

Study 1. The Holy Spirit and Christians TODAY

READ: John 14: 16-17; Ephesians 1: 12-14

In these verses, note carefully the two 'pictures' which are used to describe the Holy Spirit residing in every Christian:-

- i. The Holy Spirit is like a SEAL on a document. A seal denotes ownership and security. By giving us His Holy Spirit, God is saying, **"You are Mine!" (Isaiah 43: 1)** The Holy Spirit within is a sure sign that He has accepted us, and that we shall never perish. Note carefully the **Key Verse**.
- ii. The Holy Spirit is like a DEPOSIT. (Some translations use such words as 'earnest' and 'guarantee') The idea being expressed is that the Holy Spirit, in residence within us, is the assurance that God will complete what He has begun. Every one of His children will, eventually, be with Him in Heaven!

You may wonder if the Holy Spirit is always in residence! If we do not live as Christians ought to live, does He leave us? In answer to this, we wish to stress that He remains in us even when we fail! The Lord Jesus spoke of Him as **"another Helper (Comforter) that He may abide with you FOR EVER". (John 14: 16)** We can rely upon Him for help and support, for He is always there!

This 'permanent indwelling' of the Holy Spirit is one noticeable difference between believers of today, and those of Old Testament times. In those days, the Spirit **"came upon"** certain people for a limited period of time to enable them to carry out the tasks God had given them. When their work was done, the Spirit was no longer 'upon them'. (See **Judges 14: 19 and 16: 20**) Today, however, He indwells each Christian on a permanent basis.

In olden times, ships depended upon the wind to fill their sails and drive them forwards. In this modern era, ships have the power-source deep within themselves, in the form of powerful engines. Similarly, in this 'church age', all believers have the Spirit within, ready to strengthen them in the changing circumstances of life. We can be **"strengthened with might through His Spirit in the inner man". (Ephesians 3: 16)**

Because we have the Holy Spirit 'in residence', we do not need to pray for Him to come to us. We should, however, always avail ourselves of the power which is already there!



KEY VERSE:
Romans 8: 9

"Now if any one does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His."

In this Study, we concentrate upon the work of the Holy Spirit in each believer in the Lord Jesus.

1. The Holy Spirit in our REGENERATION

At the outset, we must be clear that a Christian is a person who is **"born of water and the Spirit"** as the Lord Jesus taught. Apart from the work of the Holy Spirit in 'new birth' or 'regeneration', we cannot be saved. (Read **John 3: 3-7**)

To be **"born of water"** is NOT a reference to baptism. Water may be viewed as a symbol of the Word of God, as **1 Peter 1: 23** will help us to understand - **"having been born again . . . through the word of God". (See also James 1: 18)** When we believe the gospel and are saved, what happens (from God's view-point) is that the Word of God has been used by the Spirit of God to give us eternal life. It is helpful to remember that the Holy Spirit is the 'Agent' and the Word of God is the 'Instrument', in bringing about our 'new birth'. Both are necessary.

2. The Holy Spirit in 'RESIDENCE'

As we study the Bible, we learn that the Holy Spirit comes to reside in each Christian. This happens at the very moment of our becoming believers! Here are some references to this wonderful truth:-

1. **"God ... has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a deposit."**
(2 Corinthians 1: 21-22)
2. **"... having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise."**
(Ephesians 1: 13)
3. **"... the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God ..."** (1 Corinthians 6: 19)

Study 1. The Holy Spirit and Christians TODAY

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READ AGAIN JOHN 3: 3-7, THEN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-

- i) To whom was Jesus speaking on this occasion?
- ii) What did He say is necessary if one is to **"see the kingdom of God"**?
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- iii) Of what may water be a symbol?
- iv) Which word, occurring in both **verses 5-6**, indicates the 'Agent' or
'effective cause' of the new birth?

