

The Holy Spirit #3

INTRO: It is surprising that so many Christians do not develop a personal relationship with the Holy Spirit. I started reading a book that several have recommended, and its author, Robert Morris' testimony is one example of this. My own testimony is somewhat similar. That's why it is important for us to read and study what the Bible has to say about this gift of a person of the Trinity that has been given to us.

Our Text is Acts 2:1-12 NLT *On the day of Pentecost all the believers were meeting together in one place. Suddenly, there was a sound from heaven like the roaring of a mighty windstorm, and it filled the house where they were sitting. Then, what looked like flames or tongues of fire appeared and settled on each of them. And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in other languages, as the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. At that time there were devout Jews from every nation living in Jerusalem. When they heard the loud noise, everyone came running, and they were bewildered to hear their own languages being spoken by the believers. They were completely amazed. "How can this be?" they exclaimed. "These people are all from Galilee, and yet we hear them speaking in our own native languages! Here we are--Parthians, Medes, Elamites, people from Mesopotamia, Judea, Cappadocia, Pontus, the province of Asia, Phrygia, Pamphylia, Egypt, and the areas of Libya around Cyrene, visitors from Rome (both Jews and converts to Judaism), Cretans, and Arabs. And we all hear these people speaking in our own languages about the wonderful things God has done!" They stood there amazed and perplexed. "What can this mean?" they asked each other.*

I) Is Holy Spirit or Holy Ghost?

- A) King James Version uses both to represent the third person of the Trinity
 - 1) Two different renderings of the Greek word Pneuma
 - (a) Spirit is a translation that can always be used
 - (b) Ghost requires the use of the prefix *Holy* or it carries the wrong connotation and can confuse others
 - 2) Ghost is an Anglo Saxon word and originally meant a guest or inmate as being used in relation to a spirit
 - (a) Several languages share similar sounding words to the old English gast... so it was a universal word
 - (b) It was not until the 14th century A.D. that the word took on the modern meaning of a disembodied spirit from someone who died and has not found a place of rest
- B) In general, in the Bible and especially the New Testament, the word Spirit means the immortal soul of man
 - 1) The point is we need to watch how we speak and be sensitive to people's reaction and understanding of Who we refer to when we speak of The Holy Spirit!
 - 2) The KJV meaning of guest speaks of a person who is entertained in one's house, or a lodger that is received where one lives—someone that we extend hospitality to!
 - (a) As a gift to believers from God, the Holy Spirit is a *divine gift and guest!*
 - (b) The Holy Spirit is a gift and dweller with those that believe in Jesus and He inhabits human hearts.

II) The Gift of the Holy Spirit

- A) **John 14:16 AMP** *16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, and Standby), that He may remain with you forever—*
- B) **John 14:16-18 NKJV** *"If you love Me, keep My commandments. And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever-- the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. "*
- C) **John 16:14-17 NKJV** *Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of righteousness, because I go to My Father and you see Me no more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged. "I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.*
- D) Here's what the Lord spoke to me in our service last Sunday as the worship was in progress...
 - 1) **DO NOT IGNORE THE GIFT...**

- 2) **1 Tim 4:14 NKJV** *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you.*
- 3) **(1 Timothy 4:14-16) MSG** *And that special gift of ministry you were given when the leaders of the church laid hands on you and prayed--keep that dusted off and in use. Cultivate these things. Immerse yourself in them. The people will all see you mature right before their eyes! Keep a firm grasp on both your character and your teaching. Don't be diverted. Just keep at it. Both you and those who hear you will experience salvation.*
- 4) What I believe the Holy Spirit was showing me was this...
 - (a) When we act on our will instead of God's will, we are less holy because of our disobedience and THAT is the sin we commit
 - (b) Not doing what God is directing us to do by the prompting or leading of the Holy Spirit is willful sin
- 5) The Holy Spirit is given to us to fill the gap that sin creates in our lives
 - (a) He is with us to empower and enable us to know God's will, plan and truth
 - (b) It is up to us to make a choice of what we will do
 - (c) God's will is revealed to us by the Holy Spirit is HIS option for us
 - (d) Our Fleshly, Mental or Emotion led self-will is our own selfish will for us

III) The Present Day Ministry of the Holy Spirit

- A) The present day ministry of the Holy Spirit has a definite beginning and end
 - 1) From the ascension of Jesus to the time of Jesus' return
 - 2) We need this gift to go forward as a church and as believers until Jesus returns for His Bride
- B) In the Old Testament God the Father dominates but in the New Testament it is God the Son, Jesus.
- C) Today—God, The Holy Spirit dominates
 - 1) God came to indwell believers
 - (a) This was hidden from the devil—he did not see it coming!
 - (b) In the past the enemy only had to worry about a few priests, prophets, etc.
 - (c) Now the devil has to deal with ALL of us that are in the line of Christ!
 - 2) God The Holy Spirit as come to empower us to do the works of Jesus **MATT 9:35 NKJV** *Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease among the people.*
 - 3) The Holy Spirit renews and sanctifies the Body of Christ
- D) Times of focused ministry
 - 1) God the Father in the Old Testament
 - 2) God the Son in the New Testament
 - 3) God the Holy Spirit in our time!
- E) The age of the Church and Gentiles began on the day the Holy Spirit was given—The Day of Pentecost
 - 1) It is *senseless* to teach that we do not need the Holy Spirit anymore because this is HIS TIME!
 - 2) The Holy Spirit is a divine person Who dwells in His church
 - (a) As God, He is to be obeyed
 - (b) He is to be trusted
 - (c) He is to be believed
 - 3) His office is to communicate Christ unto us—To set us on fire for those that do not yet believe in Jesus!
 - (a) If He can do this in our lives—we will have access to the power and authority that is needed to minister the Gospel to those who don't yet believe
 - (b) John 14:11-31 is a message for His church about the times we live in now
 - (i) Verses 1-6 Jesus tells of coming for His own
 - (ii) Verses 7-10 He tells us that He and the Father are One
 - (iii) *Jesus promised to send another Comforter... do you know Him?*

PT—Jesus only won about 500 followers Himself. Under the power of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost thousands believed and the way of salvation was made plain! We have access to that same power! Think about it!