

The Gospel Truth

BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE
MISSION FIELD WORLDWIDE.

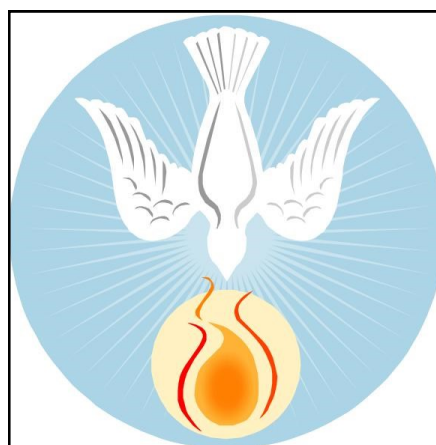
HAVE YE RECEIVED THE HOLY GHOST?

“And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” (Acts 19:1-2a).

The disciples at Ephesus believed in repentance but were unaware of the full plan of salvation available through Jesus Christ. Upon hearing the good news, they were baptized. Paul then laid hands on them, prayed, and they were filled with the Holy Spirit.

Many people have prayed to be forgiven of their sins and to accept Christ as their Savior, but have never gone on to enjoy a life of real spiritual victory and holiness. They miss the deep, rich experience of spiritual abundance. Many make a start for the Lord but through time find the temptations and trials so great that they slip back into the things from

which God delivered them. For those who don't go back to a life of sin, many have a stagnate experience of spiritual drudgery and a form of godliness.



*“God wants to gift you
with the Holy Spirit.”*

Before the day of Pentecost, Peter professed his devotion for Christ.

He even pulled his sword, ready to do battle, when Jesus was arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane. Within a few hours, this same Peter denied knowledge of the Lord three different times. In the face of temptation, peer pressure, and even death, Peter did not have the power to remain faithful. After the Holy Spirit descended on the day of Pentecost, Peter preached with new courage and boldness a message of the resurrected Lord. He was filled with the sustaining power and graces of the Holy Spirit. He never went back to fishing but lived a holy life of consecrated service for God.

The good news of the gospel is that God wants to gift you with the Holy Spirit to enable you to live a life of consistent power and holiness. Mankind is incapable of living holy in his own strength and ability. Jesus died on the cross that our sins could be

(Continued on page 2)

WHAT THE BIBLE Teaches About...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;

Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;

1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

2 Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;

Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

(Continued from page 1)

forgiven through the atonement of His blood. When we repent, we are made a clean vessel through Jesus Christ. Let us not stop with a clean vessel. Jesus also came that we would be filled with the Holy Spirit. If someone does not speedily seek God for the Holy Spirit, the devil will try to fill the life back up with the sin and pollution of the world. It is the infilling of the Holy Spirit that will heal the backsliding and enable holy living.

Jesus came to do a full, complete work to equip people to live in obedience and holiness in accordance to the Word of God. He came to purge committed sin and then to baptize with the Spirit. The experience of full salvation is wonderful. It is a life of dedicated service to God. It is a practical experience of victory in trial, comfort in grief, power over temptation, and peace in the storm. It brings fire and life in our daily Christian living. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is one of the greatest needs amongst professing Christians today. There is power in the Spirit to live without sin until the Lord returns.

Have you experienced this full, complete plan of salvation? Have you received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?

—mws

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

The Gospel Truth periodical is published in the name of the Lord for all people of all lands in the interest of establishing and encouraging them in the truth of God's Word. This publication teaches and promotes the truths of the Bible that have been established since the time of Christ and the apostles.

The Word of God is the singular, acceptable rule of faith. It teaches salvation and deliverance from sin through the atonement of Jesus Christ; a subsequent infilling of the Holy Spirit to lead, direct and empower; practical holiness in every area of life; and the unity and oneness of God's people. Acceptable service to God is through a personal relationship of love founded in truth.

Editors: Michael & René Smith

SUBSCRIPTION

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Editorial



“He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)” —John 7:38-39

The essence of full salvation is founded in the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. The Spirit brings life and vitality to those who have been filled with the sweetness of His presence. What a wonderful experience to have the Spirit make His abode in this earthly temple.

This quarter in *The Gospel Truth*, I address the subject of ‘The Infilling of the Holy Spirit.’ It was difficult to write on the subject in such a small amount of space as the subject is large. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is one of the most needed experiences among Christians. There is too much carnality and worldliness among many people professing to be saints. The Holy Spirit would resolve many of the problems that exist not only in people’s personal lives, but in marriages and congregations.

