

And You Shall Receive the Holy Spirit *Acts 2:38*

Topic: Holy Spirit

Aim: To show that the Holy Spirit must dwell in us to bring forth His fruit.

1. God provides many things to aid us in getting to heaven. One of these is the Holy Spirit.
2. But how the Holy Spirit influences the Christian is a matter of no little controversy.
3. What does the Bible teach about how the Holy Spirit influences the life of a Christian?

I. Some things to clarify our discussion.

A. The promise of the baptism of the Holy Spirit was given exclusively to the apostles.

1. Acts 1:4-5, compare John 14:26, 16:13. Must ask :”When, where, and to whom were these promises given?
2. Ability to do miracles also given by the laying on of apostles' hands, Acts 8:14-17, 19:6.
3. So we know that the power (which is what the Bible says people received when the Spirit was given) to perform miracles was limited to the apostolic age.
4. The role of the Holy Spirit today is not a matter of the power of God, but the will of God. The question is “What is it that God wills” not “What does God have the power to do?”

B. What was the mission, work of the Holy Spirit in the apostolic age?

1. To reveal the mind of God through inspired teaching and through inspired writings.
 - a. Acts 2:4, 1 Corinthians 2:7-13, Ephesians 3:1-4.
 - b. 2 Timothy 3:14-17, 2 Peter 1:16-21.
2. To confirm that revelation, Hebrews 2:4.
3. To wield His weapon: the Word of God, Ephesians 6:17, Hebrews 4:12.
4. His mission was **not**:
 - a. To direct lives of believers through a "still small voice" of individual inspiration.
 - b. To influence the believers apart from the Word, or to guide them to truth, that a promise given to the apostles.
5. Again, not a matter of power - but will.

C. It is **not** a question of:

1. Whether the Christian has the Spirit dwelling in him.
 - a. Acts 2:38.
 - b. Romans 8:9-11, 1 Corinthians 3:16.
 - c. But it is a question of how?
2. The Holy Spirit influencing the Christian. But again it is a question of how?
 - a. Suppose the Holy Spirit is directing each Christian apart from the Word -- Who bears responsibility if that Christian sins (See 1 John 1:8-10)?
 - b. Holy Spirit never takes away our volition or responsibility.
 - c. If the Holy Spirit was guiding apart from the Word, God could not judge us.

II. What does the Spirit do for us? Let’s look at four passages.

A. He wields His sword - the Word of God - the Revelation of the mind of God, Ephesians 3:1-4.

1. By that Word He instructs and guides us.
2. By that Word He comforts and gives hope.
3. As we imbibe, and come more under the influence of the Word, we come under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

B. Paul in Romans 8:1-17, 26-28 tells us that the Holy Spirit:

1. Leads us, verse 14.
2. Bears witness with our spirits, verse 16.
3. Intercedes for us, verse 26.
4. Result: gives confidence and hope, verses 31, 35-39.

C. He produces fruit in our lives:

1. Galatians 5:16-18, 22-26.
2. Here is evidence of Holy Spirit's work!

D. Ephesians 5:18-21 (compare to Colossians 3:16).

1. What is evidence of being "filled with the Spirit"? Five things: speaking to one another, singing, making melody in our heart, giving thanks, and submitting to one another.
2. Again here is evidence of Holy Spirit's work in our lives.
3. Why "drunk with wine" contrasted with being filled with Spirit? Loss of faculties. Holy Spirit never takes away our faculties (compare Acts 2).

1. Are you led by the Spirit?

2. Do you need to submit to His leading through the Word today?

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