. Amen!

But I have this [charge] against you, That you have left your first love [you have lost the depth of love that you first had for Me]. So remember the heights from which you have fallen, and repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God's will] and do the works you did at first [when you first knew Me]; otherwise, I will visit you and remove your lampstand [the church, its impact] from its place—unless you repent.

(Revelation 2:4-5 AMP)

I will give you a new heart, and a new spirit I will put within you. And I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh.

(Ezekiel 36:26 ESV).

I Am a Child of God
TC Vegas
February 25, 2024

In the book of Daniel, King Nebuchadnezzar chooses four Hebrew captives, **Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah** to be his servants. He wanted handsome and smart men who could quickly learn the Babylonian language and culture. The king's plan was to strip them of their Jewish culture and replace it with a Babylonian one to better serve him. He tried to **take their identities and rewire everything they once knew**. The four were given Babylonian names to forget who they were: Daniel became Belteshazzar; Hananiah, Shadrach; Mishael, Meshach; and Azariah, Abednego.

This is what the enemy tries to do. The Word of God tells us who we are; but if we are not careful, we can start replacing our identity with the lies and the labels the enemy tells us. One-by-one, we can allow his lies to replace the truth of who we really are.

Members of my family would often refer to me as being the black sheep of the family because I did not fit in. I did not follow in the footsteps of everyone else. When I made poor choices, I would repeatedly call myself the black sheep or not enough.

We can compare ourselves with others and feel we do not measure up. Or if someone leaves us, we think we poured out everything we have and just were not good enough. Think if you have ever allowed any of these to be part of your identity: "I am a loser. I am stupid. I am insignificant. I am forgotten." Think about some of the negative labels and judgments you have allowed to stick to you and ask the Holy Spirit to reveal them to you.

But, family, there is good news. You do not have to live another day with those lies stuck to you. The Bible says if you have chosen Jesus to become the Lord of your life, you are His son and daughter. You are chosen. You are enough. You are forgiven. You are loved.

Isaiah 43:1 says the **Lord who created you calls you by your name and says, "You are Mine." We are His. Bill Johnson says we cannot afford to have a single thought about ourselves outside of what God says about us.**

Believe
TC Vegas
February 25, 2024

Last November **Stanton Sunaoka** and his prophetic team came to minister to us at MVCC. He specifically gave me a word: **God was pleased with what I had done with what He had given me during the hard season** I had walked through, **continuing to offer the five loaves and two fishes to others.** Then he went on to say that **there would be another hard season ahead.** To be honest, I felt like someone took the air out of my tires. But he said, **"TC, this is a good thing. This is so He can get you to the next level in Him. In 2024 you will be able to look back at the harvest that would be reaped because of your continued obedience and sacrifice."**

God does not give sickness; it is the enemy's play. I do not believe everything that happens is God's will; but if He has allowed it, He will work everything out for the good of those who love Him who are called according to His purpose.

Graham Cooke said it best: "God will allow with His wisdom what He could easily prevent with His power." God's plans don't always look like our plans and His promises have not changed. The only thing that has changed is the path to healing I had in my mind. We need to lay down our ways at the feet of One who knows the plans that He has for us; for good and not evil; to bless us and restore us; to give us a future and great hope.

This year the Lord gave me a word. It is simply to BELIEVE. It is believing in His complete word knowing it has not and will not ever change because He is faithful, and He is good. Now I rest in Him believing that the battle is His. He is able to do exceedingly and abundantly above anything that you or I could ever ask.

If something in your life has not gone exactly the way you wanted or expected, or you are still waiting on your breakthrough, I am here to tell you: His way is better. His timing is perfect. You can place your hope and trust in Him.

I Am Goodness
Karen Lewis
February 25, 2024

This morning, **I saw a pool.** Usually when I see the **pool of Bethesda**, it is bigger. But **this pool was smaller, very deep, and on fire.** My sense is that **we are shifting.** God wants to **shift us out of the place of normal healings** that we have seen **into that place of miracles, instant healings, the supernatural.** I heard the Lord say, **“Come from the premise that I am good! My goodness follows you, covers you, is above you, around you, underneath you. It swirls around you. Come from that premise.”**

My sense is that we have **nagging little thoughts.** They can be fleeting little thoughts. They are just like what TC was saying. Thoughts like: **“I’m not good enough. It happened for them, but it won’t happen for me.”**

It comes in **your voice.** The enemy tells you in your voice. You think it is coming from you. The truth is that **God says, “I gave My only beloved Son for you. Why would I hold back on anything else?”** So, if we come from that premise of His goodness, we will draw those miracles and signs, supernatural wonders, and healings.

For I hear the Lord say today, **“I am goodness.** Your mind cannot understand or wrap itself around that **I am goodness and love you so much.** I am the **glory and lifter of your head.** Be not deceived, My children, for the **enemy is coming with veil after veil after veil to deceive you, to distract you, to pull you off course.** But you are to **let Me be the glory and the lifter of your head.** As you lift your eyes, you will **lift your eyes above the veils, above the deceit, above the distractions, and know who you really are.** For I am goodness. It is **my desire to do above and beyond for each one of you.”**



Entering the Kingdom of God Via the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

February 4, 2024
Rob Gross

www.mvcchawaii.org



Pouring Out Your Love for God

February 11, 2024
Luis Salazar

www.mvcchawaii.org



Intimacy with the Father

February 18, 2024
Miguel Cardona

www.mvcchawaii.org



Receiving God’s Love

February 25, 2024
Danny Jones

www.mvcchawaii.org

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16 ESV)

If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. If I give away all I have, and if I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, I gain nothing. (1 Corinthians 13:1-3 ESV).