



Study
3

OUTLINE

- Follow through on the homework from the last study
- What a difference the Baptism with the Holy Spirit makes
- Praying as led by the Spirit
- Praying for the gifts of the Spirit

WHAT A DIFFERENCE THE BAPTISM WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT MAKES

It was the 1870s. Dwight L. Moody, of Chicago, had a passion for souls. He was a good evangelist. But something was missing and he knew it. His spiritual condition was not particularly comforted by two ladies in his church who would say to him after each time he preached, "*Mr Moody, you need the Holy Spirit!*" He had dismissed these comments as being the rantings of two crackpot women. But then the tragic Chicago fires happened and it drove Dwight Moody to his knees seeking God for the Baptism in the Holy Spirit. After crying out to God he received what he was praying for. The immediate result was that Dwight L. Moody went from being a good evangelist to becoming a *great* evangelist. This kind of story is repeated many times over down through the centuries in such men

Praying In The Spirit

as Savonarola, Count Nicolas Ludwig Von Zinzendorf, John Wesley, R.T. Kendall.

1. Read John 16:7-14 and note at least 5 things Jesus said the Holy Spirit would do *in* the believer-

Some people think of the Holy Spirit as merely an energy force, but the Holy Spirit is a person. He demonstrates all the attributes of a person.

2. Match the following Scriptures with the personality traits of the Holy Spirit-

- | | |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| __ 1Cor. 2:11 | a. He speaks |
| __ Eph. 4:30 | b. He thinks |
| __ 1Tim. 4:1 | c. He can be lied to |
| __ Acts 5:3 | d. He feels |

But He is not merely a person, He is God. We know this because the Bible says He possesses all of the unique qualities of God- He is *eternal* (Hebrews 9:14), He is the *Creator* (Job 33:4), He is *omnipresent* (Psalm 139:7) and He is *all-knowing* (1Cor. 2:11).

When a person is baptised with the Holy Spirit, they are not merely receiving spiritual "power", they are receiving a Person.

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Jesus told His disciples to wait in Jerusalem until they had received the Holy Spirit (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:6-8). Today, when a person gives their life to Christ this has happened because the Holy Spirit was already active in their life.

3. What do you think the Holy Spirit does in a person in order to bring them to Christ? (Note John 6:44 and 16:8)

4. What does the Holy Spirit do in a person once they accept Christ? (1Cor. 6:11)

It is just not possible to be a Christian without a work of the Holy Spirit taking place in your life! Upon surrendering to the Holy Spirit, He -

- ✿ **fills** your dead spirit (Rom. 8:9) and **quickens** it back to life (Eph. 2:1-5),
- ✿ **cleanses** your impure soul (Titus 3:5),
- ✿ **baptises** you into the body of Christ (1Cor. 12:13),
- ✿ **circumcises** our hard hearts (Rom. 2:29),
- ✿ causes us to abound in **hope** (Rom. 15:13),
- ✿ helps us to **understand** God (1Cor. 2:12),
- ✿ gives an appropriate **gift** to you (1Cor. 12:11),
- ✿ **places** you into a **church** community (Eph. 2:22),
- ✿ enables us to truly **worship** God (Phil. 3:3)
- ✿ is the One whom Christ **baptises** believers who seek with (Mat. 3:11; Luke 11:13; Acts 1:5; 11:16)

Praying In The Spirit

While every believer has had a work of the Spirit in them in order to make them a born-again child of God, not all believers continue to be open to what the Holy Spirit wants to do in their life.

5. Why do you think some believers are reluctant to allow the Holy Spirit to do more in their lives?

TONGUES

It appears from Scripture that there are two very distinct kinds of tongues. Firstly, there is *praying* in tongues ("speaking to God", 1Cor. 14:2) and then secondly, there is *prophesying* in tongues (also referred to as "speaking in tongues" 1Cor. 14:13, 27).

6. What did the Apostle Paul want for all believers according to First Corinthians 14:5?

It seems that when a believer prays in tongues they are praying mysteriously with the Holy Spirit's help.

7. According to Romans 8:26 how does the Holy Spirit help the believer to pray?

If you have not received the Baptism with the Holy Spirit consider making this point of prayer. If you have been seeking this Baptism with the Holy Spirit for some time, consider the following-

1. You may have already received it but not yet spoken in tongues. (If you suspect that this is where you are at, then proceed to 3.)

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2. You may have not been earnest and persisten seeking the Lord for it. (If you suspect that this is where you are at, proceed to 4.)
3. Consider that speaking in tongues as a prayer-language requires a step of faith since it is an unlearned language. Because in one probable instance, Scripture (Romans 8:26) refers to the sound of tongues as "groans" we can see that tongues will not always sound like a language to us. Therefore, the next time you are spending time with the Lord in prayer, let go, forget yourself, and allow the Holy Spirit to pray through you.
4. Keep seeking God for the Baptism with the Holy Spirit and in the meantime be open to the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.

PRAYING AS LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT

God has ordained that we pray. In a mysterious way, God has chosen to govern the world and intervene into the events of human lives in response to prayer! But it seems that God still guides *how, what, and who* we pray (for).

8. How does Ephesians 6:18 instruct us to pray? (Note Jude 20)

Praying in the Holy Spirit can mean praying in tongues, but it more likely means to pray as we sense the Holy Spirit prompting us. Have you ever felt to pray for someone, or for some situation? The Holy Spirit guides and directs His people to pray for other believers, certain souls to be saved, current events, family members and more. Have you ever felt this kind of leading of the Holy Spirit in prayer?

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Father, please fill me afresh with the Holy Spirit so that I am continually led by the Holy Spirit in prayer. Help me to feel what the Holy Spirit is saying to me. Help me to have a sensitive heart to the transforming and sanctifying work of the Spirit. Lord, when the Holy Spirit convicts me of those things in my life that are not pleasing to You, give me the grace to repent, surrender and comply. I want my life to be pleasing to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

PRAYING FOR THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT

9. According to First Corinthians 14:1, what two things are believers to seek?

It takes prayer and then faith to step out in the gifts of the Spirit in a church service. Have you ever used a gift of the Spirit (mentioned in First Corinthians 12) in a church service? There are 9 gifts of the Holy Spirit mentioned in First Corinthians 12. We can not rule out that there may be other gifts that the Holy Spirit can gift believers with.

10. Which of the gifts does the Apostle Paul particularly want used in a church service according to First Corinthians 14?

Your homework for our next Bible study meeting is to do the following-

1. Write down the three most urgent needs of our church and present them to your Home Bible Study Group next meeting for prayer.
2. Settle your soul to be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit each day in prayer. Note what the Holy Spirit led you to pray for and when He did so.
3. Pray for your Bible study group to give birth to another Bible Study Group.

Amen.