Introducing the Holy Spirit

1 Corinthians 12:1

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I do not want you to be ignorant:

Regarding the *spiritual* I do not want you to be ignorant!

I do not want you to be ignorant regarding the spiritual because there is no <u>physical</u> way or understanding that can make us like Jesus or get us into heaven.

Today, let me introduce you to the person you must become deeply acquainted with in order to truly be like Jesus and get others to go to heaven with you—the Holy Spirit.

The Trinity

We serve and worship one God that exists in three Persons—God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. They are three distinct Persons that are all the one, true God.

These three Persons that are God are in absolute harmony consisting of one substance. They are coeternal, coequal, and copowerful. If any one of the three were removed, there would be no God.

Each of the members of the Trinity have different functions but all work as one unit in their motivations and actions. There is no bickering between the three because they all think and love alike. They are all three in each other and for each other.

The Trinity and how they interact with each other is the most perfect expression and example of love that exists.

The Person of the Holy Spirit

Our First Encounter

According to Ephesians 1:4, we met the Father before the foundation of the world when He chose us to be holy before Him in love, we met Jesus at salvation when we confessed our sins to Him and asked Him to be Lord of our lives, and our first personal encounter with the Holy Spirit happened at that moment of salvation even though He has been at work in the world since it's conception.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters.

Here we see the Holy Spirit in the Bible for the first time. And in this event before Creation, He was brooding over the chaos of the elements of the earth which had not been formed yet innovating a way to bring order to the chaos and beauty from the formlessness.

Just like the Holy Spirit hovered over the formless earth before Creation, He was hovering over the chaos and formlessness of your spirit before you met Jesus innovating a way to bring you to the order and beauty of salvation in Jesus Christ.

Activities of His Personality

He has a mind

Romans 8:27

27 Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.

He has a will

1 Corinthians 12:11

11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

He speaks

Acts 8:29

29 Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."

He loves

Romans 15:30

30 Now I beg you, brethren, through the Lord Jesus Christ, and through the love of the Spirit, that you strive together with me in prayers to God for me,

He <u>prays</u>

Romans 8:26

26 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

After the sermon today we are going to baptize several people in water to symbolize repentance of their old sinful lifestyles, their new life in Jesus Christ, and their faithfulness to Jesus' Bride—the Church.

But did you know that there are three baptisms for the Christian that we read about in Scripture?

Baptism is all about being immersed in something; meaning, being completely identified with something.

There is only one rule about the chronology of these baptisms—baptism in Jesus' name must come first.

The first baptism is the baptism in Jesus' name through the power of the Holy Spirit that happens when we give our hearts to Jesus; this is a spiritual baptism that happens instantly on the inside of us when we get saved. We call it salvation.

In the Baptism in Jesus' name, the Holy Spirit baptizes the sinner into the <u>righteousness</u> of Jesus—the sinner loses his identity with his sin and identifies now with the righteousness of Jesus name and blood.

The second baptism is water baptism. This is a physical baptism that is an outside announcement to the world of the baptism that had previously happened on the inside.

In water baptism, the pastor or minister baptizes the believer into the <u>church</u>—the believer loses his identity with the world and identifies now with the Church.

The third baptism is the Holy Spirit baptism. This is a spiritual baptism that affects both the spirit and body of a believer in a demonstrative way.

This baptism happens when the believer who has already been baptized in Jesus' name experiences the Holy Spirit outside of him falling on him and the Holy Spirit within him firing up his spirit within him.

In the Holy Spirit baptism, Jesus baptizes the believer in the <u>Holy Spirit</u>—the believer loses his identity with his powerless flesh and identifies now with the life and power of the Holy Spirit in him and on him.

Jesus called the Holy Spirit baptism the Promise of the Father.

Prayer for fellowship and intimacy with the Holy Spirit.

Jesus Knew We needed Power and He Promised to Send It

Acts 1:1-8

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, 3 to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

4 And being assembled together with *them*, He commanded them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the Promise of the Father, "which," *He said*, "you have heard from Me; 5 for John truly baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now." 6 Therefore, when they had come together, they asked Him, saying, "Lord, will You at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?" 7 And He said to them, "It is not for you to know times or seasons which the Father has put in His own authority. 8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The disciples knew that Jesus had come to restore the Kingdom of God in men.

That means Jesus came so that God and His principles would be able to reign in the hearts and lives of men instead of the pride, idolatry, and selfishness that currently rules the vast majority of the human race.

