

FIRMLY ROOTED | THE HOLY SPIRIT

The third member of the godhead is the Holy Spirit. He intercedes for us with God; we are sealed with Him as the promise of our inheritance (*Eph 1:13-14*), and He leads people to all truth, among other responsibilities.

When people accept Christ, the Holy Spirit begins a great work in their lives. The Spirit convicts them of sin, convinces them of righteousness, and dwells within them (*John 6:44; 14:17; Romans 8:9; 1 Corinthians 12:13*). No one becomes a Christian without this work of the Holy Spirit.

However, there is an additional and distinct ministry of the Holy Spirit called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Baptism is an empowering gift from God the Father, promised to every believer (*Matthew 3:11; Luke 11:13; 24:49; Acts 2:33,38*). It helps the Christian to live a holy life. A primary purpose of this baptism is to give power for witnessing (*Acts 1:8*). Other benefits include a greater joy in spiritual service and a heightened sense of one's mission to the world.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is God. He is the third person of the Trinity.

Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit...Matt 28:19

This is He who came by water and blood — Jesus Christ; not only by water, but by water and blood. And it is the Spirit who bears witness, because the Spirit is truth. For there are three that bear witness in heaven: The Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; and these three are one. ...1 John 5:6-7

He is a person, not just some unknown force.

Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Rom 8:27

Nevertheless, I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. John 16:7 (Speaking of the Holy Spirit)

Sometimes in the Word of God, the Holy Spirit is described by using symbols. These symbols were used to explain characteristics of the Holy Spirit.

Wind- (*Ezek 37:9-14, John 3:8, Acts 2:2-4*) Just as the wind is experienced only by observing its effects, the manifestation of the Spirit of God is experienced the same way.

Water- (*Isa. 44:3-4, Ezek. 36:25-27, John 3:5-6, John 7:37-38*) The Spirit of God poured out like water. A cleansing work of the Spirit.

Fire- (*Isa 4:4, Matt. 3:11, Act 2:3-4*) The Spirit's inward cleansing and refining work. Just as fire consumes the dross and purifies metal, the Holy Spirit destroys sin and purifies character.

Dove- (*Matt. 3:16*) One of the best-known symbols. The dove symbolizes the purity, gentleness, and innocence of the Holy Spirit.

Oil- (Not clearly stated but implied everywhere) For example, in David's anointing (*1 Sam. 16:13*) "anointing" was used to denote the Spirit's endowment (*Isa. 61:1, Luke 4:18, Acts 10:38*). Oil speaks of many aspects of the Spirit's work: beauty, light, healing, comfort, and prosperity.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Our God is one God but manifested in three persons: The Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, with mutual relationships, but functioning differently.

God the Father: greatest of all and the sender of the Word.

You have heard Me say to you, "I am going away and coming back to you." If you loved Me, you would rejoice because I said, "I am going to the Father," for My Father is greater than I."
John 14:28

Jesus the Son of God: The Word incarnate, the one begotten of the Father and who has existed with the Father from the beginning.

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. John 1:1-2

The Holy Spirit: proceeds forth from both the Father and the Son and is eternal.

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26

HOW DOES THE HOLY SPIRIT WORK IN MY LIFE?

The Holy Spirit has many functions in the life of the believer:

1. He is the teacher of the church. He will reveal truth to your heart from God's Word.

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. John 14:26

However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. John 16:13

2. He convicts of sin.

*And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.
John 16:8*

For the unsaved, He convicts of sin to bring them to salvation. For the saved, He convicts of sin to help them live holy and pure lives before God. When the Holy Spirit shows you something wrong in your life, you need to repent so that God can forgive you. Ignoring the voice of the Spirit can lead to a hardened heart.

...but exhort one another daily, while it is called today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion." Heb 3:13-15

3. The Holy Spirit intercedes in prayer for you.

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Rom 8:26-27

4. The Holy Spirit is our comforter. In times of need, He will comfort and strengthen you.

"If you love Me, keep My commandments. 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. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. John 14:15-18

5. The Holy Spirit fills you with His power to serve God.

*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." Acts 1:8 *

...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and power, and how he went around doing good and healing all who were under the power of the devil, because God was with him. Acts 10:38.

We see that throughout the Word of God, when someone was filled with the Spirit, they were also filled with power.

