

Additional Studies: The Holy Spirit II

Since the Spirit is received at baptism, at least a few verses on the Spirit ought to be covered shortly after, or in connection with baptism.

- Acts 5:32
- Acts 8:18
- Romans 1:11
- Romans 8:9
- 2 Corinthians 12:12
- 2 Timothy 1:7

Points

1. Indwelling

- Received at baptism (Acts 2:38, Acts 5:32, Galatians 3:26-27, 4:6).
 - a. Hence necessary for salvation (Romans 8:9, John 3:5, Titus 3:5).
 - b. Also described as baptism in the Spirit (1 Corinthians 12: 13).
- Helps us be transformed.
 - a. The Spirit changes us to become more and more like Jesus (2 Cor. 3:18).
 - b. The Spirit makes us fishers of men (2 Timothy 1:7).
- Helps us to overcome our timidity, and gives us power to live dynamic life.
- Helps us to focus on others and become more loving people.
- Increases our self-discipline—Our lives come under the Lordship of Jesus.

2. Miraculous Gifts of the Holy Spirit

- Passed on by apostolic laying on of hands (Acts 6:6, 6:8, 8:6, 8:18, Romans 1:11, 2 Timothy 1:6, etc).
- When the apostles died, so did the supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit.
 - a. There was no one around to transmit them.
 - b. The supernatural gifts were a confirmation of the message (Acts 14:3, Hebrews 2:3-4, Mark 16:20), but miracles only confirmed the spoken word of God, never the written word. Once the New Testament was completed, therefore, there was no need for them any longer. They eventually died out.
 - c. Signs, wonders, and miracles were marks of the apostles (2 Corinthians 12:12). Once the apostles completed their work and laid the foundation for the church (Ephesians 2:19-20), the supernatural apostolic ministry was no longer needed.
 - d. Conclusion: there are no supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit today.

3. Are miracles impossible today?

- God still answers prayer (e.g. James 5:16), so you can't say that God never does anything fantastic anymore.
- But many "miracles" are of the devil (2 Thess. 2:9, Deut. 13:1, Matthew 24:24, and 7:22), or psychosomatic. This is particularly true of the Neo-Pentecostalism.
- Remember, apparently miraculous activity doesn't prove one's salvation (Matthew 7:22, 1 Samuel 19:18, etc).