

THE HOLY SPIRIT DEMYSTIFIED—*OUTLINE***Welcoming the Work of the Spirit in Your Life**

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I. Who Is The Holy Spirit

- A. He is one of the three equal, yet distinct, expressions of the One God (Matthew 28:19; John 17:21-22).
- B. He is the Spirit of God, and He knows everything God thinks and feels (1 Corinthians 2:6-12).
- C. Like Jesus, the Holy Spirit has existed from the beginning with God, as God (Genesis 1:1-2 and John 1:1-3); together—Father, Son and Spirit—they created the world.

II. What Does The Holy Spirit Do?

- A. He discloses the Truth—all about the way things really are, the way God says things are to be (John 14:16, 26 and 16:7-15).
- B. His primary work is to glorify Jesus; that is, to communicate who Jesus really is, what Jesus is really like, and how Jesus is God's message to the world (John 16:14; Ephesians 3:16-19; Hebrews 1:1-3).
- C. Because He wants everyone to know the Truth, He performs miracles to bear witness of the gospel (Romans 15:19; 1 Corinthians 2:4; 1 Thessalonians 1:5; Hebrews 2:4).
- D. The Holy Spirit works the metamorphosis in our lives, changing us to be more like Jesus and more like what God intended for us to be (John 3:5-8; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 15:51-52; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 5:17; 2 Thessalonians 2:13).

- E. The change the Holy Spirit does in our lives is evidenced by the fruit He produces in us—things that are good, right and true (Romans 15:13; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:9).
- F. He leads us and gives us directions so that we can walk where and how the Lord wants us to (Luke 4:1; John 3:6-8; Acts 8:29 and 16:6-7).
- G. The Spirit also gives us revelation, telling us things we could not possibly know on our own (Luke 2:26-27; Acts 5:3; 10:19; Revelation 2:7).
- H. As the Intercessor and the Pleader of our cause, He prays for us and through us when we do not know how to pray ourselves (Romans 8:26-27).

III. How Is The Holy Spirit Given?

- A. Now that Jesus has been glorified and sits at the right hand of the Father in heaven (John 7:39), the Holy Spirit is sent from the Father (1 Thessalonians 4:8), to anyone who believes in God (Acts 5:23), and who asks the Father for Him (Luke 11:13).
- B. When we receive the Holy Spirit, He abides in our spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Timothy 1:14).
- C. He acts as an official stamp or seal of God, marking and identifying us as children of God, and protecting us from spiritual forces which might try to trespass in our lives (Romans 8:9, 14, 16; 2 Corinthians 1:22 and 5:5; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14; 4:30; 1 John 3:24).

IV. What Does The Holy Spirit Enable Us to Do?

- A. Firstly, the Holy Spirit enables us to acknowledge and profess the Lordship of Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 12:3).
- B. The Holy Spirit's work of grace in our lives grants us the ability to speak and pray in languages not known to us, languages which communicate things far beyond our limited understanding (Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 13:1; Ephesians 6:18).

- C. The Holy Spirit distributes various manifestations of Himself to us in the form of spiritual gifts—words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, effecting miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, prophetic tongues and their interpretations (Acts 2:17; 2 Peter 1:21; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11).
- D. The Spirit enables us to grasp and experience God’s love (Romans 5:5; 8:39), as well as all the other parts of our spiritual heritage that have been reserved for our benefit (1 Corinthians 2:10).
- E. Demons are cast out in the Name of Jesus by the work of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 12:28).
- F. The Spirit of God strengthens us internally so that we are able to live a life of faith in God, walking in His ways (Galatians 5:16-25; Ephesians 3:16).
- G. Perhaps most importantly, the Spirit of Truth enables us to proclaim the gospel with power and anointing (Mark 13:11; Luke 4:18-19; Acts 1:8 and 4:31).

v. What Is Being *Baptized In The Holy Spirit*?

To *baptize* means to immerse, to submerge, to overwhelm or cover wholly.

To *be filled* means to be replete or covered over, to be imbued, influenced, supplied, or furnished.

- A. How does being baptized in the Spirit compare to being baptized in water?
 - 1. They are distinct experiences (Mark 1:8; Acts 8:9-17 and 10:47).
 - 2. People baptize us in water; only Jesus baptizes us in the Spirit (John 1:26-33).
 - 3. Baptism in water is linked to repentance and conversion (Acts 2:38; Matthew 3:11).

4. Baptism in the Spirit is linked to miraculous power, ability and abundance, and to spreading the gospel to others (Acts 1:8).
 5. In other words, one is the means by which we are born again into the eternal life, and the other is the key to living out that life (Acts 11:13-18).
- B. Why should we be baptized in the Spirit?
1. Jesus strongly encourages it (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:4-5).
 2. It releases a flow of life in our innermost being (John 7:27-39).
 3. It is the New Testament pattern (Acts 19:1-6) as a provision promised by God (Acts 1:4 and 2:14-21).
- C. Is there a difference between *receiving* the Holy Spirit and *being baptized in* the Holy Spirit?
1. Every believer has received the Spirit as an identifying mark (Romans 8:9, 14, 16; Galatians 4:6; Ephesians 1:13-14).
 2. Jesus breathed on the disciples, giving them the Holy Spirit, prior to filling them with the Spirit (John 20:22; Acts 1:4-8).
- D. What indications might I have of the fact that I have been filled with the Spirit?
1. I have asked to be filled (Luke 11:13).
 2. The Holy Spirit has “come upon” me in a way that is observable to others (Acts 8:14-18).
 3. I have experienced very direct leading and guidance by the Spirit (Luke 4:1).
 4. I have been filled at various times with an incredible measure of spiritual joy, wisdom, or faith (Luke 10:21; Acts 6:3 and 11:24).
 5. I have spoken in tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:46 and 19:6).

6. I have prophesied (1 Samuel 10:11-12; Luke 1:67; Acts 19:6).
7. I have had a sudden, supernatural boldness and inspiration to testify about Jesus (Acts 4:8, 31 and 13:19).
8. I have had a spiritual revelation (Acts: 7:55; Revelations 1:1-11).
9. I have sung in the Spirit or sung a prophetic song to others in my native tongue (Ephesians 5:18; 1 Corinthians 14:14-17).

VI. How can I be baptized with the Holy Spirit?

- A. Ask, trust, believe and obey (Luke 11:13; Acts 1:4; and 2:1).
- B. Do not be afraid of Jesus doing an unusual thing (John 6:16-25); Acts 2:1-4) or, of a spiritual counterfeit (Luke 11:11-13).
- C. Be open to new dimensions of praise to God and words from Him (Acts 2:4, 11).
- D. Do not expect the Lord to take control of your mouth and move it—with you as an unwilling observer (1 Corinthians 14:23).
- E. Expect it.

VII. What does it mean to “speak in tongues”?

Synonymous expressions = “Praying in the spirit”, “praying in tongues”; “praying/speaking in an unknown language”; “using your spiritual languagee.”

- A. The language is unknown to the speaker (1 Corinthians 14:14).
- B. “Tongues” can be the languages of angels or of men, past or present (1 Corinthians 13:1).
- C. It may be either known *or* unknown to the listeners (Acts: 2:4-11; 1 Corinthians 14:6-11, 23).

- D. The message will be spoken (or prayed) by a person who is “given utterance” by the Spirit.
- E. The spiritual gift of tongues (i.e., public, prophetic message in an unknown language) is not exactly the same as praying in the spirit—when an unknown language is used in private, devotional prayer or worship (1 Corinthians 12:30 and 14:5).

VIII. Is it possible for every believer—including me—to speak in tongues?

- A. Paul desired everyone to speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:5).
- B. Groups of people all spoke in tongues (Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6).
- C. It is one of the signs accompanying believers (Mark 16:17).
- D. Everyone in the whole church can speak in tongues (1 Corinthians 14:23).

IX. What does praying/speaking in the Spirit do?

- A. Speaks and praises of God and His mighty deeds (Acts 2:11).
- B. Speaks mysteries to God (1 Corinthians 14:2), and edifies and builds up (1 Corinthians 14:3).
- C. Speaks what the Spirit wants us to speak (Acts: 2:4), and prays what the Spirit knows/wants to intercede (1 Corinthians 14:21).