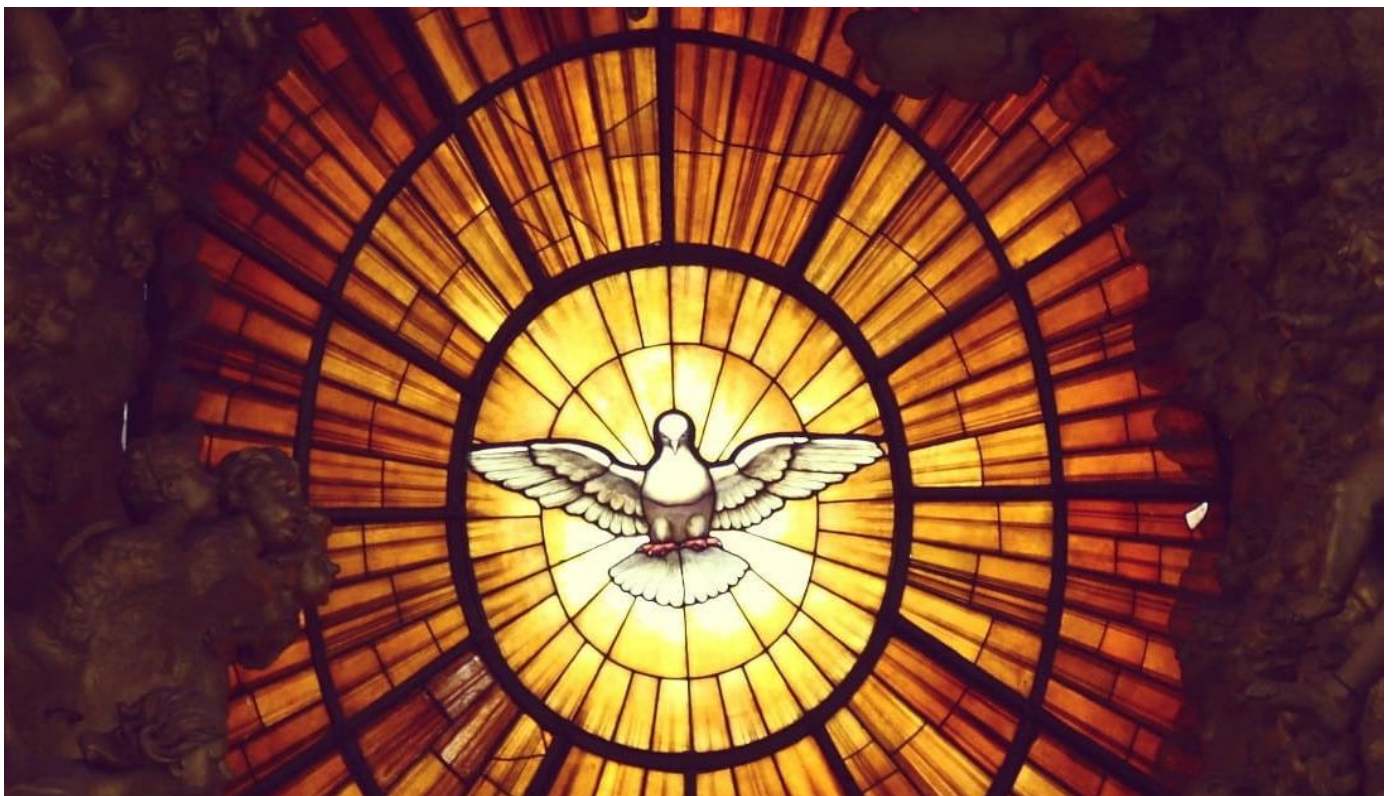




HOLY SPIRIT



WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the third Person of the Godhead. He has always existed with the Father and the Son, and is equal with them in every way.

