

THE HOLY SPIRIT

“The Spirit searches all things”

Correspondence Course

Lesson 1

INTRODUCTION

This is a short correspondence course on the subject of the Holy Spirit. It is written because people have many questions about the subject. People believe many things that are wrong about the Holy Spirit. This course is written to make things clear. But because it is a short course, you may have questions which are not answered. If you do, write the questions at the end of the lessons. We will try to answer your questions by the Bible.

All quotations are from the New American Standard Bible, unless stated otherwise.

1. Is this correspondence course short or long? _____
2. If you have questions which are not answered in the lesson, what must you do? _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A PERSON

Some people teach that the Holy Spirit is a “power of God” something like electricity. But the Bible shows He is a **person**.

“Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God.” (Ephesians 4:30)

3. Can electricity grieve (to be sorry, sad)? _____

*“The Spirit **searches** all things, even the depths of God....Even so the thoughts of God no one **knows** except the Spirit of God.”* (1 Cor.2:10-11)

*“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will **teach** you all things, and **bring to your remembrance** all that I said to you.”* (John 14:26).

4. Is the Holy Spirit a person? _____

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS GOD

The same people who teach that the Holy Spirit is only an influence like electricity say that the Holy Spirit is NOT God. But the Bible clearly teaches that He IS GOD.

“Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit....You have not lied to men, but to God.” (Acts 5:3,4).

5. When Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit he lied to _____.

Jesus said to the apostles, *“I will ask the Father, and He will give you **another** Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth.”* (John 14:16-17). The Holy Spirit is **another** person **like Jesus**. Jesus is God (John 20:28). The Holy Spirit is God.

6. The Holy Spirit is _____ Helper like _____.

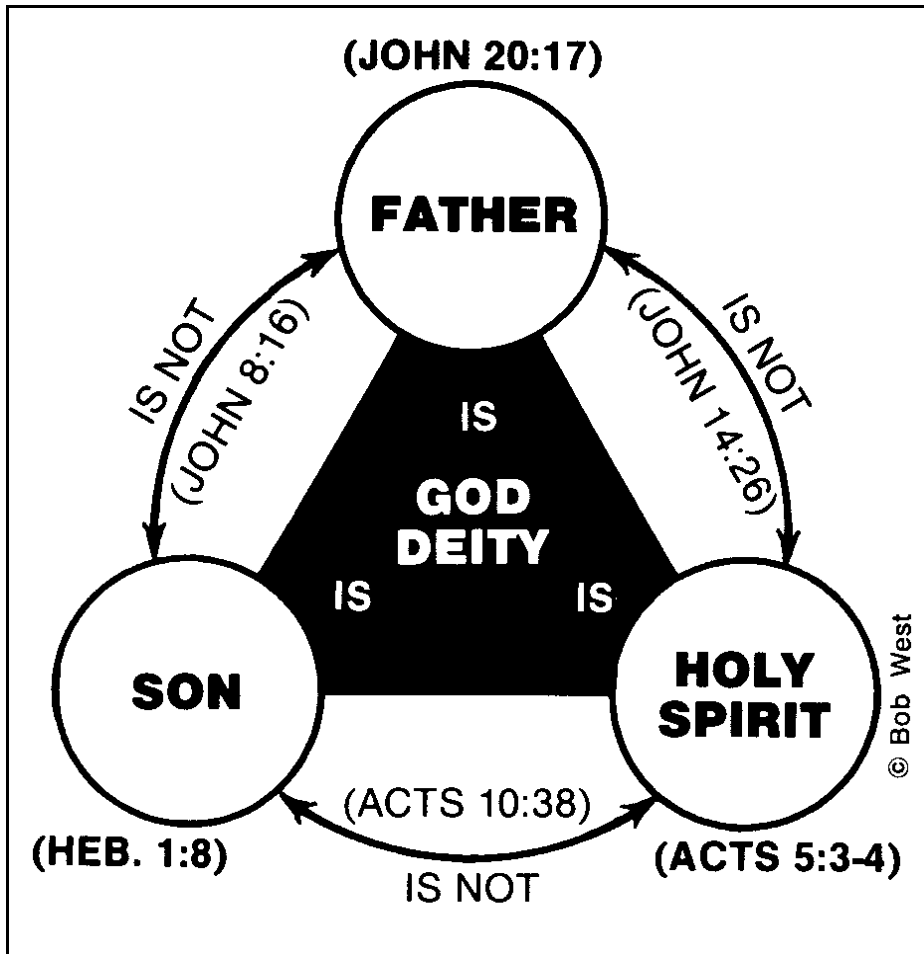
THE HOLY SPIRIT IS NOT A MAN

When we say that the Holy Spirit is a **person**, we do NOT mean that he is a man. God the Father is a person, but He is a Spirit. John 4:24 says, *“God is spirit.”* The Holy Spirit does not have to have a body like a man in order to be a person.

7. God is _____.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth



was formless and void (empty), and darkness was over the surface of the deep; and **the spirit of God** was moving over the surface of the waters.” (Genesis 1:1-2). The Holy Spirit therefore helped in the creation of our world!

