

Lesson 7 - The Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is the 3rd Person of the Trinity. He is God! And just like the Father and the Son, He has a personality.

Philippians 2:1 speaks of the *"fellowship of the Spirit"*.

2 Corinthians 13:14 speaks of the *"communion of the Holy Spirit."*

Ephesians 4:3 speaks of the *"unity of the Spirit"*.

Romans 15:30 speaks of the *"love of the Spirit"*.

Romans 8:27 speaks of the *"mind of the Spirit"*.

Ephesians 4:30 commands, *"Do not grieve (sadden or distress) the Holy Spirit of God"*.

The Holy Spirit's power and presence was vital at creation. - Genesis 1:2

Through His presence, 100's of billions of galaxies were formed!

God's Word says nothing is done without the influence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Zachariah 4:6 says, *"Not by might, not by power, but by My Spirit", says the Lord."*

The Holy Spirit Came Upon O.T. Men and Women

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit came upon prophets, priests and kings to empower them to fulfil God's will in the earth. Some examples are:

Bezaleel - Exodus 31:2-5

King Saul - 1 Samuel 10:10

Gideon - Judges 6:34

Jephthah - Judges 11:29

Samson - Judges 13:35

King David - Psalm 51:11

The Prophet Ezekiel - Ezekiel 11:5

Jesus Was Filled with The Holy Spirit!

The Bible says Jesus was FILLED with the Holy Spirit and did not receive the Holy Spirit by measure. In other words, He was filled with the Holy Spirit in an unlimited way!

Jesus tells us why He received the Holy Spirit in Luke 4:16-19:

*"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me,
Because He has anointed Me
To preach the gospel to the poor;
He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted,
To proclaim liberty to the captives
And recovery of sight to the blind,
To set at liberty those who are oppressed;
To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord."*

Jesus Promised We Would Receive the Holy Spirit

In John 7:37-39, Jesus promised:

"If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his innermost being will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive..."

In Luke 24:49, Jesus also said *"Behold I send the promise of My Father upon you, but tarry (do not leave) Jerusalem until you are clothed with power from on High."* Jesus knew it would be necessary for His disciples to be filled with the Holy Spirit before they could fulfil all the will of God! It's the same with us today!

Jesus said in John 14:16-17:

"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you."

The Greek word for "Helper" is "parakletos" meaning - a helper, standby, advocate, intercessor, comforter and one called alongside to help. Jesus was a "parakletos" or 'Helper" to His disciples. He promised He would send them "another Helper" that would abide with them forever! THAT'S THE HOLY SPIRIT!

The Bible Says "Ask" for the Holy Spirit

Luke 11:9-13 says:

"So I say to you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. If a son asks for bread from any father among you, will he give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!"

Everyone who asks receives. This is God's promise! And He promises you will never receive a counterfeit, only the real Person of the Holy Spirit and His presence!

What Happens When You Receive?

Acts 2:4 tells us:

"And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled 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 Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 10:44-46 says:

"While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God".

Acts 19:6 says:

"And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied".

1) They Were All Filled!

You'll notice from these 3 Biblical examples, that firstly, they were **ALL FILLED** with the Holy Spirit! That's **WONDERFUL!!!**

I liken it to the example of opening ALL the windows and doors of your home, what happens? All that is **OUTSIDE** comes **INSIDE**! All the weather, air temperature etc comes **INTO** your home!

It's **THE SAME** with inviting Christ or the Holy Spirit into your life. There are **NO PLACES** you are not **INVITING HIM TO FILL!** And the Holy Spirit **WILL** take up your invitation!

Ephesians 5:18-19 (NKJV)

"And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord"

2) They Spoke with "Other Tongues"

Secondly, those receiving the Holy Spirit spoke with 'other tongues'. "Tongues" refers to a heavenly language, that is not English, or French or Chinese etc., but one that our Heavenly Father gives us by the Holy Spirit, to express His perfect will in prayer.

