

**THE  
MINISTRY  
OF THE  
HOLY  
SPIRIT**



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*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 also on My menservants and on My maidservants  
I will pour out My Spirit in those days.*

**Joel 2:28-29**



**A LIFE GROUP BIBLE STUDY SERIES COMPILED BY Ps. CHRIS MAYNARD OF**



## SERIES INTRODUCTION

There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force; the bible declares Him as the Spirit of God. He is the third person of the Godhead.

This series assumes the reader has acknowledged the Holy Spirit for who He is and will focus on His work from creation throughout history, His power and ministry within the church and within our lives. We will study the baptism, the gifts and the fruits of the Holy Spirit and finally, His maturing work within us to be like Christ

**The translation used for these studies:** New King James Bible

## QUOTES FROM GREAT LEADERS

*“Faith is a living bold trust in God’s grace, so certain of God’s favour that it would risk death a thousand times trusting in it. Such confidence and knowledge of God’s grace makes you happy, joyful and bold in your relationship to God and all creatures. The Holy Spirit makes this happen through faith. Because of it, you freely, willingly and joyfully do good to everyone, serve everyone, suffer all kinds of things, love and praise the God who has shown you such grace.* **Martin Luther**

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*“Go forth today, by the help of God's Spirit, vowing and declaring that in life - come poverty, come wealth, in death - come pain or come what may, you are and ever must be the Lord's. For this is written on your heart, 'We love Him because He first loved us.’”* **Charles Spurgeon**

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*“The true spirit of prayer is no other than God's own Spirit dwelling in the hearts of the saints. And as this Spirit comes from God, so doth it naturally tend to God in holy breathings and pantings. It naturally leads to God, to converse with Him by prayer.”* **Jonathan Edwards**

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*“The Church is the Body of Christ, and the Spirit is the Spirit of Christ. He fills the Body, directs its movements, controls its members, inspires its wisdom, supplies it's strength. He guides into truth, sanctifies its agents, and empowers for witnessing. The Spirit has never abdicated His authority nor relegated His power.”* **Samuel Chadwick**

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*“Prayer is nothing but the breathing that out before the Lord, that was first breathed into us by the Spirit of the Lord.”* **Thomas Brooks**

*And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”* Acts 1:4-5

# THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

## Introduction

The Holy Spirit has been active in the world since creation. It is clearly evident that Old Testament men and women of God understood that with Him they could perform great exploits; they sought His presence and they knew His work!

### Point 1. The Holy Spirit at creation

Genesis 1:1-2 In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Psalms 33:5 By the word of the LORD the heavens were made, and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth.

### Point 2. The Holy Spirit's empowering

As you read, consider how this relates to you

- a. Read Judges 14:5-6 of Sampson's strength, and in Numbers 11:25-26 we read that the Spirit was upon Moses
- b. Judges 6:34 "But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon; then he blew the trumpet, and the Abiezrites gathered behind him."
- c. So many people try rallying others to a cause in their own strength. Notice that Gideon did not blow the trumpet till he knew the Spirit was upon him.

***Here we see the Spirit's work to empower, to protect and to perform God's work. How does this relate to us?***

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### Point 3. Signs and wonders

- a. Throughout the Old Testament, the Spirit came upon men and women. There is no mistaking it when the Holy Spirit is present!
- b. In Micah we see the Prophet exposing sin. Micah 3:9 "But truly I am full of power by the Spirit of the Lord, and of justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression and to Israel his sin."
- c. Read In 2 Kings 2:9-14

*What was it that Elisha saw that He wanted and why do you believe he wanted this more than anything else?*

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- d. As in the Old Testament, it is the same in the New, Zechariah 4:6 tells us “Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit” Says the LORD of hosts.

**Point 4. What is the difference and what is the same?**

- a. Whether it is Sampson or Moses, Elijah or Elisha, David or any of the great men or women in the Old Testament, they all received the Spirit for a time, He rested upon them for a specific work. In the New Testament, we receive the Spirit within us, He also comes upon us.
- b. Read Hebrews 11:1-40 What is the underlining message in this mighty passage?
- c. FAITH! Whether it is trials we are going through or victory we receive, the Spirit of God works through faith! He is engaged through faith! He enables and equips through faith!

**Transition:** In Genesis 9:1 we read - And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth. God spoke to Noah, God brought the rain, God brought the animals to safety – What was it that Noah had to do in order for this story to conclude in victory?

