

☞ The Promise of the Holy Spirit

Last week we talked about how much we need the Holy Spirit. We need to be Spirit-led and under the influence of the Spirit. We need to get rid of the junk in our hearts so that we can be completely filled with the Spirit; and we need to keep on being filled. Today, let's keep on talking about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is more than just the essence of God, like when we say that someone "has a real sweet spirit about them." He is not just a source of power to be tapped into like the Star Wars "force," either. Remember, the Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity. He is a person.

In his book The Counselor, A.W. Tozer said, "Spell this out in capital letters: THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON. He is not enthusiasm. He is not courage. He is not energy. He is not the personification of all good qualities, like Jack Frost is the personification of cold weather. Actually, the Holy Spirit is not the personification of anything..... He has individuality. He is one being and not another. He has will and intelligence. He has hearing. He has knowledge and sympathy and ability to love and see and think. He can hear, speak, desire, grieve and rejoice. He is a Person."...

☞ The Holy Spirit is **not** some "mystical force" or impersonal, haunting ghost. **He is a person** with unique characteristics who works in you and can fill you, enabling you to live a godly life with power. We need the Holy Spirit!

☞ The Holy Spirit is a Person with **Intelligence, Emotions and a Will**

The Holy Spirit is a Person **of the Trinity**

The Holy Spirit is a Person **with Responsibilities:**

John 14 and 15 he is called the Counselor... the Spirit of truth and the Helper. He counsels, convicts, and keeps pointing us back to Christ

Way back when Jesus lived on Earth the Holy Spirit was promised. He said that those who followed him would have the Holy Spirit and could be filled with the Spirit.

1. ☞ The Reality of the Promise:

☞ Holy Spirit is a Gift

John 3:34

God gives the Spirit without limit.

John 14:16-17

I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— **17** the Spirit of truth.

Acts (multiple times in Acts the Holy Spirit is called a gift)

Luke 11:11-13

"Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

☞ Holy Spirit is sent from God

John 15:26

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me.

John 16:7

It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.

☞ God is good...

James 1:17

Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father

--A.W. Tozer... *God is kindhearted, gracious, good-natured and benevolent in intention. God is infinitely good. He is never partway anything. Why did Christ die for us? Because God is good. Why are we forgiven? Because God is good. Why does God answer prayer? Because God is good. Let's put away all doubts and trust him.*

So if our good God is giving a gift, I want that gift. How about you?

2. ☞ Results of the Promise:

☞ Holy Spirit gives insight & instruction

Luke 2:25-26

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. **26** It had been ☞ **revealed** to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ.

John 14:26

the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will **teach you** all things and will ☞ **remind** you of everything I have said to you.

☞ Holy Spirit gives courage & capability

Acts 1:8

☞ you will receive **power** when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will **be my witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled  with the Holy Spirit and **spoke the word of God boldly**.

--Vinson Synan... The Pentecostal movement (which is known for embracing the work of the Holy Spirit) has done more to evangelize the world in the last century than all other Christian denominations combined.

Acts 2:4

 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to **speak in other tongues** as the Spirit enabled them.

ABC News actually had an online report on speaking in tongues: Brain scans show the frontal lobe, which controls language is not active when speaking in tongues, but is active when praying in English. The investigative reporter admitted that this indicates that speaking in tongues is actually controlled by the Spirit and not just words our minds make up.

Acts 19:6 (*Ephesian disciples*)

When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in  tongues and **prophesied**.

1 Corinthians 12:4

 There are different kinds of **spiritual gifts**, but the same Spirit is the source of them all.

The Holy Spirit does all of these things and he lives inside believers. It has been said, "If you have the Holy Spirit on the inside, you can stand any kind of battle on the outside." We need the Holy Spirit and we need to keep on being filled with the Holy Spirit.