8. In the beginning where was the Spirit of God moving?

God’s Spirit is mentioned many times in the Old Testament. He came upon certain people (Judges 3:10; 6:33-35; 11:29; 14:6). The men who wrote the Old Testament were guided by the Holy Spirit. *“But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one’s own interpretation, for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.”* (2 Peter 1:20-21). God’s Spirit has been working ever since the beginning.

9. The writers of the Old Testament books spoke from God because they were _____ by the _____.

JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT

“And it came about in those days that Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee, and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And immediately coming up out of the water, He saw the heavens opening, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon Him; and a voice came out of the heavens: ‘Thou art My beloved Son, in Thee I am well-pleased.’” (Mark 1:9-11).

When the Holy Spirit came to Jesus, He brought His power to Jesus. Jesus said, *“For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure.”* (John 3:34). Jesus received the Spirit “without measure.” **All** the power of the Holy Spirit was at the command of Jesus.

10. After Jesus was baptized the Holy Spirit descended upon Him in the form of a _____.

11. Jesus received the Holy Spirit without _____.

THE PROMISE OF THE HELPER

It was the night when Judas was going to betray Jesus. After Jesus ate the Passover supper with His apostles He said to them: *“And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever; that is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it does not behold Him or know him, but you know Him because He abides with you, and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will*

come to you.” (John 14:16-18). (The King James Version uses the word “Comforter” instead of “Helper.”) These verses tell us that after Jesus went back to heaven He was going to send the Holy Spirit to His apostles. He calls the Holy Spirit the “Helper” and “the Spirit of truth.” He was their “Helper” because He would give them everything they needed to do what Jesus wanted them to do. He is the “Spirit of truth” because He brought the truth to the apostles.

Jesus told them what the Holy Spirit would do for them. He said, “*But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.*” (John 14:26). “*But when He, the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come. He shall glorify Me; for He shall take of Mine, and shall disclose it to you.*” (John 16:13-14).

12. In John 14:16 the Holy Spirit is called “another _____.”
13. To whom was Jesus speaking when He promised the Holy Spirit to “teach you all things”? _____
14. Whom was the Holy Spirit going to glorify? _____

THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John the Baptist said: “*As for me, I baptize you in water for repentance, but He who is coming after me (Jesus) is mightier than I, and I am not even fit to remove His sandals; He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*” (Matthew 3:11).

15. Who was going to baptize with the Holy Spirit? _____
(Note: The baptism of fire is described in the next verse: “*And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*” (Matthew 3:12) the baptism of fire is punishment in Hell!)
16. What will Jesus burn the wicked with? _____

BAPTISM ON THE APOSTLES

After Jesus was raised from the dead He was on the earth for 400 days. At the end of that time, Acts 1:4-5 says: “*And gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for what the Father had promised, ‘Which,’ he said, ‘you heard of from me; for John baptized with water but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.*”

17. Jesus commanded the _____ to stay in _____ until they received what the Father had _____

This wonderful baptism is described in Acts 2:1-4. “*And when the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent, rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*”



18. What **sound** came with the baptism of the Holy Spirit? _____
19. What did they **see** when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit? _____
20. What did they **do** when they were baptized with the Holy Spirit? _____

WHY WERE THE APOSTLES BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT?

- A) We already read in John 16:13 that the Holy Spirit was going to guide the apostles into “all the truth.” From the time of their baptism they were inspired by the Holy spirit to speak everything Jesus wanted to be taught.

- B) In addition, Jesus had promised that “signs” would follow those who believed (Mark 16:17-20). The baptism of the Holy Spirit gave the apostles power to perform all kinds of signs and miracles. These signs proved that the apostles were preaching the word of God.
- C) Other Christians needed some of these “gifts of the Holy Spirit.” The baptism of the Holy Spirit gave the apostles the power to lay their hands on Christians and give them these gifts. (See Acts 8:14-18; Acts 19:6).
20. The three purposes of the baptism of the Holy Spirit on the apostles are:
- a. _____
- b. _____
- c. _____

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ON THE GENTILES



For several years after the Holy Spirit came on the apostles (Acts 2) the gospel was preached only to Jews. Then the time came in God’s plan for the Gentiles to be children of God also. God chose Cornelius to be the first Gentile to be saved. You can read the story in Acts 10. Cornelius was an officer in the roman army. He was a very good man. He worshiped God with all his house. But he was not yet saved.

21. Who was the first Gentile to be saved by the gospel?

22. What nation was he from? _____
23. Was he a good man? _____

Then the angel of the Lord told him to send for Peter **who “shall speak words to you by which you will be saved”** (Acts 11:14). God then sent a vision to Peter (Acts 10:9-16 to show Peter that it was right to preach to Gentiles.

24. What was Cornelius saved by? (See Acts 11:14 above)
- _____

Peter went to Cornelius and preached the gospel to him. **“While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. And all the circumcised believers who had come with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out upon the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God”** (Acts 10:44-46).

