

The Holy Spirit and You – Spiritual Empowerment Part-3

Selwyn Hughes, “The Spirit of Holiness,” April 29, *“The sacrifice to God is a broken spirit. God, You will not despise a broken & humbled heart.” Ps. 51:17*

“Here are two important steps toward greater openness to the work of the Holy Spirit in your life: (1) Ask yourself: “is there any unresolved conflict, unrepented sin, or anything I must put right in order that God can flood my life with His Holy Spirit?” We must not forget the Spirit is called the Holy Spirit. Holy symbolizes purity; Spirit symbolizes power. The Holy Spirit is completely holy, searching, convicting, cleansing, yet at the same time immensely powerful to support, strengthen & sustain.

If there is anything in your life that needs to be put right, then talk to God about it now. Remember at this point that you are not just [hearing the] reading a page – you are ridding yourself of a plague. You cannot have the Holy Spirit flowing through your life and hold onto unrepented sin. One or the other must go.

“(2) Remind yourself that God is more eager to give you His Holy Spirit than you are to receive. Jesus called the giving of the Spirit *“the Father’s promise”* (**Acts 1:4 TPT** *“Jesus instructed them, “Don’t leave Jerusalem, but wait here until you receive the gift I told you about, the gift the Father has promised.”*). This is the promise of promises. For God to go back on a promise would be the very reverse of His nature; it is impossible. The character of God is behind this promise. You can bank on it. If you could part the clouds for a moment and look into heaven, you would see in the heart of God such an intense longing and yearning for you to be filled with His Spirit that it would completely overwhelm & overawe you. He aches to give you the fullness of His Spirit – He really does.” **Prayer:** “O Father, what you want for my life, I

want too – for my will and Your will to coincide. Make me as eager to be filled as You are to fill me. For Jesus' sake. Amen.”

Dr. Paul Walker, SFLB “Holy Spirit Gifts and Power” (cont'd. from 4/24):

“The Scriptures [use **NKJV**] show the Holy Spirit uniquely and distinctly at work in the role as: 2) *The Old Testament Anointer*. The Scriptures name no less than 16 Old Testament leaders in Israel who received this anointing (looked @ 8 last week; skipped Saul; 7 left): Elijah (**1 Kin. 8:12; 2 Kin. 2:16**); Elisha (**2 Kin. 2:15**); Azariah (**2 Chr. 15:1**); Zechariah (**2 Chr. 24:20**); Ezekiel (**Ezek. 2:2**); Daniel (**Dan. 4:9; 5:11; 6:3**) Micah (**Mic. 3:8**).

“Thus, the Holy Spirit, the contractor, anointed the Old Testament prophets Isaiah and Joel to write – to prophesy of the day when He would be outpoured and when His gifts would be exercised in the church, throughout the church age (**Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2:17-21**). In **Isaiah 28:11-12**, God used Isaiah to tell Judah that He would teach them in a manner they did not like & that He would give them knowledge through the language of foreigners as a sign of their unbelief. Centuries later the apostle Paul expands the intent of this passage, referring it to the gift of spiritual language [*tongues*] in the church as a manifestation or sign to unbelievers (**1 Cor. 14:20-25 TPT**: “*Beloved ones, don't remain as immature children in your reasoning. As it relates to evil, be like newborns, but in your thinking be mature adults. 21. For it stands written in the law: I will bring My message to this people with **strange tongues** and foreign lips, yet even then they still will not listen to Me, says the Lord. 22. So then, **tongues** are not a sign for believers, but a miracle for unbelievers. Prophecy, on the other hand, is not for unbelievers, but a miracle sign for believers. 23. If the entire church comes together and everyone is speaking in tongues, won't the visitors say that you have lost your minds? 24. But if everyone is prophesying, and an unbeliever or one without the*

gift enters your meeting, he will be con-victed by all that he hears and will be called to account, 25. For the inti-mate secrets of his heart will be brought to light. He will be mystified and fall facedown in worship and say, “God is truly among you (or “Truly God is in you!”).”

Dr. Paul Walker: “This sign could be in languages either known or unknown to human beings (**Acts 2:1-11; 10:45-46 NKJV**). In all these respects, we see the Holy Spirit as One who operates in the church as a definite personality – a Person given as a gift to the church **to assure that the continued ministry of the resurrected Christ is expressed & verified**. The Holy Spirit, then, has all the characteristics of a person (use **TPT**):

1. He possesses the attributes of mind (**Rom. 8:27**), will (**1 Cor. 12:11**), and feeling (“*grieve*,” **Eph. 4:30**).
2. He engages in such activities as revealing (**2 Pet. 1:21**), teaching (**John 14:26**), witnessing (**Heb. 10:15**), interceding (**Rom. 8:26**), speaking (**Rev. 2:7**), commanding (**Acts 16:6, 7**), and testifying (**John 15:26**).
3. He has a relationship with human beings: He can be grieved (**Eph. 4:30**), lied to (**Acts 5:3**), & blasphemed (**Matt. 12:31, 32**).
4. The Holy Spirit possesses the divine attributes of the Godhead: He is eternal (**Heb. 9:14**), omnipresent (**Ps. 139:7-10**), omnipotent (**Luke 1:35**), and omniscient (**1 Cor. 2:10, 11**).
5. He is referred to by such names as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Christ, the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, the Holy

Spirit of promise, the Spirit of truth, the Spirit of grace, the Spirit of life, the Spirit of adoption, and the Spirit of holiness.

6. He is illustrated with such symbols as fire (**Acts 2:1, 2**), wind (**Acts 2:1, 2 NKJV**), water (**John 7:37-39**), a seal (**Eph. 1:13**), oil (“*anointed,*” **Acts 10:38**), and a dove (**John 1:32**).”

“All this unfolds something of the vast realm of [Holy] Spirit’s operation in the Old and New Testaments and in the contemporary church.”

“What really happens when the gifts (of the Holy Spirit) go to church?”

ACCOUNTS FROM THE BOOK OF ACTS ARE BEING REDISCOVERED AND APPLIED

“The Book of Acts provides five accounts of people receiving the full-ness of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 2:4; 8:14-25; 9:17-20; 10:44-48; 19:1-7 TPT**). These accounts include five factors:

1. All who were present experienced an overwhelming inbreaking of God’s presence.
2. The disciples who were filled, experienced and demonstrated an evident transformation in their lives and witness.
3. Their experiences became the impetus for the growth of the church, as “*daily in the temple, and in every house, they did not cease teaching and preaching Jesus as the Christ*” (**Acts 5:42**).
4. The immediate evidence in three of the five accounts was the gift of spiritual language. “*For they heard them*

“speak with tongues and magnify God” (Acts 10:46 NKJV).

5. The ultimate purpose of this experience was empowered witnessing (**Acts 1:8**) and a deeper dimension of Christian commitment for the achievement of happiness (**Eph. 5:18-19**), and fruitfulness (**Gal. 5:22, 23**).

Dr. Paul Walker: “Together, these facts demonstrate what some present-day believers experience through the Holy Spirit at work in the church. Often, the elements of this renewal are misunderstood or misapplied for lack of a biblical understanding of the gift of spiritual language and the function of the other gifts of the Spirit. While theologians and others involved in the renewal community may differ on some points, a common bond of unity in the Spirit-filled renewal is the practice of spiritual language in prayer and worship, together with an acceptance and welcoming of the operation of the Holy Spirit’s gifts in their midst. To fully understand this, it is necessary to see the Pentecostal/Charismatic view as they have learned to implement the Book of Acts’ manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s power-workings, applying the disciplines taught in 1 Cor. 12-14.”