The Holy Spirit was at work at the beginning of creation (Genesis 1:2). He continued working all through the time of the Old Testament (Nehemiah 9:20). He inspired the prophets (such as Elijah, Jeremiah, Daniel) to stand for Jehovah God and proclaim His law in the midst of sin, wickedness, idolatry, and bitter persecution. The Holy Spirit also spoke through the prophets about the coming of Jesus Christ to this earth (2 Peter 1:21).

Jesus Christ was conceived of the Holy Spirit (Luke 1:31-35) and He was filled with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:13-17). He ministered throughout His earthly life by the power of the Holy Spirit (Luke 4:18, 19; Acts 10:38). He offered Himself on the cross through the Spirit (Hebrews 9:14) and was raised again from the dead by the power of the Spirit (Romans 1:4 and 8:11).

Believers in the time of the early church were filled with the Holy Spirit and continued the works of Jesus by that same power. From then to this present time, the Holy Spirit has been very active in the world, bringing God's will to pass in and through the lives of believers in Jesus Christ (Romans 8:14; Galatians 5:18).

We are now living in the age of the Holy Spirit. God has designed that everything in the Church be done by the ministry of the Holy Spirit. The outpouring of the Holy Spirit in the last days was foretold by the Old Testament prophets. (Isaiah 32:15; Ezekiel 11:19, 20; 36: 25-28; Joel 2:28, 29).

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

John the Baptist said, "I indeed baptise you with water unto repentance, but He that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptise you with the Holy Spirit, and with fire." – Matthew 3:11

Just prior to His ascension, Jesus "commanded His disciples that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father." – Acts 1:4-5

It is important to distinguish between being baptised into the body of Christ at conversion (your salvation) and being baptized in water (your declaration of your faith in Christ to show your family and friends your conversion to Christ), and the baptism of the Holy Spirit for the believer. These are distinct and separate experiences. The moment we place our faith in Jesus as our only hope of salvation, the Holy Spirit baptises or places us into his family. "For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:13) whereas Acts 1:4-5 is an experience we can have in the Holy Spirit subsequent to that of salvation.

WHAT ARE THE BIBLE PROOFS OF THE PERSONALITY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a mere influence or power. The Holy Spirit is spoken of as 'He' (John 14:16-17; 15:26; 16:13, 14).
2. Attributes of personality ascribed to Him: Intelligence - Neh 9:20; Mind - Romans 8:27; Love - Rom 15:30; Knowledge - 1 Cor 2:9-11; Will - 1 Cor 12:11; Grief - Eph 4:30.

WHAT ARE SOME BIBLE SYMBOLS FOR THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Symbols are used to describe the various operations of the Spirit

- Fire* - Isaiah 4:4,5; Matthew 3:11; Acts 2:4
Wind - John 3:8; Acts 2:2,3
Water - John 7:38, 39; 1 Cor 10:4
Oil - Psalm 89:20; Matthew 25:3; 1 John 2:27;
Dove - Matthew 3:16



THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Just before Jesus Christ returned to Heaven, He promised His disciples that they would receive a new experience (Luke 24:49; Acts 1:5,8): the Holy Spirit would equip them for service!

How important it is that we don't rush out on our own before we have the power that Jesus promised!

WHAT IS THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

1. In the world the Holy Spirit convicts of sin, of righteousness and of judgment (John 16:9-11).
 2. For believers the Holy Spirit would:
 - be their continually-present Comforter (Counsellor, Helper) (John 14:16).
 - teach them all things and remind them of Jesus' words (John 14:26).
 - guide them into all truth (John 16:13).
 - glorify Jesus, by showing Jesus to them (John 14:20; 16:14).
- The Holy Spirit was *with* the disciples, but He would be *in* them! (John 14:17).

WHAT ARE THE INITIAL EVIDENCES OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The evidence in the Book of Acts of receiving the Holy Spirit was speaking with other tongues.

Jerusalem - Acts 2:1-4 *Speak with Tongues*

Samaria - Acts 8:5-24. What did Simon see?

