

Week 6 Holy Spirit

Question: When you think of the Holy Spirit, what comes to mind?

Some people may think of the Holy Spirit as a mystical force or an impersonal being, but let's take a look at what the Bible says about the Holy Spirit and His role in our lives starting in the Old Testament.

The Old Testament (OT) was originally written in Hebrew.

In Genesis 1:1, the Hebrew word for "God" is plural, implying the concept of the Trinity. Although the word "Trinity" is not found in Scripture, it is an accurate description of the one true God in three distinct persons: Father, Son (Jesus), and Holy Spirit.

"The earth was a formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was moving over the waters." –Genesis 1:2

The Spirit of God = Holy Spirit

"16 After being baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending as a dove and lighting on Him, 17 and behold, a voice out of the heavens said, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well-pleased.""
–Matthew 3:16-17

Jesus = Son, Spirit of God = Holy Spirit, Voice = Father What does the Holy Spirit do?

John 3:1-8 – renews us spiritually "born again"

- John 20:22 – renews us spiritually "born again"

John 7:38-39 – flow through and in us

John 14:15-19 – Counselor "helper", truth, never leave us

John 14:26 – remind us of truth

John 16:5-15 – help us determine right and wrong "convict", guides into truth, glorify Jesus

The Holy Spirit used to remain in the temple and only the high priest could go in once a year. Once Jesus died the temple curtain was physically torn to symbolize that Holy Spirit was no longer contained to one place but could now live in us! WOW! (Matthew 27:51)

2 Corinthians 13:14 New International Version

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

The Holy Spirit is the part of the trinity that actually lives inside us and we fellowship with.

New Testament:

There are quite a few scriptures, but almost all of them are in John. Have most people turn to John, assign people in a circle to read the scripture, and discuss what the scripture is showing us about the Holy Spirit. Then have a few people turn to the other scriptures when needed.

The Holy Spirit:

- John 7:38-39 Flows in and through us to change us and bless others
- John 14:16, 23 Is with us forever and makes a home in us in Christ's place

- Question: How does the Holy Spirit being in the room with you at all times change the things that you would do in your free time or behind closed doors?

- John 14:25-26 Teaches us all things and brings to remembrance all that Jesus has taught us
 - John 15:4, 16:7 Abides (lives/dwells) with us in place of Jesus on the Earth
 - Abiding with Jesus through the Holy Spirit helps us grow good "fruit" in our lives
- Galatians 5:22

- John 15:26-27 Bears witness to Jesus (shows Jesus is who he says he is) to us and those around us
- John 16:8-11 Convicts the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment
 - Conviction is the Holy Spirit making us aware that we are hurting ourselves, God, and other people by choosing to live in sin.

- Question: Why do you think the Holy Spirit convicts us about sin?

- Conviction is a gift that the Holy Spirit gives us that reminds us that He cares about us and doesn't want to see us do things that would hurt us or our relationship with him.

- Question: Can you share an example of a time that you had a thought that you should do something or not do something that you think may have been the Holy Spirit? Did you listen to the Holy Spirit in that moment?

- Guides us into all truth, speaks what He hears from the Father and Son, and declares what is yet to come John 16:13
- John 16:14 Glorifies Jesus and declares to us what belongs to him
- Spiritual blessings, gifts, power, wisdom, etc.
 - John 20:22, Ephesians 1:13-14 Breathes new life into us so we are born again spiritually and becomes the seal and proof of our salvation
 - Galatians 5:16 Walks with us so we won't continue to live in sin but live a new spiritual life.

- Question: What is one area of your life that you would like the Holy Spirit's help to stop living in sin?

- Acts 1:8 Empowers us
- The Holy Spirit empowers us to show a better picture of Jesus to the world around us.
- We'll be talking more this weekend at Fall Retreat about how the Holy Spirit empowers us
- 2 Corinthians 13:14 Has fellowship with us and relates to us through His presence and voice in our lives.
 - We personally relate to Jesus and the Father through the Holy Spirit in our life. We do this through prayer, listening for His voice, and allowing the Holy Spirit to show us truth in the Bible.
- **Question: What makes it hard for you to personally relate to the Holy Spirit in your life?**
 - 1 Corinthians 6:19 He Dwells within us like he used to in the Temple
 - In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit was only present in the Holy of Holies, which could only be accessed by the High Priest, because of the presence of sin on the Earth. But in Matthew 27:50-51, the veil that separated the Holy of Holies is torn because of Jesus' death, demonstrating that the Holy Spirit could now dwell with us on the Earth and within us (1 Corinthians 6:19)
 - What was once available to only one person once a year (the presence of God and personal and close relationship), is now available to anyone who chooses to follow Jesus! This is amazing!
- **Question: What does the Holy Spirit living in believers say to you about God's desire for a relationship with us?**
 - He desires to be intimately close with us and live every day life with us. - Question: How do you think sin affects our relationship with the Holy Spirit and our role as a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Question: How does all of this change the way that you relate to the Holy Spirit in your life?