Acts 2:4 says, *"...and THEY BEGAN to speak with other tongues, AS THE SPIRIT GAVE them utterance."* They began to speak as the Holy Spirit gave them the ability.

1 Corinthians 14:2 says:

"For he who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God..." - It's a language that allows us to speak **DIRECTLY** to our Heavenly Father! This verse goes on to say, *"...for no one understands him, however in the spirit he speaks mysteries."* This means you are speaking God's **PERFECT WILL** in prayer! Even when you **DON'T KNOW** how to pray for things!

Romans 8:26-27 explains this for us:

"Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the [Holy] Spirit Himself makes intercession for us... He [God the Father] who searches the hearts knows what the mind [or plan] of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God."

Also, 1 Corinthians 14:14 says it's also your **SPIRIT** that prays:

"For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my understanding is unfruitful."

Put this all together now, the heavenly language your Heavenly Father gives you by the Holy Spirit allows your spirit to pray perfect prayers directly to God that are in line with His perfect will! **THIS IS AWESOME!!!** You can pray a **PERFECT PRAYER** by the **HOLY SPIRIT** for **ANY** need!

"He who prays in an unknown tongue edifies (builds up) himself." - 1 Corinthians 14:4

Jude 20 says the same, *"But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit"*

You can understand why you are built up, because you are praying perfect prayers that reflect God's perfect will and you are not limited by your own lack of understanding of exactly how to pray. It's a **GREAT GIFT!**

It's PRAYER WITHOUT LIMITS!! How WONDERFUL!!!

So do we pray this way ALL the time? God our Father wants us to pray with our understanding as well, because He WANTS this kind of fellowship and interaction with us! SO WE DO BOTH!

This is what Paul said in 1 Corinthians 14:15, *“What is the conclusion then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will also pray with the understanding. I will sing with the spirit, and I will also sing with the understanding.”* In other words, he WILL DO BOTH! So do we! (What a PRIVILEGE!!!)

3) They Received Power from On High!

In Luke 24:49, Jesus said:

“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued [clothed] WITH POWER from on high.”

Jesus said we would receive POWER FROM ON HIGH and that it would “CLOTHE” US!

In Acts 1:8, Jesus said:

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”

This is a JESUS’ WONDERFUL PROMISE that by RECEIVING the Holy Spirit, we would receive POWER and ABILITY TO BE HIS WITNESSES and to TELL OTHERS the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel! He also said that power would “CLOTHE” US and COME UPON us!

Read Titus 3:5-6 (NKJV):

“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour”

The Promise is for ALL!

Was this experience just for the Jews? No. Peter said in Acts 2:39, “For the promise is unto you, and to your children and to all who are afar off, even as many as the LORD our God shall call.” And in Acts 10 and 19, it was the Gentiles (everyone who wasn’t a Jew) who received.

So What Do We Expect?

- 1) When we ASK for the Holy Spirit, we will RECEIVE the Holy Spirit.
- 2) We will receive the GOOD GIFT our Heavenly Father WANTS to give us!
- 3) We will be FILLED with the Holy Spirit, just as they were in the Book of Acts!
- 4) We will be able to speak with “other tongues.”
- 5) We will be able to pray PERFECT prayers from our spirit by the Holy Spirit that express the perfect will of God whenever there is need.
- 6) We will be able to speaking in “tongues” as a decision of our will. We GET TO. - Acts 2:4, 1 Cor 14:32
- 7) We will BUILD OURSELVES UP!
- 8) Lastly, we WILL RECEIVE POWER, ABILITY and BOLDNESS to be Christ’s witnesses!

Let's Pray Together!

“Father, I thank you that the moment I ask You to fill me with Your Holy Spirit, I will be filled. I ask you NOW and thank You that the Holy Spirit comes into my “belly”, and the evidence is that I speak with other tongues, by my will, as You enable me. I do not rely on my own understanding... Thank You! I RECEIVE NOW!”

MEMORY VERSE: Luke 11:13

“If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him!”