

The Holy Spirit

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In Scripture there are two recorded descents of the Holy Spirit in bodily form upon the earth: the first – recorded in Luke 3.22 – is at the baptism of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Head of the Church; the second – recorded in Acts 2 – on the day of Pentecost when He descended in baptism upon the Church, the Body of Christ. Just as the Head of the Church was endued with power by the Spirit of God so today as well as then His Body follows Him in both water baptism and the Spirit Baptism. As soon as Jesus was glorified, the Holy Spirit descended upon the Church. The disciples had been told to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with *power* from on high. Through this Spirit Baptism of Power, the Holy Spirit is able to do in us what Jesus did for us.

The Bible says that man was “created in the image of God.” Man is a three-fold being – spirit, soul and body. We *are* a spirit being like God, we possess a soul which is our emotions and intellect and we *live* in a body – a physical body. One day that physical body will die but we will be resurrected like Jesus and live in a spirit body. This is important because when we’re born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit we must understand that He communicates not with our minds but with our spirit.

Most Christians understand that the Holy Spirit is supposed to guide us and direct us. Romans 8:14 says, “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” We need to understand the *ways* by which the Holy Spirit leads us. It’s been my experience as a minister, however, that most Christians do not have a very good relationship with the Holy Spirit even though He lives inside them. This is particularly true of denominational Christians because most denominations place 99% of their emphasis on Jesus and exclude the Father and the Holy Spirit from their preaching and teaching. Sure, they believe He exists but because they don’t teach on Him most Christians know very little about Him.

When you're born again by accepting the Blood of Jesus as the sacrifice for your sins according to the Scriptures then you receive the *first* work of Grace – justification. Man is a three-fold being – spirit, soul and body. However, when a person reaches the age of accountability and chooses sin then their spirit “dies” to God. Paul discusses this in Romans 7. When we accept Christ, our spirit is reborn through what the Bible refers to as “the new birth” and our spirits are once again alive to God. The Holy Spirit then indwells our spirits (located in the heart/solar plexus area of the chest) once again and He seeks to guide us throughout our lives.

God can speak to us a number of ways – I've found 23 ways in the Scriptures that He's used to speak to people; however, the number one way He leads Christians is by the *inward witness* of the Holy Spirit.

The number two way He guides us also by the Holy Spirit. It is the *inward voice* of the Holy Spirit – this is the “still, small voice” of the Lord as He speaks to us by His Spirit within us.

Another way the Lord can speak to us is through the gifts of the Spirit. We will discuss these ways later but it's important for you to learn the different ways the Lord has in speaking to His people or you might not recognize Him when He speaks because He does not always use the same method each time.

I always encourage Christians to spend a lot of time meditating in the Scriptures – we are supposed to be both hearers and doers of the Word. Also, the Lord showed me prophetically in a Night Vision back in 1997 that without spending a great deal of time in the Word a Christian only has a 25% chance of fulfilling God's perfect will for their life.

But when you're in the Word you need to be observant. You need to ask yourself questions such as: “What spiritual gift is in operation here?” (if there is one in that passage); “how did God speak to this person?”; “what spiritual principle is at work here?”; “how was this person's prayer answered and when?” and many other similar questions. Once we understand the gifts of the Spirit we see them in use throughout the Bible and we understand better the *diversity* of their operation.

Remember, the Apostle Paul said, “... there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God ...”

That means these Gifts of the Holy Spirit can and do operate different ways through different people. If you don't recognize this fact then you may miss the Spirit's specific gifts for you.

KENOSIS

One of the misunderstandings Christians have is that Jesus, because He was the Son of God and possessed all the attributes of God – all knowing, all seeing, all powerful, etc., that His life on earth was a cakewalk. Sure He had to go to the Cross they reason but He didn't have it as bad as we do because of His divine attributes. Nothing could be further from the truth. This is why most Christians and Christian ministers mistakenly believe that Jesus healed, i.e., He was able to heal people *because* He was the Son of God. However, this idea is clearly refuted in the Scriptures. Jesus never healed anybody until after He was both water and Spirit baptized in the River Jordan by the prophet John.

Notice the following from the Scriptures:

“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”

■ Luke 2:52

According to this verse, Jesus *grew* physically, spiritually, and in understanding, both knowledge and wisdom. If Jesus was God, how could He increase in knowledge and wisdom? The answer to this question is provided in Paul's writings. In Philippians 2: 1-11 the Apostle Paul describes how Jesus laid aside His divine attributes when He came to earth as a male child. The Greek used by Paul in 2:6 is **ἐν μορφῇ Θεοῦ ὑπάρχων** which means “being in the form of God” and it denotes Christ's preincarnate existence or *Being* in a stronger form – that His Being was from the beginning and that He existed as one with God. Simply put, the Greek means that Jesus' deity was something that He never lost; He continued to be what He was before.

Paul identifies the *form* of God with the very *being* of God, hence Christ – being in the form of God – is to be identified with the nature being, and personality of

God. Because Christ is one with God, and consequently a pure being of absolute existence, He can exist without form. This form of God Christ laid aside in His incarnation.

In Philippians 2:7, Paul writes,

“But made himself of no reputation ...”

The literal Greek form (ἐαυτὸν ἐκένωσεν) here indicates that He *emptied Himself* from the Greek verb, κενόω (kenoō), implying that as God, He voluntarily emptied Himself of His divine nature. No one else took His divine nature or made Him lay aside His divine powers – He did it of His own free will.

The general sense is that He divested Himself of the exact mode of existence that was proper to Him as being one with God but He did not divest Himself of His divine *nature*. The change was a change of form – from the form of God to the form of a human servant (**μορφὴν δούλου**). What Christ exemplified by His incarnation was not His divine sovereignty, but rather *service* – to the Father and for mankind.

This is why Jesus said what He did just prior to the Cross in John 17:5,

“And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with the glory which I had with thee before the world was.”

Jesus was asking the Father to restore Him to that position of glory next to the Father (the exact meaning of the Greek) that He had occupied “before the world was.”

Thus we see that although Jesus was fully man and fully God, because He laid aside all His divine attributes when He came to earth, He had to be baptized by the Holy Spirit for the works of power and healing that He accomplished. As the Body of Christ and God’s representatives on the earth, we are to follow the Head in both water and Spirit baptism as outlined in Acts 1-2. Jesus commanded us to and He referred to the Spirit baptism of power as “the promise of the Father” (Acts 1:4).

In 1999 while I was living in Elliston, Montana, the Lord gave me a powerful revelation regarding this Greek word, *kenosis*. Jesus emptied Himself of His divine attributes of power, wisdom, glory, etc., in order to be born of Mary as a human. The Lord showed me that we become more Christ-like, more God-like by a *kenosis* ourselves – it is the antithesis of Jesus’ – we must empty ourselves of self and become more Spirit-minded. As we are able to effectively do this over the years we will be more like Jesus in power, wisdom, etc.

THE BAPTISM OF POWER

A careful reading of Scripture shows that the *Person* of the Holy Spirit and His Power are not the same. This has led to some confusion in the Church in not discerning the difference in Scripture and leading many denominational people to not recognize the Baptism of Power by the Spirit which is a separate and distinct spiritual experience apart from salvation.

In order for every Christian to realize the full potential that God has for him and to stand against the wiles of the devil in spiritual warfare, it is necessary for every Christian to receive the Baptism of Power. A new convert receives the Person of the Holy Spirit at conversion or the new birth; He comes to live in your spirit and brings the life of God (*zoe* in Greek) or eternal life to your human spirit. The Apostle Paul states in his gospel (Ephesians 1:13-14) that the Holy Spirit is our *down payment* (v. 14 “earnest”) of God’s inheritance promises to us. The essence of the Greek is that of the Holy Spirit being given to each believer as an *earnest money* down payment on the vast inheritance we all have coming to us by virtue of being the Body of Christ.

But His Power is received by your asking Jesus – because He is the Baptizer of the Spirit – to give you this gift of Spirit Power Baptism or as most Pentecostal people call it the Baptism in the Holy Ghost.

This *Baptism of Power* is a baptism for service to the King of Kings and Lord of lords and it is part of the “equipping of the saints for the work of ministry” (Ephesians 4:12). It is the power of the Holy Spirit flowing out of us that allows us to work the healings and miracles that Jesus, Peter, Paul and others before

us accomplished for the Kingdom of God. It is extremely important that you understand this concept because it's been one of the most important Bible truths fought against by our enemy the devil. He knows that the battle for planet Earth is still raging and the Church is only a threat to him if we are equipped with "power from Heaven." A careful reading of the Book of Acts reveals that this spiritual experience in the early Church was evidenced by the Christian speaking in *other tongues* or foreign languages.

The main tactic the devil has used to prevent present-day Christians from obtaining this spiritual experience is through *Cessationist Theology* – by saying that these gifts of the Holy Spirit and speaking in tongues ceased to exist after the early Church. However, there is no scriptural proof given to support their case except 1 Corinthians 13:8 which says "...whether there be tongues, they shall cease ..."

But clearly Paul is talking about "when that which is perfect is come" (v.10) and he is not writing about the Pentecostal experience of speaking in tongues but rather *language*. If one were to interpret 13:8 the way they do you would also have to say "knowledge" has "vanished away" and we know that's not true. There is more knowledge now than ever before in the history of man.

No, the key verse of Scripture to understand about this Promise from the Father Jesus spoke about is found in Acts 2:33-39 where the Apostle Peter received *revelation* about what was occurring at Pentecost and he explains the "promise" Jesus was talking about:

"Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which *ye now see and hear* (italics added for emphasis).

"For David is not ascended into the heavens: but he saith himself, The Lord said unto my LORD, Sit thou on my right hand, until I make thy foes thy footstool. Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

"Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?

"Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

So we learn from the Apostle Peter’s *revelation* by the Spirit here in Acts that Christians are to be water baptized “in the name of Jesus for the remission of sins” and that they would “receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” This *promise* is clearly stated as being to all future generations and not just to the early Church and can be both “seen and heard” (v.33).