

THE HOLY SPIRIT

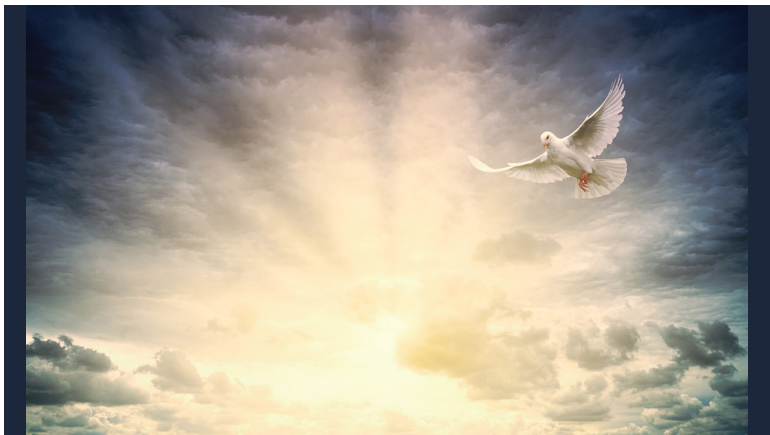


The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead. From the beginning the Holy Spirit has been working through humanity. In the days of the apostles the Holy Spirit worked mightily for the church. The same power

that helped men of old and made the work of God effective has helped God's faithful children ever since. Today, the Holy Spirit is still working on the hearts of men, urging the sinner to repent and leading the Christian to effective witnessing of the Word of God.

It is through the Holy Spirit that God dwells in and with His people. By the Spirit we receive power to have victory in our lives over temptation and sin. He comes to us as a teacher and guide, to lead the sincere of heart into the truth of God's word. It is also the Holy Spirit who gives to us gifts and abilities to be used in the building up of the kingdom of God.

It was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit that gave power to the work of the disciples at Pentecost. The Bible also speaks of a second outpouring of the Spirit in the last days that will ripen the harvest ready for Christ's second coming.



WHAT JESUS SAID ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all the things that I said to you.”

John 14:26

As you study, be thinking about the Life Quest questions.

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

HIS WORD SAYS

1. Who is the Holy Spirit? John 14:26; Matthew 28:19.

The Holy Spirit is the third member of the Godhead. Referred to as 'He', the actual nature of the Holy Spirit is a mystery. How the Holy Spirit can be present everywhere at any time is beyond our comprehension. Man cannot explain it, because the Lord has not revealed it. Here the Holy Spirit is called "the Counselor or Comforter". This word, translated is a combination of two Greek words which mean, "the one called to stand by". When Jesus returned to heaven, the Holy Spirit stood by to continue the work begun by Christ. The followers of Jesus were sad when He left them but soon rejoiced and worked confidently with the Holy Spirit leading them.

2. What is the work of the Holy Spirit? John 16:7,8.

It is the Holy Spirit that convicts us of sin and leads us to repentance, without Him we would never come to Christ. From start to finish, it is God working in our lives to lead us back to Him.

3. Who is responsible for revealing truth, showing things to come and glorifying Jesus?
John 16:13,14.

4. How do we receive the promise of the Holy Spirit? Galatians 3:14.

The Holy Spirit has many roles. He is the voice of conscience which urges people to do right. He also gives faith to those who listen to conscience (Rom 12:3, 1 Cor 12:9), so they can live a true Christian life. He also brings scripture to our remembrance.



5. What should be man's response to receive the gift of the Holy Spirit? John 14:15-17.

If the Holy Spirit lives in us, we will be loving Christ and choosing to obey His commandments. While obedience does not earn us salvation, it does show whom we love. Obedience to the commandments of God is not possible unless the Holy Spirit teaches us.

6. What qualification is necessary if we are to receive the Holy Spirit? Acts 5:32.

If anyone says they have the Holy Spirit, yet does not choose to obey the commandments of God, the genuine Spirit of God is not with that person. However, the Spirit will continue to draw that person to obey the truth.

7. What are the evidences of the Holy Spirit in man? Galatians 5:22, 23.

When the Holy Spirit is living in us, we will have the fruit of the Spirit. We may make some mistakes because of our sinful human nature, but the general tenor of the life will show love, joy, peace etc.