Damascus - Acts 9:17-19; 1 Corinthians 14:18

Caesarea - Acts 10:44-48; 11:15-17 *They spoke with tongues*

Corinth - Acts 18:1-11; 1 Corinthians 12:13, 14

Ephesus - Acts 19:1-7; Ephesians 1:13. *Tongues and prophesied*

SPEAKING IN TONGUES

Speak in Tongues

When people in the early church were filled with the Spirit, they also spoke in tongues.

ACTS 2:1-13. There were 120 men and women were filled with the Spirit and spoke with other tongues.

ACTS 8:5-25 - Philip preached to the people of Samaria and they believed and were baptised in water. Peter and John came, laid hands on them, and the people were filled with the Holy Spirit. Simon the sorcerer saw something so powerful unfold that he offered to pay money to receive this ability himself!

ACTS 9:17 - Ananias laid hands on Paul, for him to receive his sight again and be filled with the Holy Spirit. Later Paul wrote, *I thank God that I speak in tongues more than all of you* (1 Corinthians 14:18).

ACTS 10:44-48 - While Peter was preaching, the Holy Spirit fell on the people who were listening in Cornelius' house. The others knew that they were filled with the Spirit, *for they were hearing them speaking in tongues and extolling God.*

ACTS 19:1-7 - Paul laid hands on the baptized believers and *the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.*

Speaking in tongues is a gift of God. It is the ability given by God to speak in a language we have never learned before. We ourselves speak the words the Holy Spirit Himself gives to us.

WHAT IS SPEAKING IN TONGUES

1. It is the sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 10:46, 47)
2. It is a way of speaking directly with God (1 Corinthians 14:2)
3. It builds us up - helps in spiritual growth (1 Corinthians 14:4)
4. It is a way to pray with our spirit - not just with our mind (1 Cor 14:14, 15)
5. It builds us up in our faith (Jude 20)
6. It helps us to pray for what we don't know or understand (Rom 8:26, 27)

THE PRESENCE
THE *Promise*
THE POWER

HOW TO RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT

When you receive Jesus Christ as Lord of your life, spiritual death is taken from you and you become a new creature in Christ. God's desire and plan is that you go on to receive the *Baptism or infilling* of the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is received by faith. Jesus said in Luke 11:13, *If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him.* When you ask in faith, the Holy Spirit will come to fill you, and as in the book of Acts, you receive the gift to speak in tongues and other Spiritual Gifts. So when we pray in tongues, what actually happens is that the Holy Spirit searches our heart and prays through us the will of God (Romans 8: 26-27).

To pray in tongues, you need to realize that speaking with an unknown tongue is the voice of your heart. The Holy Spirit of God will give you utterance (noise), the same as your mind gives you thoughts to speak (Acts 2:4). Ask the Holy Spirit to take charge of your tongue, and open your mouth to hear what God gives you – don't listen with your ears as it is not a language you are meant to understand.

You cannot speak in your own language and tongues at the same time, just as you cannot speak with English and French at the same time. When your voice and tongue begin forming syllables around the expression that your heart desires to release, you will also speak in tongues. It will be your tongue, your breath, your vocal cords and you will be actively forming words. You will supply the sounds, but the Holy Spirit will supply the words—words unknown to you. It may seem awkward to you at first, but continue; like a child learning to speak, you will grow.

When you ask Jesus for His promise, the Baptism in the Holy Spirit, you can be confident the gift given is from God, not Satan. Most times it is best to have someone who is already baptized in the Holy Spirit to pray with you, as most people did when they first gave their heart to Christ. In Acts 19:6 *...when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.* You can talk to your Connect Group Leader or simply, at the end of a Sunday service, go to the front of the church and ask one of the leaders to pray for you to receive the Holy Spirit Baptism.