25. Why were the Jews who were with Peter amazed?
- _____

Later Peter told the church at Jerusalem about this. He said, **“And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how He used to say, ‘John baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit’”** (Acts 11:15-16).

26. The Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius just as He did upon the apostles at the _____.

When the Holy Spirit fell upon the apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4), they spoke with tongues. The same thing happened when the Holy Spirit fell on Cornelius and his friends. The apostles did not lay hands on Cornelius. The Holy Spirit came direct from God. Peter remembered the promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. So Cornelius and his friends, who were the first Gentiles to receive the gospel, were baptized with the Holy Spirit.

27. What did Cornelius do when he was baptized with the Holy Spirit

WHY WERE THEY BAPTIZED?

There are **two reasons** why Cornelius received the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The first is that God prophesied that the Holy Spirit would be poured out upon “all mankind” (Joel 2:28; Acts 2:17). Mankind was divided into two groups – Jews and Gentiles (non-Jews). When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon the apostles on Pentecost, He was poured out upon Jews. When the Holy Spirit was poured out upon Cornelius and his friends, he was poured out upon the Gentiles. The Holy Spirit was therefore poured out upon “all mankind.”

28. God prophesied that He would pour out His Spirit upon _____

29. Mankind was divided into two groups, _____ and _____.

30. Which group was Cornelius in? _____

The second reason God baptized Cornelius with the Holy Spirit was to prove that the Gentiles can receive the gospel. After the baptism came, Peter said, **“Surely no one can refuse the water for these to be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we did, can he? And he ordered them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ”** (Acts 10:47-48). Later Peter again used this baptism to prove that the Gentiles can receive the gospel without being circumcised. He said to the church at Jerusalem, **“If God therefore gave to them the same gift as He gave to us also after believing in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could stand in God’s way?”** (Acts 11:17). Years later some in the church insisted that Gentiles must be circumcised to be saved. Again Peter told about Cornelius. He said, **“And God, who knows the heart, bore witness to them, giving them the Holy Spirit, just as He also did to us; and He made no distinction between us and them, cleansing their hearts by faith”** (Acts 15:8-9).

NOTE: The baptism of the Holy Spirit did NOT save Cornelius. He was saved in the same way as all others. He had to believe and be baptized in water. Read Acts 11:14; Acts 10:47-48; and Acts 15:8-9.

All people who are not Jews can rejoice that the Gentiles, Cornelius and his household, were baptized with the Holy Spirit. This baptism showed clearly that Gentiles can be saved by the same gospel which saves Jews.

31. When Cornelius was baptized with the Holy Spirit, what did that prove? _____

BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS NOT FOR ALL CHRISTIANS

When Peter told the Jerusalem church about Cornelius he said, **“The Holy Spirit fell upon them, just as He did upon us at the beginning”** (Acts 11:15). The Holy Spirit did not fall upon all Christians. He fell upon the apostles **“at the beginning.”** We read about that in Acts 2. The Holy Spirit fell on them at the beginning of the church. We do not read about the baptism of the Holy Spirit on anyone else until it was given to Cornelius.

32. The Holy Spirit fell on the _____ at the beginning of the church (Acts 2:1-4).

We have already found that the baptism of the Holy Spirit came on the apostles for three reasons. In this lesson we found that He came upon Cornelius for two reasons. The Holy Spirit did all of these things. The baptism was not given to others.

33. The two reasons the baptism of the Holy Spirit came upon Cornelius are:

a. _____

b. _____

NO HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM TODAY

Please think carefully with me now. The baptism of the Holy Spirit was promised, and the promise was fulfilled. Later Paul wrote, "**There is one baptism**" (Ephesians 4:5).

Today, the baptism of the Holy Spirit is not given. It finished its work. Today we have "**one baptism**", not two.

34. How many baptisms does God have today? _____

All sinners must be baptized in water in order to be saved. (Read Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 1 Peter 3:21). That is the "**one baptism**" which God has today.

35. What is the "one baptism"? _____

If we also must be baptized with the Holy Spirit, we must have two baptisms. The apostles received two baptisms, and Cornelius and his friends received two baptisms. But NOW there is ONE BAPTISM. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is no longer promised. There is now only baptism in water.

36. Those who teach that Christians must be baptized with the Holy Spirit teach _____ baptisms.

The baptism of the Holy Spirit was not given to all Christians in New Testament times. It was given to the apostles and to Cornelius and his friends. It was a special gift for special purposes, It was not given to save people. Water baptism is for salvation.

37. What baptism saves? (1 Peter 3:21) _____

Since the baptism of the Holy Spirit came and did what God wanted it to do, God does not give the baptism any more. When we study the purpose of spiritual gifts and the fact that these gifts are not given today, we will also see why we do not need the baptism of the Holy Spirit today.

38. Did the baptism of the Holy Spirit do what God wanted it to do?

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

In both cases of the baptism of the Holy Spirit the people spoke in tongues. Today, people claim to speak in tongues. But what they speak is something which no one can understand as a language. When the apostles spoke in tongues, "**the multitude came together, and were bewildered** (puzzled) **because they were each one hearing them speak in his own language**" (Acts 2:6). The gift of tongues was the gift to speak in languages which the speaker had not learned.

