

The Holy Spirit



The 120 disciples were in the upper room on the day of Pentecost when they received tremendous power as a result of being baptised and filled with the Holy Spirit. Whereas previously Peter was afraid of a servant girl (Mark 14:66-71), now having experienced a transformed life he was found preaching before thousands of people in Jerusalem (Acts 2).

Throughout the centuries groups and individual Christians have known that same dynamic power of the Holy Spirit with far reaching consequences. For example, the Moravians during the eighteenth century when filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, left Europe and travelled thousands of miles sharing Christ with lasting results. Towns and nations were transformed. This still happens today even in some unexpected places of the world.

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Godhead. He is there to teach us about the Lord and to glorify Jesus. Sometimes He is known as the Counsellor. Don't be afraid of Him as He is there to empower and encourage God's people.

This experience of the Holy Spirit has been given various names. Some people refer to this as the **Baptism in the Spirit**, while others refer to it as being **filled with the Spirit**. Both terms are Scriptural. The important thing is not what we call this experience, but that we know it!

Jesus commissioned His disciples to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19). However, in Acts 1:8 they were told to wait in Jerusalem to receive

Only after they received power in Acts 2 were they able to effectively carry out the Lord's commission for world-wide evangelism. Therefore, the power was given not for nice feelings, but primarily for service!

Several symbols are used of the Holy Spirit. What symbols are used in the following references?

1. John 7:38-39 _____
2. Luke 3:16 _____
3. Acts 2:2 _____
4. John 1:32 _____

When a person accepts Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, he receives the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Some people 'experience' the power of the Spirit then, while others do so subsequently.

Galatians 5:22,23 refers to the 'fruits of the Spirit'. These include things like love, joy, peace and so forth. On the other hand, 1 Corinthians chapters 12 and 14 refer to the 'gifts of the Spirit' which are used in worship and Christian service. Avoid stressing only the fruits or only the gifts of the Spirit. Both are essential. Receiving God's power doesn't bring

maturity so beware of the temptation of arrogance and pride.

List some of the things which happen because of receiving the Holy Spirit's power.

Acts 1:8	Acts 2:43	Galatians 5:22-23
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Receiving the power of the Holy Spirit

It would be wrong to lay out four systematic steps on how to receive the power of the Holy Spirit. God will not be placed in a box, so we can't manipulate Him although there are principles in God's Word which need to be adhered to. Some of these principles include:

1. **A thirst.**

Read John 7:37-39. It is important to make sure that your motives are pure for wanting the power of the holy Spirit.

Acts 8:14-24 refers to a Simon who was deeply impressed with the miracles performed in evidence of that power. He wanted it himself to popularise his service, but his motives were wrong. We need the Holy Spirit in our lives because we are inadequate without Him and a person who genuinely wants to be empowered will demonstrate it by spending time alone with God in prayer and meditation on God's Word. Don't look for short cuts!

2 Cleanliness of heart.

We must get rid of every known sin and weight that would prevent God the Holy Spirit from possessing every area of our lives. This takes courage and honesty. It's also called repentance, Psalm 51:2.

3 Faith.

Remember the gift of the Holy Spirit is neither earned nor deserved. It is received by an expectant faith. You do not have to beg and plead with God to receive this promised power, Luke 11:13.

4 Obedience.

Obey the command of Ephesians 5:18. God would not impose this command upon you if it was impossible to keep. Reach out with a prepared heart to God by yourself, or better still, seek out a spiritual adviser to pray with you.

What did Paul do in praying for people to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Acts 19:6 _____

Accept by faith and not feelings His power, and don't stifle any gifts which may become apparent. Again, these gifts were given as recorded in the New Testament, primarily for service.

Walking in the Spirit

Let's not live on past experiences of the Holy Spirit. We are to learn to daily walk in the Spirit and continually be filled with the Spirit. We never reach the stage of knowing it all.

A literal translation of Galatians 5:16 indicates that if we walk in the Spirit we will 'never ever' gratify the desires of the flesh! It is an impossibility. Therefore, if you succumb to temptation, it could be because you

weren't walking in the Spirit. When that happens simply confess your failure and by repentance and faith once again ask God to fill you with His Holy Spirit.

Conclusion

Don't copy or compare another person's experience. The Holy Spirit may come quietly like a trickling stream, or like a mighty flood. Let Him flow through you, allowing you to become a channel of His love and great blessing.