What Did the Holy Spirit Do?

Our Study Outline – Where are we?

- The Godhead
- Relationships

(omitted) The Conspicuousness of the Holy Spirit in the Scriptures

The Holy Spirit and the First Century Church

- What Jesus said about the Holy Spirit
- What did the Holy Spirit do?

Our Study Outline

Miraculous Abilities

- the gift of the Holy Spirit, the Holy Spirit’s gifts, and spiritual gifts?

Paul’s Discussion on the Holy Spirit

Pentecostalism: Its Roots and Beliefs

The Indwelling of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit and the 21st Century Church
What we've learned so far:

- It is difficult for humans to focus on spiritual things. Our distraction with the physical has long been a barrier to our understanding of spiritual matters.
- The Holy Spirit is an active member of the Godhead.
- The Godhead operates flawlessly within a perfect relationship.
- The Holy Spirit is integrally involved in "beginnings".
- The Holy Spirit provides the action that is required for initiating (and continuing) the will of the Father.
- The Holy Spirit is a new concept for the Jews.

What we've learned so far:

- Although the word for Spirit (pneuma) is neuter (i.e., neither masculine nor feminine), the Holy Spirit is always presented in Scripture in the masculine sense.

What we've learned so far:

- Jesus said:
  - The Holy Spirit was upon Him (anointed); (prophesied by Isaiah).
  - Peter stated to Cornelius, "... how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth..." - Acts 10:38
  - Entrance into the kingdom of heaven is through the Spirit.
  - God is Spirit; proper worship of God must be done in spirit.
  - The heavenly Father will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.
  - The Holy Spirit would testify of Him.
  - The Holy Spirit would tell the apostles what to say.
  - Baptism with the Holy Spirit was coming.
  - Equating the Holy Spirit's actions with evil is an unpardonable sin.
Let's look at these:

1. Holy Spirit Baptism
2. Holy Spirit filled people
3. Holy Spirit Conversions

The Holy Spirit – Baptism

Matt 3.11; Mark 1.8; Luke 3.16; John 1.33; Acts 1.5; Acts 11.16

In all four Gospel accounts, John the Baptist said that One was coming after him who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. This One is clearly identified as Jesus. John’s audience included Pharisees and Sadducees.

- Indication is the Holy Spirit is a Revealer of truth and is involved in judgment of responses to that truth
- Non-miraculous

In Acts 1, Jesus, just prior to His ascension, told the apostles that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit in a few days; He referenced John the Baptist’s words.

- Indication is that of the events on the Day of Pentecost.

The Holy Spirit – Baptism

Join the Baptist’s message (important concept to grasp):

i. Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs when the message of the Gospel is spoken. The Holy Spirit is an “instrument” of truth and judgment. “Every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.”

ii. Jesus is coming. He will baptize all (i.e., the Jews listening to John) in the sense of opening them to the truth (i.e., via Jesus’ preaching, stated in Luke 4:18). This is a non-miraculous baptism.

a. The Holy Spirit is the Revealer of truth – “… as it has now been revealed by the Holy Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets, that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs…” – Ephesians 3:5

b. The Holy Spirit is also like a fire that refines the impurities out of something good and consumes something that is bad. See Malachi 3:2-3 (note: there is some connection here between this thought and the appearance of the tongues of fire on the apostles on the Day of Pentecost.)
The Holy Spirit - Baptism

Jesus' message:

i. The Holy Spirit is an "instrument" of revelation.

ii. The Holy Spirit is a Helper, a Comforter; He (Jesus) will be gone, but the apostles will need not fear what to say.

iii. The miraculous ability to speak languages they hadn't studied is the first sign/indication that what Jesus told them about the Holy Spirit was indeed true.

iv. This baptism of the Holy Spirit was limited to the apostles. Acts 1.5-2.1

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Important takeaways regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- John the Baptist preached that Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (and fire).
- Jesus told the apostles that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (a fulfillment of the promise Jesus had made in John 14).
- John the Baptist's and Jesus' meaning of "the baptism of the Holy Spirit" is different.
- The form of baptism of the Holy Spirit spoken of by John is completely invisible, is upon all who hear the gospel, and is not manifested in any physical way. See John 3.8

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The Holy Spirit - Baptism

Important takeaways regarding the baptism of the Holy Spirit:

- The somewhat visible baptism of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost produced the ability to speak in different languages (tongues). This form of baptism of the Holy Spirit was limited.
- This baptism was only on the apostles. Acts 1.8-2.1, 2.14
- In both of these baptisms, the Holy Spirit is a revealer of truth.
The Holy Spirit – Filled People

Luke 1.15 (John the Baptist)
"For he will be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink. He will also be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother's womb. And he will turn many of the children of Israel to the Lord."