39. When the apostles spoke in tongues, the people heard in their own _____.

This is why tongues were "**for a sign, not to those who believe, but to unbelievers**" (1 Corinthians 14:22). When unbelievers heard people speaking their own language, they were amazed and believed what the preachers were preaching.

40. For whom were tongues a sign? _____

THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The apostles were not the only Christians who had gifts of the Holy Spirit. Many, many Christians were given these gifts.

These gifts were: "**The word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, faith, gifts of healing, effecting of miracles, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, various kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues**" (1 Corinthians 12:8-10).



The way other Christians received the gifts was by the laying on of the apostles' hands. You can read about this in Acts 8:14-24 and Acts 19:1-7. Please study these verses while you are waiting for Lesson 3. In lesson 3 we will find that the gifts of the Holy Spirit were for the time when God was giving the New Testament. We will find that they are not given today.

THE HOLY SPIRIT DOES NOT GIVE MIRACULOUS GIFTS TODAY

“Love never fails; but if there are gifts of prophecy, they will be done away; if there are tongues, they will cease; if there is knowledge, it will be done away” (1 Corinthians 13:8).

In this verse Paul plainly says that the miraculous gifts, which were given to Christians at the time he wrote, would some day no longer be given. He used three of these gifts to stand for them all – prophecy, speaking in tongues, and miraculous knowledge. (The list of all the gifts is found in 1 Corinthians 12:8-10).

41. What three things did Paul say will stop? A) _____ B) _____ C) _____

In this lesson I will give four arguments to show that the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit HAVE CEASED and that today God does NOT give those gifts to Christians.

ARGUMENT NUMBER 1:

MIRACULOUS GIFTS DID THE JOB THEY WERE GIVEN TO DO. WHEN THAT JOB WAS DONE, NO MORE GIFTS WERE GIVEN.

My study of the New Testament tells me that there were only TWO REASONS why God gave the gifts of the Holy Spirit. Those reasons were:

- a. **To reveal the word of God.** Two verses which we studied in lesson 1 tell us this. The verses are John 14:26 and John 16:13. Of course there are many other verses which show that the Holy

Spirit came to inspire the apostles and prophets so they could reveal that word to all men. The New Testament is the result. They wrote what the Holy Spirit revealed to them.

- b. **To give proof (signs) that the word the inspired men preached was truly from God.**

In Mark 16:17 Jesus said, *“These **signs** shall accompany those who have believed.”* Then Mark 16:20 says, *“And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them, and **confirmed the word by the signs that followed.**”*

Signs were necessary because the New Testament was not yet written. People who heard the inspired men preach the gospel needed signs. The signs proved that the men were preaching the truth. The signs **confirmed** the word.

42. What were the purposes of spiritual gifts? A) _____
B) _____

43. Why were signs necessary? _____

When the gospel was completely revealed to the apostles and prophets, and when that gospel was completely proven (confirmed) by the signs, there was no longer any need for the miraculous gifts. Their entire job was done!

The Bible says that the word of God **was** completely revealed. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4; Jude 3; Ephesians 3:1-4. In Jude 3 there is the phrase, *“contend earnestly for **the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints.**”* “The Faith” is the truth we must believe. It is the gospel. Jude says that it has been revealed and will not be revealed again. The Holy Spirit revealed the entire word of God to the apostles and prophets. So the first purpose of miraculous gifts has been accomplished. We do not need any more word of God. And God is NOT going to give any more.

44. Is the Bible complete? _____

The Bible also tells us that the word of God **was** (past tense) confirmed by the signs and miracles. Read Hebrews 2:3-4 and John 20:30-31. In John 20:30-31 we see that we do not need to **see** the miracles of Jesus in order to believe. If we **read** what John wrote about those miracles we will believe. So, there is no reason for God to work miracles today. The miracles He performed through Jesus, the apostles and other New Testament Christians completely proved that the word they preached and wrote in the New Testament is the word of God. We do not need miracles today to produce faith. *“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”* (Romans 10:17).

45. Why did John write the miracles of Jesus? (John 20:30-31)

46. How does faith come? (Romans 10:17)

Since the two purposes of spiritual gifts have been accomplished, there is no reason for God to give gifts today. That is why He does not give miraculous gifts today.

ARGUMENT NUMBER 2: 1 CORINTHIANS 13:8-13

Read the verses with me. My explanations are in brackets ().

