

The Holy Spirit

I hope you have noticed, how our lessons have interlocked with one another. Each subject takes us into the following subject. This will be done for another lesson, then we will branch out into other subjects which are deeper, and more of the meat, as the Bible calls it.

The Holy Spirit is a very important subject, and necessary for the continuance of our spiritual life. But it too, is a misunderstood subject. Many people abuse the holy spirit, also, proclaim something is of the spirit when it isn't.

Although every church believes in the Holy Spirit, it is a controversial subject. Today, we want to answer many questions regarding the Spirit, such as, when does one receive it, what is the evidence of the Holy Spirit, what will the Spirit do for us, etc.

1. **What promise did Jesus make?** John 14:16, 26

Jesus promised his followers another Comforter. If He promised them another Comforter, who was their Comforter then? It was Jesus Himself. Jesus comforted them, he healed their diseases, he was their comforter. Since He was going to leave them, he promised them another Comforter, and what was the Comforter he was going to send to them? It was the "Holy Spirit", verse 26.

2. **How do we receive the Spirit?** Acts 2:38, 39

Some people feel you have to pray a long time, fast, and do other things before God will give you the spirit. But verse 38 says "If we repent", "if we are baptized", then we shall receive the holy spirit. It is God's promise, so if we comply with the first two requirements, then we shall receive the Holy Spirit. We do not have to pray for it a long time nor fast for it. It is promised. We must believe God.

3. **Shall receive power.** Acts 1:7-8

We are glad to know the Holy Spirit will give us power. Power to do what? Power to live for Him, for we cannot do it by our own strength. It is the Holy Spirit in us, that enables us to live for God and live the life that we desire to live.

4. **We will be strengthened by the Spirit.** Ephesians 3:16

5. **Cannot see it.** John 3:8

Can you see the wind as it blows through the trees? No, you can't. But you can see what it is doing to the tree and you can feel it. So it is with the spirit. You cannot see it, but you can see what effect it is having upon an individual. "So is every one that is born of the Spirit." You can see what it is doing in their lives, and you can feel it in your own life.

6. **It will guide us.** John 16:13

Not only will the Holy Spirit give us power, but it will also guide us into truth. There were many concepts the apostles could not understand, but when the Spirit came upon them, they understood. So it is important that we give our lives over to the guidance of the Spirit as we study the Bible.

7. **Has the Holy Spirit always been for all people?** Numbers 11:16-17, 24-25

If God took of the spirit that was upon Moses and gave to others, then the spirit was present in olden time, but not upon everyone. It was only upon the leaders of God's people.

8. **Take not thy Spirit from me.** Psalms 51:11

We see that David had the spirit and he was a leader of God's people.

9. **Spirit upon all flesh.** Joel 2:28-29 Acts 2:14-18

Joel prophesied that a time was coming when the spirit of God was going to be poured out upon all flesh---men, women and young men. This was done on the day of Pentecost in Acts 2. Everyone may have the privilege of having the Holy Spirit in his or her life. It is for all now, but at one time it was not.

10. **Will the Holy Spirit leave us?** Genesis 6:3

The Holy Spirit will leave us only when we become disinterested in God and in his way of life. If we become disinterested in God and his way of life, then the Spirit will leave us. But if we remain true to God, the Spirit will abide with us forever.

11. **What is the evidence of the Spirit?** Galatians 5:22-23

The evidence is the fruit that we bear. When people see this, then they will know the Spirit of God dwells in us.

12. **How are we to walk?** Galatians 5:16-17, 25

“...ye cannot do the things that ye would.” What does this mean? It means that we used to live to please ourselves, but now we live to please God. Now we cannot always do the things we would like. God becomes first, and he takes first place in our life. Our life is planned and programmed around God. So it becomes necessary to refrain from some activities.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit (Gal. 8:1).”

13. **Wine goes into new bottles.** Luke 5:37-38

The wine here refers to the Holy Spirit. In the same manner that new wine was never put into old bottles, so God does not put His Spirit into old carnal lives (bodies). After we are born again, and cleaned up, then God gives us His Spirit. We are then able to hold (retain) it.

14. **What is the temple now?** 1 Corinthians 3:16-17

Just as God used to dwell in the temple of old, which was at Jerusalem, today our bodies are the temple of God and now he dwells in us. We must not defile this temple, for God will not dwell in a defiled temple.

15. **How important is it to be spiritually minded?** Romans 8:1, 4-6, 9

16. **David’s prayer and request.** Psalms 51:10-11, 12

Notice those words, “Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,...”. Do you experience joy in serving God? If you do receive joy in serving God, then something is seriously lacking. David says he felt joy in serving God and wanted that joy to return. May we serve the Lord in spirit and in truth.

SUMMARY

The Holy Spirit is necessary to have in our lives as we serve the Lord. It will lead us, it will give us power, and it will give us joy.