Doctrine of Holy Spirit: Receiving the Spirit

1. Certain passages in the Old Testament indicate the Holy Spirit could be received in two ways.

2. The Holy Spirit could be received by asking for, and receiving the Spirit as Elisha did.

   - 2 Kings 2:9 And it came to pass, when they were gone over, that Elijah said unto Elisha, Ask what I shall do for thee, before I be taken away from thee. And Elisha said, I pray thee, let a double portion of thy spirit be upon me. 10 And he said, Thou hast asked a hard thing: nevertheless, if thou see me when I am taken from thee, it shall be so unto thee; but if not, it shall not be so.

3. The Holy Spirit could be received as a gift directly from the Lord in order to judge, reign as a king, be a prophet or a priest, or perform a special service.

   - Joseph Received the Holy Spirit. Genesis 41:38 And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?

   - The Artisans of Aaron’s Garments Received the Holy Spirit. Exodus 28:3 And thou shalt speak unto all that are wise hearted, whom I have filled with the spirit of wisdom, that they may make Aaron's garments to consecrate him, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office.

   - Moses Received the Holy Spirit. Numbers 11:17 And I will come down and talk with thee there: and I will take of the spirit which is upon thee, and will put it upon them; and they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone.

   - The Seventy Elders of Israel Received the Holy Spirit. Numbers 11:25 And the Lord came down in a cloud, and spake unto him, and took of the spirit that was upon him, and gave it unto the seventy elders: and it came to pass, that, when the spirit rested upon them, they prophesied, and did not cease.

   - Othniel Received the Holy Spirit. Judges 3:10 And the Spirit of the Lord came upon him, and he judged Israel, and went out to war: and the Lord delivered Chushan-rishathaim king of Mesopotamia into his hand; and his hand prevailed against Chushan-rishathaim.

   - Gideon Received the Holy Spirit. Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abi-ezer was gathered after him.

   - Jephthah Received the Holy Spirit. Judges 11:29 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jephthah, and he passed over Gilead, and Manasseh, and passed over Mizpeh of Gilead, and from Mizpeh of Gilead he passed over unto the children of Ammon.
• Samson Received the Holy Spirit. Judges 13:25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.

4. David was afraid the Lord would take the Holy Spirit from him.

• Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

5. The Holy Spirit was said to depart from Saul.

• 1 Samuel 16:14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.

6. The Scripture indicates the Holy Spirit was not given in fullness and power until after Christ was glorified.

• John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

7. During His ministry on earth Jesus offered the Holy Spirit to His disciples upon request.

• Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

8. Even though the disciples did not understand enough to ask the Lord for the Spirit, Jesus simply gave them the gift of the Holy Spirit to sustain them for the short period prior to Pentecost.

• John 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

9. Following Pentecost, the permanent indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit is given to every Christian.

• Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

• 1 Corinthians 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.