

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Believers Life

It's the Spirit of God in you that makes the difference. It was the Spirit of God in the Old Testament saints, the prophet, priest, and king that made them able to administer the word and the power of God, stand in the presence of God and offer up sacrifices, or lead the nation of God's people into right relationship with Him. It was the Spirit of God that made the difference in the life of Jesus, transforming Him from carpenter to Christ. It was the Spirit of God that had been poured out on His life that enabled Him to minister to the people of God on behalf of the Almighty. It was by the powerful working of the Holy Spirit the first followers and all subsequent followers of Christ are born again or born of Heaven, experiencing the transformation that comes through the new birth. It was the Spirit of God that transformed these first followers, riddled with confusion and strife, into pillars for the entire church future to be built upon. It was a baptism in and by this same Spirit that they were told to wait for in Jerusalem in order to be empowered for the calling on their individual and collective lives. It was the Spirit of God that enabled them to speak the very words of God, to receive by revelation the plan of God and pen the plan of God for humankind. It was the Spirit of God that drove them to preach the Gospel of Jesus in fulfillment of the Great Commission to their entire known world and it was by the Spirit of God that supernatural signs followed the preaching of the Word as promised. It is the Spirit of God that enables you and I to minister life in a death dominated world. It is the Spirit of God that is the missing ingredient in the lives of most believers today. For many believers walking the earth today, this is no more than a theoretical concept, it is not experiential. For though we profess to be possessors of the Spirit of God it is the Spirit of God that has not been made able to entirely possess us. We have not given over control of our lives we have not become a Spirit-governed, Spirit-possessed people; for if we had, surely the same

results, the same works would have followed evidencing the presence of the Spirit of God in our lives just as Christ promised.

The prophets prophesied that the Spirit of the living God would rest upon the Messiah (Is 11:1-3; Is 42:1; Is 61:1, 2); that He would walk in the wisdom and power, fulfilling the purpose of God by the constant leading of God's own Spirit. John the Baptist prophesied that the Christ would come to baptize men with the Holy Spirit (Luke 3:16). At the time of Jesus' baptism John witnessed the Holy Spirit come upon Christ and He states in his own words, *"I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. I would not have known him, except that the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, 'The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is he who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.' I have seen and I testify that this is the Son of God"* (John 1:32-34).ⁱ Soon after this event, Luke records, *"Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the desert,"* (Luke 4:1) and after forty days of fasting *"Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news about him spread through the whole countryside"* (Luke 4:14). These events eventually lead to Jesus public proclamation, *"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to release the oppressed, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."* Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. *The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him, and he began by saying to them, 'Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing'"* (Luke 4:17-21). Jesus was born into this earth to satisfy the eternal purpose of His Father, to redeem mankind from his sin thus preparing a way for man to be restored to right relationship with his Creator. He does this not by His own strength but rather by the wisdom and power and leading of the Holy Spirit. It is imperative that we understand that He came into the

earth and was born a man. The Scripture says, *“Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being”* (Phil 2:6-7).ⁱⁱ The Writer of Hebrews states, *“Because God's children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—the Son also became flesh and blood. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the devil, who had the power of death. Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God”* (Heb 2:14).ⁱⁱⁱ So we see that it was certainly not in His own internal power that He came to earth and completed His mission. It was just as the prophets prophesied the Spirit of God upon Him. This is so important for us to understand. He was fully a man yielded to the will of God, under the power of the Holy Spirit. The Bible confirms this in Acts 10:38, *“Beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John preached—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.”* Jesus states emphatically, *“I tell you the truth, the Son can do nothing by himself; he can do only what he sees his Father doing, because whatever the Father does the Son also does”* (John 5:19). Towards the end of His ministry Phillip, one of Jesus’ disciples comes to Him with a request, *“Jesus, show us the Father”*, reveal to us God, His purpose, His character, His person. *“Jesus answered: ‘Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father?’”* He tells Phillip, I have come for this purpose, to reveal to you the Father, indeed I have lived my entire life for this purpose. He continues, *“Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, who lives continually in me doing his*

works his own miracles, deeds of power. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe me for the sake of the works themselves (if you cannot trust me at least let these works that I do in my fathers name convince you) or on the evidence of the miracles themselves.” Jesus then stuns them with this statement, *“I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father”* (John 14:8-12). The natural question would be, but how could this be possible? Jesus answers that question, *“I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate (Comforter, Encourager, Counselor), who will never leave you. He is the Holy Spirit, who leads into all truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn't looking for Him and doesn't recognize Him. But you know Him, because He lives with you now and later will be in you* (John 14:16-17).^{iv} He promises to send another Comforter, Encourager, and Counselor. The original language conveys the idea, One besides Me, and in addition to Me, but just like Me; another of the same kind. The word another shows similarities but diversity in operation and ministry. Barnes states in his Commentary, “Jesus had been to them a counselor, a guide, a friend, while He was with them. He had instructed them, had borne with their prejudices and ignorance, and had administered consolation to them in the times of despondency. But He was about to leave them now to go alone into an unfriendly world. The other Comforter was to be given as a compensation for His absence, or to perform the offices toward them which He would have done if He had remained personally with them. And from this we may learn, in part, what is the office of the Spirit. It is to furnish to all Christians the instruction and consolation which would be given by the personal presence of Jesus.”^v I would add to this, that if this Holy Spirit was the same Holy Spirit that came upon and remained as the source of all inspiration and miracle working power both in Christ’s life and ministry, then should expect this

same Holy Spirit will satisfy the whole of this purpose in our lives today, there is no non-miracle Holy Spirit. The Ministry of the Holy Spirit is multifaceted and we must embrace the fullness of His ministry in our lives today. To believe any less is to diminish and do great violence to a member of the Trinity. Paul elaborates on this truth so very strongly that few have dared to believe it. Look at what he writes to the church in Colossae, *“For it has pleased [the Father] that all the divine fullness (the sum total of the divine perfection, powers, and attributes) should dwell in Him permanently”* (Col 1:19). He continues this thought in chapter two when he states, *“For in Him (Christ) the whole fullness of Deity (the Godhead) continues to dwell in bodily form [giving complete expression of the divine nature]. And you are in Him, made full and having come to fullness of life [in Christ you too are filled with the Godhead — Father, Son and Holy Spirit — and reach full spiritual stature]”* (Col 2:9-10).^{vi} What Jesus is communicating to us, is that His entire life and ministry have been a reflection of the purpose and the character and the person of God the Father. The Words He preached were the Words of God manifested in and through His life by Holy Spirit indwelling Him. The miracles, signs and wonders, were not His own but rather God manifesting in and through Him by the indwelling Holy Spirit. And now He tells us that these same Words of wisdom and authority, these same miracles, signs and wonders will evidence the same Holy Spirit indwelling our lives revealing to the World the purpose, character and person of the Eternal God. I can remember hearing Chancellor Oral Roberts state it this way, “In other words Jesus was saying there is to be no interruption of the mighty works of God in this earth.” We are to carry on the ministry of Christ by that same Spirit that anointed Him with all wisdom, power and authority. A.B. Simpson, the founder of Christian and Missionary Alliance wrote, “Christ was first born by the Spirit, then He was baptized by the Spirit, and then He went forth to work out His life and ministry in the power of the Spirit. But

He that sanctifieth and they that are sanctified are all of one”; so in like manner we must follow in His footsteps and re-live His life. Born like Him of the Spirit, we too, must be baptized of the Spirit, and go forth to live His life and reproduce His work.”^{vii}

The question then is, when and how will this transpire? First we must understand that in order for this promise to be fulfilled man must first be made a suitable dwelling place for the Holy Spirit of God to abide. Although man was originally created for just such a purpose, sin has rendered him unsuitable as the abode of the Almighty. Christ would have to first take upon himself the sin of the world and man would have to receive that sacrifice in faith. Jesus said, *"If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him"* (John 14:23). Paul reminds the Corinthian church, *"Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit has his permanent dwelling in you (to be at home in you collectively as a church and also individually (1 Cor 3:16) and "For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in and with and among them and will walk in and with and among them and I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (2 Cor 6:16).^{viii} It is for this reason that Jesus makes what seems to be such an impossible statement He has to preface it by saying *"I am telling you the truth"*. His statement was to be so unbelievable that He finds it necessary to tell them I am not lying to you when I tell you that *"it is for you good that I go away."* He tells them, *"Because if I do not go away, the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Advocate, Intercessor, Strengtheners, Standby) will not come to you [into close fellowship with you]; but if I go away, I will send Him to you [to be in close fellowship with you]"* (John 16:7).^{ix} *"But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come"* (John 16:13). After His death, burial and resurrection, the first obstacle is removed and*

man is now made a suitable dwelling place for the Spirit of God. We see Christ breathing on the disciples and saying to them *“receive the Holy Spirit”* (John 20:22). Just as God had promised, *“I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws”* (Ezekiel 36:26-27). It is important to note that man is born again by the agency and power of the Holy Spirit. No man is born again apart from the Holy Spirit. Once man has confessed his faith in the saving power of Christ’s redemptive sacrifice and confesses his faith in God to save him the Holy Spirit becomes the agent of change in the individual’s life. Every person is born again by the power of the Holy Spirit and becomes the dwelling in which God dwells. Paul writes to the believers in Rome and tells them, *“If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ”* (Romans 8:9). So if you are born again, if you belong to Christ you possess the Holy Spirit. Paul continues, by telling them that it is this indwelling Holy Spirit in the life of every believer that serves not only the agent of change but as an inward witness that we belong to God. He writes, *“The Spirit himself thus testifies together with our own spirit assuring us that we are children of God”* (Romans 8:16). Therefore every believer has received the Holy Spirit and no believer is in Christ apart from the work of the Holy Spirit. However, just as the Holy Spirit served more than one function in the life of Christ and just as Christ indicated in His choice of words that the Holy Spirit would fulfill many functions in the lives of all believers we must understand that the ministry of the Holy Spirit was to continue beyond our salvation experience. Thus the Bible teaches us that there is an encounter with the Holy Spirit that is clearly subsequent to salvation called the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Dr. R. A. Torrey, first head of the Moody Bible Institute has written: *“It is evident that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is an operation of the Holy Spirit*

distinct from and additional to His regeneration work. A man may be regenerated by the Holy Spirit, and still not be baptized with the Holy Spirit. In regeneration, there is the impartation of life by the Spirit's power and the one who receives it is saved; in the baptism with the Holy Spirit, there is the impartation of power, and the one who receives it is fitted for service...^x It is not God's plan that man is merely born again by the power of the agency of the Holy Spirit. His desire is that men be fully filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit working in and through every aspect of man's existence. Not only filled with, but immersed in, wholly consumed inside and out with the Holy Spirit. Ralph M. Riggs states in his book *The Spirit Himself*, "In all descriptions and the use of different terms to explain the conversion of the believer, it is clearly stated that the Holy Spirit is the agent at conversion. He convicts men of sin; He sanctifies or sets them apart unto salvation; and they are born of the Spirit. He witnesses that they are children of God. They who are Christ's have the Spirit of Christ, and the Holy Spirit resides in their hearts. Thus we see that all true born-again believers have the Holy Spirit. They have truly begun in the Spirit according to Galatians 3:3. All they have in the way of Christian vitality and experience is the work of the Holy Spirit."^{xi}

Some have suggested that when you are about to leave on a long journey or about to be away for a long season you will reserve your most important words for your final instructions. Either way we know that even if these instructions did not represent his most important words they certainly represented His immediate instructions. At the close of His earthly ministry, Christ left specific instructions for His disciples and all His followers. We see parts of these instructions at the end of each of the Gospels. Below is a brief outline of those final words of Jesus Christ and should be given special attention as some of Christ's most important words.

"Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,” (Mt 28:18, 19). The authority upon which the church would be built was thus delegated to the followers of Christ. The importance of this fact cannot be overstated. Christ delegated the authority necessary to carry out His mission on this earth to the church. Authority to speak on his behalf, authority to disciple followers on his behalf, authority to baptize new believers into the family of God was given to the church. *“He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well”* (Mark 16:15-18). What is authority without the power to carry out the mission? We see in Christ’s words the promise that power will accompany the delegation of power. This is an anointing to preach the Good News, power and authority over demons and every demonic attack, including the power to heal those who are infirmed. *“And now I will send the Holy Spirit, just as my Father promised. But stay here in the city until the Holy Spirit comes and fills you with power from heaven”* (Luke 24:49).^{xii} Christ gave specific instruction to His disciples concerning where this power would come from. They were to wait in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit was sent just as the Father promised. These words are repeated in the book of Acts. Luke records these final words of our Lord, *“On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the Gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit”* (Acts 1:4, 5). First let me point out that this is no mere suggestion. This is a command for all true disciples.

The disciples are reminded that the Father has promised a Gift. John the Baptist spoke of it and Jesus reminds them of John's words. They are to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. Here Jesus reminds them it is a Gift, almost certainly reminding them of his teaching in Luke 11:11-13. In Jesus' teaching He asks the people, *"If your son asks you for a fish will you give him a snake instead? Or if he asks for an egg, will you give him a scorpion?"* Jesus answers his own question with this statement, *"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!"* He tells us here that the Holy Spirit is a good Gift given from a loving Father to all who will ask. Continuing in Acts chapter one, Paul writes, *"But you shall receive power (ability, efficiency, and might) when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you shall be My witnesses in Jerusalem and all Judea and Samaria and to the ends (the very bounds) of the earth"* (Acts 1:8).^{xiii} Here we see stated very clearly another aspect of the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the believers' life. This command of our Lord to His disciples was that they receive this Gift that God has promised. The result of receiving this Gift is to be immediately apparent; they will be empowered with all the might and ability of the Holy Spirit to be effective witnesses for Christ to the ends of the earth. The importance of the power spoke of here should not be ignored it is most important in carrying out the role He has assigned to His church. The Bible tells us in 1 Corinthians 15:6 that there were approximately five hundred of Jesus' followers present at Christ's ascension hearing these important words. After hearing these words the Bible says that they returned to Jerusalem where only one hundred and twenty of them joined themselves together to pray and wait for this promise to be fulfilled. How sad it is that the majority chose to return to business responsibility, family obligations and general distraction, disobeying our Lord and missing this very important event in church history. How sad it is that many today for

similar reasons continue to ignore the words of our Lord and thus miss out on receiving this very important Gift promised to every believer. Luke records, *“When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 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. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them”* (Acts 2:1-4). First, it must be pointed out that each and every one of them that had set themselves to receive this Gift received exactly as Christ had promised. We are not to believe that only some received or some spoke in tongues. The scripture says that all of them were filled and all of them spoke in tongues. Not one was omitted; everyone that asked—received and was filled. Also important is the setting in which our Lord chose to pour out this promise. The Bible records that this event took place on the day of Pentecost, during the Feast of Pentecost, one of the Jews most holy celebrations. For this reason Jerusalem was filled to capacity with Jews, non-Jews and Jewish proselytes from throughout the known world. People had come from great distances to celebrate in Jerusalem. It was in the midst of this multitude from all the nations that God chooses to pour out His Spirit upon His people. It was to this great crowd that Peter focuses his attention boldly, clearly and with power proclaiming to them the Gospel message, including Christ’s death, burial and resurrection from the dead. Peter proclaims we are witnesses of this fact that God has *“Exalted (Christ) to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear* (Acts 2:33). Peter explains what you now see and hear is the result of the Gift Christ promised in Acts 1:4. Just as Christ said, He has returned to the Father and poured out the promised Holy Spirit. Concluding his message, Peter issues an invitation, *“Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for*

the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call" (Acts 2:38-39). According to A. J. Gordon, Peter would show "logically and chronologically"^{xiv} the ministry of the Holy Spirit. Man's heart having been convicted by the Holy Spirit would be born again by the power of the Holy Spirit. Taking a public stand for their faith they would be baptized in water and following that they would receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the same Gift poured out upon the disciples in the upper room. The same Gift the people of Jerusalem are now seeing and hearing in manifestation. So powerful are his witness-words that about 3000 Jews, non-Jews or Jewish proselytes from the nations believed and responded to this invitation. Here, we see clearly demonstrated, exactly what Christ promised in Acts 1:4-8. The disciples were to receive the promised Holy Spirit with power, emboldening them as witnesses beginning in Jerusalem and extending to the ends of the earth.