**Conclusion: The message of “THE ARK”**

- a. Noah had to build the ark! In the Old Testament, we see the ark of God was symbolic of God’s presence and His power, for Noah, his ark was a boat that symbolized salvation. The Holy Spirit came upon those of old as He does today, but the message of the ark is as true today as it was then.
- b. Our ark may represent worship, or obedience, prayer or simply giving! The Holy Spirit works through a willing vessel, faith says, “here I am Lord, use me.” We begin to move, we know that He will be upon us and by His Spirit, what we do is multiplied!
- c. Daniel 11:32b but the people that do know their God shall be strong, and do exploits.

*How can we apply the message of the ark and the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives?*

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**Prayer point.** Pray for the Holy Spirit to come upon you. Pray for needs and pray for wisdom through faith for what God would have you do this week!

# JESUS WILL NEVER LEAVE US

## Introduction

“Jesus is God’s personal expression of Himself to mankind” – Oral Roberts.

Jesus Himself walked on the earth, conversed with people and showed us His courage, His love for Children, His anger at sin, His tolerance for human frailty, His compassion, indeed Jesus showed us how we are to be! Because of this, the Disciples developed a close relationship with Him; imagine how close they were after seeing Him die for our sins, rise from the dead and show Himself to be their champion!

He promised the Disciples that He would not leave them, nor forsake them. This promise is also to us! How could He say this then and be caught up to the right hand of the Father?

### Point 1. Jesus will never leave us!

- a. John 14:1-6 “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions; if *it were* not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?” Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”
- b. 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.”
- c. The key word in this passage is the word “**Another**” There are two Greek words which to us have similar meanings and are often both translated as ‘another’ but there is a subtle difference between them which is important, especially when speaking of the Holy Spirit here.

The 2 words are:

1. ‘allos’ - which speaks of ‘another one but of the same sort / kind’
2. ‘heteros’ - which speaks of ‘another of a different sort / kind’

The Greek word for this is “Parakletos”: Meaning, The Comforter, One called alongside of – He is as Jesus was, He is one and the same!

Jesus is saying that the “Holy Spirit is another of the exact same kind as Me: He’ll be to you what I have been to you!”

What does this mean to you?

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**Point 2. Jesus walked with the Holy Spirit**

- a. Isaiah 11:2 “The Spirit of the LORD shall rest upon Him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD.”
- b. Jesus in the form of a human being, needed, as we do, the Holy Spirit.
- c. The Holy Spirit rested upon Him in Wisdom, Understanding, Counsel, Might, Knowledge and the fear of the Lord. *(It’s amazing what Jesus did for us!)*
- d. We often marvel at the amazing ability of Jesus to overcome and display such authority; remember, Jesus was in human form, just as vulnerable as you and I; just as tempted and yet, “without sin.” If Jesus needed the Holy Spirit, it seems pretty smart to accept, so do we!

Can you think of a time that you know, it was the Holy Spirit upon you and not from your own strength that brought victory?

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- e. In our previous study, we saw the Holy Spirit through the Old Testament; we now see the Holy Spirit resting upon Jesus and Jesus Himself pointing to the Holy Spirit as one and the same.

How does this understanding affect your relationship and understanding of the Holy Spirit?

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**Transition:** Did you know that you can grieve the Holy Spirit?

**Point 3. Grieving the Holy Spirit**

- a. Ephesians 4:30 “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”
- b. How can we grieve the Holy Spirit? read this verse in context - Turn in your bibles and read Ephesians 4:29-30
- c. Charles Spurgeon wrote: "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God. It does not say, do not make Him angry. A more delicate and tender term is used—Grieve him not."
- d. We often think of sinning as socially bad actions, murder, adultery, even lying. The bible talks about our “Parakletos,” The Holy Spirit as our friend, He is with us as Jesus walked with the Disciples, He is grieved when we behave in a manner other than how His friend would behave; even including bad language. The bible includes, “corrupt words,”

Why would this grieve the Holy Spirit?

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**Point 4. The Holy Spirit and relationship**

- a. For us to walk with the Holy Spirit, we must see Him as our FRIEND! He is our enabler and our guide, He is our watchful advisor and He is constantly actively, showing us Jesus!
  
- b. We often think of God as giving to us. The Holy Spirit is walking with us and will surely give us what we need, have you ever thought to give to Him? As a parent loves a Child, the parent is not looking for gifts, but a grateful heart and a willingness from the Child to grow and to learn – The Holy Spirit wants this from us

Let's expand on this thought; how do you believe we can give to the Holy Spirit and develop a relationship where we know Him?

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**Conclusion**

Jesus will never leave us and so He gave us His Spirit! The Holy Spirit; “another” of the same kind. We can walk with Him and talk with Him, He will bring to us strength and joy! The fruit of the Holy Spirit is for each of us and all we need do is spend time with Him daily!

Prayer Points: Have you grieved the Holy Spirit by behaving in a way that would make Him cringe? As you pray, go to your Father in heaven and ask Him to forgive you and strengthen your relationship. Do you know people that need a stronger relationship with God? Pray together for each other and those you know that the Holy Spirit might come and minister His touch, the touch of the Comforter.



# THE HOLY SPIRIT AT WORK

## Introduction

John 16:13-14 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. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.

This passage speaks firstly of “function,” Jesus gave glory to the Father whilst on earth, Jesus then died for our sins and is interceding on our behalf to the Father; the Spirit’s function is to reveal Jesus to us, therefore we in turn receive salvation! It in no way diminishes the Deity of the Spirit, but does speak of order, function and how God has made a way for us to receive His truth!

## Point 1. The Spirit of truth

- a. John 8:32 “And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
- b. Read 1 Corinthians 2:10-12
- c. 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 “Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord *is*, there *is* liberty. But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.”
- d. Truth is revealed by the Holy Spirit. Jesus said, “the truth will set us free.” When the Holy Spirit reveals Jesus, people’s eyes are open and they see clearly the message of the cross and of grace, they may have debated and raised all sorts of excuses not to believe, but when the Spirit reveals Jesus, people repent and receive salvation.

*How can we apply this daily? What situation can you think of where people’s eyes may be blind and they need the Spirit to reveal truth?*

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## Point 2. The fruit of the Holy Spirit

- a. Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.
- b. The Spirit works within us to keep us close to God and His fruit enables us to grow and keep from sin.
- c. The fruit of the Spirit is an outward evidence of an inward work.

**Read Galatians 5:22-23 and discuss the fruit of the Spirit, What area do you need the Spirit to help you? How can this fruit bring you victory?**

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**Point 3. The Spirit is our Comforter and Helper**

- a. Read John 16:7-8 The word “comforter” means “one who runs to our side and picks us up” It is interesting that the word “advocate” referring to Jesus who intercedes for us to the Father in 1 John 2:1 is the same word for “comforter.” Jesus intercedes on our behalf in the Heavens and the Holy Spirit intercedes with us on earth. He is with us! He helps us when we fall, He reminds us of God’s grace and repentance when we sin, He leads us continually to Christ
  
- b. The symbolism is of a friend that runs to our side and holds us up! He helps us in our weakness and He does not judge, but convicts of sin and leads us to repentance so that we can feel clean in God.

**Point 4. The Holy Spirit, Revelation, Teacher and Guide**

- a. Read Luke 2:25-29 and 1 Corinthians 2:9-10 and Matthew 10:19-20
  
- b. Although we all have knowledge and sometimes that voice within us is intuition; there are other times it is the Holy Spirit that is speaking to us. Developing a listening ear to the Holy Spirit comes through 1. Prayer 2. Fellowship with God’s people 3. Reading God’s Word 4. Maturing in Him.
  
- c. Can you think of a time when you know the Holy Spirit spoke to you? Discuss this in the group. How did you know? How did He speak to you? What was the outcome?

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**Important notes:**

- 1. If you are uncertain that you are hearing from the Holy Spirit, you should ask a Brother or Sister in the Lord that has experience and wisdom, they will pray with you and together, you will sense either a peace from God or may feel unsettled; the Holy Spirit will reveal His will.
  
- 2. The Holy Spirit lifts and builds us up! He convicts us of sin and ministers love toward us. He will NEVER break the Word of God.

**Conclusion and prayer point:** The Holy Spirit is like a very powerful friend! To know Him is to have access to an unlimited supply of wisdom and of peace, of strength and of truth. Consider as a group what areas from this study you would like to pray about and allow the Spirit to help you as you pray.

## **THE MINISTRY OF RECONCILIATION**

The Holy Spirit is known by many symbols throughout the bible. These symbols teach us about Him; they are symbols that teach us His function and give us an insight into His purpose. The ministry of reconciliation is our calling in God. The Holy Spirit works in us and through us to fulfil this calling.

### **Point 1. Symbols of the Holy Spirit**

#### **a. WATER**

Isaiah 44:3 “For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring.”

John 7:38 “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.”

#### **b. FIRE and WIND**

Acts 2:2-3 “Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.”

#### **c. Oil**

Isaiah 61:1-3 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me. To preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

#### **d. RAIN**

Hosea 6:3 “Let us know, Let us pursue the knowledge of the LORD. His going forth is established as the morning; He will come to us like the rain, Like the latter and former rain to the earth.”

- e.** He is Water for refreshing and His anointing; He is Fire for guidance and the burning up of what is old to bring a Wind of change; He is oil for healing and the Rain of renewal and vision that we may draw closer to Jesus.

### **Point 2. He is also the DOVE of peace and reconciliation**

- a.** Matthew 3:16-17 “When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”.”

- b. Genesis 1:1-2 “In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.”

**Point 3. The Ministry of reconciliation**

- a. 2 Corinthians 5:18 says: “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.”
- b. This Holy Spirit of peace and of Fire, of Wind and of Rain, Water and Oil, helps us to fulfil our ministry of reconciliation. To bring those who are lost to a saving relationship with Christ and to bring us all to maturity. Let us now look at three works of reconciliation that He helps us with. .

**Three ministry works of reconciliation**

1. Read Romans 15:5-7. Paul teaches us to “receive” one another; that fellowship with one another is to be one of our values. The Church (the people of God) should be where people feel safe and where no matter what people are going through, they can be ministered to.
2. Read Ephesians 2:14-18 The Holy Spirit bridges the gap between people of differing opinions through our faith in Jesus Christ. Division is a trap of the enemy, Even when we disagree, we can find peace together in Christ In Ephesians 5:9 we read, “Blessed are the peace makers”
3. Read Ephesians 4:29-31 The Holy Spirit is grieved when we forgo His help to live in peace. His work within us is to stay in fellowship with God and with each other.

Why is it so important to “live in peace?” Have you a testimony of how anger and disunity gave into the ministry work of reconciliation?

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**Note:** This ministry does not mean we accept sinfulness. It does mean that we accept the sinner and help them to repent. We assist them to “make peace.” through the love of God understanding the ministry of reconciliation through the Holy Spirit.

**Transition:** The Holy Spirit being described as “Water” is symbolic of His enabling! His anointing to do what otherwise we would struggle with.

**Point 3. His anointing is within us**

- a. John 7:37-39 On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.” But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- b. Revelation 22:1 “And He showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.”
- c. This “river,” or “water” is from the Holy Spirit, Too often we depend on our own ability to bring peace or to make a difference in people’s lives – “There is a river,” and when we begin to listen and move in the Holy Spirit we are enabled to touch lives and bring a positive change!

Discuss this “river of life,” how engaging the Holy Spirit can makes the difference

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**Transition:** Paul had learned to be content in whatever state he was in. He said in Philippians 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” The title “Christ,” in this passage, is speaking directly to the “anointing” of Christ, the Spirit of God. He allowed the Holy Spirit within Him to be as a river, where no matter what the circumstance, he was content!

**Point 4. Now from the perceptive of this study; read Isaiah 61:1-3; This passage was also read by Jesus in the Synagogue.**

“The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me,

1. Because the LORD has anointed Me
2. To preach good tidings to the poor;
3. He has sent Me to heal the broken-hearted,
4. To proclaim liberty to the captives,
5. And the opening of the prison to those who are bound;
6. To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD,
7. And the day of vengeance of our God;
8. To comfort all who mourn,
9. To console those who mourn in Zion,
10. To give them beauty for ashes,
11. The oil of joy for mourning,
12. The garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness;
13. That they may be called trees of righteousness,
14. The planting of the LORD, that He may be glorified.”

This is your calling in God! This is the Holy Spirit’s anointing upon you!

**Conclusion** We are overcomers! We are not to be overcome but to grow strong and to bring peace where ever we go! To bring the Good News through His Spirit within us! How can you bring the ministry of reconciliation this week?

**Prayer Point:** Pray for needs and those you know that need salvation. Ask for the Holy Spirit to give you His wisdom and His direction as you pray.

## THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

### Introduction

Jesus went to the right hand of the Father as our High Priest, the Holy Spirit has come! He has come to lead us to Christ, to give direction and wisdom, to comfort us and to fill us with power, power to overcome!

In the Old Testament we see Him come upon men and women for great exploits, In the New Testament we see Him come within and completely fill those who desire and experience the miracle working power of God!

The Baptism in the Holy Spirit should not be confused with the Born Again experience nor baptism in water.

At Salvation we receive the Holy Spirit into our inner most being, “our hearts.” We repent of sin; we identify with Christ’s death and determine a new direction to follow Him. Through faith, by the Grace of God, we are saved! A believer will then follow the Lord through the waters of baptism, making a public declaration of their faith! But these are not the baptism in the Holy Spirit. It is important to understand that this Baptism is not to deal with sin; sin is dealt with through repentance.

You do not have to be *baptised* in the Holy Spirit to receive the Kingdom of God, but you do receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit to experience the fullness of the promise, the power to overcome and to be a ministry witness for Jesus Christ and one that is undeniably endowed with God’s anointing!

Before we begin – Pray now for Him to fill the room that you are in, ask Him to speak to you and to minister His miraculous power!

### Point 1. The Holy Spirit of promise

- a. Joel prophesied it! Joel 2:28-32a “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 also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: Blood and fire and pillars of smoke. The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the LORD. And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved”
- b. John prophesied it! John 1:20-34 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is He of whom I said, ‘After me comes a Man who is preferred before me, for He was before me.’ I did not know Him; but that He should be revealed to Israel, therefore I came baptizing with water.” And John bore witness, saying, “I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him. I did not know Him, but He who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘Upon whom you see the Spirit descending, and remaining on Him, this is He who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ And I have seen and testified that this is the Son of God.”

- c. Jesus prophesied it! Acts 1-4-5 “And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, which, He said, “you have heard from Me; for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”
- d. Jesus told us the purpose in Acts 1:8 “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.”
- e. And it happened in Acts 2:2-4 The day of Pentecost! 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.

This is why we call ourselves Pentecostal.

- f. Read Acts 2:14-21 Peter’s sermon.

**Transition:** Not long before this we read countless accounts of the Disciples either arguing, or being confused over matters, Peter even denying Jesus three times. But when the Holy Spirit came upon them, they now became filled with power to overcome!

Important note: The purpose that Jesus told us, is that we are to be His witness! Keep this in mind right the way through these studies; it is also the purpose of the gifts of the Spirit and our great commission!

**Point 2. Explanation and understanding**

- a. Imagine a glass that is filled partly with water (salvation) now imagine this same glass being immersed into a pool of water (baptism in the Holy Spirit) Now what is within and what is around the glass is the same.

*The baptism in the Holy Spirit is then followed by the gifts of the Holy Spirit. To those who have been baptised in the Holy Spirit, discuss a gift that you have functioned in.*

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Important note: The fruit of the Holy Spirit Galatians 5:22-23 , Love, Joy, Peace, Longsuffering, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, Self-Control as already studied, is the evidence of God’s purifying work within the believer and is not the baptism in the Holy Spirit.

There are also the fivefold ministry gifts given to the church in Ephesians 4:11-12; Apostle, Pastor, Prophet, Teacher, Evangelist; these within themselves are a specific calling and for the building up of the Saints (Christians) for the work of the ministry.

**Transition:** The Baptism in the Holy Spirit is available to every believer!

### Point 3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit

- a. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 “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.”
- b. Nine Specific Gifts: Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healings, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation.

### Point 4. Function of the gifts

- a. As we study these, we will see that there is the function within the Church for tongues and prophecy and we will see the personal gift of tongues for every believer; although there are nine gifts, there is also function of each gift! God is a God of order!
- b. If by reading this, your question is; “Do I have to be baptised in the Spirit to have faith or pray for a miracle and or a healing?” The answer is no! Every believer has faith! The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a specific endowment of faith, as is for miracles and healings. Every believer can pray for the sick; however God has given these specific gifts to work miraculous power as a witness to His greatness! We will study “function and specific gifts in our next study.

*Have a look at the list given in 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 and discuss where you see the greatest need within the Church as a whole*

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*Some have likened being a Christian without being baptised in the Spirit, to keeping meat in the fridge while being baptised is like placing it on the hot plate!*

Oral Roberts said: “The gift of the Holy Spirit was bestowed upon the church in the form of a baptism and is the infilling of the Holy Spirit which God promised to give His children through His Son Jesus Christ. Through salvation, a believer receives the person of the Holy Spirit, but there is a deeper dimension of the Spirit called a baptism—an immersion. The baptism with the Holy Spirit is the power which releases the living waters of God inside the believer.



## Conclusion

- a. Received by faith: How do you receive this great infilling, this baptism? You ask God! The bible tells us that Jesus is the Baptiser! Just as at Salvation, we ask in faith and God will honour His word!
  - b. The evidence is – POWER! You will be endowed with the Holy Spirit and enter a new dimension of the Holy Spirit.
  - c. The bible tells us that speaking in tongues was evident immediately following the disciples being baptised.
- In our next study, we will begin to look at each gift.

**Prayer point:** Begin to seek God and ask Him to touch you! Do you want everything that God has for you? Do you need to know everything first? Not at all!

Make this coming week a time where you press into God, allow Him to speak to you and prepare you for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon your life!

## THE GIFTS AND THEIR FUNCTION

### Introduction

1 Corinthians 12:1 “Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant”

In this study we will find that although there is liberty in the Spirit, we also see order rather than chaos; we find stability and security! This baptism propels us into a walk with the Holy Spirit where we find gifts given to build up the church and to spread the Good News! The bible uses the word – “Dunamis,” which when translated is “dynamite.” In the beginning of this study we will lay a foundational understanding and then move into the function of each gift

### Point 1. Laying the foundation

- a. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing. Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away. When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”
- b. Paul is not trying to under value the gifts; he is saying that the gifts of the Holy Spirit and indeed all we do as Christians should be motivated by love! There is no self-pride in the gifts but as we have seen – It is to give glory to God and to be His witness to the world!
- c. Whether it is prophecy the Lord uses you in, or a word of Wisdom, or it may be a gift of Faith, that none of these or any of the gifts are to be used to chastise or rebuke people out of pride or for harm. They are for the edification (building up) of the Church and those God calls us to minister to.
- d. 1 Corinthians 12:7-11 we find nine specific gifts of the Spirit - Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healings, Miracles, Prophecy, Discerning of Spirits, Tongues, Interpretation.
- e. There is an important distinction between a Prophet and those who prophesy; a Prophet is one of the fivefold ministry gifts to the Church and in this capacity, a

Prophet may bring rebuke, however this is quite different to a gift of prophecy that is for edification and confirmation.

- f. There is also an important distinction between a gift of faith, a gift of wisdom and what we all have as wisdom and faith. We have already answered the question as to whether any Christian can pray in faith, the answer is yes! A gift is a “bestowing upon,” by the Holy Spirit for a specific purpose and is by the Grace of God!

### **The initial evidence of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit**

- a. The initial evidence of the Baptism is speaking in other tongues
  - On the day of Pentecost in Acts 2:4;
  - When Paul laid his hands upon the Ephesians in Acts 19:6
  - When Peter was speaking to the Gentiles in Acts 10:44-46
  - “And these signs will follow those who believe, in My name, they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues” Mark 16:17
- b. On these and many other occasions, the initial evidence was speaking in tongues Paul actually says in 1 Corinthians 14:5, “I wish you all spoke with tongues” and 1 Corinthians 14:18 Paul says, “ I thank my God that I speak in tongues more than you all.”
- c. Why was it so important for Paul to speak in tongues? Read 1 Corinthians 14:14-15 My Spirit prays 1 Corinthians 14:4
- d. Ever wanted to say how much you love God, but are lost for words? Notice we read that our mind is unfruitful, therefore, speaking in tongues is your spirit, enabled by the Holy Spirit, to speak “mysteries” to God, it is often called, “your prayer language.”
- e. Important note: Quite different to anything demonic, you always remain in control as to whether you speak in tongues or not, when you do, your spirit is reaching out to God. Be mindful, if you ask the Holy Spirit to help you speak in tongues, you need not fear that anything other than the Holy Spirit will come upon you!

For those who have been baptised in the Spirit; how valuable have you found speaking in tongues?



### **Point 2. Two functions of speaking in tongues**

1. The personal prayer language – For all.
2. The message given in a Church service or Christian meeting – For those who function in this gift.

- a. In 1 Corinthians 12:30, Paul asks, “do all speak in tongues?” This was speaking in regard to the ministry gift within the Church where this is then interpreted, not translated, but an interpretation is given by someone with the gift of interpretation. Clearly God wants us all to speak in a prayer language to Him but there is also a “ministry gift,” that some will work in.

Have you functioned in this gift or heard it within a Church service?

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Transition: So there is the personal prayer language and also the ministry gift within the Church – Paul later gives instruction for there to be no more than three messages within the frame work of a Church service. 1 Corinthians 14:27 It is interesting also that tongues are mentioned as a sign, not to the believer but the unbeliever; this is also in regard to the ministry gift with the Church; it is a “sign,” i.e. a sign that God is present

**Point 3. Prophecy**

- a. The gift of prophecy is considered a more excellent gift within the Church, as it is not for ourselves, but for others. This is not to diminish tongues, but to reinforce the value of the gifts – Love for others and bringing glory to God
- b. Read 1 Corinthians 14:22 and 1 Corinthians 14:5 This again is the ministry gift within the Church or where two or three are gathered.

Prophecy is where God gives a word to you and you speak it publically. Be aware however that this prophecy is filtered through a human vessel, therefore in itself, it is not the perfect word of God but it is for encouragement and edification. It is to be weighed up and considered prayerfully in order for God to show you clearly if it is from Him for you to deliver to the corporate body of believers. Also note, that as with tongues and interpretation, there must be order and there is imposed a limit to the number of prophecies to be given at one time. This is so that order is upheld. The “*spirits of the prophets are subject to the prophets*”, so those who feel they have a word of prophecy must be aware that their word may be for another time.

Have you prophesied and how have you experienced this?

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**Point 4. Wisdom, Knowledge, Faith, Healings, Miracles**

- a. The above list is gifts that God uses a person in; how will you know that God is using you in these gifts? “And these signs will follow,” in other words, you will feel the Holy spirit working through you – Remember, you do not own the gift, you function in the gift!

Have you worked in any of these gifts?

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**Point 5. Discerning of spirits, wisdom and knowledge**

- a. Deception is a tool of the enemy! These gifts are given not to confuse, but to shine a light upon the truth.
- b. Paul said, “Desire spiritual gifts.” Out of these gifts, what do you desire the most?
- c. Although the Holy Spirit is the ‘gift giver,’ He will work with you. The bible tells us that He grants us the desire of our heart. If you desire to function in wisdom or knowledge; ask Him.
- d. Discerning of spirits is speaking not only of demonic spirits but also the spirit of a person. This is the “real motives,” of a person and the condition of their spirit. You will know within you that something is not right or you may feel it confirmed within you that they are right with God. Discerning in this day and age is very important and practical gift that prevents deception.

Have you functioned in these gifts?

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**Point 6. God is not waiting for maturity**

- a. The bible tells us that it is by their fruits we will know them. Matthew 7:16 – The gifts are NO SIGN of maturity in God, they are gifts and God is not waiting for maturity, He is wanting a willing heart to say, “here I am Lord, use me.”
- b. This means the baptism in the Spirit is for you! You must be saved to be baptised in the Spirit and all you need to do is ask!
- c. Sometimes people are concerned that when they operate in a gift, that it might be themselves and not the Holy Spirit – remember, it is you! The Holy Spirit however is within you and is using you! Whether it be tongues or prophecy, or any of the gifts, it is you, but it is the Holy Spirit moving upon you. In other words, you may make mistakes; but as you grow in the Holy Spirit, you will learn and although maturity is not a pre-requisite, you will mature in the gifts!

**Conclusion**

This chapter has dealt well with the academic understanding of the gifts; it is more important that you TRUST GOD! If you ask for a fish, He won’t give you a stone. Trust God and ask

Jesus to Baptise you in the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will reveal more of Jesus to you, your walk in God will be become energised and your ministry to others will have more impact!

**Prayer point:** Pray and ask God to fill you to over flowing; allow the Spirit to move amongst you and ask Him to speak to you about these gifts. Pray for each other and allow each other the space to experience God in this very special way.

**Final words...**

*May God bless you as you seek the fullness of the Holy Spirit and His work within you. Remember not to worship the gifts, nor see them as making someone more important. The work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is to mature us and make us more like Christ. As you desire to be more like Him and display His fruits to others, God will increasingly use you; pray for His leading. Walk in the Spirit!*

*Philippians 1:6 Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ.*