-- Dr. Merrill C. Tenney... Most homes are connected to a water main. This supplies the house with adequate water for normal life. But suppose a fire breaks out. Then firemen tap a nearby hydrant to secure a much greater flow of water to meet the emergency. To be "full" of the Spirit is like a house supplied continuously with adequate water. But to be "filled" on occasion, as the apostles were in Acts 4:31, is to be given extra power for special service. For the special task of persisting in evangelism, even when the religious leadership violently opposed them, the apostles needed a special filling of God's power. They had been "full of the Spirit" all along. Now they needed "extra filling" to meet the extra demands on them.

The Lord promised the Holy Spirit to those who believe and we see that the Holy Spirit produces some fantastic results. There's wisdom and power and special abilities with the Holy Spirit. So, how do you receive this promise from the Lord?

3. Receiving the Promise:

 Receiving the Holy Spirit **is both an event and an ongoing process**. In Acts 2, the disciples had a profound experience of being filled with the Spirit. However, they continued to

experience his filling again and again throughout the book of Acts. We should expect the same today: A significant event with the Spirit and a repeated, or continual infilling. I like to use this terminology: When referring to the initial event or profound experience with the Holy Spirit, I call it the "Baptism in the Spirit."

Luke 3:16 (cf. Matthew 3:11) (*John prophesied about Jesus*)

John answered them all, "I baptize you with water. But one more powerful than I will come, ☞ the thongs of whose sandals I am not worthy to untie. He will **baptize you** with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

Remember, the Holy Spirit is a gift from God and God is good, so it's a good gift. But even though it's a gift, there are things we should do in order to receive it. Think about getting gifts at Christmas; they don't just magically appear in your hands. For our family Christmas, we gather together and share the Christmas story. We might sing some Christmas carols. Then we distribute the gifts and each one has to make room for their gifts. Then each individual has to remove the wrapping paper to finally and fully receive their gift. So, how can we fully receive this gift of the baptism in the Holy Spirit?

Luke 11:9-13

☞ I say to you: **Ask** and it will be given to you; **seek** and you will find; **knock** and the door will be opened to you. **10** For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. **11** "Which of you fathers, if your son asks for a fish, will give him a snake instead? **12** Or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? **13** If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

We can also take some cues from the early Church in Acts.

☞ In Acts 1:4 Jesus told them to **wait** for the gift that the Father promised

Acts 2:1-4

☞ When the day of Pentecost came, they were **all together** in one place...

Acts 4:31

☞ After they **prayed**, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

☞ In Acts 5:32 it says the Holy Spirit was given to those who **obeyed**

Acts 19:6

☞ When Paul placed his **hands on** them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Galatians 3:2, 5

☞ Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by **believing** what you heard?

If you're a follower of Christ you need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit. In the book of Acts, every time this event is recorded, something extraordinary happened. It's not identical in every situation, but it is significant nonetheless. You need to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

--Oswald Chambers... If we seek the baptism of the Holy [Spirit] in order that God may make us great... we shall never receive anything. God baptizes us with the Holy [Spirit] that he may be all in all.

And you also need to keep on being filled. This being filled is the ongoing process that we all need. As I said last week, we tend to leak, so we need to keep getting filled back up. Ephesians 5 talks about this and gives insight on how to keep on being filled...

Ephesians 5:18-20

Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be **filled** with the Holy Spirit, **19 singing** psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and **making music to the Lord in your hearts**. **20** And **give thanks for everything** to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. NLT

--DL Moody... If we are full of pride and conceit and ambition and self-seeking and pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God, and I believe many a man is praying to God to fill him when he is full already with something else.

--DL Moody... God commands us to be filled with the Spirit, and if we are not filled, it is because we are living beneath our privileges.

2 Timothy 1:6

☞ For this reason I remind you to **fan into flame the gift of God**, which is in you through the laying on of my hands.

You need to keep on being filled with the Spirit. The event of being baptized in the Holy Spirit as well as the ongoing process of being filled with the Spirit are important for all believers. Remember, this is a gift from God who is always good and there are great results from the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit!

Conclusion

☞ **The Holy Spirit is revealed as a gift from God who is always good.**
The Holy Spirit's filling results in power & supernatural stuff.
The Holy Spirit is received and will fill you if you ask.

Song: Holy Spirit you are welcome here