

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in the Prophets: "Behold, I send My messenger before Your face, Who will prepare Your way before You." 3 "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight.'" 4 John came baptizing in the wilderness and preaching a baptism of repentance for the remission of sins. 5 Then all the land of Judea, and those from Jerusalem, went out to him and were all baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "There comes One after me who is mightier than I, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to stoop down and loose. 8 I indeed baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit." **Mark 1:1-8**

Introduction: Everyone of us has been born with talents, but when we are born anew into Jesus Christ, we receive a unique spiritual gift that is meant to be available to the church, used for the purpose of furthering the mission of Christ.

Who is the Spirit?

1. He is not a **GHOST**, but a person
 - a. Through the Spirit, Christ is **PRESENT**
 - b. He **INTERCEDES** on our behalf as:
COUNSELOR, COMFORTER, ENCOURAGER

Jesus said, "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you." John 14:26

2. The Spirit was present at CREATION (Genesis 1:1-2)
3. In the Old Testament, the Spirit was only given to **SOME** people, for a particular purpose and time.
 - a. An **ARTIST** (Exodus 21:2-5)
 - b. A **LEADER** (Judges 6:15)
 - c. He gave necessary **POWER** (Judges 15:14)
 - d. He gave **PROHETIC** voice (Isaiah 61:12)
4. The Spirit was promised to be given to **ALL** people

A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Ezekiel 36:26-27

5. He was present at the inception of **JESUS** (Mat. 1:18)
 - a. Jesus ushered in the age of the **SPIRIT**

John answered all of them by saying, "I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. Luke 3:16

- 1) To be baptized means to be **IMMERSED**
- 2) We are dry **SPONGES**, the Holy Spirit fills us until we are soft and dripping.
- b. The Spirit is an indication that God is doing something **NEW**.

When do we receive the Holy Spirit?

1. The Spirit is God's **GIFT**
 - a. The Spirit brings **FAITH**

And when (the Advocate) comes, he will prove the world wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment...John 16:8

- b. Without the intervention of the Spirit, there would be no faith.
2. When we become Christians, God will **FILL** us with the Spirit.
 - a. We need to **ASK**
 - b. The Spirit fills us so that we might **OOZE** life to others

As the scripture has said, 'Out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.' John 7:38

3. We do receive the Spirit at **BAPTISM**, but we can either claim it or reject it.
 - a. We reject the Spirit when we choose not to **GROW** in our faith
 - b. We accept the Spirit when we **CHOOSE** to grow.

What will the Spirit do in us?

1. **BIRTH** us again

"Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit." John 3:8

- a. Those who are born again are **CHRISTIAN**
- b. Those who are Christians are **BORN AGAIN**

2. Bring us into **RELATIONSHIP** with Christ

But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. John 3:12-13

3. The Spirit will help us to **PRAY**

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. Romans 8:26-27

4. The Spirit helps us to **KNOW** God's will

I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. Ephesians 1:17-19

5. The Spirit will grow us into the image of our **Father**

And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. II Corinthians 3:18

6. The Spirit will help us produce good **FRUIT**

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. Galatians 5:22-23

7. The Spirit will **UNITE** us Christians

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. Ephesians 4:4-6

8. The Spirit will bless us with unique **GIFTS**
 - a. They will build up the **BODY** of Christ (not tear down)
 - b. They will bless **OTHERS** (Acts 1:8)
 - c. These are not talents, which are given to everyone at birth, Supernatural blessings that are only given to us at the filling of the Spirit.

What are YOUR gifts?

I Corinthians 12:7-11: Wisdom, knowledge, faith,
healing, miraculous power, prophecy, discernment, tongues, interpretation

I Corinthians 12:28-30: apostles, teachers, helpers, administrators

Ephesians 4: evangelists, pastors

Romans 12:7: service, encouragement, giving, leadership,
mercy

I Peter 4: hospitality, speaking.