This gift of God is referred to in many ways: second work of grace, Holy Spirit infilling, Holy Spirit baptism, sanctification, perfection, etc. Sadly, there has been much confusion surrounding its teaching. There have been many divisions and rifts caused in the body of Christ over this subject. We must not let illustrations or romanticized ideals of man dictate the parameters of truth, but rather let the Word of God be our guide in understanding. While it is vital that we understand the pure, simple teaching of the scripture on this subject, it is even more important that we practically experience the infilling of the Holy Spirit.

This subject is not as difficult or as complicated as the enemy has tried to make it seem. Jesus spoke simply about the Holy Spirit bringing power to a life. The focus of the scripture on this subject is about God giving believers a gift to empower, comfort, and direct them. The Word of God bears out so clearly that the infilling of the Spirit is subsequent to the work of justification. There is danger in joining these two as one, but there is also danger in trying to put so much distance between these two experiences that people lose the value and importance of receiving the Holy Spirit soon after justification. Both works were brought through the sacrifice and plan of Jesus Christ.

Many today are lacking the power and the fire in their experience. I can personally testify to the amazing power of the Spirit that sanctifies, energizes, enables, and stabilizes. If you have not received the Holy Spirit, now would be a wonderful time to pray with someone that you too might experience the fullness of living for God through the Spirit.

Michael W. Smith

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When To Seek



For the Holy Spirit

Many Christians delay in seeking the infilling of the Holy Spirit. They often wait too long and lose their salvation due to a lack of power in their lives.

The Bible does not tell how long to wait after repenting before seeking for the Holy Spirit; but according to examples given, it is important for the new convert to quickly seek for the Holy Spirit.

Jesus did not want His disciples to face the world unequipped and so He said: "tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit within days of conversion. When some people of Samaria accepted Christ, the disciples immediately sent someone to them with the message of the Holy Spirit.

There is great danger in delay. As soon as a justified person realizes his need, it is time to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SUBJECT: THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Scripture Reading:

And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.... —Acts 2:1-4a

Summary: Jesus died to save people from their sins and to provide for a personal experience of the infilling of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit equips the believer to live a holy life through divine power, leadership, and comfort.

I. Prophecy of the Holy Spirit

- A. Joel 2:28-29 God will pour out His Spirit.
- B. Ezekiel 36:26-27 God puts His Spirit within us.

II. The Holy Spirit Promised

- A. Matthew 3:11 Jesus shall baptize with.
- B. John 14:16 God will give.
- C. Luke 24:49 Jesus will send.
- D. Acts 1:4-5 Wait for the promise.

III. Temple of the Holy Spirit

- A. Acts 7:44-49 Old Testament tabernacle/temple.
- B. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 You are the temple of God.

IV. The Holy Spirit is a Gift For All people

- A. Acts 2:38-39 Unto you and your children.
- B. Acts 10:45 Jews and Gentiles.

V. Conditions for Holy Spirit Baptism

- A. Acts 2:38 Repent.
- B. Acts 19:2 Believe.
- C. Acts 5:32 Obey.
- D. Romans 12:1-2 Consecrate.

VI. Holy Spirit Given Only to the Justified

- A. Acts 8:5-6, 12-17 Samaritan Church.
- B. Acts 9:17 Apostle Paul.
- C. Acts 10:1-2, 44-47 House of Cornelius.
- D. Acts 19:1-7 Disciples at Ephesus.

VII. The Work of the Holy Spirit

- A. Acts 1:8 Empowers, Enables.
- B. Romans 15:16 Sanctifies.
- C. Acts 15:8-9 Purifies.
- D. John 14:26 Comforts, Teaches.
- E. John 16:13 Guides.
- F. Ephesians 1:13 Seals.
- G. 2 Corinthians 3:6 Gives life.
- H. 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 Spiritual gifts.
- I. Romans 5:5 Puts love in the heart.
- J. Hebrews 2:11 Unifier.

VIII. Evidence of the Holy Spirit

- A. Romans 8:16 Spirit itself.
- B. Galatians 5:22-25 Fruit of the Spirit.
- C. Romans 14:17 Kingdom of God.

