

# Holy Spirit

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## Lesson 1

### Authority of God's Word

Who should benefit from a study concerning the Holy Spirit of God? First, those who wish a deeper motivation for their spiritual lives. When one realizes the power of the indwelling Spirit, a life of service becomes the spiritual response. Second, those willing to accept any truth that the Bible teaches at face value. Third, those who enjoy a deep, detailed study of the word of God. These thoughts are not presented as a final answer to anything but rather as an appeal and guide to further study of this grand theme. Study the thoughts presented. Please add to them from your own study and share those thoughts with others.

#### IN THE OLD TESTAMENT GOD SPOKE DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY TO MAN

1. How did God speak to the following people?
  - a. Adam and Eve (Gen. 1:26-30; 2:15-17; 3:3-19)
  - b. Abraham (Gen. 12:1-3; 17: 1-8)
  - c. Moses (Exodus. 3:1-22; 33:11)
2. God also spoke to people through the prophets. Jeremiah 1:1-10 tells us that God put His Words into Jeremiah's mouth.

#### BEFORE JESUS' BIRTH GOD BEGAN SPEAKING TO PEOPLE THROUGH JOHN THE BAPTIST

1. Isaiah's prophecy about John was spoken about 700 years before John was born (Isa. 40:3-5; Matt. 3:1-3; Mk. 1:1-4; Lk. 3:1-6). John was a witness of the Light to testify about Jesus Christ (Jn. 1:6-8).

2. To whom did John speak concerning the coming of Jesus (Matt. 3:5; Mk. 1:5; Lk. 3:7)?

#### GOD SPOKE THROUGH JESUS WHILE HE WAS HERE ON EARTH

1. God was pleased with Jesus and wanted all men to listen to Him (Matt. 17:1-5).
2. The Hebrew writer tells us that when Jesus was on earth God spoke through Him (Heb. 1:1-2).

#### AFTER JESUS DIED, GOD SPOKE TO PEOPLE THROUGH THE APOSTLES

1. What was the promise of Jesus to the apostles in John 15:26-27?
2. What had to happen before the Holy Spirit could be sent by Jesus (Jn. 16:7; 7:32-39)?
3. Who's words would the Holy Spirit reveal to the apostles (Jn. 16:12-15)?
4. The Holy Spirit would teach the apostles all things and bring to their remembrance all Jesus had said to them (Jn. 14:26).
5. Read Jesus' prayer in John 17 and notice the following:
  - a. Jesus prays for Himself (1-5).
  - b. Jesus prays for the apostles (6-19).
  - c. Jesus prays for future believers (20-26).
  - d. Through whose words are we to believe and be united (20-23)?

#### THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS WROTE JESUS' MESSAGE FOR US THAT WE MIGHT BELIEVE

1. The Holy Spirit was sent to fulfill the purposes promised by the Father (Acts 2:33).
2. Paul says he wrote what he received from the Holy Spirit (Eph. 3:1-5; Gal. 1:12).
3. When we read what was written we are able to understand (Eph. 3:4; II Cor. 1:13).
4. Why was the message about Jesus written (Jn. 19:35; 20:30-31)?

#### TODAY, GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH HIS WRITTEN WORD--THE BIBLE

1. What does Peter call the writings of Paul (II Pet. 3:15-16)?
2. Peter said that we have received everything pertaining to life and godliness (II Pet. 1:3).
3. Why did Peter write his letter to the brethren (II Pet. 1:12-16)?
4. God's word, which was preached and written for us by the apostles and prophets, will abide forever as God's final authority for mankind (I Pet. 1:22-25).

#### CONCLUSION

Today, we must read the word of God which was written by the apostles and prophets. They wrote as they were guided by the Holy Spirit (Rom. 16:25-26). The written word of God is complete and sufficient to lead us into all truth.