Luke 1.41 (Elizabeth)
"And it happened, when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, that the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit. Then she spake out with a loud voice and said, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!'"

Luke 1.67 - 79 (Zacharias)

The Holy Spirit – Filled People

Acts 2.4 (Apostles)
The apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages.

Acts 4.8 (Peter)
Peter was filled with the Spirit and spoke to the Jewish council regarding the healing of the lame man at the Temple gate.

Acts 4.31 (Peter's and John's companions)
After Peter and John were released by the Jewish rulers following their questioning of the healing of the lame man, the group to which they returned, prayed and were filled with Holy Spirit. They spoke the message boldly.
The Holy Spirit – Filled People

Acts 7:55 (Stephen)
Stephen was filled with the Holy Spirit as he was stoned, seeing Jesus at God’s right hand, and asking God to forgive the Jews who were involved.

Acts 9:17, 20 (Paul)
Ananias was sent to Paul so that he would receive his sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit. After his baptism, Saul (Paul) immediately began to preach in the synagogues.

Acts 11:24 (Barnabas)
Barnabas, filled with the Spirit, exhorted the church at Antioch to persevere.

Acts 13:9 (Paul)
Paul was filled with the Holy Spirit when he spoke to Elymas, the sorcerer.

Acts 13:52 – 14:1 (Paul and Barnabas)
When Paul and Barnabas were expelled from Antioch in Pisidia, they were filled with the Spirit and came to Iconium where they preached at the synagogue.

Ephesians 5:18-19 (Christians)
“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

2 Peter 1:21 (Holy men of God)
“... for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved (brought forward in speech) by the Holy Spirit.”
The Holy Spirit – Filled People

The Takeaway?

The Holy Spirit is associated with speaking.

"Since the Holy Spirit is to work through man and for man, He has chosen to use words."
- H. Leo Boles

The Holy Spirit – Conversions

1. Through the Holy Spirit...
2. Baptized with the Holy Spirit...
3. Filled with the Holy Spirit...
4. The Holy Spirit came upon ...
5. The Holy Spirit was poured out...
6. Received the Holy Spirit...
7. The Holy Spirit fell on ...
8. The Holy Spirit was given...
9. The gift of the Holy Spirit
10. The promise of the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit – phrases we’ll see
The Holy Spirit – Conversion Stories
1. The Day of Pentecost (Acts 1-2)
2. The Samaritans (Acts 8)
3. The Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8)
4. Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9)
5. The cities of Lydda, Sharon, and Joppa (Acts 9)
6. Cornelius and his family (Acts 10)
7. Samaria trials (Acts 11)
8. Lydia of Philippi (Acts 16)
9. The Philippian jailor (Acts 16)
10. Those in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens (Acts 17)
11. Crispus and the Corinthians (Acts 18)
12. Disciples at Ephesus (Acts 18)

Prior to Pentecost – Acts 1
What we see:
- Jesus and the apostles are outside of Jerusalem. He had given commandments to the apostles through the Holy Spirit. Now He tells them to wait in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father (baptism with the Holy Spirit).
- The apostles would receive power after the Holy Spirit “came upon” them.
- Jesus ascends into heaven.
- The apostles return to Jerusalem (and with the 120) select Matthias to replace Judas Iscariot. The Holy Spirit had spoken through David hundreds of years before of what would happen with Judas.

The Day of Pentecost – Acts 2
What we see:
- The apostles were together, in a house, on Pentecost, several days after Jesus’s ascension.
- A sound from heaven like a rushing wind filled the house where the apostles were staying.
- Immediately after this happened, the apostles had something that looked like tongues of fire rest upon each of them. (Think of how the Holy Spirit was hovering over the face of the deep when the earth was created - Gen 1:2.)
- They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues.
What do we see?:

- When this was known in Jerusalem, it drew a crowd.
- People from many nations were there and heard the apostles in their own language. They were amazed!
- Some mocked them and said the apostles were drunk.
- Peter takes this occasion to preach the first gospel sermon.
- 3000 people responded to Peter’s sermon and were baptized.

The Day of Pentecost – Acts 2

What do we see?:

- Those who were baptized, continued on in the apostles’ teaching, met together to eat and pray.
- The apostles did many wonders and signs and everyone was amazed. (recall Mark 16 where Jesus said to the apostles:
  - “And these signs will follow those who have believed: In my name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
- Believers shared what they had with others.

Noteworthy Things:

- The apostles are explicitly stated to have the ability to speak in tongues (languages), clearly by empowerment of the Holy Spirit.
- Jesus is said to be at the right hand of God. He had received the promise of the Holy Spirit from the Father.
- Believers were told to repent and be baptized and then they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- Believers were also told that the promise was to them, to their children, to all who are far off, and to as many as God calls.
- There is no account given of any believer on the Day of Pentecost (other than the apostles) having the ability to speak in tongues or perform any miracles.
What do we see?:

- Philip (the deacon) went to a city in Samaria and preached.
- The people listened to him because of the miracles he did, driving out unclean spirits and healing the lame. This implies that Philip taught them.
- There was great joy in the city because of this.
- Many men and women believed and were baptized.
- The apostles in Jerusalem heard about the conversions in Samaria and sent Peter and John.

What do we see?:

- Peter and John arrived in Samaria and prayed that the Samaritan believers would receive the Holy Spirit. Luke tells us that the Holy Spirit had not fallen on them yet.
- Peter and John laid their hands on the Samaritan believers and they received the Holy Spirit.

Noteworthy Things:

- The Samaritans who believed and were baptized did not receive the Holy Spirit until Peter and John came from Jerusalem and laid hands on them.
- Philip could not lay his hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit. The apostles, however, had laid their hands on Philip (Acts 6:6), giving him the ability to perform miracles. Here, we see the limit of the laying on of hands for the purpose of obtaining the miraculous abilities from the Holy Spirit. Philip had it but could not pass it on.
The Samaritans – Acts 8
Noteworthy Things:
- It is implied that when Peter and John laid their hands on the Samaritan believers, they were able to either speak in tongues or had power to heal. This is why Simon the Sorcerer wanted to buy the ability that Peter and John had.
- The Holy Spirit falling upon the Samaritans was instigated by the apostles’ laying on of hands.
- The power of the Holy Spirit is equated to the “gift of God”.
- “Receiving” the Holy Spirit and the “falling” of the Holy Spirit must be (at least in this passage) the same thing.

Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8
What do we see:
- An angel of the Lord sends Philip to meet the eunuch who is on his way home after worshipping in Jerusalem.
- The Holy Spirit tells Philip to go to the eunuch.
- Philip teaches the eunuch from the passage in Isaiah that he was reading.
- When they came upon some water, the eunuch asked to be baptized.
- After this, the Holy Spirit took Philip away and the eunuch never saw him again. The eunuch rejoiced as he continued on his way home.

Ethiopian Eunuch – Acts 8
Noteworthy Things:
- The Holy Spirit tells Philip to go to the eunuch.
- The eunuch’s statement, “I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God” is the first time we see a verbalization of belief in a conversion.
- There is no mention of the Holy Spirit’s involvement during or after the eunuch’s conversion (i.e., no tongues, no miraculous occurrences). All that Luke tells us is that Philip preached to the eunuch about Jesus.
What do we see?

1. Saul encounters Jesus on the road to Damascus.
2. Saul asks Jesus what he wanted him to do. Jesus tells him to go to Damascus and he would be told.
3. Saul goes to Damascus and is without food and water for 3 days. He is also blind from his encounter with Jesus.
4. A disciple there, Ananias, is told to go the Saul. Ananias is understandably worried about doing this. Jesus tells him that Saul is chosen for a specific work.
5. Ananias tells Saul that Jesus sent him so that Saul would receive his sight and that he should be filled with the Holy Spirit.

Immediately, Saul is able to see and was baptized. Saul remained in Damascus for several days. He preached in the synagogues that Jesus was the Son of God.

Noteworthy Things:

1. Saul has a personal encounter with Jesus.
2. Saul is immediately baptized after his sight is restored and begins to preach Christ in the synagogues.
3. There is no mention of Saul having any miraculous ability immediately after his conversion.
4. We do know that Saul (Paul) had the ability to perform miracles during his ministry.
What do we see?:
- There were Christians in Lydda when Peter arrived.
- Peter heals Aeneas, a man who had been paralyzed for 8 years. [Note: Peter can do this because of his baptism with the Holy Spirit]
- Everyone that lived in Lydda and Sharon saw this miracle and turned to the Lord.

What do we see?:
- At Joppa, Dorcas had died.
- Disciples in Joppa knew that Peter was nearby in Lydda and sent for him.
- Peter raises Dorcas from the dead. [Note: Peter can do this because of his baptism with the Holy Spirit]
- Many in Joppa believed because of this miracle.

Noteworthy Things:
- No explicit mention of the Holy Spirit.
- People believed and turned to the Lord because of the miracles they saw.
What do we see?:

- Cornelius, a devout man, lived in Caesarea.
- Cornelius saw a vision. In this vision, an angel of the Lord told Cornelius to send to Joppa for Peter.
- In Joppa, Peter has a vision regarding unclean animals. While Peter was thinking about the vision, the Holy Spirit told him that 3 men were seeking him.
- Peter goes to Cornelius. Cornelius reveals to Peter how he was instructed to ask him to come.
- While Peter is speaking to Cornelius about Jesus, the Holy Spirit fell on all who heard him and they spoke in tongues (languages).

Cornelius and his family – Acts 10

What do we see?:

- The Jews that traveled to Caesarea with Peter were amazed that the gift of the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Gentiles.
- After the Holy Spirit had fallen upon them, they were baptized.

Noteworthy Things:

- Cornelius is a Gentile.
- Peter is sent to Caesarea to teach Cornelius.
- Anyone, regardless of their nationality, who believes and works righteousness can be saved.
- The Holy Spirit “fell upon” Cornelius and those with him while Peter was speaking. This “falling” was instigated by God.
- The ability to speak in tongues is referred to as “the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
- These Gentiles spoke with tongues before they were baptized.
- No miracles were performed.
What do we see?:

- The Holy Spirit commissioned Paul and Barnabas for a missionary work.
- Paul and Barnabas sailed from Antioch to Cyprus. In the city of Paphos, they encounter Elymas, a Jew and a sorcerer.
- Elymas accompanied Sergius Paulus, who was the deputy of the country. Sergius Paulus wanted to hear the word of God.
- Elymas attempted to prevent Sergius Paulus from hearing Paul and Barnabas.
- Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, rebuked Elymas.
- When Sergius Paulus saw Paul strike Elymas with blindness, he believed.

Noteworthy Things:

- Sergius Paulus is a Gentile and an official of the country.
- Elymas, a Jewish sorcerer, was with Sergius Paulus and tried to prevent him from hearing Paul and Barnabas teach.
- Paul is filled with the Holy Spirit and rebukes Elymas. Elymas is then blinded by the hand of the Lord.
- When Sergius Paulus saw this happen, he believed.
- There is no mention of Sergius Paulus receiving the Holy Spirit or being given miraculous abilities.

What do we see?:

- Paul and his company came to the city of Philippi.
- On the Sabbath, Paul met with women who gathered at the riverside.
- Lydia was there and believed what Paul taught. She and her household were baptized.
Noteworthy Things:

There is no mention of the Holy Spirit or any miraculous works.
Paul simply taught about Jesus.
The Lord opened Lydia’s heart to listen to what Paul said.

Lydia of Thyatira – Acts 16

What do we see?

Paul and Silas are in prison after casting out the spirit who had overtaken an slave girl who was bringing much profit by fortune-telling.

At midnight, an earthquake caused all the doors of the prison to be opened.
The jailor was ready to kill himself because he assumed all the prisoners had escaped.
When Paul called to him and said they were all still there, the jailor asked what he needed to do to be saved.
Paul and Silas taught (spoke the word of the Lord) to the jailor. He and his family were baptized.

The Philippian jailor – Acts 16

Noteworthy Things:

There is no mention of the Holy Spirit or any miraculous works.
Paul and Silas taught (spoke) about Jesus.
The jailor and his family were baptized.
Those in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens – Acts 17

What do we see?:
- In Thessalonica, Paul repeatedly went to the synagogue on the Sabbath and reasoned with the Jews from the Scriptures about Jesus, explaining and showing how Jesus is the Christ.
- Some Jews and many Greeks were persuaded and joined Paul and Silas.
- After an uproar was created by the unbelieving Jews, Paul and Silas are sent to Berea.
- The Bereans received the word and searched the Scriptures to ensure what they were hearing was true. Many Bereans believed.
- After this, Paul went to Athens and preached about the “Unknown God” at the Areopagus. Most didn’t believe, but Dionysius and Damaris, among others, did.

