

Foundations of Faith

Lesson Five: The Holy Spirit

Who is the Holy Spirit?

You are not alone. Jesus promised us before He left that He would always be with us (Matthew 28:20). So if Jesus has ascended into heaven and has not returned yet, how can God always be with us? The Holy Spirit is God (2Corinthians 3:17). Jesus is God in the form of a man. He can only be in one place at a time. Right now He is in heaven. But God is always with us by His Spirit. When we feel God's presence or hear God's voice – that is the Holy Spirit!

Have you ever experienced the presence of God? When? _____

Personal testimony on Experiencing the Presence of God.

Sealing of the Holy Spirit

Read Ephesians 1:13-14. What happened when you first believed the gospel? _____

When you received Jesus into your life, the Holy Spirit came to live in you. The Holy Spirit dwells in and with every believer. The Holy Spirit is like a seal on our lives securing us for God and our inheritance in heaven. The Holy Spirit is always with us working in our lives.

What does the Holy Spirit do?

Read these verses and describe the activity of the Holy Spirit.

John 14:26 _____

John 16:8, 12-15 _____

Romans 5:5 _____

Romans 8:26-27 _____

Fruit of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit works in our lives to make us like Jesus. Christ-like characteristics are described in the Bible as good fruit.

Review the fruit of the Spirit in the verse below. Circle 2 or 3 that you would like to see more of in your life this week.

“The fruit of the spirit is: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.” (Galatians 5:23)

Read John 14:1-8. How can we bear fruit? _____

Story on Abiding in God

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Coming upon in Power

Read Acts 1:8. What does God say the Holy Spirit will do for us? Why? _____

We are “sealed within” by the Holy Spirit when we are saved, but the Holy Spirit also wants to “come upon” us in power. This is called the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11, Acts 19:1-7) or “being continually filled” with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18). We need the baptism of the Holy Spirit so that we can do the works that Jesus did, even greater ones (Acts 1:4-8; John 14:12; Hebrews 2:4). The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is a personal encounter with God that draws us close to Him and empowers us to glorify Him on earth. (Read Luke 3:20-22; 4:1, 14, 18-19 to see the baptism of the Holy Spirit and its effects in Jesus’ life.)

2. Gifts of the Spirit

The Holy Spirit also gives us gifts to serve the church and extend the kingdom of God. These gifts are abilities that are supernaturally empowered by God. Every believer in Jesus has at least one primary spiritual gift to contribute to the body of Christ.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-11; Romans 12:3-8; Ephesians 4:11-12. What did you learn about spiritual gifts? _____

3. Baptism of the Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurs in a variety of ways throughout the New Testament. There is no one method for being baptized with the Holy Spirit. Neither is there only one demonstration of the Spirit. The following are common, Biblical characteristics of those who experienced the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Receiving the Baptism of the spirit includes...

- **A desire for righteousness:** *“those that hunger and thirst for righteousness...will be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)*
- **A desire for spiritual gifts:** *“eagerly desire spiritual gifts” (1 Corinthians 14:1)*
- **Confessing all known sins:** *“many of those who believed...openly confessed their evil deeds.” (Acts 19:18)*
- **Coming to Jesus and believing:** *“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me...streams of living water [Holy Spirit] will flow from within.” (John 7:37-38)*
- **Asking the Father in Prayer:** *“your Father in heaven gives the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!” (Luke 11:13)*
- **Hearing and receiving the Father’s love:** *“You are my son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased.” (Luke 3:22)*
- **Expecting manifestations like prophecy or tongues or joy or boldness:** *“The Holy Spirit came on them and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.” (Acts 19:6; 4:31-35; 13:52)*

Personal testimony on being Baptized in the Holy Spirit

Should the baptism of the Holy Spirit be a one-time experience? Yes No I’m not sure (Ephesians 5:18; Acts 2:4, 4:31)

Do you want to pray to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit today? Yes No I’m not sure

YOUR RESPONSE THIS WEEK:

- Pray and ask God to fill you with the Holy Spirit.
- Have the one taking you through this lesson lay hands on you and pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17; 2 Timothy 1:6).
- Agree with the one taking you through this lesson on a realistic but challenging goal to share the gospel this week.
- Share this lesson with someone who is ready to be trained.