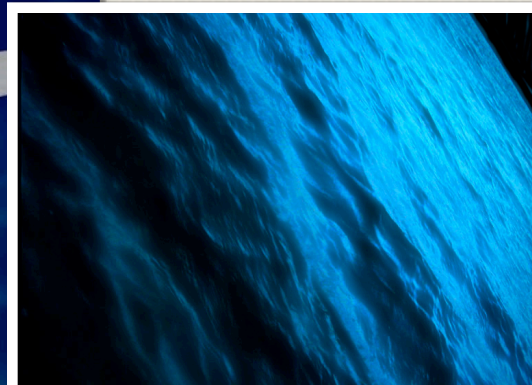




THE HOLY SPIRIT



AND THE EARTH WAS WITHOUT FORM, AND VOID; AND DARKNESS WAS UPON THE FACE OF THE DEEP. AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD MOVED UPON THE FACE OF THE WATERS. – GEN. 1:2

The Holy Spirit is a Person Not a Thing!

One of the most common misconceptions about the Holy Spirit is that He is simply a “force” with no will of His own. However, the Bible makes it abundantly clear that the Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity. He has a will, He can be grieved, and He can be lied to.

The Holy Spirit convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment (John 16:8). He applies Christ’s work on the cross to the believer’s life and seals him until the day of redemption.

He gives every individual believer gifts with which to serve God and his fellow believers.

The Spirit leads and guides the believer by illuminating the word of God and speaking to the believer’s heart.

If you have ever heard God speak directly to your heart from the pages of Scripture, or felt led to follow God in righteous acts...you have heard the voice of the Holy Spirit.



The Works of the Holy Spirit

I. The Holy Spirit Empowers

A. He gives life (Ps. 104:30; Job 34:14-15; John 3:6-7, 33; Matt. 1:18)

B. He gives power for service

a) Old Testament (Num. 27:18; Deut. 34:9; 1 Sam. 11:6; Isa. 63:11-12; Isa. 11:2-3)

b) New Testament (Matt. 3:16; Luke 4:14, 18-19; Acts 1:8; 1 Cor. 12:11; Eph. 2:18)

II. The Holy Spirit Purifies (John 16:8-11; 1 Cor. 6:11; Matt. 3:11; Gal. 5:22-23; 2 Cor. 3:18; Rom. 8:13)

III. The Holy Spirit Reveals

A. Revelation to Prophets and Apostles (2 Pt. 1:21; Matt. 22:43; John 16:13)

B. He gives evidence of God's presence (John 15:26; Num. 11:25-26; Judg. 14:6; 1 Sam. 10:6, 10; Acts 2:2-3; Rom. 8:16; Gal. 4:6; 2 Cor. 1:22)

C. He guides and directs God's people (Isa. 30:1; Matt. 4:1; Acts 8:29, 39-40; Gal. 5:16-26; Acts 15:28)

D. He provides a Godlike atmosphere when He manifests His presence (John 16:8-11; Rom. 5:5, 14:7; 1 Thess. 1:6; John 14:17; Deut. 34:9; Rom. 14:17; Rom. 8:15-16)

E. He gives assurance (Rom. 8:16; 1 John 3:24, 4:13)

F. He teaches and illumines (John 14:26, 16:13; Luke 12:12; Acts 11:28; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 Cor. 2:10-12)

IV. The Holy Spirit Unifies (Acts

2:16-18, 44-47; 2 Cor. 13:14; Phil. 2:1-2; Eph. 4:3; Col. 3:14)

V. The Holy Spirit gives Evidence of the presence and blessing of God according to our response to Him

A. Jesus was without sin and the Holy Spirit "remained on him." (John 1:32, 3:34)

B. The Holy Spirit can be grieved and cease to bring blessing in a situation (Acts 7:51; Eph. 4:30; 1 Thess. 5:19; 1 Cor. 6:19-20)

C. The Holy Spirit can be offended (Acts 5:3; Heb 10:29)

D. The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed (Matt. 12:31-32)

E. In the life of Christians whose conduct is pleasing to God, the Holy Spirit will be present to bring great blessing (Acts 2:17-18; 1 Co. 3:16; 2 Co. 3:14; John 7:38-39; 1 Peter 4:14)

F. Therefore it is important that all our ministry be done in the Holy Spirit (Luke 10:21; Acts 19:21; Rom. 9:1; Eph. 2:18; Col. 1:8; Eph 5:18)

G. The Holy Spirit must be depended upon in the Christian life (Zech. 4:6; Rom. 8:4-6, 12-16).

We may sum up the work of the Holy Spirit as: to manifest the active presence of God in the world, and especially in the church.

What does it mean to “walk in the Spirit?”

For a long time I struggled to understand what it means to walk in the Spirit. I was convinced that there was some magic formula that I was missing to live the Christian life. I wish there was a secret key that you simply employ, but there isn't.

Walking in the Spirit is simply trusting and obeying what the Spirit has revealed in Scripture. It is fighting to believe what God says over what the world and our flesh tells us.

We depend on the Spirit when we constantly seek Him in prayer and understanding what His word says. Of course the Spirit guides us in our conscience and our thoughts, but the only way we can know if it is truly the

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Spirit speaking is if we compare our thoughts to the Word of God.

I would love to tell you there was some simple formula to walking in the Spirit, but there is nothing simple about it. Just like the old song says, “Trust and obey for there is no other way, to be happy in Jesus, but to trust and obey.”