## Lesson 2

### The Spirit is a Divine Individual

The purpose of this lesson is to show that the Holy Spirit is a Divine individual. Many people think that the Holy Spirit is the power, force, or energy of God. The Bible makes it clear that the Holy Spirit is an individual who is inseparable from God.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS AN INDIVIDUAL

1. The Holy Spirit is referred to as He, thus showing masculine gender (Jn. 14:16-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-8, 13-16).
2. From the following verses, list and discuss characteristics of the Holy Spirit.
  - a. II Sam. 23:2; Acts 2:29; 10:19; 13:2
  - b. Rom. 8:27
  - c. Rom. 15:30
  - d. Eph. 4:30
  - e. I Cor. 2:11
  - f. I Cor. 12:11
  - g. Acts 5:3, 9
3. These characteristics cannot be attributed to some power, force, or energy.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A DIVINE INDIVIDUAL

1. He is recognized as God (Acts 5:3-4).
2. He is called the eternal Spirit (Heb. 9:14).
3. He had a part in creation (Gen 1:2, 26; Psa. 104:30).
4. He is everywhere (Omnipresent, Psa. 139:7-10).
5. He is all-powerful (Omnipotent, Rom. 15:18-19; Lk. 1:35).
6. He has all-knowing (Omniscient, Isa. 40:13-14).

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A MEMBER OF THE GODHEAD

1. Believers are to be baptized in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit (Matt. 28:18-20).
2. Paul concludes his letter by referring to the Godhead (II Cor. 13:14).
3. The Godhead (Eph. 4:4-6).

#### CONCLUSION

It is easy to see that the Holy Spirit is an individual who is Divine, powerful, intellectual, loving, etc. The Holy Spirit is equal to God, and He is called God; therefore, the Holy Spirit is not the force, energy, or power of God. The Holy Spirit is an individual who works in harmony with God the Father and Jesus the Son.

## Lesson 3

### The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

Before we study the work of the Holy Spirit in New Testament times and His work today, we want to first consider His work in the Old Testament. In this way we can compare His work then and now. Has His work changed? What is new about the work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament? In order to help us understand these questions, we want to first study the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament.

#### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN CREATION

1. God created the heavens and the earth (Gen. 1:1). Here we see the presence of the Godhead in creation. The word for "God" in Hebrew is Elohim and is a plural word indicating plurality of power and plurality within the Godhead.  
  
(Genesis 1:26) God, Elohim - plural, made us in Our image - singular  
  
(Deut. 6:4) The Lord (Jehovah) is our God (Elohim), the Lord is one.
2. God planned all things (Eph. 1), Jesus created all things (Jn. 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-18; Heb. 1:2).
3. We also notice that the Holy Spirit was involved in creation. The Spirit moved upon the face of the waters (Gen. 1:2) bringing order to the creation (Psa. 104:30).
4. The Spirit had a part in the creation of man (Job. 33:4; Gen. 1:26; Psa. 139:7-14).

#### THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIVES OF OLD TESTAMENT PEOPLE

1. He brought God's message to the people (II Pet. 1:21; II Tim. 3:16; Heb. 1:1).
2. Isaiah said that his message was by the Spirit (Isa. 61:1).
3. God spoke to the people through the prophets as they were guided by the Spirit (Neh. 9:30).
4. The Spirit helped and assisted people in many different ways.
  - a. Num. 11:16-30
  - b. Exo. 31:1-11; 35:30-35
  - c. Jud. 3:9-11
  - d. I Sam. 10:10-12; Num. 11:24-30
  - e. I Pet. 1:10-12
  - f. I Sam. 16:13
5. The Spirit was with different individuals to guide and help them as long as they were faithful to God and God's will.
  - a. When Sampson did what God had told him not to do, what happened (Jud. 13:24-25; 16:20)?
  - b. David prayed that the Spirit would not be

removed from him (Psa. 51:11-13: Compare with I Sam. 16:14).

## CONCLUSION

From the Old Testament we have seen that the Holy Spirit was an agent in creation. He brought order and arrangement to the creation. He worked in the lives of different individuals to bring God's message, give guidance, reveal prophecy, and give Divine leadership. We have also noticed that the Holy Spirit would not always continue with those who disobeyed God's will. It is also important to understand that the Spirit was only given to chosen individuals and was not available to all people.

God made a promise which we will be studying in our following lessons. He said that He would pour His Spirit out on all flesh. The Holy Spirit would one day be available to all (Joel 2:28-32).