You may ask, 'What if I don't receive the Gift of tongues after being prayed for?' Sometimes the gifts that God wants to give get blocked by things like confusion, fear, wrong teaching etc. Remember the same godly faith principle applies to receiving anything from God as in Matthew 7:7, 8. *Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

Everything we receive from God is received by faith. "Even so faith, if it has not works, is dead, being alone" (James 2:17). On Pentecost, "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:4).

God is always true to His Word as in Luke 11:13 says...*how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask Him?* If you want to receive your baptism in the Holy Spirit, ask God!

HOW TO RECEIVE PRAYER

'Heavenly Father, I am a believer. I am Your child and You are my Father. Jesus is my Lord. I believe with all my heart that Your Word is true.

'Your Word says if I will ask, I will receive the Holy Spirit. So in the Name of Jesus Christ, my Lord, I am asking You to fill me to overflowing with Your precious Holy Spirit. Jesus, baptize me in the Holy Spirit.

'Because of Your Word, I believe that I now receive and I thank You for it. I believe the Holy Spirit is within me and by faith, I accept it.

'Now, Holy Spirit, rise up within me as I praise God. I fully expect to speak with other tongues, as You give me the utterance.'



OTHER GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The gifts God gives to the body of Christ can be divided into three categories or divisions. "Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which works in all of us" (1 Cor 12:4-6).

Manifestations (1Corinthians 12: 4-11)

Paul referred to these as both spiritual and manifestations. "Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant" (1 Cor 12:1). He says, "The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all" (1 Cor12:7).

They are to operate as "We will to move in the Spirit." We must simply be a willing vessel. If we are willing vessels, the Holy Spirit will operate through us and use us in the manifestations of the Spirit.



Gifts of the Holy Spirit - 1 Corinthians 12:7-10 - The nine gifts mentioned in this chapter have been classified here into three groups: the Revelation Gifts, the Vocal Gifts and the Power Gifts.

The Revelation Gifts - A thought placed in your mind from God

1. **Discerning of Spirits** - discern between of God and Satan. 2Cor11:13-15
2. **Word of Knowledge** - To find out something without the five senses
3. **Word of Wisdom** - Knowing what to do James 1: 5

The Vocal Gifts - Vocal gifts, a gift out of your mouth from God

1. **The Gift of Tongues** - This Gift of Tongues 1 Corinthians 14:4-5, 26
2. **Interpretation** - So church can understand a message 1Cor14:3-4
3. **Prophecy** - Message from God to the Church 1 Cor 14:4-5

The Power gifts - Action of God's power through the believer - Matt 8:23-27

1. **Faith** - A special gift of faith for a special purpose
2. **Miracles** - Supernatural Miracle - Matt 8:23-27
3. **Gifts of Healing** - Divine healing from the power of God

Motivational gifts (Roman 12:1-8)

After conversion each believer is given a motivational gift to be used to strengthen, encourage and edify the body of Christ. These are gifts that a believer is naturally motivated toward after he/she has been born again. These gifts may be fine-tuned and sharpened by the Holy Spirit and us over time but they are what a person is naturally inclined toward after conversion.

Ministers (Ephesians 4:11-16)

This is often referred to as the Fivefold Ministry and are office gifts. "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office" (Romans 12:4). These are men or women whom God has gifted and placed in one of these offices for the church. In actuality, the people themselves are the gifts to the body of Christ. It would do God's people well to understand that the person God has placed over them is a gift from God to that particular local body.



Sunday Services

CRANBOURNE

Ps Phil & Ps Norma Cayzer
1785 South Gippsland Highway
Cranbourne East

URBAN FAITH

Ps Julie Ohlson
Factory 2
151 Princes Highway, Hallam
Seaford: Girl Guides Hall, Seaford

KOO WEE RUP

Ps Sean La'brooy
335 Rossiter Road
Koo Wee Rup
Sundays

MANSFIELD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Ps Nathan Bargerbos
3 Sovereign Court
Mansfield

LILYDALE

Ps Joel & Ps Sieni Cayzer
7 Hardy Street
Lilydale

WILDPATH

Ps David Owens
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