

4. Understanding the Person & Work of the Holy Spirit

www.victory.net.nz Sunday 23.08.2026
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Sub-title: The Promise of the Holy Spirit is to all Christians

- We are still studying God's Word concerning:
 - The Person and the work of the Holy Spirit
- As believers in Christ, we should get to know, not only Jesus as our personal Lord & Saviour, but also the Holy Spirit as our personal Helper
- Every effort on our part in developing a strong relationship with the Holy Spirit will lead to personal gain
- Conversely, any neglect on our part in developing a relationship with the Holy Spirit will be our personal loss
- Living in these last days has become more and more challenging
- The need for the Holy Spirit and His help in our lives is bigger than ever

Main points of previous message:

- Jesus prepared His Disciples for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit
- Jesus' final words about the Holy Spirit before ascending to heaven
- The Disciples began a 10 day prayer meeting after Jesus' Ascension
- The initial Outpouring of the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
- A subsequent Outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Cornelius' house

1. Jesus called the Holy Spirit the "Promise of the Father"

Acts 1:4–5 (NKJV) *And being assembled together with them, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," He said, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but **you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.**"*

- Immediately before His Ascension, Jesus again spoke to His disciples about the coming of the Holy Spirit
- He referred to the Holy Spirit as "the Promise of the Father"
- This term relates to an O.T. prophecy by prophet Joel, where God promised to pour out His Spirit on all flesh

Joel 2:28–32 (NKJV) *And it shall come to pass afterward **that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.***

29 And also on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days. 30 “And I will show wonders in the heavens and in the earth: blood and fire and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 32 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved. For in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem there shall be deliverance, as the Lord has said, among the remnant whom the Lord calls.

- This prophecy was the “Promise of the Father” to send the Holy Spirit
- Interestingly, this prophecy jumps straight from the Outpouring of the Spirit to the Second Coming of Jesus Christ
- Between these events is the period called the “Church Age”, sometimes referred to as the “Age of Grace”, or “Dispensation of Grace”

2. Peter’s Sermon on the Day of Pentecost

- The Christian Church was launched on the Day of Pentecost, when the initial outpouring of the Holy Spirit took place
- The Church had its beginning with the Holy Spirit, and it needs the continued empowering of the Holy Spirit throughout the Church Age

Acts 2:14–21 (NKJV) But Peter, standing up with the eleven, raised his voice and said to them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and heed my words. 15 For these are not drunk, as you suppose, since it is only the third hour of the day. 16 **But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: 17 ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, your old men shall dream dreams. 18 And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; and they shall prophesy. 19 I will show wonders in heaven above and signs in the earth beneath: blood and fire and vapor of smoke. 20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the coming of the great and awesome day of the Lord. 21 And it shall come to pass that whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’**

- Peter referenced the Outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost back to Joel’s prophecy
- He indicated that this wasn’t some random happening based on whim
- He said: This is what was spoken by prophet Joel (vs. 16)

3. Peter proceeded by preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ

Acts 2:32–33 (NKJV) This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. **33** Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, **and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.**

- When Jesus Christ ascended to heaven, He received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit
- Vs. 33... He (Jesus) poured out the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost
- The Father “**gave**” (granted) the Holy Spirit to be “shed forth” (KJV)
- Jesus Christ “**sent**” the Holy Spirit
- The Holy Spirit **fell** (Acts 11:15)

4. The Holy Spirit is a Gift to the Church

Acts 2:36–39 (NKJV) “*Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.*” **37** Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Men and brethren, what shall we do?” **38** Then Peter said to them, “**Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**”

- Vs. 38. Repent ... be baptised in the name of Jesus Christ ... and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Notice: The Holy Spirit is a “gift”
 - A gift is given, not earned, or necessarily deserved (its by grace!)
- Jesus Christ is a gift to the world (to unsaved people)
- The Holy Spirit is a gift to the church (all believers)
- Question: Who qualifies to receive the Holy Spirit?
- Two qualifications required to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit:
 - Be born again (repent & declare Jesus Christ as Lord of our life)
 - Have faith to receive

5. The gift of the Holy Spirit was given to the early church, and to all future generations of Christians

Acts 2:39 (NKJV) *For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.*”

- The promise (of the Holy Spirit) is to you ...
 - The generation of believers alive on the Day of Pentecost
- ... and to your children ...
 - Next generation of believers
- ... and to all who are afar off (in time and distance) ...
 - All future generations of Christians, right up to the 2nd Coming of Christ
- ... as many as the Lord our God will call
 - Every Christian, past, present or future, has been granted the gift of the Holy Spirit
- Biblically, concerning the availability of the Holy Spirit, nothing has changed since the Day of Pentecost
- Biblically, concerning the availability of the Holy Spirit, nothing will change until the Second Coming of Christ
 - We are still in the Church Age
 - The Holy Spirit has not been withdrawn
 - The Baptism with the Holy Spirit has not been revoked
 - The gift of tongues, for personal edification, is for every believer

6. The Baptism with the Holy Spirit is an additional experience following Salvation

Acts 8:5–6, 12 (NKJV) *Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Christ to them. 6 And **the multitudes with one accord heeded the things spoken by Philip, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did.** ... 12 But when **they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized.***

- Philip the evangelist helped the Samaritans to receive Jesus Christ as their personal Lord & Saviour

Acts 8:14–17 (NKJV) *Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, **they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit.** 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.*

- After Philips preaching, many Samaritans got born again
- The apostles sent Peter & John who helped the Samaritans the receive the gift of the Holy Spirit