

# EMPOWERED FOLLOWERS

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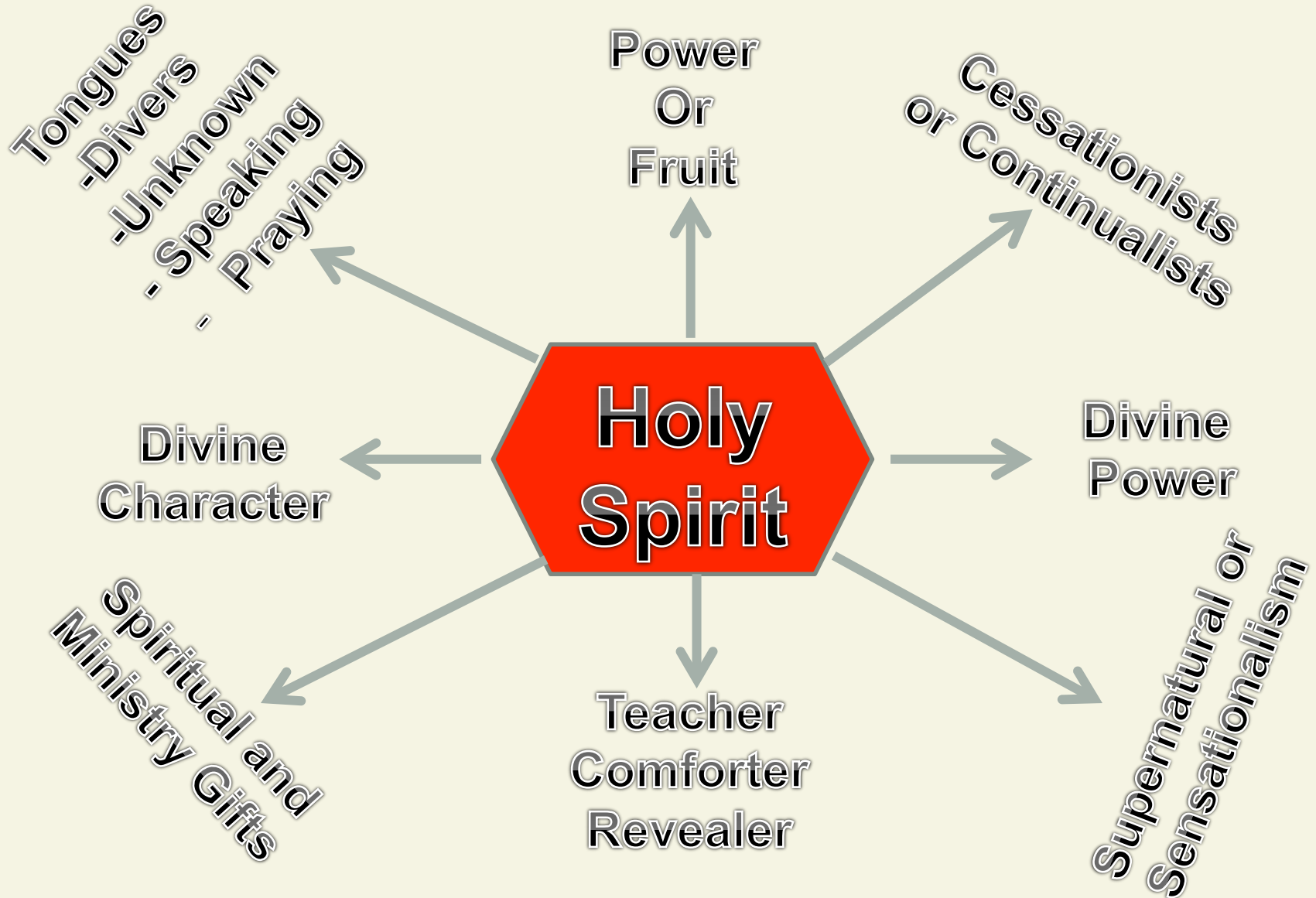
# Questions

- 1. What Exactly is the Gift of the Holy Spirit? The Infilling of the Holy Spirit?**
- 2. Why is this Message so Confusing?**
- 3. Is the Holy Spirit speaking in tongues? What kind of tongues?**
- 4. Does God wants His believers Empowered?**
- 5. How is One Led by the Spirit? Can you hear His Voice?**
- 6. How do you Grieve the Spirit? Resist the Spirit? Quench the Spirit in your life?**
- 7. What is the Fruit of the Spirit? What are the Gifts of the Spirit? Can you have one without the Other?**