## Lesson 4

### The Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament: Part 1

In this lesson we want to consider the work of the Holy Spirit in the lives of John the Baptist, Jesus and the disciples. This will assist us in understanding how the Spirit began working with men in the first century to bring God's message to the people.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JOHN THE BAPTIST

1. John was filled with the Spirit from birth (Lk. 1:15-17).

NOTE: The word "filled" conveys the idea of "to be influenced by." Consider the following verses: Lk. 1:41-45, 67; Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; 9:17; 13:9. The Holy Spirit filled or influenced John and enabled him to

speak for God (Compare Neh. 9:30).

2. Did the Holy Spirit give John the power to perform signs and miracles (Jn. 10:41-42)? From this we learn that one can be filled with the Spirit but not have the power to perform miracles. (Compare Eph. 5:18 All Christians were to be filled with the Spirit, but not all could perform miracles I Cor. 14).
3. What was the purpose of John's preaching (Lk. 3:1-17; Jn. 1:6-8, 19-28)?
4. John, guided by the Holy Spirit, said that only Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33).
5. To whom was John speaking when he made this promise (Matt. 3:1-11; Mk. 1:1-8; Lk. 3:7, 10-16)?

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT AND JESUS

1. When did Jesus receive the Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:29-34; Matt. 3:13-17)? (Compare Matt. 12:15-18; Lk. 4:18).
2. Did the Spirit influence Jesus (Matt. 4:1; Lk. 4:14)?
3. By whose power did Jesus perform miracles (Matt. 12:22-28; Mk. 3:20-30)?

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE DISCIPLES

1. Who gave the twelve apostles the authority to perform miracles (Lk. 9:1-6; Mk. 6:7; Matt. 10:5)?
2. Jesus also gave the disciples the authority to perform

miracles (Lk. 10:1-20).

3. Jesus gave them the authority to perform miracles and the Holy Spirit gave them the power, just as He gave Jesus the power to perform miracles. This is seen in Jesus' statement to them when He said that the Holy Spirit had been with them but would be in them (Jn. 14:17).
4. What had Jesus told the disciples in Luke 11:13?
5. The Holy Spirit had been WITH them but not IN them. Why had the Spirit not been given to dwell within them (Jn. 7:39)?

#### THE PROMISE TO SEND THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. It was promised by John that in the future Jesus would baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11).
2. Jesus promised that those who believe in Him would receive the Holy Spirit (Jn. 7:37-39).
3. The Holy Spirit would be sent in the name of Jesus (Jn. 14:26).

#### A CONDITION TO THE SPIRIT'S COMING

1. What did Jesus need to do before the Helper (Holy Spirit) could come (Jn. 16:7)?
2. Jesus would send the Spirit from the Father (Jn. 15:26). The condition to the coming of the Holy Spirit was Jesus' return to the Father; therefore, the Spirit would not come to dwell within man until Jesus returned to heaven.

3. During His death, did Jesus return to the Father (Jn. 20:11-17)?
4. Since Jesus had not returned to the Father, could He have given the Holy Spirit to the disciples in John 20:19-22? Jesus was simply encouraging them to welcome the Spirit when He did send the Spirit to them.
5. Did Jesus, after returning to the Father, send the Spirit as promised (Acts 2:33; 2:1-4)?

#### CONCLUSION

We have seen the work of the Holy Spirit before the establishment of the church on the day of Pentecost. The Spirit enabled John to speak to the multitudes about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. Jesus, His disciples, and the apostles performed signs and miracles by the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Spirit worked with them but had not dwelt within them. Jesus promised He would send the Spirit to them after His return to the Father and this promise was fulfilled on the day of Pentecost.

#### Lesson 5

#### The Work of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament: Part 2

Today, much is said about receiving "Holy Spirit baptism." Many groups teach that such a baptism is to be pursued by one who has believed in Christ and when it is obtained, it will be manifested by speaking in "tongues." In this lesson we will study Holy Spirit baptism and its purpose.

## WHO ADMINISTERED HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM?

1. According to the following verses, who is the only person who could administer Holy Spirit baptism (Matt. 3:11; Mk. 1:8; Lk. 3:16; Jn. 1:33)?
2. Who poured forth the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:33)?