Verse 8 – **“Love never fails;** (This is one reason why love is more important than the gifts. The gifts stopped. Love will never stop.) **but if there are gifts of prophecy,** (Prophecy means ‘inspired teaching.’ the gift of prophecy brought the word of God to the one who was speaking.) **they will be done away;** (They will not just ‘fade away.’ They will be ‘done away.’ When prophecy was complete, the gift would stop.) **If there are tongues,** (Speaking in foreign languages by the power of the Holy Spirit. Read Acts 2:4-8 and 1 Corinthians 14:10.) **they will cease; if there is knowledge,** (Miraculous knowledge – 1 Corinthians 12:8) **it will be done away.**

47. What was prophecy? _____

48. What was knowledge? _____

49. What was tongues? _____

Verse 9 – **“For we know in part** (The knowledge of God’s word was not complete.) **and we prophesy in part;** (When Paul was writing, prophecy was bringing pieces of the word of God, but the entire word of God had not yet come.)

Verse 10 – **“but when the perfect comes,** (The ‘perfect’ is the completed word of God. The Greek word means ‘finished, complete, perfect.’ The parts were brought by prophecy and knowledge. When all the parts were given by God, the ‘perfect’ was there.) **the partial will be done away.** (When the word of God was complete, God would give no more parts of it by knowledge or prophecy. This is why God does not give those gifts today. Under Argument 1 we found that the Bible is complete, therefore ‘the perfect’ has come.)

50. What does the Greek word for “perfect” mean? _____

51. What was “the partial”? (See verse 9) _____

Verse 11 – **When I was a child, I used to speak as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.** (Miraculous gifts were given by God because the church was a child. When the perfect word of God came, the church would no longer be a child and the gifts would no longer be needed.)



Verse 12 – **“For now** (at the time Paul was writing) **we see in a mirror dimly,** (The mirror is the word of God according to James 1:23-25). Since the word of God was not completely revealed when Paul wrote 1 Corinthians, the mirror only showed dimly.) **but then face to face;** (When the perfect will of God was completely revealed, Paul and others could see clearly in the mirror.) **now I know in part** (Paul knew only part of the will of God.) **but then I shall know fully just as I also have been fully known.**

52. What is the perfect mirror in James 1:23-25? _____

Verse 13 – **“But now abide faith, hope, love, these three;** (These are the things which shall not be done away. These are the important things and they are given to us through the word of God. **but the greatest of these is love.”**

53. What three things abide (continue) after the gifts stop?

54. How are these things produced? _____

Under Argument 1 we saw that the complete word of God has been given. That word of God is “The Perfect” of 1 Corinthians 13. This is why the gifts have stopped.

ARGUMENT NUMBER 3:

AFTER THE APOSTLES (AND CORNELIUS) WERE BAPTIZED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT, CHRISTIANS RECEIVED MIRACULOUS GIFTS ONLY BY THE LAYING ON OF THE APOSTLES’ HANDS. WHEN THE APOSTLES DIED, NO MORE GIFTS WERE GIVEN.

In Acts 8:14-18 and Acts 19:6 we see that the Christians who were not apostles received gifts of the Holy Spirit when the apostles laid their hands on them. This is the ONLY way the New Testament shows they received the gifts.

55. What did Simon “see”? (Read Acts 8:18) _____

56. How did the disciples in Ephesus receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit? (Acts 19:6) _____

The apostles were for the foundation of the church (Ephesians 2:20). They were witnesses of Christ (Acts 1:21-22). When they died, there were no other apostles. And there was no way that Christians could continue receiving the gifts.

57. Who made up the “foundation” in Ephesians 2:20? _____

But the entire New Testament was written and confirmed before the last apostle died. So there was no longer a need for the gifts.

The way that God gave the gifts to Christians (by the laying on of the apostles’ hands) made sure that the gifts would stop when the New Testament was completed.

Since there are no living apostles today, there is no way for Christians to receive gifts of the Holy Spirit.

58. Are there living apostles today? _____

ARGUMENT NUMBER 4:

GOD’S MIRACLES ALWAYS SHOWED FALSE MIRACLES TO BE FALSE. IF GOD IS WORKING MIRACLES TODAY, HIS MIRACLES WILL BE SO MUCH GREATER THAN ALL OTHERS, WE WILL SEE WHICH RELIGION IS WORKING TRUE MIRACLES. BUT MANY RELIGIONS CLAIM TO WORK MIRACLES. NO RELIGION HAS BETTER EVIDENCE FOR MIRACLES THAN ANY OTHER. THEREFORE NONE IS WORKING GOD’S MIRACLES.

When Moses stood before Pharaoh (Exodus 5-14), Pharaoh’s magicians imitated the miracles Moses performed. But God continued working great miracles until the magicians stopped trying to do anything.

Read about Elijah and the prophets of Baal. When fire came down from heaven the people shouted, “Jehovah, He is God!” (I Kings 17 and 18). When a false prophet resisted the truth, Paul struck him blind (Acts 13:6-12). Philip’s miracles caused the people of Samaria to turn away from Simon the sorcerer who was claiming to do miracles (Acts 8:4-13).

This is not what we see today. All who claim miracles have similar evidence. This is positive proof that NONE of them are working the miracles of God.

59. Do many religions claim to work miracles? _____
60. Do these religions all teach the same thing? _____
61. Does God work miracles through people who teach false things?

