

EMPOWERED FOLLOWERS

Dr. Kenneth



"I will POUR out
My *Spirit*
on ALL flesh."
Joel 2:28



Scriptures

Acts 1:8 - but you will receive power when [1] 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.

Questions

1. **What is the Holy Spirit?** First of all the Holy Spirit is not a “What” but a “Who”
2. **When does the Holy Spirit appear in the Bible?** Most people think that He appeared in the Book of Acts and not Genesis
3. **What is the Holy Spirit Purpose? In the earth and in the believer**
4. **Can an unbeliever have the Spirit of God since we are all made in the image of God?**
5. **What does the Holy Spirit has to do with Discipleship?**
6. **Is the Holy Spirit speaking in tongues?**
7. **How is One Led by the Spirit? Can you hear His Voice?**
8. **What is the Fruit of the Spirit? What are the Gifts of the Spirit? Can you have one without the Other?**

Holy Spirit's Purpose

- John 16:7 - "But 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 go, I will send Him to you."
 - **Jesus came to earth to fulfill what God's Plan, However, he was still limited to time and space**
 - **The Church needed a presence that would be with them always, everywhere, constantly teaching, and empowering**
- John 16:8 - "And He, when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment;
- John 16:13 - "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what is to come.

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 and empower us to carry out the Great Commission
- **Revelation of God's Purpose (Acts 2: 14-32 – Peter's Revelation and Sermon)**
 - Peter preached his first sermon where 3000 were saved based upon a revelation of Christ's purpose received from the Spirit's infilling
- **Boldness and Perseverance (Acts 4: 29-31)**
 - The Early Church faced much persecution and yet boldly preached the gospel
 - They were considered unlearned men, but people could not resist their teachings and amazed at their revelation
- **Direction: Acts 13:2-4**
 - As they ministered unto the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God provided direction – leading and constraining



The Holy Spirit

- **The Holy Spirit is not a Power used to Exalt Oneself or Control People and Circumstances**
 - If someone claims to be led and empowered by the Spirit and is not pointing you towards God, but themselves, then beware
- **The Holy Spirit always exalts the Father God**
- **The Holy Spirit Empowers us to become Witnesses (Acts 1:8)**
- **Brings us into Fellowship and not Fractions – The Unity of the Spirit (Acts 4:32)**
- **Produces Growth without Gimmicks (Acts 2:47)**
 - More churches have more “programs” and entertainment, replacing what could be achieved by the Spirit of God
 - It’s time to put the Holy Spirit back on the program

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 and to Serve One Another**
 - 1st 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

Out of His Belly: John 7:38,39

- Certain measures of the influences of the Spirit had been always given in the conversion and sanctification of the ancient saints and prophets; but that abundant and full effusion which the apostles were permitted afterward to behold had not yet been given (Barnes Notes).
- **“According to the Scriptures have said,”** – It’s always important to know what God says or the writings inspired by God says about salvation and the Baptism of the Holy Spirit
- The Jews frequently compare the gifts and influences of the Holy Spirit to water in general - to rain, fountains, wells, rivers, etc.
- The “Belly” relates to the heart. The Spirit which represents the heart of God, flows from the heart of the believer
- **Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water:** The water of the Holy Spirit not only goes in, it also comes out. Not only does the believer receive blessing, but he *becomes* a blessing to others

Gifts, Ministries, and Activities

1st Corinthians 12:4-6

- **Diversities of Gifts:** Outlined in these verses; different endowments conferred upon Christians; to assist them in the exercise of their office or purpose – **Provided by the Spirit for the growth and edification of the body** (Romans 1:11)
- **Ministries (Administrations):** Ministry Gifts or Offices; Ranks and grades (Ephesians 4:11-14) – **Set in place by Jesus**
- **Activities (Operations):** Energies; God displays and puts out his miraculous power in different ways (there is no “set” way – we forget that sometimes) – **God doing the work**
 - **Keep in Mind that it is God doing the Work and not Man and there are diversities of Operations – No Set Way** (i.e. “While Peter yet spake these words...The Holy Ghost Fell)

Spiritual Counterfeits

- Because there has been increase in “spiritual abuses” of power, many churches are reluctant to allow the Spirit of God to operate, along with the Gifts in their churches
- This is also accompanied by the increase of “Pastor” personality driven church, where the personality of the pastor is strong than the personality of the Spirit
- This does not reflect the character and the ability of the Spirit, nor does it mean that Holy Spirit’s manifestation through tongues and the gifts are inaccurate, but it has been mis-understood and mis-used to the point that people’s fear and carnality may hinder His operation especially within the congregation

Quote

“Men may come very near, they may be intellectually convinced of the supremacy of Jesus; they may even decide that they will adopt His ethical ideal; they may go so far as to determine that they will imitate the perfection of His example. But these things do not make men Christians.”