# Understanding the Holy Spirit

- The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity of God – He brought life to the world in the book of Genesis and life to man
- He moved upon men and women throughout the pages of the Old Testament enabling them to perform mighty works and fulfill God's Purposes
- Jesus was full of the Holy Spirit and did miraculous works and fulfilled all that was spoken by Isaiah 61
- Jesus transferred and delegated authority to his disciples to do works by the Spirit of God ( Luke 10)
- Jesus promised the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to his disciples and that the Spirit would dwell with them forever
- The promise of the Holy Spirit was fulfilled in Acts 2 on the day of Pentecost
- The Holy Spirit still indwells and empowers believers today

# Understanding the Teachings on the Holy Spirit



# Teachings Regarding the Holy Spirit

- There are those who teach that the Holy Spirit and the gifts are no longer required (Cessationists) while there are those who believe that the Influence, giftings, and baptism of the Holy Spirit still serves a purpose to the Church and the kingdom of God (Continualists)
- There are those who desire the fruit of the Spirit and the nature of the Spirit, but not the divine and infilling power of the Spirit
- There are those who are afraid of the Holy Spirit especially in the area of divers or unknown tongues
- Some seek more sensationalism rather than supernatural offerings of the Holy Spirit

# We Know an Experience Took Place



However, it has been Interpreted in so many Ways

# So Whether You Are a Crazy Pentecostal



Or a Sincere, Loving Christian



Loving Jesus, Loving Life

# What Matters Most

- As believers we should desire all that God has for us including the outpouring of His Spirit
- If Jesus had the Spirit without measure, then why should we as those desiring to be like him live “measured” spiritual lives
- The Holy Spirit provides the Influence and Inspiration so that we will become convicted of our sinful condition and call out for remission of sins (forgiveness) so that we can pursue the lifestyle of the one who grants us forgiveness
  - John the Baptist disciples were recipient’s of his baptism in preparation of the One to come - Jesus
  - Once he (Jesus) increased and John decreased, then baptism into Jesus’ discipleship came next – Matthew 28:19
  - Then as Jesus prepared to leave, he spoke of a Comforter that would infill us and not only develop the character of God within us, but would also empower us to do the works that he did and greater works; to endure persecution; to perform miracles and speak the Word of God infallibly; turn the world upside; preach with boldness; and unify all who seek discipleship through Jesus

# The Holy Ghost Baptizer

***Luke 3:16: [John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.]***

- John's baptism could demonstrate repentance, but it could not truly cleanse one from sin, nor could it impart the Holy Spirit in the way Jesus could after His work on the cross was completed for us.
- **He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire:** John says that the Messiah is coming with a different baptism. The Holy Spirit's outpouring was promised as part of the New Covenant. We are promised an *immersion*, an *overflowing* of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- **His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor:** The Messiah would also bring a baptism of fire; a fire that would both *purify* and *destroy* what is lacking, like fire burns up the worthless chaff. God's power is always a transforming power, a purifying power (Guzik's Commentary).

# Do You Have the Holy Ghost?

- There are many people who claim to be Christians but do not present any evidence of a transformed life
- This is why the other benefit of being Spirit filled is the ability to discern truth and fruit (1 Cor 2:15)
- Repentance is only the beginning of the salvation process
- Discipleship involves submission to the teachings and principles of the one being followed. The Holy Spirit's task is to reveal to us these teachings and enlighten and influence us to the point that not only we remember them, but also feel compelled to walk in them (Hebrews 8:10)
- Even the Gnostics cannot claim that they are being divinely instructed by God (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:27). Only the Spirit of God reveals those things that God desires us to know

# Scriptures

***Acts 1:8 - but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth.***

***John 14:25,26: These things have I spoken unto you, being yet present with you.***

***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.***

# Scripture

***Luke 24:49: [And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.]***

- **Endued with power from on high** - The power which would be given to the disciples by the descent of the Holy Spirit - the power of speaking with tongues, of working miracles, and of preaching the gospel boldly and effectively with the aid of the Holy Spirit.
- This was accomplished in the gift of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4)
- The people responded to Jesus' words by praise and worship – this also sets the stage for the Holy Spirit to operate (Luke 24:52-53)

# Defined – Ye Shall Receive Power

- **Acts 1:8: Ye shall receive power**
- **Power** – *dynamis*
  - strength power, ability; influence;
  - inherent power, power residing in a person or thing by virtue of its nature
  - Moral Power – Excellence of Soul
  - Power to Perform Miracles
- Luke 10:19 - Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
- **Authority-exousia**
  - Power – Authority; Physical or mental power
  - Delegated Power
- *To be effective witnesses for Christ, we need both levels of power – power to perform and power through authority*

# Purpose of the Spirit

- **Power to Make Disciples (Matthew 28:18/Acts 1:8)**
  - Jesus said that this power would assist in us in being Witnesses for Him
- **Revelation of God's Purpose (Acts 2 – Peter's Revelation)**
  - Peter preached his first sermon where 3000 were saved and converted based upon a revelation of Christ's purpose received from the Spirit
- **Boldness and Perseverance (Acts 4: 29-31)**
  - The Early Church faced persecution and yet boldly preached the gospel
- **Direction: Acts 13:2**
  - As they ministered unto the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God provided direction – leading and constraining



# The Holy Spirit

- **Produces Spiritual Fruit in the Believer (Galatians 5:22-25)**
  - It's difficult to produce godly fruit if you are not under the Spirit's influence
  - All vegetation to include fruit need water to survive and thrive - the Spirit is known as living water
  - Although people are concerned about "being judged," Jesus said that we will identify His people by the fruit they bear (Matt 7: 15-20)
  - This fruit stems and develops from the Spirit of God in our lives
- **Empowers and Gifts the Believer to do the Work of God, Persevere Persecution, and to Serve One Another**
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12:1-11 – More Christians today are ignorant of God's Giftings by the Spirit
  - Paul encouraged the Corinthians not to understand the gifts with our materialistic and superstitious mindset
- **Validate spiritual leadership and the five fold ministry gifts**
  - As Jesus installs men and women in ministry, the Holy Spirit equips them through the gifts to operate (1<sup>st</sup> Cor 12:4-7; 1 Cor 12:28)

# The Outpouring of the Spirit



# Scripture

Acts 2:38 - Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

# Premise of Acts 2:38

- **Repent** - Humble yourselves before God, and deeply deplore the sins you have committed
- **Be ye Baptized:** Take on the public profession of the religion of Christ, by being baptized in his name; and thus acknowledge yourselves to be his disciples and servants
- **Into Discipleship** – Matthew 28:19
- **Receive the Gift** – The Influence of the Spirit of God in their lives – They were Converted and added to the Church

# Points of Emphasis

- Peter and the 120 were filled with the Holy Spirit, speaking in divers tongues (Acts 2:4)
- **Peter calls the people to Repent and Be Baptized for the remission of their sins**
  - This means forgiveness of sins that comes from one's hatred towards his sinful condition and nature
- **Be Baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus – Become disciples of Christ (Matthew 28:19)**
- **Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit – Defines the Influence of the Spirit where one is converted and transformed into discipleship**
- The people were converted but were not filled with the Spirit

# The Gift and the Infilling

- Acts 2:4: *pimplēmi*; Filled – wholly take possession; completely filled to overflowing
- Acts 2:38: Gift of the Spirit – *dōrea*; According to the measure by which Christ gave; a measured outpouring of the Spirit that encourages discipleship and divine character
- As Christians we should desire to be “filled with the Spirit” to the measure that we are constrained, empowered, guided, and given abilities to do the work of God
- Most Christians only desire a “measured” influence of the Spirit of God, desiring to maintain control and influence over their own lives while still serving God from their spirit

# Infilling Connected to Purpose

- Luke 1:15 - "For he will be great in the sight of the Lord; and he will drink no wine or liquor, and he will ***be filled with the Holy Spirit*** while yet in his mother's womb.
- Luke 1:67 - And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and prophesied, saying:
- Keep in mind that the Infilling of the Spirit helps the believer serve God's purposes
- However, the Baptism of the Holy Spirit empowers the believer so that not only will he or she will be filled to pray and do God's Will more effectively, but the person is blessed, edified, and effective in their individual lives

# Manifestation of the Spirit - Tongues

- **Acts 2:4 - And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit *and began to speak with other tongues*, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.**
- **Acts 10:45-47: While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who were listening to the message. 45 All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 *For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.***
- **Acts 19:6 - And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and *they began speaking with tongues and prophesying.***

# Evidence or Manifestation?

- Tongues is a manifestation of the Infilling of the Holy Spirit
  - The Holy Spirit is not tongues and tongues is not the Holy Ghost
- We see in Acts, as believers were filled they spoke with tongues – either known or unknown
  - These tongues either glorified God, spoke prophetically, demonstrating that the believers had an experience similar to that what was heard on Pentecost
  - The Apostles, “heard” them – something was manifested to show to them that these people had received the Holy Spirit
- Be Careful because the great imitator – satan offers counterfeit tongues

# Scripture: Acts 19:1-7

And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and **finding certain disciples,**

He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, **We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.**

And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Then said Paul, **John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance**, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

When they heard *this*, **they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.**

And when Paul had **laid his hands upon them**, the **Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.**

And all the men were about twelve.