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**"HAVING BELIEVED, YOU WERE SEALED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT OF PROMISE."(EPHESIANS 1: 13)
EXPLAIN, AS CLEARLY AS YOU CAN, THE MEANING OF THIS STATEMENT.**

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READ 1 CORINTHIANS 6: 18 - 20 AND ANSWER THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:-

- i) To what is the Christian's body compared, in **verse 19**?
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- ii) What everyday effect should the teachings of these verses have on our behaviour?
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**IN 2 CORINTHIANS 1: 22 THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SPOKEN OF AS A 'DEPOSIT'. (OTHER WORDS ARE 'EARNEST',
'PLEDGE', OR 'GUARANTEE') WHAT DOES THIS TELL US ABOUT GOD AND HIS FUTURE PLANS FOR US?**

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THINK ABOUT THESE TWO WORDS:- i) TEMPORARY ii) PERMANENT

- a. Which word describes the Holy Spirit's residence in believers today?
- b. **"The Spirit of the Lord came upon"** the men in the following Bible passages.
Find their names and write them down.
1. **Judges 3: 9-10** 2. **Judges 11: 29**
- 3. **Judges 14: 5-6** 4. **2 Chronicles 24: 20**
- c. Which of the two words would describe their association with the Spirit of God?
i) TEMPORARY **ii) PERMANENT** (✓ the right answer)
- d. From whom did the Spirit depart in **1 Samuel 16: 14**?
- e. What did King David ask God NOT to do in **Psalm 51: 11**?

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**WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS TO BE ACCEPTED "BY FAITH". THIS
MEANS HUMBLY BELIEVING WHAT GOD HAS SHOWN US FROM HIS WORD.**

- a. Express clearly what you understand to be the main point of this Study.
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- b. How relevant is this teaching to your daily life?
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Study 2. The Filling of the Spirit

This study sheet belongs to:



KEY VERSE:

Ephesians 5: 18

“And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit.”

In the last Study, we learned that God has given the Holy Spirit to everyone who has genuinely believed on the Lord Jesus.

We now move on to consider our personal response to what God has done for us. The **Key Verse** expresses very clearly what is required of us - **“Be filled with the Spirit”**.

There are several points here which we ought not to miss:-

1. IT IS GOD’S COMMAND TO US.

It is, therefore, a responsibility which each of us has. God is calling upon us to allow the Holy Spirit to ‘fill’ our minds, wills and hearts. This implies that we must not try to exclude God from any part of our lives, in the way that a stranger visiting in your home would be excluded from prying into every nook and cranny, unless invited to do so! It is only by opening every department of our lives to our Lord Jesus that we can experience the filling of the Spirit.

2. TO “BE FILLED” IS AN ON-GOING, REPEATABLE EXPERIENCE.

The **Key Verse**, literally translated, is telling us to **“keep on being filled...”**. This is consistent with the **Acts of the Apostles**, which shows that the same group of people experienced more than one filling. **(See Acts 2: 4, 4: 8 and 31)** For us, each day brings fresh opportunities to serve the Lord. Likewise, there are new temptations to be overcome. We cannot live on yesterday’s spiritual power! The filling of the Spirit is God’s daily provision for the demands of each day, whatever they may be.

3. TO BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT REQUIRES CO-OPERATION WITH GOD.

We must allow what God has already done for us to have an effect, every day, upon our living. We do not need to pray for the Spirit to be given to us, nor do we need to ask for **MORE** of the Spirit; there is no

READ: Acts 2: 1-4; Ephesians 5: 15-21; Galatians 5: 16-18

record in the New Testament of anyone praying in that way. Instead, our responsibility is to permit the indwelling Holy Spirit to enter every part of our lives, to be, not merely a ‘resident’ but the ‘President’. Only when every door is unlocked, so to speak, and He has full control of our entire personalities can we begin to experience what the Bible means when it says, **“Be filled with the Spirit”**.

We should not fail to see the contrast in the **Key Verse** between a drunk man and a Spirit-filled Christian! The person who becomes intoxicated with alcohol is setting out on the road to ruin! He is giving his life over to that which will debase him. When drunk, he will think, say and do things which only demean him as a person. As the **Key Verse** says, it will bring him into a state of **“dissipation”**. In contrast to this, if we are filled with the Spirit, we live lives which are worthy of our Lord and Saviour because we are under God’s control.