6. The Holy Spirit will guide you through your spirit. In other words, the Spirit of God will communicate with your spirit man to teach you and guide you.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. Rom 8:14

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, Rom 8:16

The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart. Prov 20:27

What effect does the Holy Spirit have in my life? The Holy Spirit works in the life of the believer to shape him/her into the image that God has created him/her to be. The Spirit of God will point out aspects of your personality and character that need adjustment. It is His job to create these godly characteristics in your life as you open your heart to Him. These qualities that are developed in your life are referred to as the fruits of the Spirit.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. Gal 5:22-23

WHAT ARE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

These are gifts given to the church to fulfill God's plan for mankind.

There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: for to one is given the word of wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills. 1 Cor 12:4-11

WHAT IS BEING FILLED WITH OR THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

It's being filled with God's Spirit.

And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Acts 2:4

It's an infilling of power.

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." Acts 1:8

IS IT THE SAME AS BEING BORN AGAIN?

Didn't I receive the Holy Spirit when I was born again? The answer is no, we are talking about two separate things.

But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His. Rom 8:9

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, Rom 8:16

You have the Spirit in you, but we're talking about a further experience of being filled with the Spirit. You must ask God to fill you.

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!" Luke 11:13

AM I STILL A CHRISTIAN EVEN THOUGH I'M NOT FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

Yes, we see an example of people who were born again but not yet filled with the Holy Spirit in the Book of Acts.

While Apollos was at Corinth, Paul took the road through the interior and arrived at Ephesus. There he found some disciples and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit." So, Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied. Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied. There were about twelve men in all. Acts 19:1-7

IS THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOUND IN THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Yes, the prophet Joel spoke about the outpouring of the Spirit.

"And it shall come to pass afterward That I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions. And, on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days. Joel 2:28-29

We see the fulfillment of this prophecy in the book of Acts.

When the Day of Pentecost had 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 the whole house where they were sitting. Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one 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 2:1-4

For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. And on My menservants and on My maidservants, I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy. Acts 2: 15 -18

WHY DO I NEED THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

It gives you power to live a victorious Christian life and to be an effective witness for Christ.

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." Acts 1:8

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever. John 14:16

Jesus promised that He would send another comforter in His place. 'Another' signifies that it is someone just like the original, someone just like Jesus. The Strong's Concordance definition of the word 'comforter' carries the meaning of helper, strengthener, standby, intercessor, advocate, and counselor.

CAN ANYONE BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Yes, it's for anyone who is born again.

"For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call." Acts 2:39

HOW CAN I KNOW IF I AM FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

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 10:44-46

They spoke in other tongues. Tongues are a prayer language given to an individual through the Spirit of God for prayer and spiritual edification.

WHAT IS PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT? DOES HE TAKE OVER MY MIND & BODY?

No, the Holy Spirit doesn't pray in tongues - you do!

He who speaks in a tongue ...1 Cor 14:4

They began to speak... Acts 2:4

Who did the speaking? They (disciples) did, as the Spirit gave them words.

SHOULD EVERYONE SPEAK IN TONGUES?

It's God's will for everyone who is filled with the Spirit to speak in tongues.

I wish you all spoke with tongues, but even more that you prophesied; for he who prophesies is greater than he who speaks with tongues, unless indeed he interprets, that the church may receive edification. 1 Cor 14:5

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF SPEAKING IN TONGUES?

It causes your spirit to be edified or charged, as you would charge a battery.

He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 1 Cor 14:4

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

Praying in tongues helps you pray when you don't know what to say or don't know how to pray for something. When you speak in other tongues, the Holy Spirit, who knows the mind and heart of God, will pray through you, enabling you to pray the perfect will of God.

Likewise, the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God. Rom 8:26-27

WHEN DO I SPEAK IN TONGUES?

As often as you can, it builds you up and spiritually charges you.

I thank my God I speak with tongues more than you all: 1Cor 14:18

Paul prayed in tongues more than any other Christian in Corinth. We should follow his example. We should pray as much as we can in other tongues.

POPULAR MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

- The Holy Spirit is not part of the Trinity.
- The Holy Spirit is not working in people's lives today.
- You can't have a relationship with the Holy Spirit.
- We don't really need the Holy Spirit.
- The Holy Spirit is not always with me.

From this lesson, you should know that these misconceptions are wrong and why.

MEMORY VERSES

And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, John 14:16

"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me. John 15:26

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." Acts 1:8

There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. Rom 8:1

"He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death." Rev 2:11

QUESTIONS

Please answer the following questions:

1) What is the purpose of the Holy Spirit?

2) Name and define 2 symbols that describe the Holy Spirit?

3) Explain why you should be filled with the Holy Spirit?