## TO WHOM WAS HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM PROMISED?

1. To whom was John speaking when he promised Jesus would baptize them with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:1- ; Mk. 1:1-8; Lk. 3:7, 10-16)?
2. The prophet Joel said that God would pour His Spirit out on "all flesh" (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:16-18). This promise would include both Jews and Gentiles!
3. Jesus specifically told the disciples that they would be baptized with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:2-8).
4. In Acts 11:15-16, Peter recounts how the Spirit had fallen upon the household of Cornelius. He said that when this happened, he remembered Jesus' promise (See Acts 1:5), thus showing that the Holy Spirit baptism would benefit the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

## WHEN DID HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM OCCUR?

1. Which day did the apostles receive power from the Spirit (Acts 2:1-4)?
2. When the apostles spoke in different languages (tongues), what did this prove (Acts 2:33)?

3. According to Peter, was the promise of Joel fulfilled (Acts 2:16)?

## HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM IS NOT...

1. Anything administered by man. (Matt. 3:11)?
2. Anything that happened before the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:4-5; 2:1).
3. The power to perform miracles. (Exo. 7-11, 14; Lk. 10:17-20).
4. Divine inspiration to speak the word of God. Were men inspired to speak the word of God before the day of Pentecost (II Pet. 1:20-21; Heb. 1:1)?
5. The receiving of miraculous gifts (I Cor. 12:4-11). The gifts were given by the Holy Spirit! The different gifts were available because of the baptism of the Holy Spirit. What were the languages given to Cornelius and the apostles called (Acts 10:44-46; 11:15-18)?
6. Being filled with the Holy Spirit. (Lk. 1:15, 41, 67)?

## HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM IS...

1. H. S. baptism is the sending of the Spirit on the day of Pentecost by Jesus (Acts 2:33). (Baptizing, sending, and pouring forth are words used figuratively to describe the sending and making available of the Holy Spirit by Jesus to "all flesh.")

2. H. S. baptism is the same as "sending" or "pouring forth" the Spirit to make Him available to "all people" (Acts 1:17-18; Joel 2:28-32).
3. H. S. baptism is a ONE TIME EVENT with continuing results (Acts 2:16, 33). Just as Jesus' death on the cross was a one time event with continuing results (Heb. 9:26-28; 10:10), so was the sending of the Spirit.

#### THE PURPOSE OF HOLY SPIRIT BAPTISM

1. To make the Holy Spirit available to everyone (Acts 2:17-18).
2. To guide the apostles into all truth and to bring to their remembrance all that Jesus had taught (Jn. 14:26; 16:13).
3. To give gifts to Christians (Eph. 4:8; I Cor. 12:4, 11; Heb. 2:1-4).
4. To enable God to dwell within His people (Jn. 14:17; I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

#### CONCLUSION

Holy Spirit baptism has been completed one time for all time, never to be repeated again. Jesus baptized once with the Holy Spirit and the results of that baptism continue even today.

### Lesson 6

#### Miraculous Gifts: Part 1

Everything God does has a purpose. The imparting of miraculous gifts in the first century had a purpose in God's eternal plan. In this lesson

we will discuss the purpose of the miraculous gifts. We will also discuss how these gifts were imparted or given to different individuals. This will help us in understanding if such miraculous gifts are being given by God today.

#### MIRACULOUS GIFTS: THEIR PURPOSE

1. According to John 14:26 and 16:13, what would the Holy Spirit do for the apostles?
2. What was the purpose of miraculous gifts (Mk. 16:15-20)?
3. Miracles were also used to produce faith in those who saw and heard (Jn. 14:11; 19:35; 20:30-31; Acts 3:1-4, 16; 8:5-13; 9:32-42; 13:7-12).
4. The gift of tongues (languages) was to be used as a sign to the unbeliever (I Cor. 14:22).
5. The gifts were for the edification of the church (I Cor. 14:4, 5, 12, 16).
6. What was the over-all purpose of all gifts whether miraculous or non-miraculous (I Pet. 4:10-11)?

#### MIRACULOUS GIFTS: THEIR IMPARTATION

(Directly from the Holy Spirit)

1. Had the Holy Spirit, by the authority of Jesus, given the apostles power to perform miracles before the day of Pentecost (Matt. 10:1-4; Acts 2:1)?
2. On the day of Pentecost, which promise of Jesus was fulfilled (Acts 2:33; Jn. 14:26; 16:33)?