Take some time to ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you about anything He wants to speak to you about.

Whatever you decide about being filled with the Spirit, remember that this is not a one-time event. It's not a thing we receive but a relationship we experience. Read Acts 4:23-31 and Ephesians 5:18: seek continually!

Note: During the prayer time, it could be a good time to ask the Holy Spirit if He wants to speak anything to individuals or to your group as a whole. Feel free to operate in gifts of the Holy Spirit as He leads you.

Note: Feel free to add or subtract to this resource and use it however it helps you. Pray over this and ask God what He wants you to speak to your group about and which questions or scriptures will be helpful! *****Don't be afraid to split this up into multiple small groups!**

EXTRA RESOURCE & BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT Q&A

Joel prophesies the "Promise of the Father" 400 years before Pentecost

Joel 2:28-29 The Day of the LORD 28 "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your old men will dream dreams, your young men will see visions. 29 Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days.

-This rattled up God's people, this was an unheard of!

- 1) John the Baptist prophesies that Jesus will baptize in the Holy Spirit -Luke 3:16
- 2) Jesus promises the Holy Spirit, the promise of the Father -Luke 24:49
- 3) The Holy Spirit comes at Pentecost, speaking in tongues takes place -Acts 2:1-4
- 4) Peter links Joel's prophecy 400 yrs before to Pentecost Acts 2:16-18
- 5) Several years later, more believers get baptized in the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues
Acts 8:14-18
- 6) At Cornelius's house, the entire household was baptized in the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues
Acts 10:44-48
- 7) Paul lays hands on believers in Ephesus for the baptism in the Holy Spirit 20 years after Pentecost, evidenced by speaking in tongues
Acts 19:1-7
- 8) Paul explains the purpose of speaking in tongues as praying the will of God, separate from the prophetic tongue that requires interpretation
Romans 8:22-27, 1 Cor. 14:15, Jude 1:20

Do Christians receive the Holy Spirit when they are saved? If so, how is this experience different from the baptism in the Holy Spirit?!

Yes, when persons accept Christ, the Holy Spirit begins a great work in their lives. The Spirit convicts them of sin, convinces them of righteousness, and dwells within them

(John 6:44; 14:17; Roman 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13). No one becomes a Christian without this gracious work of the Holy Spirit.!

However, there is an additional and distinct ministry of the Holy Spirit called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. The Baptism is an empowering gift from God the Father that is promised to every believer (Matthew 3:11; Luke 11:13; 24:49; Acts 2:33, 38). It helps the Christian to live a holy life and also brings a new devotional attachment to Jesus Christ, making Him very real and precious. The primary purpose of the Baptism is to give greater power for witnessing (Acts 1:8). Other benefits include a greater joy in spiritual service, and a heightened sense of one's mission to the world.!

Can a person receive eternal life in heaven without the baptism in the Holy Spirit? If so, why should we be baptized in the Spirit?!

Receiving eternal life does not depend on being baptized in the Holy Spirit; for salvation is by grace through faith alone (Habakkuk 2:4; John 6:28, 29; Galatians 3:6; 5:6; Ephesians 2:8). It is a gift purchased for us by Christ when He was crucified. All we have to do is accept the gift. Just as the repentant thief on the cross next to Jesus was assured of entering paradise that very day we too are assured a place in heaven with the Father if we believe in Jesus Christ. It is most unfortunate that some have said, "Unless you have spoken in tongues you will not go to heaven." This is not true. It is contrary to the Scriptures.

At the same time, although the Bible does not say the baptism in the Spirit is required for salvation, it does tell us that Christ commanded His first followers to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8). The Bible commands us to "be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). This personal encounter with the Holy Spirit should be sought and cherished by every believer. With it comes a new and fuller dimension of spiritual understanding and a flow of spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:9-13).!

