

Bible Study – The Person & Work of the Holy Spirit
Disciple U
June 9, 2010

Introduction:

As I have prayed / thought about what this short study on the Holy Spirit might encompass, I felt lead to both teach about the Person & Work of the Spirit; as well as try to answer some practical questions that I (others) have had about the practical implications of living a Spirit-filled life.

Questions like:

- What do we mean by the expression “move of the Spirit”?
- What is the baptism in the Holy Spirit?
- What does it mean to be “filled with the Spirit”?
- Is the initial physical evidence of the baptism of the HS always speaking tongues?
- What’s the difference between genuine emotional experience in response to the Spirit moving and what has been called “emotionalism”?

You may have other very important questions / insights along the way...so this is more of an open forum on the HS than a lecture, though I will attempt to teach.

Prayer of Invitation: Come, Holy Spirit!

Acknowledgement: I want to first thank some of our dear young adults for their heart-felt and sincere desire for this time together.

This short study on [the Holy Spirit](#) is intended to help you better understand what the Bible says about doctrines such as the Trinity, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and other subjects related to the Holy Spirit.

****Note: Any study of doctrine or theology of necessity includes many scripture references, Assign scriptures to be read before each section.***

The Holy Spirit is a Person

The Holy Spirit is included in the [Trinity](#), (a word not found in the Bible but which aptly describes the Godhead) which is made up of 3 distinct persons: The **Father**, the **Son**, and the **Holy Spirit**.

The Spirit is the executive part of the Godhead (i.e. the Spirit works in every sphere, both physical and moral. Through the Spirit God created and preserves the universe. Through the Spirit God works in the spiritual realm, drawing and converting sinners, and sanctifying and sustaining believers.

His Deity is proved from the fact that divine attributes (characteristics) are ascribed to Him; He is eternal, omnipresent, omnipotent (all-powerful), and omniscient (all-knowing). (e.g. Heb. 9:14; Ps. 139:7-10; Luke 1:35 & I Cor. 2:10,11)

We know that the HS is part of the Godhead also because divine works are ascribed to Him such as creation, regeneration, and resurrection. (e.g. Gen. 1:2; Job 33:4; John 3:5-8; Rom. 8:11).

The following verses give a beautiful picture of the Trinity in the Bible:

Matthew 3:16-17

As soon as Jesus (the Son) was baptized, he went up out of the water. At that moment heaven was opened, and he saw the Spirit of God (the Holy Spirit) descending like a dove and lighting on him. And a voice from heaven (the Father) said, "This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased." [\(NIV\)](#)

Matthew 28:19

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, [\(NIV\)](#)

John 14:16-17

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever-- the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. [\(NIV\)](#)

2 Corinthians 13:14

May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all. [\(NIV\)](#)

Acts 2:32-33

God has raised this Jesus to life, and we are all witnesses of the fact. Exalted to the right hand of God, he has received from the Father the promised Holy Spirit and has poured out what you now see and hear. [\(NIV\)](#)

***Note: Assign scriptures to be read.**

The Holy Spirit has the Characteristics of Personality:

- The Holy Spirit has a **Mind:**

Romans 8:27

And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints in accordance with God's will. [\(NIV\)](#)

- The Holy Spirit has a **Will:**

1 Corinthians 12:11

But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually just as He wills. [\(NASB\)](#)

- The Holy Spirit has **Emotions**:
The Holy Spirit **grieves**:

Ephesians 4:30

And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. [\(NIV\)](#)

Isaiah 63:10

Yet they rebelled and grieved his Holy Spirit. So he turned and became their enemy and he himself fought against them. [\(NIV\)](#)

The Holy Spirit gives **joy**:

Luke 10: 21

At that time Jesus, full of joy through the Holy Spirit, said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned, and revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure." [\(NIV\)](#)

1 Thessalonians 1:6

You became imitators of us and of the Lord; in spite of severe suffering, you welcomed the message with the joy given by the Holy Spirit.