3. On the day of Pentecost, which GIFT did the apostles receive (Acts 2:1-4, 11; 10:44-48; 11:15-17)?

#### MIRACULOUS GIFTS: CORNELIUS AND HIS GIFT (Directly from the Holy Spirit)

1. Why was Cornelius visited by Peter (Acts 11:13-14)?
2. As Peter was speaking to the people, what happened (Acts 10:44-46)?
3. This miracle is referred to as the GIFT of the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:45-46). What was the gift?
4. Was the same gift given to the apostles (Acts 11:17; 2:11)?
5. For consideration and discussion:
  - a. Why did the uncircumcised Gentiles receive the SAME GIFT that the apostles had received? Consult the following verses: Acts 10:47; 11:1-18; 17:6-9; Exo. 12:42-48; Acts 15:5
  - b. What was the requirement for a Gentile to become a Jew (Exo. 12:42-48; Acts 15:5)?
  - c. What does Paul say about requiring circumcision as a requirement to being a Christian (Gal. 5:1-4)?
  - d. What did this even prove to the Jews (Acts 11:17-18)?
  - e. What was Peter's final command to those who

had received the gift of tongues from the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:48)?

- f. Why were they to be baptized (Acts 2:38)?

Cornelius and those gathered received a gift from the Spirit, the same gift the apostles had received. This was to prove to the Jews that God accepted the Gentiles and that He accepted them without circumcision! This event did not release Cornelius from his sins. He had only received the gift of tongues from the Spirit, not the Spirit Himself to dwell within. All who were gathered still had to be baptized in the name of Jesus for the forgiveness of their sins in order to receive the indwelling of the Spirit (Acts 10:48; 2:38; I Cor. 6:19-20).

#### MIRACULOUS GIFTS: PAUL AND HIS GIFT (Directly from the Holy Spirit)

1. Paul says that he was an apostle untimely born (I Cor. 15:6-8).
2. Why was Paul an apostle (I Tim. 1:1; Eph. 3:7-8)?
3. How did Paul receive his teaching (Gal. 1:12)?
4. Did Paul have the powers of a true apostle (I Cor. 2:4; II Cor. 12:12)?
5. Paul was chosen by Jesus to be an apostle. Had Paul received his power directly from the Holy Spirit as the other apostles had?

## CONCLUSION

Miraculous gifts were used by God to create faith in those who were unbelievers. The apostles, Cornelius, and Paul received gifts directly from the Holy Spirit. This was possible because Jesus had sent the Holy Spirit into the world.

The apostles received gifts in fulfillment of Jesus' promise. Cornelius and his household received the gift of tongues to prove to the Jews that Gentiles were acceptable to God without being circumcised. Paul received the powers of an apostle although he was not one of the original twelve.

Other than these three examples, the New Testament does not record any other individuals who received miraculous gifts directly from the Holy Spirit. In the next lesson we will consider how miraculous gifts were given indirectly through the apostles' hands.

## Lesson 7

### Miraculous Gifts: Part 2

In our last lesson we noticed that only on three occasions does the New Testament record that the Spirit gave miraculous gifts directly to individuals. Others received miraculous gifts, but not directly from the Spirit, rather indirectly through the hands of the apostles. Consider the following examples.

#### PHILIP AND MIRACULOUS GIFTS IN SAMARIA

1. Could Philip, one who was not an apostle, perform miracles (Acts 8:5-8)?
2. After the multitudes heard his message and saw the signs, many believed and were baptized (Acts 8:6, 11-13).
3. What was the response of the apostles in Jerusalem when they heard that Samaria had received the word

of God (Acts 8:14)?

4. Why were Peter and John sent (Acts 8:15)?
5. By whose hand were the gifts given (Acts 8:15)?
6. Philip could perform miracles, but he could not give miraculous gifts to those who obeyed. Only the apostles could do that by prayer and by the laying on of hands (Acts 8:15, 17-19).  
  