8. What are the evidences that there is little or no Holy Spirit in the life?
Galatians 5:19-21.

In contrast to the fruits of the Spirit we have the works of unrighteousness. Without the Holy Spirit to convict people of sin, these evils multiply in the life.

9. How can we obtain victory over sin? Galatians 5:16.

The antidote for sin is to have the Spirit dwelling in your life. If we live in obedience to the Spirit's guidance we will live a Christ-like life, with victory over sin. Romans 8:4-6.



10. Does each Christian have all the gifts of the Spirit? 1 Corinthians 12:4,7-11,28-31.

11. Why should you not grieve the Holy Spirit? Ephesians 4:30.

12. What does it mean to blaspheme the Holy Spirit? Mat 12:31, 2 Thes 2:10-12.

As we have seen, it is the Holy Spirit which leads us to repentance. Blasphemy of the Holy Spirit occurs when we continually reject the prompting of the Spirit to come to

repentance. If we persist in works of evil and desire instead to seek pleasure in unrighteousness, there will come a time when God will withdraw His Spirit from us and allow us to believe a lie. Without the prompting of the Spirit to bring us to repentance and to seek forgiveness, we cannot be forgiven. This is why this particular sin is unforgivable. Such a person will never be brought to the point of seeking forgiveness so that they can be saved. If you still feel the prompting of the Spirit to turn from sin, you have not blasphemed Him.

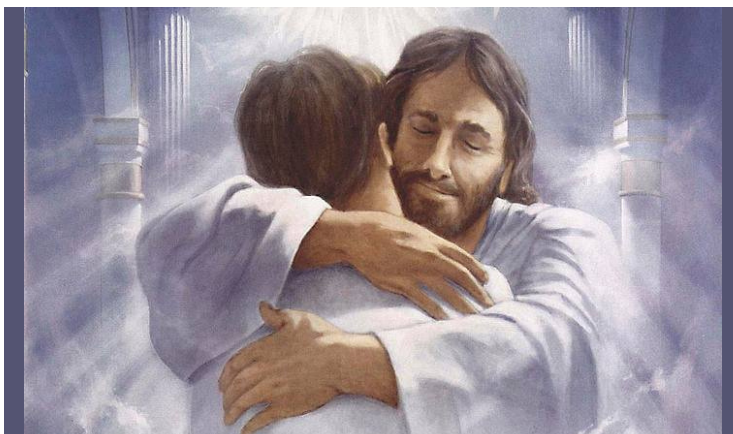
13. Is it difficult to receive the Holy Spirit into our lives? Luke 11:13.

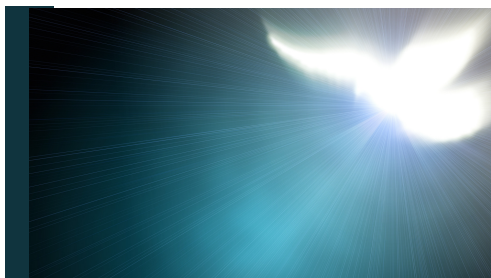
God desires nothing more than to give His Spirit to those who ask for Him.

14. When will the final outpouring of God's Holy Spirit come? Joel 2:28-31, Hosea 6:3

The former rain was for the purpose of germinating the seed, the latter rain came to ripen the grain for the harvest. The former rain of the Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost, while the latter rain will be poured out in these last days to prepare the world for Christ's second coming.

Jesus has given His life for us so that we may have eternal life. He has also given us His Spirit and His word to guide us to life. All the resources of heaven have been poured out to bring us to salvation; there is no more He can do for us. Christ pleads with us to open the door to our hearts and to let Him come in that He may commune with us and dwell with us forevermore. His love for us is beyond measure.





“And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him. ”

Acts 5:32

LIFE QUEST:

Have you thoughtfully reviewed these Questions?

- What does this topic tell me about God?
- What difference does this topic make to my daily life?
- How does this topic help me in my relationship with Jesus?

YOUR TURN

Check the statements that most closely reflect your response to this study.

I now understand how the Holy Spirit wants to work in my life.

I desire the Holy Spirit to work in my life and to change me and help me to know Jesus better.

I would like to know what my gifts of the Spirit are so that I can use them in the church to help others to know Jesus.

I accept Jesus as Lord and Saviour of my life and want to be baptized and to receive the Holy Spirit.

Other _____