They asked Him when He was going to complete His work, and He answered by telling them that they were to take part in that monumental, long-term task.

Thank God Jesus promised to give us <u>power</u> to complete the humanly impossible challenge of restoring the Kingdom of God in men's hearts by witnessing to men about Jesus; this power is the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit's baptism.

The Purpose of This Power

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to give you power to witness.

Acts 1:8

⁸ But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to give you supernatural boldness.

Acts 13:49-52 and 14:1-3

49 And the word of the Lord was being spread throughout all the region. 50 But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. 51 But they shook off the dust from their feet against them, and came to Iconium.52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

14 Now it happened in Iconium that they went together to the synagogue of the Jews, and so spoke that a great multitude both of the Jews and of the Greeks believed. 2 But the unbelieving Jews stirred up the Gentiles and poisoned their minds

against the brethren. 3 Therefore they stayed there a long time, speaking boldly in the Lord, who was bearing witness to the word of His grace, granting signs and wonders to be done by their hands.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is available to give you power to receive and utilize spiritual gifts.

Things you should know about the Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is not necessary for <u>salvation</u> but you must be saved in order to be baptized in the Holy Spirit.

Romans 10:9

9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.

Acts 2:38

38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Everyone who is saved has the Holy Spirit <u>residing</u> in them; but not everyone who is saved has experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

1 Corinthians 3:16

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

Ephesians 4:4-6

4 *There is* one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all.

Acts 19:1-7

And it happened, while Apollos was at Corinth, that Paul, having passed through the upper regions, came to Ephesus. And finding some disciples 2 he said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?"

So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit." 3 And he said to them, "Into what then were you baptized?"

So they said, "Into John's baptism."

⁴ Then Paul said, "John indeed baptized with a baptism of repentance, saying to the people that they should believe on Him who would come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus."

5 When they heard *this*, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 And when Paul had laid hands on them, the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied. 7 Now the men were about twelve in all.

This power is for everyone.

Acts 2:16-17

16 But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

17

'And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God,

That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh;

Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,

Your young men shall see visions,

Your old men shall dream dreams.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is an overwhelming God-experience that is meant to be a jump start to a life of consistent filling of the Holy Spirit.

In this new covenant it is possible for men and women to walk through life full of the Holy Spirit and His power whereas in the Old Testament, this fullness and power was only temporary.

However, the majority of people who have experienced the Baptism of the Holy Spirit allow the experience to either fade into just a memory and don't do anything extraordinary with it, or they spend their precious time searching for the next spiritual high.

The event of the Baptism of the Holy spirit is often an awesome experience that comes with overwhelming <u>feelings</u> of joy and love, but the perpetual filling of the Spirit from there out is not about euphoric emotions; it's about <u>faithful</u> maturity, service, worship, righteousness, and patience.

Ephesians 5:18-21

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

RESULTS OF THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT

- It releases boldness in the believer's life to proclaim the Gospel of Christ (Acts 1:8; 2:14-41; Acts 4:29; Eph. 6:11-20).
- It releases prophetic utterances and declarations of praise (Acts 2:4,17; 10:46).
- It releases a greater desire to pray and worship (Acts 2:41-42; 3:1; 4:23-31; 6:4)
- It increases a deeper desire for God's Word (John 16:13; Acts 2:42).
- It is the doorway into supernatural living (Heb. 6:4-5).
- It is the doorway to spiritual gifts (I Cor. 12:8-10).
- It gives power to fight spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:11).
- It is the doorway to signs and wonders.

Acts 8:12-17

12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, both men and women were baptized. 13 Then Simon himself also believed; and when he was baptized he continued with Philip, and was amazed, seeing the miracles and signs which were done.

14 Now when the apostles who were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them, 15 who, when they had come down, prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit. 16 For as yet He had fallen upon none of them. They had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-46

44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell upon all those who heard the word. 45 And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God.

Acts 11:14-16

who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' 15 And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.'

Acts 15:7-9

⁷ And when there had been much dispute, Peter rose up *and* said to them: "Men *and* brethren, you know that a good while ago God chose among us, that by my mouth the Gentiles should hear the word of the gospel and believe. ⁸ So God, who knows the heart, acknowledged them by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as *He did* to us, ⁹ and made no distinction between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith.

The Necessity of the Filling of the Holy Spirit

John 7:37-39

37 On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. 38 He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." 39 But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy[b] Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

Acts 2:43

43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles.

Acts 2:42

42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.