Conclusion

If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him? Luke 11:11-13

THE INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Companion article for Bible Study

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GIVEN

On the day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit fell from heaven (Acts 2:1-4) and filled the hearts of 120 believers. These believers were the first of the New Testament church to experience the fullness of God's plan which was accomplished through Jesus Christ. In a time of ritualistic, ceremonial worship with a history of sin and spiritual failure, Jesus brought salvation to earth so mankind could live victorious and holy lives through the atonement of the blood and by the power of the Holy Spirit.

THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER

Looking forward to Pentecost, God declared His intentions in Ezekiel 36:27: "And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do *them*." No longer was man bound to his inclination toward unrighteousness, but God gave of Himself through His Spirit that man could live righteously in the midst of a sinful world. He again spoke of that day when He said: "I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh" (Joel 2:28).

THE PLACE OF HIS DWELLING

In the Old Testament, the presence of God communed with man first in the tabernacle and then in temples. These buildings were made with earthly hands. "Howbeit, the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands; as saith the prophet....what house will ye build me? saith the Lord: or what is the place of my rest?" (Acts 7:45-49). This question is answered in 1 Corinthians 3:16-17. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for

the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are." God would only dwell in a holy place and so His Spirit would not dwell in the temple of this earthly body until it had been purged from sin through Jesus Christ.

JESUS CAME TO PREPARE THE WAY FOR THE SPIRIT

John the Baptist saw Jesus and spoke of the baptism of the Holy Ghost to come. "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but...he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with fire*" (Matthew 3:11). Jesus came to prepare the way for the coming of the Holy Ghost. "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high" (Luke 24:49). The promise of the Father referred to the gift of the Holy Spirit.

GIVEN UNTO ALL

This wonderful gift of power through the Holy Spirit was first given on the day of Pentecost to the Jewish believers, but it was promised to all people of future generations. "For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off..." (Acts 2:39). The Holy Spirit was given not only to the Jews but to the Gentiles. "And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 10:45). No matter how wicked the world, the Holy Spirit is still available to the believer. Some people think that they can earn the Holy Spirit or pray hard enough to finally get God to answer. Rather, it is a gift that is freely given when conditions are met.



Promise of the Father

*"Ye shall receive power,
after that the Holy Ghost
is come upon you. "*

Acts 1:8

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

HOW TO RECEIVE THE SPIRIT

What then must one do to receive the Holy Spirit? “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). The Holy Ghost will only come into the life of a person who has previously repented from his sin. The infilling of the Holy Spirit is also a work of faith and is given to them which believe in Christ (Acts 19:2) and are living in obedience to God (Acts 5:32). As the Spirit will only fill a clean heart, so will He only baptize the life that is fully consecrated to God. “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, *which is your reasonable service*” (Romans 12:1). As in the Old Testament, fire consumed those sacrifices that were placed on the altar, so the Holy Spirit, typified as fire, will only fall on that individual who has made a total consecration to God’s will and purpose. Repent, believe, obey, and consecrate and God will baptize with His Holy Spirit.

THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE WORKS

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a separate, definite work. It is distinct from the experience of justification. The previous scriptures support this two-fold work of salvation as do all of the examples given of the apostolic church in the book of Acts. Philip preached Jesus to people in the city of Samaria. Many of them received Christ and were baptized. Peter and John then came to Samaria to pray for them that “they might receive the Holy Ghost” (Acts 8:15). God saved them from sin and later filled them with His Spirit. Brother Saul, whose name was changed to Paul, accepted Christ and then received the Holy Spirit through the prayers of Ananias. Similarly, other Christians, as illustrated by the household of



Cornelius (Acts 10) and the disciples at Ephesus (Acts 19), were filled with the Holy Spirit at separate times from their conversions.

THE HOLY SPIRIT BRINGS OVERCOMING POWER

The Holy Spirit has many functions and makes a radical difference in the life of a convert. Chiefly, in the words of Christ, the Holy Spirit gives power—power to live free from sin, power over self and the flesh, power to live holy, and power to live according to God’s word. “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit gives strength in time of weakness, grace in time of trial, and victory in the face of defeat. The justified are “sanctified by the Holy Ghost” (Romans 15:16). They are set apart, consecrated, and made holy by the power of God. Their hearts are purified by the Spirit (Acts 15:9). Through the power of the Spirit, the natural inclinations of the flesh are bound and there is divine ability to say “no” to the devil and “yes” to God.

