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The Spirit of God

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There are always things about God that we can't fully understand, but then there are things about God that we absolutely must understand!

- **For many of us, the Holy Spirit can be confusing, intimidating, taken advantage of and even miscommunicated. Thinking back over your Christian life, tell us about which of these challenges you've personally experienced in understanding Him:**

a) Confusion; b) Intimidation/Fear; c) Taken advantage of; d) Miscommunication?

Upon genuine belief in Jesus, the Spirit of the Living God comes to dwell within you.

- **How is baptism a demonstration of what has occurred within/inside of you? Explain.**

Then, that which is already within them is now coming on them:

Read Mark 1:9-11 (ESV): *In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰ And when he came up out of the water, immediately he saw the heavens being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. ¹¹ And a voice came from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."*

Read Acts 19:6: *And when Paul had laid his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they began speaking in tongues and prophesying.*

Read John 20:21-22: *Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you."²² And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit..."*

Read Acts 1:8: *"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."*

Until the Holy Spirit fills you with in and also comes up on you, you won't have access to His power nor will you be able to bear spiritual fruit in your life.

- **What does it look like to be filled with the Holy Spirit but not empowered by Him? Is that possible? Why or why not?**

Read Acts 2:1-4: *When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ² And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³ And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴ And they were all **filled** with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.*

They already had the Holy Spirit but now they were “**filled**” with Him. The Greek word “filled” here is a picture of being filled to the rim and then overflowing...what was inside spills over and is now all over them!

- **How does this word picture explain the difference between the Holy Spirit filling us and coming on us in power? Discuss.**

Luke 11:5-10, 13: *And he said to them, “Which of you who has a friend will go to him at midnight and say to him, ‘Friend, lend me three loaves, ⁶ for a friend of mine has arrived on a journey, and I have nothing to set before him’; ⁷ and he will answer from within, ‘Do not bother me; the door is now shut, and my children are with me in bed. I cannot get up and give you anything’? ⁸ I tell you, though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, yet because of his impudence he will rise and give him whatever he needs. ⁹ And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ¹⁰ For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened.*

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!”*

- **How does this passage reveal the way the Holy Spirit can be within us and also on us?**

This is not about salvation (“in”); it’s about having power over our sin and struggles (“on”)!

- **Why is “active waiting” required here? Describe what “active waiting” looks like.**

[Don’t just sit there! Keep asking, seeking, knocking! Be persistent!]

SHARE REQUESTS FOR ONE ANOTHER & PRAY TOGETHER