62. In 2 Thessalonians 2:9 Paul talks about the lawless one who will come with power and signs and _____

God's word teaches that when the Bible was completely delivered to Christians, that at that time the miraculous gifts would stop. Their purpose was accomplished.

Many men claim to perform miracles today. But they do not do the miracles which Jesus and the apostles did. When their miracles are examined, there is no true evidence for them.

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today, yes and forever” (Hebrews 13:8). If Jesus is doing miracles today, He will do the same powerful miracles which He performed in person and through the apostles. He is the same in power as He was. He has not become weak.

The reason Jesus is NOT performing those miracles is because HIS WORD says He will not. His word cannot be broken. He is the same always. He does not make a promise and then break it. He has said that the miracles would stop. They have.

CONVICTING THE WORLD

Jesus said to His apostles, ***“And He, (the Holy Spirit) when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin, and righteousness, and judgment”*** (John 16:8).

The word “convict” means “to demonstrate or prove,” and “to bring conviction home to a person.” When the Holy Spirit came to the apostles He caused people to be persuaded concerning sin, righteousness and judgment.



But as we study the New Testament we find that the Holy Spirit did this convicting **by His word**. The Holy Spirit gave words to Peter on Pentecost. When he preached them the hearers ***“were pierced to the heart”*** (Acts 2:37). The Holy Spirit did NOT come to the sinners directly and change their hearts. Their hearts were changed by the **word**.

Romans 10:17 says, ***“So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ.”*** “Faith” means “belief.” It is “conviction” (See Hebrews 11:1). Conviction does not come directly from the Holy Spirit, but it comes from His **word**.

63. What three things does the Holy Spirit convict the world concerning?
a) _____ b) _____ c) _____
64. When Peter received the Holy Spirit, were the sinners convicted directly by the Holy Spirit or through the **word** preached by Peter?

65. How does a person get faith? _____

BORN OF THE SPIRIT

Jesus said to Nicodemus, ***“Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”*** (John 3:5).

This means that one **cannot** be saved without the new birth – the birth of water and the Spirit.

66. We must be born of what two things?
a) _____
b) _____

Many people teach that the new birth is something the Holy Spirit gives us direct when we pray. There are two things wrong with that idea:

- a. The Bible does not teach it, and
- b. It leaves the water out.

67. What is left out when people teach that one is born again by prayer?

It is clear that the water by which we are saved is baptism. 1 Peter 3:20-21 say, “. . . **in which** (the ark) **a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through the water. And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you – not the removal of dirt from the flesh, but an appeal to God for a good conscience – through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.**”

These verses show that we are saved in water baptism when we are baptized as an appeal for a good conscience. This means that when a person is trusting in Christ to save him (to give him a good conscience) he is saved in baptism. This is the “water” of John 3:5 where Jesus said, **“Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”**

68. According to 1 Peter 3:21, what saves you? _____

The words “appeal to God for a good conscience” makes us understand that it is not the water alone which saves. Baptism is for the one with faith who is being baptized to obey Jesus Christ. It is not for the baby who cannot understand, for then it is not an appeal for anything.

69. Can a baby appeal to God for a good conscience? _____

What makes a person want to be baptized to be saved? **It is the word of the Holy Spirit. “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ”** (Romans 10:17). The word which the Holy Spirit has

given (the New Testament) causes one to believe and be baptized.

70. How does the Holy Spirit produce faith? _____

Peter wrote **“For you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, that is, through the living and abiding word of God”** (1 Peter 1:23). The **seed** which causes the new birth is the **word of God**.

71. By what seed are we born again? _____

So the birth of the water and the Spirit is baptism which is caused by belief of the word which was given by the Holy Spirit.

Here is how Paul says it in Ephesians 5:25-26: **“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her; that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word.”** The “washing of water with the word” means the same thing as the birth of “water and the Spirit.”

72. By what two things did Christ cleanse the church? a) _____
_____ b) _____

Do you want to be born again? Then you must listen to the word of the Holy Spirit and be baptized in water. (Read Mark 16:16.) Then you are a new creature, raised from the grave of water to walk in newness of life (Romans 6:4).

73. “He who has _____ and has been _____ shall be saved” (Mark 16:16).

74. “Therefore we have been buried with Him through _____ into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in _____ of life” (Romans 6:4).

HOW THE HOLY SPIRIT CAUSES THE CHRISTIAN TO GROW

The gifts of the Holy Spirit were given during the time the New Testament was being written. We studied this in lesson 3. The people who received these gifts were able to prophesy, speak in tongues, etc.

However, those who possessed the gifts were not always “spiritual.”

When Paul wrote to the brethren at Corinth, brethren who possessed gifts, he said, **“And I, Brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual men, but as to men of flesh, as to babes in Christ. I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it. Indeed, even now you are not yet able, for you are still fleshly. For since these is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly, and are you not walking like mere men?”** (1 Corinthians 3:1-3).

75. The brethren at Corinth were not spiritual. They were _____.

Possession of spiritual gifts did not protect them from jealousy and strife. They had the gifts, yet they were **fleshly**. When you study chapters 12-14 of 1 Corinthians, you will find that those brethren were proud of their gifts. They were showing off with them, speaking in foreign languages just to show they could. The ones hearing them could not understand and therefore got no profit from what they said.

Paul rebuked all of these practices then wrote: **“Let all things be done for edification** (building up)” (1 Corinthians 14:26). He makes it clear that for a person to be edified **he must understand the message**. This means that Christians are built up by the message which comes from the Holy Spirit, not merely by the possession of a gift. It means that the word of God is the means by which we will grow.

76. What “edifies” (builds up) the Christian? _____

Peter wrote, **“Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation”** (1 Peter 2:2).

77. What will cause us to grow in respect to salvation? _____

Everything Christians need for growth in Christ is found in the word of God which has been given by the Holy Spirit. This is why we do not need the gifts today. We have the completed word of God, **“the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints”** (Jude 3). What we need to do is study it and put it into practice. Then we will grow by it.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT



“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control” (Galatians 5:22-23).

The Spirit-controlled life brings fruit this fruit. Gifts (speaking in tongues, etc.) are NOT the FRUIT of the Spirit. The fruit of the Spirit is the changed life of the Christian.

78. List the fruit of the Spirit. _____

79. Were miraculous gifts the fruit of the Spirit? _____

Where do these qualities come from? Paul tells us, **“And do not be conformed** (shaped) **to this world, but be transformed** (changed) **BY THE RENEWING OF YOUR MIND”** (Romans 12:2). It is my mind which is going to make me different. It is a mind that “thinks on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

80. The Christian must be changed by the _____.

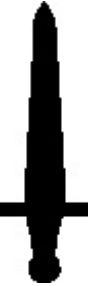
Take the matter of love. What causes me to love? John wrote, **“We love, because He first loved us”** (1 John 4:19). I know about God’s love because the Holy Spirit caused John and others to write about it. When my mind thinks about this, love is born in my heart.

81. Why does a Christian love? _____
So also with all the other things which are the fruit of the Spirit. As I understand, believe and practice the things in the word of God, each fruit

begins to be seen in me. The Holy Spirit produces this fruit in me – not by some direct, miraculous action, but by the word of God working in my heart.

The sinner is convicted by the word of God, turns in obedience and is baptized. He is at that time born of the water and the Spirit. The word of God has worked a change in his heart and he has obeyed that word. He has been saved.

Then as a Christian the Holy Spirit causes him to grow and produces the fruit of the Spirit – again by the word which the Holy Spirit has caused to be written in the New Testament.



In lesson 3 we found that the whole purpose of the miraculous gifts was to bring and confirm the word of God. Now we can see why. **“The gospel is the power of God for salvation”** (Romans 1:16). **“For the word of God is living and active and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing as far as the division of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart”** (Hebrews 4:12). By it we grow unto salvation (1 Peter 2:4).

We thank God for the work the Holy Spirit has done in bringing to us the word which saves our souls!

THE FIGHT AGAINST SATAN AND THE ARMOUR OF GOD

“Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might” (Ephesians 6:10).

We Christians have a war to fight, and that fight takes strength which only God can supply.

The fight is described in this way: **“Fo our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places”** (Ephesians 6:12).

We have a very hard war to fight! We are fighting against the forces of Satan! We need God’s help.

82. “Our struggle is not against _____ and _____.”

So Paul warns us: **“Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm”** (Ephesians 6:13).

What is the armor of God? Is it something which comes **direct** from the Holy Spirit? Or is it something given by the **word** of the Holy Spirit?

Paul tells us what the armor is: **“Stand firm therefore, having girded your loins with TRUTH, and having put on the breastplate of RIGHTEOUSNESS, and having shod your feet with the preparation of THE GOSPEL of peace; in addition to all, taking up the shield of FAITH with which you will be able to extinguish all the flaming missiles of the evil one. And take the helmet of SALVATION, and the sword of the spirit, which is the WORD OF GOD”** (Ephesians 6:14-17).

83. List the six pieces of the Christian’s armor.

- a) _____
- b) _____
- c) _____
- d) _____
- e) _____
- f) _____

These things, together with prayer, are what we can fight Satan with. And **every piece of armor comes from the word of God**. None of it is given by the direct action of the Holy Spirit on a Christian’s heart.

84. Can you find any piece of armor which is **not** supplied by the word of God? _____ If you answer yes, which one? _____

The Holy Spirit gives me everything I need to fight sin. He gives it to me

in His word. No wonder that Paul told Timothy that the **scriptures** make the man of God complete, equipped for every good work. (See 2 Timothy 3:16-17.)

85. What makes the man of God complete? _____

HELP IN OUR PRAYERS

“And in the same way the Spirit also helps our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we should, but the Spirit Himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words; and He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God” (Romans 8:26-27).

Here is a promise which is very sweet to the Christian. When we are struggling to pray what we want to pray to God, the Holy Spirit is interceding for us (talking to God for us) according to the will of God. He helps our prayers!