The challenge which we face is this:- What power is going to control us - the power of sin and Satan, OR the power of God’s Spirit? Paul offers us sound advice:

“I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh”. (Galatians 5: 16)



Study 2. The Filling of the Spirit

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ANSWER TRUE OR FALSE TO THE FOLLOWING:-

- a. The Holy Spirit indwells every believer in the Lord Jesus.
- b. Being filled with the Holy Spirit happens only at the moment of our conversion.
- c. We should yield ourselves every day to the Holy Spirit's control.
- d. We must pray for God's Spirit to come upon us.
- e. The filling of the Holy Spirit never happens today.

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'GOD GAVE HIS SPIRIT TO ME THE MOMENT I TRUSTED THE LORD JESUS, BUT THE FILLING OF THE SPIRIT IS SOMETHING FOR WHICH I HAVE DAILY RESPONSIBILITY.'

- a. Do you agree with this statement? YES NO
- b. **IN YOUR OWN WORDS**, enlarge upon the answer you have given above. Support your answer, if possible, by quoting appropriate Bible verses.

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IN EACH OF THESE REFERENCES, THERE IS A PERSON WHO WAS "FULL OF THE HOLY SPIRIT". FIND WHO IT IS, AND WRITE THEIR NAMES IN THE BOXES.

- a. Acts 4: 7-10
- b. Acts 7: 54-60
- c. Acts 11: 19-25
- d. Acts 13: 9-11

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'LET THE HOLY SPIRIT BE NOT MERELY A 'RESIDENT', BUT THE 'PRESIDENT' IN OUR LIVES.' EXPLAIN IN YOUR OWN WORDS WHAT THIS STATEMENT MEANS.

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IN EACH OF THESE VERSES IS A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO WERE "FULL" OR "FILLED" WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT. THERE IS ALSO AN INDICATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE SPIRIT, IN EACH CASE. THE FOUR EFFECTS MAY BE SUMMED UP IN THESE FOUR PHRASES:- 1) GOOD REPUTATION AND WISDOM. 2) JOYFULNESS, EVEN IN PERSECUTION. 3) POWER IN PRAYER. 4) ABILITY TO SPEAK FOR GOD.

CONNECT THE CORRECT EFFECT TO THE RIGHT REFERENCE BY PUTTING THE NUMBER IN THE BOX:-

- Acts 2: 4
- Acts 4: 31
- Acts 6: 3
- Acts 13: 52

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WRITE A SHORT PARAGRAPH TO EXPLAIN HOW A YOUNG CHRISTIAN TODAY MAY "BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT".

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Study 3. The Baptism of the Spirit

READ: Mark 1: 4-8; Acts 1: 4-8;
1 Corinthians 12: 12-13



KEY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 12: 13

“For by one Spirit we were all baptised into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit.”

Our last Study was about ‘The Filling of the Spirit’; we now consider ‘The Baptism in the Spirit’, and at the outset we must be clear that these are two different activities connected with the Holy Spirit.

There are three main references in the New Testament to the baptism in the Holy Spirit:-

1. THE GOSPELS

Read **Mark 1: 4 - 8** again. **“I indeed baptised you with water, but He will baptise you with the Holy Spirit.”** The speaker is John the Baptist; he is speaking about what Jesus will do in the future. It is clear that John’s words are a prediction, or a prophecy. Baptism in the Holy Spirit, at this point of time, was still in the future! We should understand that Holy Spirit baptism was never experienced in Old Testament times.

2. THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES

Baptism in the Spirit became a reality on the Day of Pentecost. (**Acts 2**) It is true that the words ‘Baptism in the Spirit’ do NOT occur in **Acts 2**, but we can be certain that it did take place because of Peter’s words in **Acts 11: 15 & 16**: He says that when **“the Holy Spirit fell ..., AS UPON US AT THE BEGINNING then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, ‘John indeed baptised with water, but you shall be baptised with the Holy Spirit’ ”**.

So the prediction made in the Gospels by John the Baptist, and confirmed by the Lord Jesus in **Acts 1: 5** was fulfilled at Pentecost - just ten days after the Lord Jesus had ascended into Heaven!

3. 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 13

Read again the **Key Verse**. Here the meaning of baptism in the Spirit is unfolded. It is the formation of **“one body”** comprised of all believers. From God’s view-point, all Christians of this church age were being linked together and forged into a spiritual unity, by the Holy Spirit. As individuals, we are incorporated into that body at our conversion; by baptism in the Spirit we are vitally united to the church’s Head, in Heaven.