# Acts 19 – Points of Emphasis

- The people had heard the preaching of John, and received his baptism, believing in the coming Christ, whom John had proclaimed; but it appears that till this time they had got no further instruction in the Christian religion – to include Apollos
- **The Were Disciples:** The Holy Spirit outpouring is for believers only
  - The gift of the Holy Spirit is not for unbelievers, but for true disciples of Jesus
- **They heard them speak with Tongues** – Evidence/Manifestation of the Spirit's outpouring
  - Acts 10:46 - For they were hearing them speaking with tongues **and exalting God.**

# Apollos

- Apollos is first mentioned as a Christian preacher who had come to Ephesus (probably in the year 52-3), where he is described as "being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John
  - [Priscilla and Aquila](#), a Jewish Christian couple who had come to Ephesus with the [Apostle Paul](#), instructed Apollos who had only knew the doctrine of John
  - Apollos was present in Corinth when Paul arrived there and many received the baptism of the Holy Spirit

# Three Baptisms

- Three Baptisms are Mentioned Here – Repentance, Discipleship, and the Holy Spirit Reflecting the Manifestations and Purpose of the Spirit
  - **Repentance** – Spirit of Conviction, exposing man's sinful condition and stirring a need for him to change and return to God
  - **Discipleship** – Developing Godly Fruit in Man to walk in God's precepts and to desire the Word of God, fellowship, shun worldly trappings and to glorify God
  - **The Outpouring or Baptism of the Spirit** – Infusing the Believer with Power to perform the works of God, do the miraculous, persevere under persecution, and

# Have You Received Since You Believed?

**And they *said* to him, "No, we have not even heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they *began* speaking with tongues and prophesying.**

- They were baptized unto repentance of sin (John's Baptism), but they were unaware that there was more
- We have not so much as heard whether, etc. - That is, they had not heard that there were particular gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit to be received.
- Paul knew they were under the converting and transforming power of the Spirit, but there was something missing – The Power that he and the others had previously experienced

# John's Baptism

- Repentance through confession of one's sin
  - *Mark 1:4,5: John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea was going out to him, and all the people of Jerusalem; and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, confessing their sins*
- The word remission means pardon or forgiveness
- **Luke 1:77: To give knowledge of salvation** - Knowledge of the "way" of salvation: Jesus is the Way
- **John's Baptism was sufficient in getting men to repent and turn to God, forsaking and being forgiven of their sins, but when Jesus arrived and John died, then remission came through professing Jesus as Lord – Baptism into Discipleship**

# Jesus Baptism -Discipleship

- The direction which Christ gave to his apostles was that they should baptize all who believed, Matthew 28:19
- Baptism to become disciples
- Remission of all sins
- Be Witnesses of Him

# Decline in Spiritual Manifestations

- Some believe that we are seeing a decline of the operations and evidence of the Holy Spirit in our churches, due to:
  - Spiritual apathy
  - Sensual Rewards (“Feel Good”) over Spiritual Manifestations
    - they desire more of the programs of the church over the operation of the Spirit.
- Seeker Friendly churches frown upon it
- Spiritual Leaders have abused spiritual gifts to fleece the flock and control others
- People are Fearful of it
  - We watch more paranormal shows than desire the Holy Spirit
- Intellectual Gnosticism – Knowledge over Revelation
  - Affirm what I believe and Who I Believe in

# How Is This So?

- **Most Religions and Churches only want a “Form of Godliness” and not the Power (2 Timothy 3:5)**
  - They have religion, but destitute of the life of the Spirit and the power of the Holy Ghost
  - Religion in creed only and now becoming more corrupted
  - *In our self-obsessed world, people feel very free to have a “salad bar” religion - they pick and choose what they want. They feel free to be very “spiritual,” but sense no obligation to be Biblical (Guzik’s Commentary)*
- **Secularism is creeping into the church today**
  - Teaching that there are other ways to God
  - We become more “seeker oriented” and fear scaring off seekers
- **Yet many cannot deny the power, enthusiasm, and demonstration of the Spirit-Filled Church**

# Conclusion

- God poured out His Spirit on the Day of Pentecost to Empower His people for the work Jesus Commissioned them to do
- There is no expiration date in the Bible on the Holy Ghost nor His giftings
- Believers should be discerning (which comes to maturity) when observing and participating with those who operate in the Spirit and the gifts of the Spirit
- You should desire all that God has for you – It's time to “Come and Drink” of His precious Holy Spirit
- Find a Charismatic-Balanced Church and inquire on how to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit