

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Understanding Who the Holy Spirit is and What He Does in Our Lives

INTRODUCTION

When we accept Jesus in our hearts, the Holy Spirit comes to live inside of us as a promise of the glory to come- eternity in Heaven. Everyone who gives their heart to the Lord has the Holy Spirit living inside them.

In Ephesians 1:13-14 we read: “And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having _____, you were marked in him with a _____, the promised _____, who is a _____ guaranteeing our _____ until the redemption of those who are God’s possession- to the praise of his glory.”

This tells us that the Holy Spirit was given to us to confirm that we are saved and we will share in the Son’s inheritance. This is further explained in Romans 8:17. Read this verse and answer the following questions:

- 1) What must we endure to share Christ’s inheritance?
-if indeed we share in His _____
- 2) What is the inheritance we will share with Him?
-in order that we may also share in His _____
- 3) Read Psalm 145:11. Sharing in His glory means we will be part of what?
-they will tell of the glory of your _____

The Holy Spirit is given to us as a deposit, or portion, of God’s glory and a binding seal, promising that we will be part of the Kingdom of Heaven. The Holy Spirit inside of us is God’s witness to us that we are saved and that the gospel is true. More than that, He helps us grow as Christians and become more like God- because He Himself is God. We read about the deity of the Holy Spirit and His promise to be with us in the following verses:

“God is _____, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”
(John 4:24)

“And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another _____ to be with you forever- the _____ of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; _____ will come to you.” (John 14:16-18)

Truly the promise of the Holy Spirit is a powerful gift to every Christian today. In our lesson, we will be examining what the Holy Spirit does in us and in others.

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DISCIPLESHIP LESSON #2

There are four important things we can learn about the Holy Spirit. In the Bible, we read about His work, His fruit, His baptism, and His gifts. The Holy Spirit is active today, speaking to Christians and working in their lives.

I. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God. Though it is hard to understand, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit are three separate persons of the One True God. The easiest way to explain this is to look at an egg. If you break it, it is made of three separate parts: the egg shell, the egg white, and the egg yoke. Each part is 100% egg, and the egg is incomplete without all three components. Just as you have one egg made of the shell, the white, and the yoke, so there is One God, who exists as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The best way to understand the Holy Spirit is to say He is the part of God that communicates with man. This is His primary work on earth. Read John 16:7-13 and answer the following questions:

- 1) What is the Holy Spirit's work in regard to people who don't know Jesus?
-he will convict the world of guilt in regard to _____ and _____ and _____
- 2) What is the Holy Spirit's work in regard to Christians?
-he will guide you into all _____

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, because people fail to believe in Jesus. He speaks to the hearts of men, helping them understand the reality of their guilt in sin so they will turn to Jesus, receive His forgiveness, and be saved.

He also convicts the world of righteousness, because Jesus is no longer physically present on this earth. Though Jesus isn't here to lead by example, the Holy Spirit speaks to men about the need for righteousness and the call to obey God.

Third, He convicts the world of judgment, because the devil stands condemned and is destined for eternal punishment. Jesus made it clear that you are either a child of God or a child of the devil. Those who follow Jesus will share his destiny- eternity in the Kingdom of God. Those who follow the devil by rejecting Jesus will share in his fate- eternal punishment apart from God.

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Finally, the Holy Spirit will guide the children of God into all truth. As we read God's Word, follow Christ, and pray to our Heavenly Father, the Holy Spirit speaks to us and guides us in our walk with Christ.

II. THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

As the Holy Spirit lives in us, He helps us to become godly. A powerful way He works in us is by causing the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us. We read about these nine fruit of the Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23-

“But the fruit of the Spirit is _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, _____, and _____. Against such things there is no law.”

