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Remember, the three times that tongues are mentioned in the book of Acts are: on the Day of Pentecost at Jerusalem (Acts 2); at the Household of Cornelius at Caesarea (Acts 10); and, when Paul baptized the twelve men at Ephesus (Acts 19). The first two have been briefly considered, so Ephesus will now be looked at.

The characters in this account are Paul, Apollos, Aquila and Priscilla, and, of course, the twelve men who were at Ephesus. At Corinth, Paul met a Jew named Aquila and his wife Priscilla. Since they were of the same trade, tentmakers, Paul lived with them for a time. When Paul left Corinth, these two went with him to Ephesus. After a short stay, Paul left for Jerusalem leaving the husband, wife team in Ephesus. No converts are reported from Paul's short stay.

After Paul left Ephesus, another Jew, named Apollos, came to town. He was eloquent, was well versed in the Scriptures (Old Testament) and was very zealous. He had been baptized by John the Baptist and up until this time seems not to have known about any of the other Christians. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him boldly speak in the synagogue, they realized that his knowledge about Christ and the Church was limited. So, they took him in and taught him the things in which he was lacking. Soon afterward, Apollos left Ephesus and went to Corinth, perhaps taking Aquila and Pris-

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cilla with him, since we do not find them at Ephesus again.

Some time later, Paul returned to Ephesus and found twelve disciples. These were obviously not Paul's converts, so they were either won by Aquila and Priscilla or Apollos. Paul asked if they had received the Holy Spirit, to which they replied that they had never heard that there was a Holy Spirit. Paul's next question is very revealing. He asked them about their baptism. Remember that Acts 2:38 states that repentance and baptism were prerequisites to receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Paul's question was, "Unto what then were ye baptized?" They replied, "Unto John's baptism." After Paul preached a little to them about Jesus Christ they were all baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. There are two possibilities as to their previous baptisms. The first was that they had all been to Judea and been baptized by John. From the context it seems that they were all Jews, and Jews often went to Jerusalem for the feasts. So, this could have been possible. The second possibility is that they were baptized by Apollos unto, or with reference to, John the Baptist.

If they had been baptized by John the Baptist and Paul re-baptized them, then it is certain that Paul thought John's baptism was invalid. Was John's baptism valid Christian baptism? Well, Jesus received John's baptism. That in itself should answer the question in the affirmative. Acts

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1:21-22 makes it clear that all of the Apostles had John's baptism, and none of them had been re-baptized. Here was a man sent from God for the purpose of preaching and baptizing. If his baptism was not valid, then he failed in the mission on which he had been sent. It is obvious from this that not only was John's baptism good, but also that these twelve disciples at Ephesus had never been baptized by John.

The facts all seem to point to Apollos being baptized by John, being filled with zeal and a great knowledge of the Scriptures, going out preaching, making converts and then baptizing them the best way he knew how, unto John. It appears that he had never met Jesus or been introduced to any of the Christians who could have given him more perfect knowledge of what was going on. John was authorized by God to baptize, but John didn't authorize anyone to baptize. John's purpose was to prepare a people for Christ. After that, his ministry was finished. Jesus, on the other hand, did authorize his disciples to baptize (John 4). There is no evidence that Jesus ever personally baptized anyone. However, He claimed His disciples baptisms as His own.

Here is the conclusion to all of this baptism discussion. Paul knew that in order for them to receive the Holy Spirit, they must have Scriptural baptism, which obviously they did not have. They were no doubt saved and immersed, but were baptized by Apollos who was unauthorized to administer baptism. Only after they had received

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Scriptural baptism were they able to receive the Holy Spirit.

After Paul had baptized the twelve, he laid his hands on them and the Holy Spirit came on them. As a result they spoke in tongues and prophesied. Notice the difference between this instance of speaking in tongues and the last two. On Pentecost and at Cornelius' house, the Holy Spirit just suddenly fell on them. In this case the Holy Spirit and the subsequent speaking in tongues came by the laying on of hands of an apostle. After the baptism in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit never again just fell on a group. He, and the gifts He gave, came by the laying on of hands.

Back in Acts chapter 8, after the persecution fell on the church at Jerusalem, Philip went to the city of Samaria and preached. A great revival broke out and a number of people were saved and baptized. When the apostles, who were at Jerusalem, heard about it, they sent Peter and John to Samaria so that these people might receive the Holy Spirit. When they arrived in Samaria, they prayed and laid their hands on them and the people received the Holy Spirit. A man in Samaria by the name of Simon observed that through the laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Spirit was given (Acts 8:18). This makes it clear that the Holy Spirit was given by the laying on of the hands of the Apostles after the baptism in the Spirit.

Back in Ephesus, the disciples, after being baptized and receiving the Holy Spirit, spoke in tongues and

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prophesied. It has already been pointed out that speaking in “tongues” was actually speaking in a language and was one of the gifts that was given by the Spirit. A list of these spiritual gifts is given in I Corinthians 12:8-10. They are:

1. Word of wisdom
2. Word of knowledge
3. Faith
4. Gifts of healing
5. Working of miracles
6. Prophecy
7. Discerning of spirits
8. Tongues
9. Interpretation of tongues

These will be dealt with in more detail later. However, at Ephesus, the disciples not only spoke in languages, they prophesied. A prophet was a person with the gift of prophecy. Simply put, he received a message from God and delivered it to the people.

To review what happened, Paul found twelve disciples at Ephesus and, after learning that their baptism was invalid, baptized them, prayed and laid his hands on them. They received the Holy Spirit and consequently spoke in languages and delivered God given messages.