Jesus said, “Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me” (John 15:4). And later He said, “If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full (John 15:10-11).

Walking in the Spirit is trusting in Him every moment and depending on His power to produce fruit and obedience in your life.

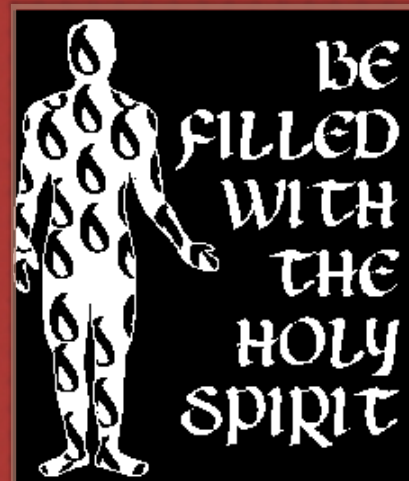
WALKING



Walking in the Spirit is putting on the whole armor of God, and living in a constant state of seeking His power and glory. The Spirit seeks to glorify Christ and He leads us to do the same. Yet we don't do it in our own strength, we do it in His strength. He alone gives us the power to live the Christian life and He alone gives us the heart that grows in repentance and faith.



INDWELLING AND INFILLING



And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Eph. 5:18

Being "Filled" with the Holy Spirit

Eph. 5:18 commands believers to continually be filled with the Spirit. If believers already possess the Spirit, why would Paul make such an order? Since no believer has control over the Holy Spirit, Paul is speaking about yielding ourselves to it on a daily basis. When the believer yields himself to the will of the Spirit (found in the Word), he is empowered to walk in the Spirit.

What does the Spirit produce in us when we are "filled?"

1. Christlike Character - "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Gal. 5:22-23
2. Evangelistic Involvement - When the filling of the Spirit is mentioned in Acts, conversions are recorded.
3. Praise, Worship, Thanksgiving, and Submissiveness - These are the characteristics displayed in Eph. 5:19-21 (right after Paul commands us to be filled.)

The Indwelling Holy Spirit

There are many people who believe that salvation in Christ is the first step, and being baptized with the Spirit is the next step. This is not the biblical view of Spirit baptism. Every person is baptized with the Spirit when he is converted to Christ.

At salvation, the believer becomes the temple of the Lord as the Holy Spirit immerses him.

It is clear from Scripture that all believers possess the Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39; Acts 11:16-17; Rom. 5:5; 1 Co. 2:12; 2 Co. 5:5)

If a person did not have the Holy Spirit indwelling him, he would not be saved! (Rom. 8:9; Jude 19) These verses also illustrate the permanent nature of the Spirit residing in us. For, if the Spirit left believers when they sinned, they would no longer be believers according to Rom. 8:9.

There are two examples that are often cited to show that Spirit baptism does not accompany salvation. These are Acts 8:12-17 and Acts 19:1-6.

In Acts 8:12-17, Philip (a Hellenistic Jew) went to the Samaritans with the gospel. He preached and baptized them. Samaritans were half Jew, half Gentile, and were outcasts to the Jews. Samaritans were opposed to worshiping with the Jews. This was the first instance of non-Jewish people coming into the Church, so the Lord delayed the giving of the Spirit until Peter and John came to them. This showed that salvation had moved to other people than the Jews, and there was only one church, not two.

Acts 19:1-6 is far easier to explain. These people were disciples of John who had not yet heard of the consummation of John's ministry. They had only been baptized into John's baptism. Therefore, when Paul explained to them the gospel and baptized them according to Christ's salvation, they received the Spirit of God.

Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit

Matt. 12:31 says, *"Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men."*

This verse has caused many to believe that because they, at one time, said something against the Spirit, they can never be saved or enter heaven. This is absolutely not the case. The Pharisees had just seen Jesus cast a demon out of a man. They knew that the Messiah was to come and do the works that Jesus was doing. More than any other people on earth, the Pharisees knew Jesus was who He said. The work of the Holy Spirit was evident in His life and ministry.

However, these Pharisees refused to acknowledge what they knew to be true. They denied that Jesus was the Messiah and said that He was doing His works by the power of Satan. This was the unpardonable sin of which Jesus spoke.

It was not simply saying a cross word against the Spirit. It was openly and continuously rejecting Jesus as Lord and Messiah. This is the sin that would never be forgiven.

Many people have come to me in tears, thinking they have committed the unpardonable sin. They are terrified that there is no hope for their salvation. This is exactly the mindset that proves the person has not committed the unpardonable sin.

A person who has blasphemed the Holy Spirit does not care that they are headed for certain judgment. They do not care that their sin is sending them to Hell. They have no concern about what God thinks of them, and they are not about to turn their lives over to Christ.

The people whose sin cannot be forgiven are those who live life, continuously rejecting the salvation and lordship of Jesus Christ, who paid for sin on the cross of Calvary.

Study Questions

1. In the past, has it been hard for you to think of the Holy Spirit as a person rather than simply as a presence or force? Why?

2. Have you ever been especially aware of the Holy spirit's empowering in a specific situation of life or ministry?

3. How does the Holy Spirit guide you personally? How do you know it is Him?

4. Do you have a sense from time to time of the pleasure or displeasure of the Holy Spirit at some course of action that you are taking? Is there anything in your life right now that is grieving the Holy Spirit?

5. Try to explain the difference in how the Father, Son, and Spirit relate to your Christian life in your own words.