OTHER FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is a comforter and teacher (John 14:26). He leads and directs His people. The Holy Spirit guides and

bestows spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-11). “The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost” (Romans 5:5). The Spirit of God unifies the true people of God (Hebrews 2:11). The Holy Spirit gives life, zeal, and purpose. “The letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life” (2 Corinthians 3:6b). There is praise, holiness, and true worship in the lives of those who have been filled with the Holy Spirit.

EVIDENCE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The infilling of the Holy Spirit is a work of faith and does not always come by great demonstration or emotion. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God” (Romans 8:16). Many false teachers say the evidence of the Holy Spirit is speaking in an unintelligible, heavenly language. Rather, the scripture teaches what the real evidence of the Spirit is: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,

meekness, temperance” (Galatians 5:22-23). The true evidence of the Holy Spirit is the ability and power to live a holy life.

RECEIVE THE SPIRIT AND BE AN OVERCOMER

The fullness and richness of the Kingdom of God is the righteousness, peace, and joy that comes from the indwelling Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). Many Christians are struggling in their experiences. Their spirits are willing to do God’s will but the flesh is weak. The indwelling Holy Spirit is the answer to so many problems that exist in the lives of individuals and in congregations. Through humility and faith, one need only ask the Father, and He will willingly give the gift of the Holy Spirit to them that ask (Luke 11:11-13).

—mws



Question: After one has been filled with the Holy Spirit, is he then free from human weaknesses and temptations?

Answer: No. As long as we are in this life, there will be weaknesses and temptations of the flesh. The difference is that with the Holy Spirit, there is greater power and divine ability to overcome the temptations. The Apostle Paul stated in 1 Corinthians 9:27: “But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached

to others, I myself should be a cast-away.” We must continually die out to self and keep ourselves submitted to God. If we fail to continually yield to the Lord, we can lose



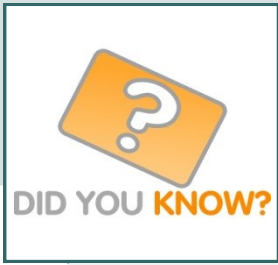
Grow in Grace

our very salvation. In this life, man will always have the capability to sin because of free will. Before the infilling of the Holy Spirit, one’s inclination is toward sin. Afterward, his inclination is toward holiness because of the sanctifying power of the Spirit.

With the Holy Spirit, we are equipped to continue our spiritual journey and grow in the things of God. “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ” (2 Peter 3:18a). We will always have areas of our humanity which the Holy Spirit is perfecting. Holy Ghost filled people will still have unique personalities, but the Spirit will bring them more and more into the image of Jesus Christ. There will be a sameness of purpose and desire for God’s will. The saint of God can and will live a holy life without sin.

Human mistakes will still be made in this journey of growth, but the heart can remain perfect before God. There will always be areas in which the Spirit is working to promote greater spiritual maturity.

—mws



When the disciples spoke in ‘*other tongues*’ after being filled with the Holy Spirit, they were not speaking an unintelligible, heavenly language. They were speaking human dialects or languages of other nations. For “every man heard them speak in his own language” (Acts 2:6).



This “gift of tongues” was miraculous because the disciples had not previously known the languages in which they spoke. This helped to further the spread of the gospel and to reinforce that salvation was a gift to all people.



They Walked No More With Him

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From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him.
—John 6:66

Jesus, the anointed Son of God, experienced much rejection during His ministry on earth. Not only did some not receive Him, there were disciples who had one time followed Him and listened to His teaching that turned away and walked no more with Him. They no longer associated with Him nor acknowledged Him as the Messiah.

Many were offended at the doctrines of the gospel. With carnal minds, they were not ready to examine their lives in the purity of truth. They were not willing to deny themselves and follow wholeheartedly after the Lord. This must have been very hurtful to Jesus. He left the splendor of Heaven and came to earth, giving of Himself because of His great love.



As it was in the time of Christ, so it is for the true ministers of the gospel today. There will be people who reject your ministry, sacrifice, and love. They will be offended at truth and some will walk no more in fellowship. Often, people will blame the minister or congregation rather than acknowledging the rejection of God’s dealings in their lives. This causes deep pain and anguish of spirit to the shepherd of the Lord. Be faithful and do not compromise soul-searching truth to draw a bigger crowd. Preach the whole truth in humility, love, and righteous judgment.

Bro. Ostis Wilson used to say: “If you please God, you will please everybody that deserves to be pleased.”

—mws

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD