

Holy Spirit

This tract has been created to introduce those who are searching for truth set forth in God's word. This tract is not based on the traditions of men and pagan religions.

As children of God, we must look for truth in what the scriptures teach us on the Holy Spirit. Some people believe that the Holy Spirit is received after baptism and others believe it is received at the return of Jesus. This tract will help us to understand what the Holy Spirit is and when we truly receive it. Let us first see what the Holy Spirit is.
John 14:16, 17, 26

Verse 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Verse 17 Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Verse 26 But the Comforter, *which* is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

John 15:26

Verse 26 But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, *even* the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:

John 16:13

Verse 13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, *that* shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

Romans 8:11

Verse 11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

The Holy Spirit dwells in you and grows stronger with your personal growth in faith. Our new comforter provides us with the knowledge and truth of the testimony of Christ's gifts, and maybe most importantly peace of mind, giving us that comfort and faith, that Jesus will return for us. The Holy Spirit is much more than any one thing, it is a sliver of what our lives can be like if we have the faith in God to help us harness it. The Holy Spirit is every perfect aspect of what a Christian should be.

Now that we have a better understanding of what the Holy Spirit is we can take a closer look at when we truly receive it. In Matthew we read about John's baptisms, and we see he only baptizes in repentance.

Matthew 3:11

Verse 11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and *with* fire:

John tells them that a greater baptism will come, which is that of the Holy Spirit. John then baptizes Jesus himself; this is when we first see someone receiving the Holy Spirit.

Mark 1:9, 10

Verse 9 And it came to pass in those days, that Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee, and was baptized of John in Jordan.

Verse 10 And straightway coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens opened, and the Spirit like a dove descending upon him:

This shows us that Jesus receives the Holy Spirit descending like a dove upon him. After this we see that those who were previously baptized, in repentance only, get hands laid on them to receive the Holy Spirit.

Acts 19:1-6

Verse 1 And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples,

Verse 2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

Verse 3 And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism.

Verse 4 Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

Verse 5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

Verse 6 And when Paul had laid *his* hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.

Reading this may make one wonder why they needed to be rebaptized.

John 3:5

Verse 5 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

We see that we need to be baptized by water and by spirit to enter into the kingdom of God. These men were only baptized by water, so they needed hands laid on to receive the Spirit.

Now we need to really understand when we receive the Holy Spirit. Do we get it after we are baptized or at a different time?

Acts 2:38

Verse 38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:14-17

Verse 14 Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John:

Verse 15 Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:

Verse 16 (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

Verse 17 Then laid they *their* hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

These scriptures tell us we receive the Holy Spirit after we are baptized, and hands are laid on.

We hope this gives you a new understanding of the Holy Spirit, what it is and when we truly receive it. For those who believe that we are still led by the spirit as Israel was, and do not receive the Holy Spirit until the resurrection when we receive the new body, know that only through the renewing of our bodies by the Holy Spirit can truly prepare us for the coming of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Created by the Church of God
Headquarters Oshawa, Ontario
www.thechurchofgod.info
postmaster@cogsd.org