Some have suggested that these promises and their fulfillment were limited to the original disciples and represented a power and authority to establish the church only. They surmise that this promise has been fulfilled and therefore done away with. However throughout the book of Acts we see this same promise being fulfilled as people believe and receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit in exactly the same manner as the first disciples. For example, in Acts chapter eight we see a great persecution breaking out against the church in Jerusalem as a result of this "*all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria.*" (Acts 8:1) Luke continues, "*Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went. Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there*" (Acts 8:4-5). It should be noted here that this was Christ's plan from the beginning, that the Gospel would not only be preached in Jerusalem, but to Judea, Samaria and the ends of the earth. "*When the crowds heard Philip and saw the*

miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said” (Acts 8:6). “But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women” (Acts 8:12). According to this account they have had Christ preached to them, they have expressed a faith in Christ are born again by the agent to the Holy Spirit and are Baptized as an external evidence of an internal transformation. “When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit” (Acts 8:14-17). They had clearly been born again by the power of the Holy Spirit however as the apostles lay their hands upon them they receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit, the same Gift they themselves had received on the day of Pentecost the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Here again we see this logical and chronological order in the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

In Acts chapter ten an angel of God appears to Cornelius, an Italian man living in Caesarea. The Bible tells us that he was a Godly man who gave to those in need and prayed regularly. He is most probably a Jewish Proselyte, a foreigner that has adapted himself to the religious beliefs and customs of the Jews. The angel instructs him to send to Joppa for a man named Simon known as Peter. He was not born again, the scripture later records that Cornelius had been told, *“He (Peter) will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved” (Acts 11:14). As Cornelius’ men near Joppa the next day, Peter is on the roof of the house praying. He is presented with a life-changing vision and told that he is not to hesitate to go with the men that had arrived because they had been sent by God. The next day, when*

Peter and his travel companions arrive at the house of Cornelius he finds the home filled with the friends and family of Cornelius. The scripture says that Peter began to preach to them Christ and *“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the Gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues and praising God. Then Peter said, “Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have.” So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days”* (Acts 10:44-48). We have established that he was not born again before he hears Peter’s words but as he hears Peter’s words the Holy Spirit comes upon them evidenced by the fact that they are speaking in tongues. We can only conclude that sometime during Peter’s preaching faith for salvation forms in their hearts and they receive Christ as Lord. We know that they could not be baptized in the Holy Spirit, nor would Peter commission them to be baptized in water if they had not clearly been saved. It is important to note here that the baptism in water is the profession of man’s faith, not a work of the Holy Spirit and can fit anywhere along man’s spiritual journey. Peter, in explaining his actions to the church leadership back in Jerusalem would later state, *“As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. Then I remembered what the Lord had said: ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ So if God gave them the same Gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?”* (Acts 11:15-17). Peter states just as we received the promised Gift and were baptized in the Holy Spirit, they too have received this Gift and have been baptized in the Holy Spirit.

In our final example found in Acts chapter nineteen we read about Paul’s second

missionary journey. *“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). First let us address Paul’s initial inquiry concerning their faith. Literally, he asks them, “Since believing have you received the Holy Spirit?” This implies that Paul is speaking of an experience subsequent to their believing for transformation by the power of the Holy Spirit. The Ephesians’ answers reveal that these men are disciples or followers of John and have not been preached the Gospel. Upon hearing the message of Christ they are baptized in the name of Jesus. After they have professed faith in Christ and after they are baptized Paul lays his hands upon them and prays that the Gift of the Holy Spirit might come upon them. The result is that they receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Here once again we see the baptism in the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues as a separate and subsequent event in the believers’ life apart from the work of the Holy Spirit to work salvation in the lives of these people. Dr. R. A. Torrey concludes, “So it is as clear as language can possibly make it, that it is one thing to be born again and something further, something additional, to be baptized with the Holy Spirit. It is clear and undeniable therefore, that one may be a regenerate man and not as yet have received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit. Let us bow to the clear teaching of the Word of God even if it does not agree with our preconceived theories.”^{xv}

As I have already stated, some have suggested that these promises and their fulfillment were limited to the original disciples and represented a power and authority to establish the church only. This clearly cannot be the case since we not only witness this in the disciples' lives but extending beyond them to peoples far and wide. Some have further argued that this was only for the foundation of the church through the first century, a date they arbitrarily chose. This point is crucial to our understanding of this issue, we have evidence that this pattern dully established throughout the book of Acts, laid as the foundation of the church was never to be broken. We see no other pattern laid out for us in scripture; therefore we can draw no other conclusions. God still intends for all people who embrace His Son as Savior to be internally transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit. Christ still commands that we, His disciples receive the good Gift of His Father, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. It was and still is God's desire that we be people who live and walk in the fullness of the power of the Holy Spirit both inside and out. Paul wrote to the church in Ephesus, "*Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.*" John MacArther, in his article Living in the Spirit states, "The Greek verb (a present passive imperative) for "be filled" in Ephesians 5:18 is literally translated, "be being kept filled" with the Spirit. This statement is an emphatic imperative, and is literally translated, "Be being kept filled with the Spirit." It is a command that includes the idea of conscious continuation. Being continually filled with the Spirit is not an option for the believer but a biblical mandate. No Christian can fulfill God's will for his life apart from being filled with the Spirit.^{xvi} A.S. Worrell states in the footnotes for Ephesians 5:18 of his New Testament, "This is a command and should to be obeyed; the Christian should be habitually and freshly filled with the Holy Spirit. And he who fails to live the Spirit-filled life impoverishes himself immeasurably and curtails his possibilities of greatest usefulness."^{xvii}

Today we continue the work of establishing the church throughout the Earth according to the commands of our Lord. We remain dependent upon that same authority delegated to the early church and that same power that was so prevalent in their lives and ministries. That same power is meant to equip believers today to finish the task begun over two thousand years ago. We see now just how important of a part the Holy Spirit plays in the personal lives of believers and how important of a role He plays in ministering to others. In my personal life and in ten years of ministry working in the local church and ten years of ministry working around the world I have found these truths to be more than theoretical. I have lived these words in a very experiential way. I have had the privilege of teaching these truths to thousands of people and have seen thousands respond in faith and receive this good Gift of the Baptism in the Holy Spirit just as the early church did in the book of Acts. I have concluded that we simply cannot fulfill our God-given task apart from the indwelling power of the Holy Spirit which is made manifest in our lives when we receive the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. I have concluded that this requires not merely an initial infilling but a continual fullness of the Holy Spirit apart from whom we can do absolutely nothing. I have concluded that it is imperative that we learn to live the Spirit-filled life and learn to be lead and guided by the Holy Spirit everyday of our lives. So let the power of the Holy Spirit flow through the church of Jesus Christ. As Chancellor Oral Roberts once said, “Let the Spirit of God fill us and refill us as individuals and the body of Christ with boldness and set our souls on fire for God. Open the door and invite the Holy Spirit into your life, yield yourself to Him every aspect of your life. And when you do there’s a miracle that bursts within you, there’s a miracle that lives and moves within your being. And every day of your life can be a miraculous visitation from God.”

ⁱ All biblical quotations are from the NIV version unless otherwise stated.

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^v Barnes' Notes, Electronic Database Copyright © 1997, 2003, 2005 by Biblesoft, Inc.

^{vi} Holy Bible, Amplified Version

^{vii} A. B. Simpson, DD, the Holy Spirit, or Power from on High, Vol II (Christian Alliance Publishing Co., New York (1924), p 21 as quoted in The Spirit Himself by Ralph M. Riggs Gospel Publishing House 1949, 1977

^{viii} Holy Bible, Amplified Version

^{ix} Holy Bible, Amplified Version

^x R. A. Torrey, The Person and Work of the Holy Spirit (Fleming H. Revell; New York, c. 1919), pp 174,176. as quoted in The Spirit Himself by Ralph M. Riggs Gospel Publishing House 1949, 1977

^{xi} The Spirit Himself by Ralph M. Riggs Gospel Publishing House 1949, 1977 p. 44

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^{xiii} Holy Bible, Amplified Version

^{xiv} A.J Gordon, the Ministry of the Holy Spirit, (Fleming H. Revell Company, New York (c. 1894), p 71 as quoted in The Spirit Himself by Ralph M. Riggs Gospel Publishing House 1949, 1977

^{xv} R. A. Torrey, the Holy Spirit, Who He is , what He does, p. 114 as quoted in Elmer C. Miller, Pentecost Examined (Gospel Publishing House, Springfield, Mo (c 1936), p 29 as quoted in The Spirit Himself by Ralph M. Riggs Gospel Publishing House 1949, 1977

^{xvi} Living in the Spirit - Be Filled with the Spirit--Part 1 by John MacArthur p. 1 All Rights Reserved

^{xvii} Worrell New Testament Edition: Revised Author(s): A. S. Worrell, Ephesians 5:18