

Acts Week 43

Baptism of the Holy Spirit

1 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.

Paul entered the city and, upon meeting twelve disciples, having visited with them, it would be in their discussion that he realized they needed more understanding. “Have you received the Holy Spirit?” he boldly asked. Looking amongst themselves and back to Paul, they claimed they did not know of the Holy Spirit. Paul then asked, what type of baptism did you receive then? The Baptism of John.

It’s interesting that Paul’s first questions were about baptism. We left off in chapter eighteen with Apollos in Ephesus with Aquila and Priscilla. They learned that Apollos had not learned of the Holy Spirit, and now we find the same situation happening again in Ephesus with the disciples there. We are told that Apollos was an eloquent man and mighty in the Scriptures, that he had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and being fervent in spirit, he spoke and taught accurately the things of the Lord. How often do we hear of the Holy Spirit in most churches regarding baptism? Most discuss the Spirit from time to time, and why not? There are so many things to observe and live by; are not all things important? However, we find it is a point to be made here in chapter 19 of the disciples there. What baptism have you been baptized into?

Apollos was fervent in the spirit, yet he did not seem to know of this spirit baptism. It must have been something new to this church. Who then was teaching them? Aquila and Priscilla took Apollos into their home to teach him and gently inform him of the Spirit, the one who teaches, guides, and resides in the believer. **“The paráklētos,**

par-ak'-lay-tos; an intercessor, consoler:—advocate, comforter. in the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel truth, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom.”¹

We talk about the Father and the Son, maybe because they are so much more prominent in the Scripture. It is obviously extremely important in the message of the Godhead that the Spirit is made known and included. Had not the Holy Spirit come on the day of Pentecost, or in the upper room of all gathered after Jesus' sacrifice, where would the church be? Without the Spirit, there is no Godly church. Let's look at this for a moment.

"Holy" AND "Spirit" occurs 220 times in 104 verses in the NKJV, including 96 exact phrases shown first. As Spirit alone, 385 times. 605 total.

"God" occurs 4,407 times in 3,844 verses in the NKJV. God and God the Father, not including Father, are used 5,063 times.

"God" AND "the" AND "Father" occurs 656 times in 134 verses in the NKJV, including 16 exact phrases shown first.

Father has mixed uses in referring to Father or father. "Father" occurs 990 times in 843 verses in the NKJV; however, father is also used in general of all fathers.

"Jesus" occurs 981 times in 941 verses in the NKJV.

Son, "the" AND "Son" occurs 226 times in 62 verses in the book of 'Mat' in the NKJV, including 54 exact phrases. Just in the book of Matthew, minus three verses for the son of Zebedee. Combined Jesus gets 1204 references.

The Holy Spirit is mentioned very little compared to the Father and the Son, yet the Holy Spirit's work is immense and vital to the church. We often think only of the Holy Spirit as a side note, but He is equal to the Father and Son. **Genesis 1:2: 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.** He was in the beginning, and He is with us today. Paul, Aquila, and Priscilla understand the Spirit's strength and necessity, so they emphasize His teaching.

1 Corinthians 12:4-11, 4 There are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 There are differences of ministries, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of activities, but it is the same God who works all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to each one for the profit of all: 8 for to one is given the word of

¹ <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g3875/nkjv/tr/0-1/>

wisdom through the Spirit, to another the word of knowledge through the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healings by the same Spirit, 10 to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another discerning of spirits, to another different kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. 11 But one and the same Spirit works all these things, distributing to each one individually as He wills.

Are we beginning to see the greater importance of the Holy Spirit in the lives of believers? He also has the power to give as He wills. This would be for wisdom, security, blessing, power in word, strength to face opposition, and persecution. As we look back to our verse, we see the confusion: one baptism is of repentance, but the other is of provision and power, to teach and secure the heart of the believer, to provide the wisdom God so graciously gives to those who seek. We find power in being baptized in the Spirit, **“the Holy Spirit came upon them, and they spoke with tongues and prophesied.”** These men had a heart to preach but not yet the fullness of ability and understanding, so we see gifts are granted to them immediately. It would be something if we could also see the immediate power given to us as the Spirit indwells us. He does, though; no one here would remain and learn if they did not have the Spirit residing in them, and I say this with conviction, for I have been able to see His hand in my life and in others also.

Over the years, I have heard many talk about their conversion to Christianity and baptism. Among new Christians, we find those who get so excited they need to ask, were you baptized in the Spirit or in John's baptism of repentance? Were you washed in the blood or just the water? I find this is one of those frequent first-year Christian questions; it seems to make a person feel closer or more important to God if they ask this of others. “Man, I was washed in the Spirit, the lamb's blood.” We even have songs about it, so how do we fail to see Him who lives in us and learn to depend more on Him and less on our own understanding?

2 Chronicles 24:20; Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said to them, “Thus says God: ‘Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, He also has forsaken you.’” Our relationship with the Holy Spirit is different now than it was back then. He indwells the believer 24/7, and He convicts both the believer and unbeliever to try and draw them nearer. David asked of God, **Psalm 51:11; Do not cast me away from Your presence, And do not take Your Holy Spirit from me.** How did David know of the Spirit, and yet, after Jesus' ascension, even those teaching did not seem to know?

Holy Spirit's Ministry In The Old Testament

Genesis	1:2	Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters.
Exodus	31:3	Spirit of God filled a craftsman with wisdom, understanding, & knowledge.
Numbers	11:16-26	Seventy prophesy when the Spirit was put on them.
	24:1-6	Spirit comes on Balaam and he gives a prophet's blessing.
	27:18	Spirit was on Joshua who will replace Moses.
Judges	3:9-10	Spirit of the LORD comes upon Othniel.
	6:34	Spirit of the LORD "clothed" Gideon.
	11:29	Spirit of the LORD caused Jephthah to pass through Gilead and Manasseh.
	13:25	Spirit of the LORD began to stir in Samson.
	14:6	Spirit of the LORD enables Samson to tear apart a lion.
	14:19	Spirit of the LORD helped Samson kill thirty men.
	15:14	Spirit of the LORD came upon Samson so that the ropes dropped off.
1 Samuel	10:6-10	Spirit of the LORD came upon Saul mightily, and he prophesied.
	11:6	Spirit of the LORD came upon Saul mightily.
	16:13-14	Spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David and departed from Saul.
	19:20-23	Spirit of God came upon the messengers of Saul, and they also prophesied.
Isaiah	59:21	Spirit was upon the prophet Isaiah.
Ezekiel	2:2	Holy Spirit entered Ezekiel.
	3:24	Holy Spirit entered Ezekiel again.
Daniel	5:11	The Chaldeans described the Holy Spirit as a "spirit of the holy gods."
1 Chronicles	12:18	Spirit of the Lord came upon Amasai and he spoke.
2 Chronicles	20:14	Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel and he spoke.

2

John 7:38-39: He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in Him would receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

As we begin to transition further into teaching, we must look at how Paul came to the group by addressing the Holy Spirit, the giftings, and the instruction, His counsel. Unlike Jesus in His incarnate body, who could not be omnipresent, the Holy Spirit can be. The Spirit can be everywhere at all times. Regarding teaching the new disciples by the Holy Spirit, to what purpose was it to be? Through our works of faith, we glorify the Father,

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<https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-ga/ga-archives/question/when-did-the-holy-spirit-come-after-jesus-or-before/>

but not without the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' Spirit, see Romans 8:9 and 1 Peter 1:11.

John 15:4-6 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. "If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned.

John 15:7-8: "If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. "By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples.

Holy Spirit's Ministry to Jesus Christ

Born by the Holy Spirit	Matt. 1:18; Luke 1:35
Holy Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism.	Luke 3:22
Led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted	Luke 4:1
Returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit	Luke 4:14
"The Spirit of the Lord is upon ME . . ."	Luke 4:18
He rejoiced greatly in the Holy Spirit.	Luke 10:21
Gave orders to the disciples by the Holy Spirit	Acts 1:2
Ministry performed in the power of the Spirit.	Acts 2:22
Anointed with the Holy Spirit	Acts 10:38
Offered Himself - died - by the Spirit.	Heb. 9:14
Returned to life by the Holy Spirit	1 Pet. 3:18

3

8 And he went into the synagogue and spoke boldly for three months, reasoning and persuading concerning the things of the kingdom of God. **9** But when some were hardened and did not believe, but spoke evil of the Way (the Christian movement) before the multitude, he departed from them and withdrew the disciples, reasoning daily in the school of Tyrannus. **10** And this continued for two years, so that all who dwelt in Asia heard the word of the Lord Jesus, both Jews and Greeks.

3

<https://www.neverthirsty.org/bible-ga/ga-archives/question/when-did-the-holy-spirit-come-after-jesus-or-before/>

Boice makes a good observation... that Paul chose to work in cities where the opportunity to reach more people in a central location would spread the gospel message faster. This makes sense, and not only that, but Paul often found others who had come as he did to share the gospel and, therefore, he found helpers. Interestingly, Boice also comments, "Did Paul have a rock concert or something of that type? Obviously, he did nothing of the sort."⁴

Paul placed all his trust in the gospel alone and the power of the Holy Spirit. I served in a church once where they put a young man in charge of everything; his fantasy was to promote the church by having concerts with famous music groups. I am sure he may have had many people come, but for what? If they do not come to hear the word in its purity, then they come for the wrong reasons.

We introduce the invitation to salvation to others in many different ways, but the gospel should never be diminished by entertainment to draw one near. Paul surely could have said, "Come, watch the miracles I can do." That makes it about Paul and not the Godhead. Paul made it clear that the power he was blessed with was from God. All glory goes to God the Father. Why, to God the Father, the three persons who make up the trinity always give glory to one another? At the beginning of Genesis, we find that the Spirit moved over the face of the waters. He was the dove that came down and rested on Jesus' shoulder, He accompanied Jesus in the desert,

We must also give room in our lives to listen to the Spirit's guidance.

⁴ James Montgomery Boice, *An Expository Commentary Acts*, Baker Books, Grand Rapids Michigan, page 323.