To grasp the differences between ‘the filling of the Spirit’ and ‘the baptism in the Spirit’, think about these points:-

1. ‘Baptism in the Spirit’ is a historical event, just as the death of the Lord Jesus, at Calvary, is. It happened on the Day of Pentecost, in **Acts 2**. The ‘filling of the Spirit’ is on going, and can be experienced by us TODAY!
2. ‘Baptism in the Spirit’ is never the subject of God’s command to us, as is ‘the filling of the Spirit’. (**Ephesians 5: 18**)
3. ‘Baptism in the Spirit’ has to do with the formation of **“the church which is His body”**. (**Ephesians 1: 22 & 23**) The ‘filling of the Spirit’, however, is connected with our recurring needs of spiritual power.
4. All believers are equally baptised in the Spirit, since it has to do with being **“in Christ”** and **“in the body”**. Not all believers are equally **“filled with the Spirit”**, for some are **“carnal”** (i.e. not spiritual) (**See 1 Corinthians 3: 1 - 4**)

All the teachings of the Bible should make a real impact upon our conduct. We can rightfully claim to have a part in ‘the baptism in the Spirit’, in common with all other Christians, but can we honestly claim to be allowing the Holy Spirit to work out His plans, in our everyday lives?

Study 3. The Baptism of the Spirit

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READ MARK 1: 7 & 8 AGAIN, AND THEN ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS:-

- a. Who is the speaker in these verses?
- b. To whom did he refer when he said, **“There comes One after me...”**?
- c. What did John say he was not worthy to do?
- d. What kind of baptism did John practise?
- e. What form of baptism would this ‘Coming One’ carry out?

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A. JUST BEFORE HIS ASCENSION, THE LORD JESUS PROMISED THE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT, “NOT MANY DAYS FROM NOW”. (ACTS 1: 5) HOW MANY DAYS ACTUALLY PASSED?

B. BOTH JOHN THE BAPTIST’S PROPHECY (MARK 1) AND JESUS’ PROMISE (ACTS 1) WERE FULFILLED ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST. (ACTS 2: 1 - 4) DESCRIBE BRIEFLY, IN YOUR OWN WORDS, WHAT HAPPENED.

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READ 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 13 AGAIN, THEN COMPLETE THESE STATEMENTS:-

- a. By the baptism in the Spirit, all believers in the Lord Jesus are formed into
- b. When this took place, it makes no difference whether we are or, or
- c. Because of the baptism in the Holy Spirit, there exists among all Christians a spiritual

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‘ONE BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT, BUT MANY FILLINGS OF THE SPIRIT’. BRIEFLY ENLARGE UPON THIS STATEMENT TO SHOW WHAT IT MEANS.

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‘BAPTISM IN THE SPIRIT HAPPENS ONLY TO VERY SPECIAL CHRISTIANS’.

- a. Is this statement true? YES NO
- b. Give reasons for your answer.

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PUT THESE SENTENCES IN THEIR CORRECT ‘TIME ORDER’, BY NUMBERING THE BOXES 1 - 5:-

- Jesus died and rose again.
- The Holy Spirit was given at Pentecost.
- Forty days later He ascended into Heaven.
- That day, the church was formed by all believers being ‘baptised in one Spirit into one body’.
- John the Baptist foretold the baptism in the Spirit.

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This study sheet belongs to:

Study 4. The Holy Spirit and the Church

READ: 1 Corinthians 12: 1 - 11



KEY VERSE:

1 Corinthians 3: 16

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

The Holy Spirit is very important to the church. This is true whether we think of the church in its universal sense, or in a local sense.

THE UNIVERSAL CHURCH

By this we mean the complete body of believers extending from the Day of Pentecost (**Acts 2**) until the Lord Jesus comes again.