(Morgan)

Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24)

- Simon confessed Jesus as Lord and Savior (Acts 8:13)
- He previously practiced magic in the city
- However, the Holy Spirit had not yet come (Acts 8:16)
- Simon observed and desired the Gift of the Holy Spirit for the wrong reasons.
- Simon is strongly rebuked by Peter because of his motives
- Simon desired the Holy Spirit as a means for his own benefit and personal exaltation



Simon Rebuked

- Acts 8:20-23: But Peter said to him, Destruction overtake your money and you, because you imagined you could obtain the [free] gift of God with money! [21](#) You have neither part nor lot in this matter, for your heart is all wrong in God's sight [it is not straightforward or right or true before God]. [22](#) So repent of this depravity *and* wickedness of yours and pray to the Lord that, if possible, this contriving thought *and* purpose of your heart may be removed *and* disregarded *and* forgiven you. [23](#) For I see that you are in the gall of bitterness and in a bond forged by iniquity [to fetter souls].
- *Wrong and impure motivations fetters or binds us in iniquity and keeps us from truly doing God's work*

History Regards Simon Magus

- Simon Magus, who is believed to be this Simon in the book of Acts went to Rome and considered a “Skilled Deceiver”
- History states that Simon, although did not reject Christianity, but perverted much of it to his own liking and being a skilled deceiver, corrupted and became the popular leader of a large portion of Christians in Rome

(Resource: written by Justin Martyr, a prominent Christian writer and historian of early second century – Apology, chapter 26)

- **Does this sounds like what we are seeing today?**

Spiritual Counterfeits

2 Thessalonians 2:11 - Therefore God sends upon them a misleading influence, a working of error and a strong delusion to make them believe what is false,

- God is not sending a misleading spirit just as he didn't harden Pharaoh's heart. He removed His influence and allowed this false spirit because the people wanted to hear a lie above the truth of God's Word
- People are left to believe impostors; to trust in false guides; to rely on unfounded information; to credit those who live to delude and betray the innocent; and to follow those who lead them to ruin.

Beware of the Counterfeits

- **2 Thessalonians 2: 10-12:** The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved.
- **If someone has spiritual power, signs, or wonders, those are not enough to prove they are from God.**
 - Satan can perform his own powerful works, either through deception or through his own resources of power.

Example: Brownsville Florida Revival

- Began as a Genuine Spiritual Outpouring
- Counterfeit spirits began to manifest
- Began to speak of “mystical” events
- Sensual, Fleshy Experiences
- Kundalini Spirit Arrives
 - Uncontrolled laughing or weeping
 - “Jerking Body Movements”
 - People going into “fits” through improper laying on of hands
 - “Gold Dust” From Heaven
- Millions of dollars collected
- Infidelity, strife, and evil manifested



God Desires You to be Filled with the Spirit

- One person said that Salvation is the gift to the Unbeliever and that the Baptism of the Holy Spirit is the Gift to the Believer
- In the Early Church, the Holy Spirit was poured out onto believer, people were filled while hearing the message, and the baptism of the Spirit was done through prayer
- The Holy Spirit is available upon request. Jesus said to “Come and Drink”
- If you are unsure about how to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit, find a church that believes in this Gift and seek guidance according to the Scripture from a reliable Ministry

Prayer

Lord, I Desire You More than Anything. You said if I would only ask that You would fill me with Your Spirit to Overflowing. Today, I Come and Drink from Your Fountain, desiring to be Filled with Living Water, Your Precious Holy Spirit.

Lord, Prepare Me to be a Sanctuary For Your Spirit. Cleanse Me from Sin and Guilt. Free Me My Limitations in Faith and those things that have been Oppressing Me.

Fill Me with Your Spirit. Empower Me to Serve and to be a Witness. In the Name of Jesus I pray. Amen