

deeper

word faith life

Module 2

The Doctrine of Christ

Prophecy and the Birth of Christ

The Law and the Cross of Christ

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The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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Session 8 – The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Work of the Holy Spirit

We will now be dealing with what the Holy Spirit does in the life of a believer, the Work of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:15-16,26 - "If you love me, keep my commands. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Advocate to help you and be with you forever. But the Advocate, 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."

John 15:26 NIV - "When the Advocate 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 - "But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you."

The word [ADVOCATE] used in the NIV is elsewhere translated as [HELPER], the Greek word is [PARACLETOS], which means one who draws alongside to assist or help. So the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives is one that helps get us to where we need to be.

Acts 1:8 - "But 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."

Romans 8:26-27 - "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans. And He who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God's people in accordance with the will of God."

1 Corinthians 6:11 - "And that is what some of you were. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

1 Peter 1:2 - "who have been chosen according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit, to be obedient to Jesus Christ and sprinkled with His blood: Grace and peace be yours in abundance."

We can summarise the work of the Holy Spirit in this way:

He _____ us - To live right and be effective and fruitful in our calling.

He _____ us - He reveals truth to us, He points us to Jesus. He guides and directs us. He teaches us His presence, we have an inner witness in our hearts.

He _____ us - When we're weak He strengthens us, He gives us assurance.

He _____ us - He purifies us, or makes us holy.

How does He actually do this?

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

Mark 1:8 - "I baptise you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit."

Acts 1:5 - "For John baptised with water, but in a few days you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit."

This experience of the Holy Spirit appears to be a separate event from being born again. When we are regenerated we receive the Holy Spirit as a seal of ownership, so all born again Christians have the Holy Spirit. But there is another experience in which we are filled with the Spirit, or baptised in the Holy Spirit. We are saved and baptised in water only once in our lives, but we are filled with the Spirit many times.



Ephesians 5:18 - "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

The word [FILLED] here is correctly translated to be [BEING FILLED], its continuous. We can have the Holy Spirit infilling many times in our walk with the Lord.

Here are a number of references to this:

Acts 8:14-17 - "When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to Samaria. When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptised in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."

Acts 10:45-46 - "The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God."

Acts 19:1-6 - "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 baptised in 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 is an interesting correlation between being baptised in the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues, it seems from scripture that this is the evidence of such an encounter. Speaking in tongues is not mandatory as some groups believe, but it is something that usually accompanies the infilling of the Holy Spirit, even if not immediately. This is not to be mistaken for the gift of tongues which we will be dealing with later under the Gifts of the Spirit.

There is also an empowerment in Acts 1:8, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." In the Alpha Course, Nicky Gumbel explains this empowering with the illustration of a gas geyser; the pilot light as the resident Holy Spirit in the life of a believer and then the rush of flame when the tap is turned as the Spirit fills a person. This empowerment is intended for living right and for service of the mission.

Often people do have an accompanying physical feeling of being overcome, sometimes with the speaking in tongues, and other times there is absolutely no feeling whatsoever. But like anything we receive from God, it is by faith, so in this instance we need to apply our faith and continue to trust God for the freedom and blessing of speaking and praying in tongues.

What does speaking in tongues achieve?

Jude 1:20 - "But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,"

Edifying ourselves - Building ourselves up on the inside, in our faith.

A new prayer language - Our spirit prays directly to God, transcending our human resources.

Romans 8:26 - "In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

1 Corinthians 14:14-15 - "For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding."



In all the accounts where speaking in tongues is specifically recorded in the above scriptures (Jerusalem, Samaria by implication, Caesarea and Ephesus) we might conclude that the speaking in tongues was the primary evidence of believers receiving the infilling of the Holy Spirit. It is important to state here that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is for those who are already believers and is not a means of salvation.

The Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-26 - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other."

These are the beneficial results, the good qualities that become evident as a result of the Spirit's indwelling of a believer. The result of living by the Spirit will be fruitfulness, it cannot be any other way.

Love - The kind of self-sacrificial, benevolent love that Jesus loves us with. It's translated from the Greek word [AGAPE]. It's the placing of others before yourself. Love leads the way, if we have love, the other fruit will follow. Love sets others free and keeps you from becoming judgmental.

Joy - This is more than happiness, it's not circumstantial, it comes from within, it's a deep abiding sense of well being.

Peace - Translated from the Greek word [EIRENE] it implies a tranquil state of a soul assured of its salvation through Christ, and content with its earthly lot.

Forbearance - The ability to put up with the weaknesses of others, it's bearing a burden, carrying their load. It's sometimes called long suffering.

Kindness - The Greek word is [CHRESTOTES] and it means tender concern, uprightness. Kindness of heart and kindness of act. It is never concerned with how it is repaid. Just be kind.

Goodness - It is virtue and holiness in action. It results from a life motivated by righteousness and a desire to be a blessing. Goodness simply for the benefit of others. It is uprightness of heart and life.

Faithfulness - This is steadfastness, consistency or allegiance. Never giving up on people. It undergirds the quality of dependability.

Gentleness - It's a meekness, closely linked to kindness, the ability to deal kindly with people who are in the wrong or who have wronged you.

Self-control - Knowing how to control yourself. It's self-leadership under the authority of Christ with the strength of the Holy Spirit. It's actually a Spirit controlled life.

These are characteristics of the Holy Spirit which He wants to infuse into your character. It's no good having all the gifts when they can be so easily undone or negated by a lack of fruit or Christian character. They have to go hand in hand and love must lead the way otherwise all your ministry is hollow.

Giving in to the flesh will block the flow of the Spirit in our lives. This is about becoming



like Christ, and it requires a surrender from us and a partnership with the Holy Spirit. It is the process of sanctification by the Holy Spirit. Galatians 5 gives us some practical pointers on how to get this process going in our lives;

Walking by the Spirit - verse 16

Being led by the Spirit - verse 18

Live by the Spirit - verse 25

Keep in step with the Spirit - verse 25

Working this out internally is a very personal thing between you and God, but the resulting fruit in your life will be of immense blessing to everyone you come in contact with.

Matthew 7:16-18 - "By their fruit you will recognise them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit."

The Gifts of the Spirit

The gifts of the Spirit have either been ignored or misunderstood in church life down through the ages. Some traditions have dispensed with them altogether with the theological rationale called Cessation. Cessationism teaches that the gifts of the Spirit as well as all signs and wonders ceased with the early church after the Apostles and the completion of the New Testament.

Basically saying that the gifts of the Spirit are unavailable to us today, and we should be concerned only with the fruit of the Spirit. There is no Biblical basis for this teaching and seems to be a result of placing a priority of liturgy over life.

The Greek word for [GIFTS] is [CHARISMATA] of grace gifts, [CHARIS] is the Greek word for grace. So these are in fact "gracings" given to the church by the Holy Spirit working through the lives of believers. It forms the foundation for the priesthood of all believers.

There are two passages of the New Testament that deals with the gifts of the Spirit:

Romans 12:3-8 - "For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach; if it is to encourage, then give encouragement; if it is giving, then give generously; if it is to lead, do it diligently; if it is to show mercy, do it cheerfully."

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 - "There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and He distributes them to each one, just as He determines."

In the Romans text we find the following gifts:

_____ - Edifying, exhorting and comforting the body with words as the Holy Spirit leads.



- _____ - Making sure that the body benefits from you being in it.
- _____ - Making simple the deep things of God.
- _____ - Building up the body of Christ.
- _____ - The ability to bless the body and individuals financially or materially.
- _____ - Providing leadership or oversight and administration to the church.
- _____ - Meeting material needs in love as the Lord leads.

In the 1 Corinthians text we find the following gifts:

Word of Wisdom - It operates on the level of deep understanding which brings a great degree of edification. Both the wisdom and the utterance come from the Holy Spirit.

Word of Knowledge - It is an utterance coming from Spiritual illumination. This is closely connected to the word of wisdom gift.

Faith - This could be called special faith as different to saving faith. It is a special impartation of faith by the Holy Spirit for the good of others. It may also be the background for the next two gifts that follow; healings and miracles.

Healing - Gifts of healings are wholly supernatural endowments, they are not natural gifts that can be developed. The one ministering is simply passing the gifts on to the recipient. He doesn't become a healer, God is the only one who heals.

Miracles - It's again plural, workings of miracles. This is in many ways the splashing in of the Kingdom of God into our reality. Miracles happen and then they don't, we cannot explain these things. Often times miracles happen without our immediate knowledge.

Prophecy - This is to be eagerly desired because of its edification value. It is also the gift that has been most misunderstood and misused. It is simply a spontaneous revelation. This is never on the same level as scripture. It is given for edification, exhortation and comfort (1 Corinthians 14:3) It must be weighed and evaluated, and the speaker held accountable.

Distinguishing between spirits - This is "distinguishings" or "discernments", in the plural. It works in three areas, the human spirit, demonic spirits and angelic spirits and is given to discern the spirit at work in any expression or activity within the Christian community.

Tongues - This is "kinds of tongues". This may be human or spiritual language neither known to the speaker. This is different to tongues spoken at baptism of the Holy Spirit for one's own edification. This is for a public gathering and must be interpreted for the benefit of those gathered. It works in tandem with the gift of interpretation of tongues.

Interpretation of tongues - This is not translation, it is interpretation. The interpreter does not understand what is being said in a tongue publicly, the interpretation comes from the Holy Spirit for the benefit of those gathered.

Memory Verse

Romans 8:26

"In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans."

