

Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

1. The Holy Spirit has a ministry to unbelievers.
 - *John 16:8 And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*

2. The Holy Spirit has a ministry to believers.
 - *John 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*

3. The Holy Spirit must not be sinned against.
 - The Holy Spirit can be blasphemed. *Mark 3:28 Verily I say unto you, All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies wherewith soever they shall blaspheme: 29 But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*
 - The Holy Spirit can be lied to. *Acts 5:3 But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land?*
 - The Holy Spirit can be grieved. *Ephesians 4:30 And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be resisted. *Acts 7:51 Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*
 - The Holy Spirit can be quenched. *1 Thessalonians 5:19 Quench not the Spirit.*

4. The Holy Spirit indwelt believers in the Old Testament (Covenant) era.

The Period of the Patriarchs

- The Holy Spirit indwelt Joseph. *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 Period of Moses

- The Holy Spirit indwelt the tailors which made the priestly garments. *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.*

- The Holy Spirit indwelt the workmen who constructed the Tabernacle. *Exodus 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,*
- The Holy Spirit indwelt the seventy elders who assisted Moses. *Numbers 11:16 And the Lord said unto Moses, Gather unto me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom thou knowest to be the elders of the people, and officers over them; and bring them unto the tabernacle of the congregation, that they may stand there with thee. 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 Holy Spirit indwelt those who served in the military. One example would be Joshua who is first mentioned in connection with the fight against Amalek at Rephidim, when he was chosen by Moses to lead the Israelites. Joshua was a man who was filled with the Holy Spirit.

Exodus 17:9 And Moses said unto Joshua, Choose us out men, and go out, fight with Amalek: tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in mine hand.

Numbers 27:18 And the Lord said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;...

The Period of the Judges

- The Holy Spirit indwelt special individuals of valor.
 - ❖ Othniel. *Judges 3:9 And when the children of Israel cried unto the Lord, the Lord raised up a deliverer to the children of Israel, who delivered them, even Othniel the son of Kenaz, Caleb's younger brother. 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. *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. *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. *Judges 13:25 And the Spirit of the Lord began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol....14:6 And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and he rent him as he would have rent a kid, and he had nothing in his hand: but he told not his father or his mother what he had done....15:14 And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: and the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hands.*

The Period of the Monarchy

- Some of the kings of Israel were said to be indwelt by the Holy Spirit.
- ❖ Saul. *1 Samuel 10:9 And it was so, that when he had turned his back to go from Samuel, God gave him another heart: and all those signs came to pass that day. 10 And when they came thither to the hill, behold, a company of prophets met him; and the Spirit of God came upon him, and he prophesied among them.*
- ❖ David. *1 Samuel 16:13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the midst of his brethren: and the Spirit of the Lord came upon David from that day forward. So Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah.*

The Period of the Prophets

- Some of the pre and post exilic leaders were filled with the Spirit.
- Daniel. *Daniel 4:8 But at the last Daniel came in before me, whose name was Belteshazzar, according to the name of my god, and in whom is the spirit of the holy gods: and before him I told the dream, saying,...5:11 There is a man in thy kingdom, in whom is the spirit of the holy gods; and in the days of thy father light and understanding and wisdom, like the wisdom of the gods, was found in him; whom the king Nebuchadnezzar thy father, the king, I say, thy father, made master of the magicians, astrologers, Chaldeans, and soothsayers; 12 Forasmuch as an excellent spirit, and knowledge, and understanding, interpreting of dreams, and shewing of hard sentences, and dissolving of doubts, were found in the same Daniel, whom the king named Belteshazzar: now let Daniel be called, and he will shew the interpretation.... 6: 3 Then this Daniel was preferred above the presidents and princes, because an excellent spirit was in him; and the king thought to set him over the whole realm.*

The Period of Post-exilic Leaders

- Zerubbabel. *Zechariah 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.*
5. While the Holy Spirit cannot be lost, a believer out of fellowship might fear such a possibility, reflected in the prayer of David.

- *Psalms 51:11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.*
6. The power of the Holy Spirit could be lost during the Old Testament era as in the case of Saul.
- *1 Samuel 16:14 But the Spirit of the Lord departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord troubled him.*
7. The Holy Spirit indwells believers in the New Testament era.
- *John 15:26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: 27 And ye also shall bear witness, because ye have been with me from the beginning.*
 - *Romans 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*
 - *Galatians 3:2 This only would I learn of you, Received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*
 - *1 John 3:24 And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.*

Special Note.

“The gift of the Holy Ghost is one of the great blessings promised in the new Covenant. *Acts 2:39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call*” (Matthew Henry).

8. The Power of the Holy Spirit can be asked for with the view of being endued with power from on high for the purpose of ministry and evangelism.
- Elisha asked for the Holy Spirit. *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.*
 - The disciples of Christ were taught to ask for the Holy Spirit. *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?*

Special Note.

