

# THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

God's work needs to be done God's way; that is why we need to rely on God's power. Jesus told His disciples, "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you..." (Acts 1:8)

## WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the Third Person in the Trinity. Jesus promised His disciples "another Counselor", the spirit (John 14:16-17). The Greek word translated "another" means "another of the same kind". Jesus promised us a supernatural counselor who is just like Himself. Each person can experience the Holy Spirit in three different ways.

## THE SPIRIT "WITH" US

Jesus told the disciples the Holy Spirit "lives with you and will be in you" (John 14:17). The Holy Spirit is with us before we turn to God. He works on our hearts, stirring up thoughts and feelings and drawing us to God. He also convicts us of our need for Jesus as our Savior (John 16:18-11).

## THE SPIRIT "IN" US

Once we surrender our lives to Jesus and become Christians, the Holy Spirit moves "in" us (1 Corinthians 6:19; 2 Timothy 1:14). This is how Jesus "indwells" Christians, and it would be correct to say "Jesus lives in us by His Spirit" (Romans 8:10-11). We are sealed by the Holy Spirit as children of God (Ephesians 1:13). He then works in us and this work of the Spirit is manifest through the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). He is our Teacher, Guide and Helper.

## **THE SPIRIT “UPON” US**

Jesus told the disciples, “You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you...” The Holy Spirit lives in us to help us become strong Christians, but He comes “upon” us to enable us to do God’s work in God’s power. This is also referred to as being “filled” with the Spirit (Acts 4:8) or the “baptism” of the Holy Spirit (Acts 19:3-6).

## **IS THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT FOR EVERYONE?**

The filling of the Holy Spirit is for all who believe in Jesus Christ as their Savior and Lord, and who are children of God through Him. This experience was known in the Old Testament as well, but the main feature of the New Testament is that it applies to all Christians and not just a select class. The filling of the Holy Spirit may happen at conversion, but it doesn’t end there. Paul commands us, “not to be drunk with wine in dissipation, but to be filled with the Holy Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). This filling is continual and ongoing. Daily we are to ask Jesus to fill us afresh with the power of the Holy Spirit.

## **WHY WE NEED TO BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT**

The purpose of being filled with the Holy Spirit is to empower believers for service, witness, spiritual warfare, and boldness in their testimonies (Acts 1:8, 4:19-20, 29-31; 6:8-10; 1 Corinthians 2:4).

Jesus commanded the disciples not to begin the work to which He had called them until they were filled with the Holy Spirit (Luke 24: 48-49; Acts 1:4:8). When the apostles met believers in Christ, they at once asked whether the believers had received the Holy Spirit. If not, they prayed for the believers to receive Him (Acts 8:14-16; 19: 1-5). The continual filling of the Holy Spirit is an absolute necessity in every Christian’s life for the service to which God has called us.