Noteworthy Things:
- There is no mention of the Holy Spirit or any miraculous works.
- Paul and Silas reasoned with Jews and Greeks alike about Jesus.
- There were some who believed.

Those in Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens – Acts 17

What do we see?:
- Paul leaves Athens and comes to Corinth. He stays with Justus, whose house was next door to the synagogue.
- Crispus, who was the director of the synagogue services, believed. His whole house also believed.
- Many Corinthians believed and were baptized.
Crispus and the Corinthians – Acts 18
Noteworthy Things:
- There is no mention of the Holy Spirit or any miraculous works.
- Paul testified (preached) to the Jews that Jesus is the Christ.
- While baptism is not specifically mentioned here for Crispus and his household, it must be assumed that they were since it is mentioned that the Corinthian believers were baptized. Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 1.14 that he had baptized Crispus.

Disciples at Ephesus – Acts 19
What do we see:
- Paul leaves Corinth and comes to Ephesus.
- He asks the disciples (about 12 of them) there if they had received the Holy Spirit.
- They answered that they didn’t even know if there was a Holy Spirit.
- It is determined that they had only been baptized with John’s baptism.
- When Paul explained that John the Baptist taught that those who believed should look for the Christ, these disciples were baptized in the name of Jesus.
- Paul laid his hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit and spoke in tongues and prophesied. (Instigated by an apostle)

Disciples at Ephesus – Acts 19
Noteworthy Things:
- Proper baptism is that done in the name of Jesus. These disciples, who had been baptized in John’s baptism, were baptized again.
- The Ephesian disciples did not know about the Holy Spirit.
- They did not receive the Holy Spirit until Paul laid his hands on them, after they were baptized.
- They spoke in tongues and prophesied.
Summary

The form of baptism of the Holy Spirit spoken of by John is completely invisible, is upon all who hear the gospel, and is not manifested in any physical way.

Baptism of the Holy Spirit spoken of by Jesus (miraculous speaking in tongues) was only given to the apostles.

The Holy Spirit is very visible in some of the conversions we have examined. In others, He is hardly seen at all. [Note: this does not mean that He was not involved!]

The word (gospel) is always spoken (i.e., preached or taught). No believer is miraculously converted without being taught.

All believers are described as either “turning to the Lord” or being baptized. [Note: It is safe to conclude that these two expressions imply the same action; i.e., all believers were baptized.]
Summary

There are two instances where the Holy Spirit "fell upon" people at God's instigation:
- the apostles on Pentecost
- Cornelius

There are two instances where the Holy Spirit "fell upon" people at an apostle's instigation:
- the Samaritans (by Peter)
- the Ephesian disciples (by Paul)

In all these instances, those upon whom the Holy Spirit fell, spoke.

Summary

There are noticeable differences in these conversions with respect to the Holy Spirit's involvement in hearers'believers' speaking in tongues.

The Pentecost and Cornelius conversions both mention the "gift of the Holy Spirit" but only the Cornelius account tells us that the hearers of the gospel spoke in tongues.
- Peter told the Pentecost audience that they would receive the gift of the Holy Spirit after baptism.
- Cornelius and his family receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (speaking in tongues) before baptism.

Summary

Believers are shown to be given the ability to speak in tongues in only 3 of the 12 conversion stories we've examined. (Samaritans, Cornelius, Ephesian disciples). No others believers are shown to be able to speak in tongues.

There is a message in the glaring point that not all conversions involved the Holy Spirit acting upon the believer in a miraculous way.
These differences indicate that it is reasonable to conclude that the miraculous abilities given by the Holy Spirit are NOT required for salvation nor are they a sign that someone has been saved.

Recall John 3.8 – “The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear the sound of it, but cannot tell where it comes from and where it goes. So is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

The purpose for the Holy Spirit coming in a miraculous measure is to emphatically demonstrate that what was happening is from God and is for all men!

Conclusion

- Those filled with the Holy Spirit speak.
- The Holy Spirit uses speech/words to accomplish His work. This is borne out in the conversion stories in Acts. All believers are taught. (He still works this way today)
- The baptism of the Holy Spirit enabled miraculous speaking in tongues, was limited in its application, and served to “show” that all are accepted by God. No one today is baptized with this measure of the Holy Spirit.
- The gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2.38 (Pentecost) is different than the gift of the Holy Spirit in Acts 10.45 (Cornelius). We will study this more.