- **Discuss the difference between healthy emotional experience or response and emotionalism.**

**Note: Assign scriptures to be read.*

- He **Teaches**:

John 14:26

But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Testifies** of Christ:

John 15:26

When the Counselor comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who goes out from the Father, he will testify about me. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Convicts**:

John 16:8

When he comes, he will convict the world of guilt [Or will expose the guilt of the world] in regard to sin and righteousness and judgment: [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Leads**:

Romans 8:14

Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Reveals Truth**:

John 16:13

But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Strengthens and Encourages**:

Acts 9:31

Then the church throughout Judea, Galilee and Samaria enjoyed a time of peace. It was strengthened; and encouraged by the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers, living in the fear of the Lord. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Comforts**:

John 14:16

And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [\(KJV\)](#) Other versions of the Bible say Counselor.

- He **Helps Us** in our Weakness:

Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [\(NIV\)](#)

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- He **Intercedes**:

Romans 8:26

In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Searches** the Deep Things of God:

1 Corinthians 2:11

The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Sanctifies**:

Romans 15:16

To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Bears Witness or Testifies**:

Romans 8:16

The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: [\(KJV\)](#) The Spirit himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's children. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He **Forbids**:

Acts 16:6-7

Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia. When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He Can be **Lied to**:

Acts 5:3

Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? [\(NIV\)](#)

- He Can be **Resisted**:

Acts 7:51

"You stiff-necked people, with uncircumcised hearts and ears! You are just like your fathers: You always resist the Holy Spirit!" [\(NIV\)](#)

- He Can be **Blasphemed**:

Matthew 12:31-32

And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the [blasphemy against the Spirit](#) will not be forgiven. Anyone who speaks a

word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come. [\(NIV\)](#)

- He Can be **Quenched**:

1 Thessalonians 5:19

Quench not the Spirit. [\(NKJV\)](#)

Names of the Spirit:

- **The Spirit of God**
- **The Spirit of Christ** – because He is sent in the name of Christ. This new life is imparted and maintained by Christ, who is also the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit. His special mission is to glorify Christ. He makes real *in* believers what Christ has done *for* them.
- **The Comforter** -- the Greek word “paracletos” means: one called to the side of another for the purpose of helping, particularly in legal and criminal proceedings. It was the custom in ancient tribunals for parties to appear in court attended by one or more of their most influential friends, who were called, “Paracletes,” and in Latin, “Advocatus.” (advocates).

They were not paid, but gave out of their love wise counsel and the advantage of their personal presence. Such was the rel-ship the Lord Jesus had with His disciples...and He comforted them immediately prior to His Ascension with the promise of another Comforter / Counselor in His absence.

- **The Holy Spirit** – because His chief work is sanctification.
- **The Holy Spirit of Promise**
- **The Spirit of Truth** – the mission of the Comforter is to reveal the Son. He opens our minds to see the deeper meaning of Christ’s life, words and presence with us.
- **The Spirit of Grace**
- **The Spirit of Life**
- **The Spirit of Adoption** – see Romans 8:15

****Note: Assign scriptures to be read OR make reference to these.***

Symbols of the Spirit in Scripture:

- **Fire** – see **Isa. 4:4; Matt. 3:11, Luke 3:16** Fire illustrates the purging, purification, fiery boldness, and zeal produced by the anointing of the Spirit. The Spirit is compared to fire because fire warms, illuminates, spreads, and purifies.
- **Wind** – see **Ezek. 37:7-10; John 3:8; Acts. 2:2** Wind symbolizes the regenerative work of the Spirit and is indicative of His mysterious, independent, penetrating, life-giving and purifying operation.
- **Water** – see **Ex. 17:6; Ezek. 36:25-27; John 3:5** The Spirit is the fountain of living water, the purest, the best, because He is a veritable River of life—flooding our souls, cleansing away the residue of sin.

Water purifies, refreshes, quenches thirst and renders that which was sterile fruitful. Water is an indispensable element of physical life; the HS is an indispensable element of the spiritual life.

- **Seal** – see **Eph. 1:13; 2 Tim. 2:19** Believers are God's property and known to be so by the Spirit dwelling in them. The following custom was common in Ephesus in Paul's day. A merchant would go to the harbor, select certain timber and then stamp it with his seal—a sign of ownership. Later, he would send his servant with his signet who looked for the timber bearing the corresponding impress.