If the Samaritan believers did not receive the Holy Spirit to dwell within at baptism, then what about Romans 8:9? If they did not receive the Spirit at baptism, then they were not saved and salvation is therefore dependent upon an apostle laying his hands on the believer. One must conclude that the laying on of hands was for imparting miraculous gifts, not for giving the Spirit to dwell within.
7. How did Philip receive his powers? Had the apostles ever laid their hands on him (Acts 6:5-6; compare 6:8)?

#### PAUL AND THE BELIEVERS IN EPHESUS

1. Had the Ephesians been baptized before (Acts 19:1-3)? Who's baptism had they received?
2. Now that Jesus had died all were to be baptized in the name of Jesus (Acts 2:38). Was John's baptism sufficient for salvation?
3. In order for them to receive a miraculous gift, what did Paul do?(Acts 19:6)

## PAUL AND THE CHURCH IN CORINTH

1. Did the Corinthians have miraculous gifts? (I Cor. 12-14)
2. Who established the church in Corinth? (I Cor. 2:4; Acts 18:8)

Therefore, the church in Corinth would have received their miraculous gifts from the apostle Paul just as the Ephesians, through his hands. (Acts 19:1-7; 18:8)

### Conclusion

In order for Christians to be able to perform miraculous gifts the apostles had to give them the gift. Notice the Christians at Ephesus. Once they became Christians, they still could not perform any miracles. In the next lesson we will want to consider the duration of miraculous gifts. We have already seen that only the apostles could give the gift to others. Today, there are no apostles.

## Lesson 8

### Miraculous Gifts: Part 3

We have already seen that no one received the ability to perform miraculous gifts unless the apostles placed their hands upon them. In this lesson we want to see how long the miraculous gifts would continue.

#### MIRACULOUS GIFTS WERE GIVEN BY THE APOSTLES

1. When the apostles died, who could continue to pass on miraculous gifts?
2. Could any person other than an apostle pass on the miraculous gifts? (Acts 8:1-19)

- A. Philip, who could perform miracles, could not pass on the gift to others.
- B. His use of miracles was to confirm the word that was being preached.

3. What would happen to the miraculous period when the apostles and those whom the apostle had laid hands on died?

#### THE END OF THE MIRACULOUS PERIOD

1. Did Paul speak of a time when the miracles would end? (I Cor. 13:8-13)
2. When would they cease according to Paul? (I Cor. 13:8-10)
3. What were the Corinthians lacking?

Gifts? (Chapters 12-14)

Teaching? (I Cor. 4:17)

Love? (I Cor. 13:1-13)

Knowing God? (I Cor. 8:1-3, 13:11,12)

4. What was the more perfect way other than miracles? (I Cor. 12:30 - 13:3)
5. What would never fail?(I Cor. 13:8)
6. Miracles were connected with an early age. (I Cor. 13:11; 14:20)

#### CONCLUSION

Miraculous gifts would no longer be given to others when the apostles died. Those who had received the miraculous gifts would die and take their gifts with them. The miracles would stop. Paul warns

the Corinthians not to trust in the miracles because they would cease and there was a more perfect way, love and the inspired Word of God.

How did Jesus say the world would know His people, by miracles or love? (John 13:35).

The Corinthians should put aside the childish ways and become mature men and women in the faith. Faith, hope, and love remain today!

## Lesson 9

### Miraculous Gifts: Part 4

We have already seen that miracles could only be performed by the apostles and those whom the apostles gave the ability to. In this lesson we want to answer the question do we need miracles today?

#### THE PURPOSE OF MIRACULOUS GIFTS

1. To establish the word preached (Mark 16:15-20).
2. To be a sign for the unbelievers (I Cor. 14:22).
3. For the edification of the saints (I Cor. 14:4,5, 12, 26).
4. To produce faith (John 14:11; 19:35; 20:30-31).

#### MIRACLES NOT NEEDED TODAY?

1. Do we have all the truth revealed and written for us? (II Peter 1:3, Jude 3).
2. Do we need further revelation of God's will or is what we have sufficient? (Galatians 1:6-9, I Cor. 4:17; 15:1-2).

3. Paul says he wrote the mystery of Christ so we could read and understand (Ephesians 3:1-5).
4. Edification in the church is accomplished by speaking the truth in love (Ephesians 4:11-16).
5. We are to read our Bibles daily so we might not be hardened by sin (Hebrews 3:13).

## CONCLUSION

The gospel was preached to all the world and confirmed by signs and wonders. Miracles are not needed today since the word has been written that we may be completely equipped for every good work. As the church: we are to build up, edify, encourage and love one another, that the world will know that we are the disciples of Jesus (John 13:35).

## Lesson 10

### The Holy Spirit and the Christian Today

In our study we have seen that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all mankind. We have also seen how miracles have ceased. But, what about today? Is there any benefit from the Holy Spirit for Christian? In this lesson we want to examine how a person receives the Holy Spirit to dwell inside of them and the purpose for this.

#### THE HOLY SPIRIT'S DWELLING PLACE

1. Paul says that the church (the people of God) is the dwelling place of God (I Cor. 3:16-17).
2. Every Christian has the Spirit dwelling within him or her (I Cor. 6:19-20, II Tim. 1:14).

## HOW DO WE RECEIVE THE SPIRIT TO DWELL WITHIN?

1. God gives His Spirit to those who obey Him (Acts 5:32).
2. Peter said in Acts 2:38-43 for us to repent and be baptized in order to receive forgiveness of sins and to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

This promise of the Spirit does not mean the power to do miracles. Three thousand were baptized that day but signs and wonders were taking place only through the apostles (Acts 2:38-43). There is a difference in gifts from the Spirit and the indwelling of the Spirit Himself in man.

3. The Spirit is given to us because we are Sons (Galatians 4:6).

## THE PURPOSE OF THE SPIRIT DWELLING WITHIN MAN

1. Fellowship of deity within man. (II Cor. 6:16, Eph. 2:19-22)
2. The Holy Spirit dwells within us to prove we are God's children Gal. 4:6, Rom. 8:9).
3. The Holy Spirit is our guarantee of salvation (Eph. 1:13, II Cor. 1:21-22, Eph. 4:30).

What is a seal? A seal shows: Ownership, Destination, An official document that is not to be tampered with. We use seals today such as a postal seal.

4. The Holy Spirit is a guarantee of our eternal home (II

Cor. 5:1-5).

5. The Holy Spirit dwelling in man is a motivation for Christian Living (I Cor. 6:13-20, Eph. 4:30).
6. The Holy Spirit helps us when we pray (Rom. 8:26).
7. As Christians we should be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18) thus showing forth fruit of the Spirit (Gal. 5:16-25).

Love, joy, peace, and other qualities that Christians have come from the Spirit! We do have gifts from the Spirit, but they are not miraculous gifts, they are the fruit of the Spirit.

## HOW DO I KNOW THE SPIRIT IS INSIDE OF ME?

1. We know by the Word of God (Rom. 10:16-17).
2. We know we have the Spirit to dwell within when we believe, repent and are baptized (Acts 2:38; 5:32).

I can know that the Holy Spirit is inside of me because I have done what the Bible says to do! My assurance comes from the Bible. Therefore, I can have confidence that the Spirit is indwelling me.

## CONCLUSION

The Holy Spirit is alive and well in the lives of Christians today. We receive the Holy Spirit to dwell within us when we repent and are baptized. At that time the Holy Spirit dwells in us and we become the dwelling place of God. This happens because I am now a child of God. How does a Christian become a child of God? In Romans 6:3,4 Paul teaches that at baptism a person joins with the Son of God.

## Lesson 11

### Miracles in the New Testament and Modern Day Miracles

We have seen the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old and New Testaments. We have seen how the Spirit was poured fourth on the day of Pentecost for all mankind. In the previous lessons we could see how miracles were not performed by every Christian. Finally, we have seen how the Spirit had been given to Christians for certain purposes. In this lesson we want to make a comparison between the miracles of the New Testament and modern day miracles.

#### MODERN DAY MIRACLES

1. The New Testament miracles were of such nature that they were undeniable. They were performed upon those whose illnesses were clearly visible to all who witnessed the miracle. No illness is recorded to have been cured which was not clearly visible to all those who witnessed the miracle. When a miracle was performed the illness immediately disappeared.
2. Miracles were performed to confirm the word which the apostles preached (Mark 16:20) and to build faith in those who witnessed the miracles and heard their teaching. (John 14:11; 19:35; 20:30-31, Acts 3:1-4:16; 8:5-13; 13:7-12)
3. It is evident that such miracles are not taking place among us today. Consider the following questions:
  - A. Where is the man who can heal any and every disease without delay or question? (Matt. 4:23-25; Acts 5:12-16).