We must embrace the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives by listening to His voice and striving to demonstrate these fruit in our lives. It isn't easy, however. We still have a sinful nature that desires to break God's laws. Paul the Apostle wrote about this just a few verses before he recorded the fruit of the Spirit:

“For the _____ desires what is contrary to the _____, and the _____ what is contrary to the _____. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not _____ what you _____.” (Galatians 5:17)

When Paul says “you do not do what you want,” he means two things: 1) often when you want to do right, you will fail; the good news is, we can repent of our sin to God and he will forgive us; and 2) you will learn as you become mature in the faith to do what is right, even when you feel like doing what is wrong; this is called “crucifying the flesh,” which means setting aside sinful or selfish desires to serve God.

At the end of this scripture, we are instructed to do two very important things. Read Galatians 5:24-25 and fill in the blanks below:

1) Christians are called to _____ the sinful nature if they are truly followers of Christ. This means ignoring the desire to sin and making godly decisions that honor Jesus Christ in our lives. (v.24)

2) We are called to _____ in _____ with the Spirit; this means being sensitive to what God is doing in our lives and listening to His voice. We are called to surrender ourselves to Him so He can change us and cause the fruit of the Spirit to grow in us. (v.25)

By the power of the Spirit, God changes us from sinners to people who bear the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

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III. BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a gift from God, separate from salvation, that is available to every Christian who desires to have it. It is referred to in the scripture as being “baptized” or being “filled” with the Spirit. We read about the first Christians to be baptized in the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:1-4.

“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were _____ with the _____ and began to _____ in _____ as the Spirit enabled them.”

The purpose of being filled with the Spirit can be found in the words Jesus spoke to His disciples when He told them to wait for it:

“But you will receive _____ when the _____ comes on you; and you will be my _____ in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Some people teach that being baptized in the Holy Spirit was just for the people in the Bible, and it doesn't happen anymore. But we read God's promise about the Holy Spirit in Acts 2:38-39.

“_____ and be _____, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the _____. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off- for _____ whom the Lord our God will call.”

We see from these verses that the Holy Spirit is promised to everyone who repents and is baptized- to all who God calls to Himself. If you are a Christian, the baptism in the Holy Spirit is something God has made available to you.

There is one final important thing to understand about the baptism in the Holy Spirit. From the Word of God, we see that people who were baptized in the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues- that is, languages they didn't know. This is what we call the “initial physical evidence” of the baptism in the Holy Spirit- the outward sign that testifies to God's inward work. This happens to show you and others that you truly have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Here are several scriptures that demonstrate this truth:

Acts 2:4- “All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to _____ in other _____ as the Spirit enabled them.”

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Acts 10:45-46- “The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them _____ in _____ and praising God.”

Acts 19:6- “When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they _____ in _____ and prophesied.”

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is available today for all Christians. When you receive this promise of the Holy Spirit, it will be on God’s time. It won’t always happen right away. When it does, you will speak in tongues as an outward, physical sign that the Holy Spirit has done this work in your life.

IV. SPIRITUAL GIFTS

Once you have received the baptism in the Holy Spirit, you are empowered by God to use Spiritual gifts for His glory. There are many gifts, so we won’t cover them all here, but you can read about them in Joel 2:28, Romans 12:6-8, 1 Corinthians 12:8-10, 1 Corinthians 12:28-30, Ephesians 4:11, and 1 Peter 4:11. There are a few important things to understand about spiritual gifts:

- 1) They are determined by God. (1 Corinthians 12:11)
- 2) Every gift is important and necessary to the church. (1 Corinthians 12:27)
- 3) We must use are gifts to tell the world about Jesus. (Hebrews 2:2-4)

CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit does a powerful work in each of our lives. We should be sensitive to His guiding, because he promises to lead us into all truth. We should surrender to His work in us, so we will bear the fruit of the Spirit. We should seek to be baptized, so we will be empowered by God to be witness and to use our spiritual gifts for Him.

ASSIGNMENT

This week, try to pray for at least 15 minutes a day. Also, try to memorize Epehesians 5:18 and read one of the following scriptures each day:

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|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 1) Galatians 1 | 2) Galatians 2 | 3) Galatians 3 | 4) Galatians 4 |
| 5) Galatians 5 | 6) Galatians 6 | 7) John 1 | |