1. The Holy Spirit is the Agent who unites in one body all the members of this vast church, as we saw in the last Study. **“In one Spirit”** all were baptised **“into one body”**, of which Christ is the Head. (**1 Corinthians 12: 13**)
2. The Holy Spirit has a key role, not only in the formation of the church, but also in its development. In some New Testament references, the church is likened to a **“body”**, in others to a **“building”**. These two ‘pictures’ are joined together in **Ephesians 2: 21-22** where Paul writes, **“the whole building, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord, in whom you also are being built together for a habitation of God in the Spirit”**. So, while the ‘Head’ (Christ) is in Heaven, the Holy Spirit, as His Representative, has made the church His headquarters on earth. The church, through all these centuries, has been a dwelling place for God, the Holy Spirit.

LOCAL CHURCHES

By a ‘local church’ we mean a group of believers, in any area, who come together to worship God, to glorify their Lord and Saviour, and to strengthen each other in their faith. They also have a concern to spread the gospel to others.

How important is the Holy Spirit to such a company of Christians? Note these points:-

1. The Holy Spirit fits each member for the part he or she has in the church. We learn this from **1 Corinthians 12**, where Paul speaks about **“spiritual gifts”** in the church. It means that not everyone in the church is fitted to do the same task. One man can speak **“the word of wisdom”** while another has **“the word of knowledge”**. (**See verse 8**) But whatever the gift may be, Paul says, **“The same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills”**. (**verse 11**) We learn, therefore, that it is the Holy Spirit who distributes ‘gifts’ or ‘spiritual abilities’ in local churches. He does it, as He chooses!
2. All gifts are to be used to glorify the Lord Jesus. **“No one can say that Jesus is Lord except by the Holy Spirit.”** (**1 Corinthians 12: 3**) This means that if some man speaks in the church in such a way as does not honour the Lord Jesus, he is out of step with the Holy Spirit! The Spirit always glorifies the Lord Jesus! (**Read John 16: 13-14**) It is important, then, that in our ‘church life’, we allow the Holy Spirit to control us.
3. The gifts of the Holy Spirit to individual members of the church are to be used for the good of everyone. All need to be built up in their knowledge of God, and to make this growth possible, spiritual gifts have been given. When they are properly used everyone makes good spiritual progress! **“The manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one FOR THE PROFIT OF ALL .”** (**1 Corinthians 12: 7**)

We should all aim at being helpful and useful in our local churches. When we do so, we are following the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us make sure that the Word of God and the Spirit of God constantly regulate our actions and behaviour!

Study 4. The Holy Spirit and the Church

1

THE CHURCH IS "A HABITATION OF GOD IN THE SPIRIT". (EPHESIANS 2: 20 - 22)

- a. Give another word for "**habitation**".
- b. Where, according to these verses, is God's habitation NOW?
- c. What TWO metaphors, or 'pictures', are used in these verses for the church?
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AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE DEFINE 'A LOCAL CHURCH'.

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ACCORDING TO 1 CORINTHIANS 12, THERE ARE MANY "SPIRITUAL GIFTS" GIVEN TO A CHURCH TO ENABLE IT TO FUNCTION AS GOD WISHES IT TO DO.

- a. What other words could you use in place of "**gifts**"?
- b. Do you think EVERY member has SOME gift? Support your answer by a Bible reference, if possible.
- c. According to **1 Corinthians 12**, who is the Giver of the "**gifts**"?
- d. Read **verses 8-9**, and name three "**gifts**" mentioned in these verses.
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JOHN 16: 13 & 14 RECORD WHAT THE LORD JESUS SAID ABOUT THE HELPER (I.E. THE HOLY SPIRIT) WHOM HE WOULD SEND.

- a. According to **verse 14**, what does the Holy Spirit do for the Lord Jesus?
- b. What do you think it means to 'glorify' someone?
- c. How can we in our church life and in our private life, glorify the Lord Jesus?
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ACCORDING TO 1 CORINTHIANS 12: 7, THE HOLY SPIRIT GIVES GIFTS "FOR THE PROFIT OF ALL".

- a. What does this mean?
- b. What would you say to a church member who fails to get involved in the work and the witness of the church?

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'THE WORD OF GOD AND THE SPIRIT OF GOD ARE ALWAYS IN HARMONY.' WRITE A FEW SENTENCES TO ENLARGE UPON THIS STATEMENT.

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100

Total marks for this Unit

Return your study sheets to:

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Total marks for this study