Prior to the day of Pentecost, the disciples had already been given the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit.

- *John 20:21 Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you. 22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.*

9. There is a passage about the Holy Spirit found in the gospel of John that necessitates some special attention.

- *John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 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.)*

Special Note.

It is promised to all that believe on Christ that they shall receive the Holy Spirit.

- *John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.*

A practical and spiritual fulfillment of this promise of “*rivers of living water*” was seen on the Day of Pentecost when the apostles spoke fluently of the things of God, as the Spirit gave them utterance. Peter preached the gospel of Christ with such a flood of divine eloquence it could be said, “*Out of his belly shall flow rivers.*” Indeed all the disciples were filled with the Holy Spirit in order to speak in the tongues or languages of those who had gathered to listen. They spoke because they were filled with the Holy Spirit. They spoke as the Spirit gave them utterance.

- *Acts 2:4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

Of course, the Day of Pentecost and the outpouring of the Spirit was a matter of promise when Jesus uttered the words of John 7:38 because, “*the Holy Ghost was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.*”

The question of concern is this: “In what sense was the Spirit not yet given?”

Certainly the Spirit had been given to the saints of the Old Testament. The Spirit had already been given to Elizabeth and to the unborn baby in his mother’s womb. We read the words of Luke 1:41.

- *Luke 1:41 And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:*

We know also that the Spirit had been given to Mary, the young virgin.

- *Matthew 1:18 Now the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.*

And we also know that the Spirit had been given to John the Baptist.

- *Luke 1:15 For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb.*

In light of this great working of the Spirit in the Old Testament saints and the New Testament saints we have to ask again, “In what sense are we to understand the words of Jesus in John 7:38?”

- *John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 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.)*

I believe the answer is simply that the Holy Spirit was not yet given in a plentiful and powerful effusion as was promised, first by the prophet Joel, and then by Jesus. The great promise of a special effusion of the Holy Spirit is taught in Joel 2:28.

- *Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

It is this special promise that Joel predicted and Jesus promised afresh. From the vantage point of time we can say that the promise of Joel and the promise of Jesus were fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost which followed 50 days after Jesus was glorified by being raised from the dead. The specific fulfillment of the promise is recorded in Acts 2.

- *Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place... 14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words:... 16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; 17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: 19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke: 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before that great and notable day of the Lord come: 21 And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.*

If this understanding of John 7:38 is correct, then the heart of every Christian can rejoice. Not only has the Spirit come according to promise, but the veracity, the truthfulness of Jesus Himself is confirmed. Our Lord was a Priest, a King, and a Prophet as John 7:38 reveals.

10. Every believer is commanded to be filled with the Spirit.

- *Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*

11. The believer who is not filled with the Spirit is said to be “fleshly” or “carnal.”

- *1 Corinthians 3:1 And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

Special Note.

The professing believer who is in a state of carnality is either grieving the Spirit or quenching the Holy Spirit.

12. A believer is either walking in the light, or walking in darkness.

- *Walking in the light. 1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
- *Walking in darkness. 1 John 1:6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:*

13. A believer filled with the Spirit is no longer under the dictates of the social or ceremonial facets of the Mosaic Law.

- *Galatians 5:18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.*
- *Romans 10:4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth.*
- *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

14. Jesus Christ is glorified when a believer is filled with the Holy Spirit. To glorify Christ is to develop the character of Christ or reproduce Christ in one's life. It is the indwelling Holy Spirit that makes this possible.

- *1 Corinthians 6:19 What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.*
- *John 16:14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.*
- *Philippians 1:20 According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*
- *Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,*

15. The believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit will imitate God.

- *Ephesians 5:1 Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;*
- *Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

16. The fruit of the Spirit is the result of the filling of the Holy Spirit.

- *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*
- *Ephesians 5:9 (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth ;)*

17. The believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit will imitate the character of Christ.

- *Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you,*

Special Note.

Christ is formed in the believer through the filling of the Spirit.

- *Galatians 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.*

18. The believer who is filled with the Holy Spirit will magnify and exalt Christ in the inner life.

- *Ephesians 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; 17 That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love.*
- *2 Corinthians 3:3 Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshy tables of the heart.*

19. A person is filled with the Holy Spirit when the following conditions are met.

- There are no unconfessed sins. *1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*
- The Spirit is in control of one's life. *Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*
- There is a daily walk and fellowship with the person of Christ. *Galatians 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.*

Special Note.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is not an esoteric experience reserved for a few special people.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is not manifested solely, or even mainly, by speaking in tongues or languages previously not known.

The filling of the Holy Spirit is designed to be the normal status of every believer. *Ephesians 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*

The filling of the Holy Spirit will be made manifest by spiritual activity. *Ephesians 5:19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; 20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;*