86. Who helps the Christian with his prayers? _____

87. He _____ for the saints.

This is not something he does IN us or TO us. It is something he does FOR us WITH GOD. Therefore the Christian **does not feel** ANYTHING. But because the word of God tells us, we know that the Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers.

88. How do we know the Holy Spirit helps us in our prayers?

THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit of God lives in the Christian. ***“Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you?”*** (1 Corinthians 6:20). ***“However you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him”*** (Romans 8:9).

Christ also lives in the Christian. Here are some verses which teach this: John 6:56; John 15:4,5; John 17:23; Romans 8:10; 2 Corinthians 4:10; Galatians 2:20. There are many other verses which tell us that Christ dwells in the Christian.

God the Father also lives in the Christian. 2 Corinthians 6:16; Ephesians 4:6; 1 John 3:24 are some of the verses which tell us this.

89. Do all three members of the Godhead (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) dwell in the Christian? _____

How does this occur? ***“Jesus answered and said to him, ‘If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him’”*** (John 14:23). This means that Jesus and the Father live in us **when we keep the word of Jesus**.

90. When do the Father and the Son dwell in the Christian?

This is easy to understand and is not mysterious. Perhaps you are a grown man. When you were a little boy, your father taught you many things. Now that you are a man, you remember those things and you do those things which your father taught you. Your father is still living in you, because you are keeping his teachings.

It is in this way that the holy Spirit dwells in us. His word is powerful and wonderful. When we listen to it, it will change our lives. When we listen to it, we are listening to the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit is living in us.

Remember this – the Holy Spirit is NOT living in anyone who does NOT keep His word! And when one keeps the word of the Spirit, the Spirit is dwelling in him.

91. Does the Holy Spirit dwell in the one who does not keep His word?

No passage of scripture tells us that we will receive the Holy Spirit in some strange way. No verse tells me that I will “feel” the Spirit come into my heart. These ideas do not come from the Bible.

92. Is there any verse which tells us that the Christian will get a special feeling when the Holy Spirit comes into him? _____ If you answer “yes,” give the verse. _____

The matter is much simpler. When I listen to the word of the Holy Spirit and do what He says, He is living in me.

THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Acts 2:38 Peter said, **“Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”**

Peter did not say what the gift of the Holy Spirit was. And I find it difficult to decide because there are two or three possibilities.

- a) Peter may have meant that he and the other apostles would lay hands on the ones baptized and give them the gifts of the Holy Spirit. This is what they did in Acts 8;14-18 and Acts 19:1-7. If this is what Peter meant, we do not have those gifts today. We studied this in Lesson 3.

12. How were miraculous gifts given to Christians by the apostles?

2. Some believe that Peter meant a non-miraculous indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. I can find nothing in the New Testament to tell me that the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of a Christian except through the word of God. Therefore I do not think Peter meant the non-miraculous measure of the Holy Spirit.
3. It is possible that Peter meant “the gift **from** the Holy Spirit.” If Peter meant that, then he was promising salvation and sonship. In Mark

16:16 Jesus said, **“He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.”** perhaps Peter was saying the same thing – that is, “Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins and you will receive salvation.”

13. Are we promised salvation when we believe and are baptized?

THE TESTIMONY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

“The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (Romans 8:16).

How does the Spirit “bear witness?” The answer is found in Hebrews 10:15-16 – “And the Holy Spirit also **bears witness** to us; for after saying, ‘This is the covenant that I will make with them. . .’” The Holy Spirit bears witness **through the word**.

14. How does the Holy Spirit bear witness? _____

The Holy Spirit bears witness (testifies) that the one who believes and is baptized shall be saved (Mark 16:16). My spirit testifies that I have believed and been baptized. Therefore the Spirit testifies **with** my spirit that I am a child of God. The Spirit bears witness that if I am faithful to Christ I am a child of God. My spirit bears witness that I am living faithful to Christ. Therefore the Spirit bears witness with my spirit that I am a child of God.

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE RESURRECTION

“But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who indwells you” (Romans 8:11).

If the Holy Spirit dwells in you now – that is, if His word is guiding your life – then God will raise your body from the dead through the power of that

same Holy Spirit. If you want to be raised from the dead to be with God and Jesus Christ and the angels forever, then the Holy Spirit must dwell in you now.

15. By what will God raise the mortal bodies of faithful Christians?

CONCLUSION

The work of the Holy Spirit is wonderful. He brought us the Bible and proved that it is the word of God. Through that word I have everything I need to know that I am a child of God, to live victorious over sin, to know that the Holy Spirit will help my prayers and raise my body from the grave. The Holy Spirit is not working in some mysterious way which cannot be understood. He is working through His word in the hearts of earnest Christians. He is changing them by renewing their minds (Romans 12:2). He is protecting them by giving them the word which produces the faith which guards their hearts (1 Peter 1:5).

Do not be led astray by modern theories of the working of the Holy Spirit. Do not go seeking some experience which God does not promise. Come to the word of the Holy Spirit, believe it, and let it work salvation in your heart.

Name
Address
.....
Telephone #