The Spirit inspires the sense of security (ownership) and assurance in the believer's heart. He is the first part of our heavenly inheritance...an assurance of the glory to come.

- **The Dove** – The dove speaks of gentleness, tenderness, loveliness, innocence, mildness, peace, purity and patience. Among the Syrians it is an emblem of the life-giving powers of nature. A Jewish trad. translates Gen. 1:2 as follows: "The Spirit of God like a dove brooded over the waters." Christ spoke of the dove as the embodiment of the harmlessness which was characteristic of His own disciples.

The Spirit in Christ

- **Birth** – the HS is described as the Agent in the miraculous conception of Jesus. (see Matt. 1:20; Luke 1:35)
- **Baptism** – Jesus' baptism was the beginning of His active ministry.
- **Ministry** – Luke 4 tells us that Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan. Jesus overcame temptation by the

power of the Spirit. He carried on His ministry in the consciousness (anointing) of the indwelling of the Spirit. (see Luke 4:18) “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...” Jesus quotes Isa. 61:1.

- **Crucifixion** – The same Spirit who led Him who sustained Him in the wilderness of temptation also gave Him strength to finish His work on the Cross where, “through the eternal Spirit He offered Himself without spot unto God.” (acc. to Heb. 9:14)
- **Resurrection** – The HS was the one who made Christ rise from the dead...i.e. the quickening agent. (see Rom. 1:4; Rom. 8:11)
- **Ascension** – After the ascension the Spirit became the Spirit of Christ in the sense of being imparted to believers. Jesus gave us the same blessing that He Himself experienced while on earth. That’s why we read about the “communion” of the HS (i.e. as the body of Christ, we share His Spirit with all believers.)

Illustration: I have felt this “communion” of the Spirit in many places around the world with believers I barely knew.

The Holy Spirit in Human Experience:

- **Conviction:** John 16:7-11 Jesus describes the work of the Comforter in relation to the world. The Spirit will act as Christ’s “Prosecuting Attorney,” so to speak, working to secure a Divine conviction against the unbeliever (those who reject Christ). To convict means to bring home charges made against conduct & life. But there is also a positive side to this.

(Illustrate: It’s useless to argue with someone who sees no beauty in a rose, for his inability to see would argue lack of appreciation of beauty. A sense of beauty must be awakened within him; he must be “convinced” of the beauty of the flower. In a similar manner the darkened / sinful mind cannot see the beauty of Christ, etc. and must be awakened.)

- **Regeneration:** The creative work of the Spirit upon the human soul may be illustrated by the work of God’s Spirit upon man’s body in creation. God took the dust of the earth and formed a body. It is at that point an inanimate thing...incapable of reacting to the world that surrounded it. It neither sees nor hears.

Then, “God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” At once he began to react to the world, and could see the beauties and hear the sounds, etc.

As with the body, so it is with soul. Man is surrounded by the spirit world and by God who is not far from any of us. Yet he lives / acts as if that world doesn't exist because he is spiritually dead and therefore cannot. But when the same Lord who made alive the body, makes alive the soul, the person awakens to the spiritual world and begins to live the spiritual life.

- **Indwelling.** (see **John 14:17; Rom. 8:9; 1 Cor. 6:19**) God is always and necessarily present everywhere; and in Him we live...but indwelling means that He is present in a new way, sustaining a deeper personal relation to the individual.

This union with God, which is called the indwelling, is produced in reality by the Spirit. It is believed by many scholars that God imparted to Adam, not only physical / mental life, but also the indwelling Spirit, which he lost because of sin, not only for himself but also for his descendants.

This absence of the Spirit has left man in spiritual darkness and weakness. By faith / repentance man turns back to God, and becomes regenerated. Regeneration by the Spirit involves a union with God and Christ. (acc. I Cor. 6:17) The indwelling of the Spirit is the mark of a NT Christian (see. Rom. 8:9)

Note: Every believer has this indwelling of the Spirit from the moment of conversion...but this is not the same as the baptism of the HS (also called enduement with power).

Nicky Gumbel (Alpha series) uses the analogy of a pilot light on a stove to symbolize this indwelling of the Spirit among all believers...and the full flame as analogous to the baptism in the Spirit.

- **Sanctification** – In regeneration the Holy Spirit effects a radical change in the soul by imparting a new principle of life. But this does not imply that the child of God is perfect. There remains inherited (generational) and acquired weaknesses (sinful habits & thought patterns); and there is still the world, the flesh and the devil to overcome. That's where sanctification comes in.

As far as our position in Christ, the work of the Spirit is immediate...i.e. the moment we come to faith / repentance we are positionally sanctified (set apart to God). But, the work of the Spirit in sanctifying us is a vital and progressive work over time...a process by which our soul is renewed by degrees.

Question: Who's responsibility is our sanctification – God's or ours?

Answer: Our sanctification is both God's and our responsibility. We give God our willpower, and He gives us His transforming power.

When we speak of the **Fruit of the Spirit**, we are speaking about the visible growth, the internal and external evidences that Christ's Spirit is affecting a change in the believer's life.

"Fruit of the Spirit" is a biblical term that sums up the nine visible attributes of a true Christian life. Using the King James Version of Galatians 5:22-23, these attributes are: **love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance.**

We learn from scripture that these are not individual "fruits" from which we pick and choose. Rather, the fruit of the Spirit is one, nine-fold "fruit" that characterizes all who truly walk in the Holy Spirit.

Collectively, these are the fruits that all Christians should be producing in their new lives with Jesus Christ.

- **Enduement with power.** Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

The Greek word that Jesus used here for power is *dunamis*, from which our English word *dynamite* is derived.

When we speak of a special "endowment with power" we are referring to the *energizing* work of the Holy Spirit. This is a promise of power for service / witness, and does not refer to regeneration for eternal life.

These words of Jesus were addressed to people already in intimate relationship with Christ. They had been sent out to preach, and were now armed with spiritual power for that purpose.

Accompanying the fulfillment of this promise (Acts 1:8) were supernatural manifestations (a rushing mighty wind, torch-shaped columns of fire, and utterances in other languages. This impartation / endowment with power is described as a baptism in Acts 1:5.

When Paul later declares that there is but one baptism (Eph. 4:5) he is referring to literal or water baptism. Both Jews and pagans practiced ceremonial washing, and John the Baptist had administered water baptism as a sign of repentance, but Paul declares that there is now only one baptism valid in God's sight, namely baptism on the authority of Jesus.

However, what the word “baptism” is applied to spiritual experience (i.e. not literal or water baptism) it is used figuratively to describe immersion in the energizing / enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus immerses people in the Spirit. That’s what the word baptize means.

There are pictures in the Bible of the Spirit being poured out. But when the idea of baptism is used, the point is that the Spirit is that we are enveloped in him. The point of this image is that the Spirit becomes profoundly and pervasively influential in our lives.

When you are immersed in something, it touches you everywhere. So when John says that Jesus is going to baptize with the Spirit, he means that the day is coming when the lives of God’s people will be plunged into the life of the Spirit with profound and pervasive effects. . .

This is also described as a “filling with the Spirit.”

****Note: Assign scriptures to be read OR make reference to these.***

- **What is the Baptism in the Holy Spirit?**

The "Baptism in the Holy Spirit" is understood to be a second [baptism](#) (subsequent to conversion), a baptism "in fire" or "power," spoken of by Jesus in Acts 1:8.

Specifically, it refers to the experience of believers on the [Day of Pentecost](#) described in the book of Acts (**Acts 2:4**).

The following verses provide evidence that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a distinct and separate experience from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that occurs at [salvation](#): John 7:37-39; Acts 2:37-38; Acts 8:15-16; Acts 10:44-47.

There is a real sense in which *all* truly regenerated (born again) persons have the Spirit. What then is different in the experience described as the Baptism with the Holy Spirit?

There is one Holy Spirit, but many operations of that Spirit, just as there is one electricity but many operations of that electricity. The same electricity propels subway trains, lights our houses, operates our appliances and myriad other tasks. In a similar way, the one Spirit regenerates, sanctifies, energizes, illumines, and imparts special gifts.

Several spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit are cited in I Corinthians 12 and 14. We believe that these gifts are given for the edification of the body of Christ, and since the book of Acts have never officially closed, these gifts are still in operation today!