Once a person is baptized in the Holy Spirit, why is it necessary to be refilled later?

On the Day of Pentecost 120 disciples (committed followers of Jesus) were "filled" with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:4). This fulfilled the promise Christ had made to them a few days earlier. He had said, "John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). But this initial experience of being baptized in the Holy Spirit is only the beginning of a lifelong experience. God wants us to remain filled with the Spirit.!

Perhaps an analogy will best clarify this. As Christians we may be compared with a reservoir for producing electrical power. When we accept Christ, construction of our reservoir is complete. We now have the potential to be useful and to affect lives. But until the flood gates are opened and the cascading river waters pour through, no power is realized. So it is when we are baptized in the Holy Spirit. We open our lives to God and the Holy Spirit pours into us and through us. It is then we become most effective in God's service.

As with the reservoir, this power-generating experience is not intended to be a one-time occurrence. It is to be an ongoing process. When our spiritual power runs low, we need to return to the Source and let the blessed Holy Spirit pour into us again, bringing fresh power. This happened to the early followers of Jesus. They had already been baptized in the Spirit; but later on, when persecution arose, they needed a new surge of spiritual power; so they prayed to the Lord once again and "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 4:31).

As the Spirit-filled believer serves the Lord, there is an expenditure of spiritual power. It becomes necessary for him to open himself afresh to the Holy Spirit in order that his power may be replenished. The command in Ephesians 5:18 is literally, "Keep on being filled with the Spirit." Here lies the secret of Spirit-filled living. The Spirit-filled life is a continuous process of receiving and giving, of being filled and sharing with others, of receiving power from God and spending it in gospel service.!

Who should be baptized in the Holy Spirit?!

When the believers were assembled in prayer on the Day of Pentecost, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them" (Acts 2:4). Not one was left out. It was not just the apostles, who were filled, but all the men and all the women in that company of 120 persons. Then the apostle Peter addressed the onlookers and told them that they should be filled. He said "The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off -- for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:39).

As Peter said, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is for every believer in every generation. It is an all-inclusive promise of universal dimension. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is promised to every Christian believer.!

Why are some people baptized in the Spirit immediately, while other seek so long without receiving the experience?!

Just prior to His ascension, Jesus told His disciples, "In a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 1:5). Some 20 days later they were filled with the Spirit (Acts 2:4). Earlier the Lord had said, "I am going to send you what my Father promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). No doubt the disciples obeyed this directive; they remained in Jerusalem and spent much time in prayer. There was a "waiting" for the Spirit to come. However, once the Spirit had fallen there was no further incident of "waiting" or "tarrying." Today there is no longer any reason for waiting, except as "waiting" may relate to the preparation of the heart for the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Some believers have received the Baptism almost immediately; others have waited for various periods of time. Why? (1) Because the Holy Spirit is sovereign, He will move and work only as He chooses. (2) Because the Holy Spirit does not impose himself on any believer, some will require a period of waiting before they are prepared to yield themselves fully to His divine control. (3) Because "filling" may involve a process, there

are some believers with an authentic baptism in the Spirit which may have been preceded by wonderful and meaningful times of waiting in God's presence. Seekers should realize that any period of "waiting" only brings them closer to the full outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon their lives.!

When an individual is seeking the baptism in the Holy Spirit, can anything be done to prepare his life or environment that will quicken the infilling?!

The question is often asked: "What can I do to claim the promise of the baptism in the Holy Spirit for my life?" One thing the believer should do is to seek the Baptizer rather than the Baptism. It is Jesus who baptizes believers in the Holy Spirit. Seekers should focus their attention on Him rather than on an experience.

There are other steps that, if taken, will assist seekers. (1) Understand that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is a gift from God. It should be received with gratitude and giving of thanks to the Giver. It cannot be earned or merited. It can only be accepted with an open and willing heart. (2) Be fully persuaded that the baptism in the Holy Spirit is both biblical and doctrinally correct. (3) Confess any known sins in your life and resolve to live a righteous life with God's help. (4) Begin to worship the Lord with expressions of praise and adoration. (5) Express to the Lord, who is the Baptizer, a desire to be filled with the Holy Spirit for His glory. (6) Yield to any deep "welling up" within your spirit and allow that inner surge to break through in expressions of worship, praise, and adoration in a language unknown to you but meaningful to God.