B. Where is the man who can heal the man blind from birth (John 9:1-35) or the man lame from birth (Acts 3:1-10)?

C. Where is the man who can raise the dead (John 11:1-35, Acts 20:9-12)?

4. Jesus and the apostles had the power to do many miracles. Miracles were used to produce faith (Matt. 12:38-45, John 20:30-31) and their use by Jesus and the apostles was not dependent upon faith in the recipient before the miracle could happen. Jesus and the apostles could heal without delay anyone they wished to heal or anyone who wished to be healed.

**MIRACLES WERE TO PRODUCE FAITH - NOT DEPENDENT ON FAITH!**

#### CONCLUSION

In our discussion of the Holy Spirit we have looked at the work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament as well as His work in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit has been active in God's creation from the foundation of the world. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit's work was limited to certain individuals for various purposes. In the New Testament the Holy Spirit worked with John the Baptist, Jesus and the disciples to help fulfill God's plan for salvation.

Jesus, after returning to heaven, sent the Holy Spirit to continue to work with the apostles and to confirm their teaching with signs and wonders. Apart from the apostles, Cornelius and Paul we have no record of miraculous gifts being given directly by the Holy Spirit to other individuals. The apostles laid their hands on different people and gave them miraculous gifts. The miraculous gifts were given only through the apostles' hands. The baptism of the Spirit by Jesus made this possible. All people can partake of the blessing of God and have the Holy Spirit dwell within them as proof of Sonship with God as their father.

The miraculous age is past, but the Spirit is alive and active in the Christian's life. All who have repented and have been baptized for the forgiveness of sins have received the Holy Spirit to dwell within as the seal of God that they are his children.

### ADDITIONAL STUDIES

Some additional materials have been added to this course for your personal benefit. As you have time you may want to look over these additional studies.

#### A STUDY OF TONGUES

Many would have us believe that tongues or speaking in another language is evidence that a person has received the Holy Spirit. This teaching is asserting that if you have never spoken in tongues then you have never received the Holy Spirit.

#### Tongues and their purpose

1. Are tongues real languages? Yes!! The multitudes heard in their own voice in Acts 2:4-8. Just as an instrument should make clear notes in the same way tongues are to be clear and understandable according to I Cor. 14:7-9. Notice these other verses: I Cor. 14:21-22, Isa. 28:11. When Paul speaks of tongues of angels in I Cor. 13:1 he is using this as a hypothetical situation. He says "if" he could speak this language. Then Paul will tell us that no language is without meaning, and if a language is spoken and not understood by the hearer, then it is of no value.
2. Did all Christians speak in tongues? No!! Paul says in I Cor. 12:30 that all do not speak in tongues.

3. What was the purpose for tongues? Their purpose was to bring God's message to unbelievers! Notice what Paul will say in I Cor. 14:27-28. At any given meeting, only one person was to speak at a time. They spoke so that the unbeliever could hear God's message. An interpreter would help the unbeliever understand what he heard in his own language. Notice that the person speaking had complete control over himself.

#### Are tongues proof of the spirit within?

1. Tongues as well as other miracles were to confirm the message preached. (Mark 16:15-20)
2. Not all Christians spoke in tongues. Thus it was not proof of the Holy Spirit within, but was evidence of the power of the Holy Spirit. Consider these scriptures: I Cor. 12:13, Acts 1:8; 2:4, John 14:17.

#### Conclusion

It is clear that there is a distinction between the power given by the Spirit and the Holy Spirit Himself. Cornelius received a gift from the Holy Spirit but did not receive the Spirit to dwell within him until he was baptized in water as all believers must do to receive the Spirit to dwell within (Acts 10:47-48, Acts 2:38).

Power from the Spirit was not evidence of salvation but was evidence that God had accepted the Gentiles without circumcision. As believers are baptized in water they receive the person of the Spirit to dwell within as proof they are God's children (Acts 2:38; 8:36-38, Rom. 8:16, Gal. 4:6).