We believe that the Baptism in the Holy Spirit is a vital experience of the Christian life. It is a special work of the Spirit beyond salvation.

On the Day of Pentecost, disciples who had already made a decision to follow Jesus "were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues" (Acts 2:4).

Paul asked the Ephesians disciples if they had received the Holy Spirit, after which "the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues" (Acts 19:2).

New Testament believers were constantly challenged to be filled with the Spirit (Acts 1:4,5; Ephesians 5:18).

The Assemblies of God (and other Pentecostal denominations) emphasize and are committed to the baptism in the Holy Spirit because the experience is such an important focus of New Testament Christianity.

Though many non-Pentecostals teach a baptism in the Holy Spirit without speaking in tongues, the position of the Assemblies of God is clearly declared in Section 8 of its Statement of Fundamental Truths: "The baptism of believers in the Holy Spirit is witnessed by the initial sign of speaking with other tongues as the Spirit of God gives them utterance (Acts 2:4)."

The Assemblies of God teaches that the evidence of speaking in tongues always occurred (and still does today) at the time believers were baptized in the Spirit, not at some indeterminate future time.

Speaking in tongues is the only phenomenon mentioned every time Scripture supplies details concerning the Baptism experience. Of the five instances in Acts which recount the experience of believers being baptized in the Spirit, three supply details.

Speaking in tongues is the only one that occurs each time (Acts 2, 10, 19). In the Acts 10 account, tongues is specifically mentioned as proof that "the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles. For they heard them speaking in tongues" (Acts 10:45, 46). The relationship between the phenomenon and the experience cannot be ignored.

In the two cases where details are not supplied, the Assemblies of God teaches that the circumstances strongly imply that speaking with other tongues accompanied the experience.

In Acts 8 Simon saw something (most likely tongues) that prompted him to offer money for the power to impart such a gift. In Acts 9 Saul (who became Paul) is filled with the Spirit without the mention of any details. However, Paul later testified, "I speak in tongues more than all of you" (1 Corinthians 14:18). It is

logical to conclude that he began speaking in tongues when he was baptized in the Holy Spirit.

The official doctrine of the Assemblies of God states: "We believe the baptism in the Holy Spirit with the initial physical evidence of speaking in other tongues is the promise of the Father to every Christian who desires the experience."

- **Question: Do you think it is possible to be baptized with the Holy Spirit and not speak in tongues?**

We believe (RCL) that most often tongues will be the initial physical evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

However, we also believe that it is possible to be filled with the Holy Spirit and *not* speak in tongues for a few reasons:

- The fact that there are occasions in the Book of Acts where people received the Holy Spirit and there is no mention of tongues seems to leave room for the possibility that one could be filled with the Spirit and not speaking in tongues.

Those who argue do not believe that tongues is the only initial evidence argue that it is not legitimate hermeneutics to base a doctrine on historical narrative, such as the book of Acts. As a historian, Luke reported what happened, he was not necessarily prescribing what should happen. If he was prescribing what should happen, then we would have to insist that all congregations have all things in common, or that prayer cloths should always be sent out.

- There are many "Spirit-filled" people who speak in tongues but there is little to no evidence of the fruit of the Spirit in their lives. Conversely, there are many who have never spoken in tongues, but manifest the love / nature of Christ in a most powerful way.

The believers at Corinth spoke in tongues a great deal, but Paul chastised them for being spiritual infants. (see I Cor. 3:1-4)

- Sometimes Pentecostals make speaking in tongues the litmus test of true spirituality or Godliness, or like a badge of distinction and superiority that is worn on one's lapel, when in reality, the Holy Spirit was sent to reveal Christ.

Though this is not the intent, the initial evidence teaching sometimes sets up a two-class kind of Christianity, that distinguishes between "the have and have not."

In the book of Acts people were not seeking a specific manifestation such as tongues, rather they were seeking God, and tongues just happened.

- **Question: What is meant by the expression “a move of God’s Spirit”?**

While the Scripture definitely confirms that the Spirit of Christ is present wherever / whenever people gather in His name, there are many examples in scripture and in history when the Spirit made His presence powerfully known, or more keenly sensed.