

Vol 20 Receiving The Holy Spirit

Is He a person?

You cannot receive something or be led by someone who does not exist so the first question is whether or not He is a person and separate to Jesus.

Jesus said:

Jn 16:13 (ERV) But when the Spirit of truth comes, He will lead you into all truth. He will not speak his own words. He will speak only what he hears and will tell you what will happen in the future.

From this we can see that Jesus said:

The Holy Spirit is a person

The Holy Spirit is separate to Jesus

The Holy Spirit can interact with you or He could not teach or guide you.

The Holy Spirit is a person you can relate to and be taught and guided by Him or Jesus lied or was deceived, which means you cannot believe anything Jesus said as He may have gotten it wrong.

Overview

The Holy Spirit is given to a person when they become a wholehearted follower of Jesus and make Him Lord of their life. He is given as a sign that the person belongs to Jesus and His purpose is to guide and teach the person to be a good follower of Jesus and to know what Jesus requires of them to be His follower and a responsible Citizen of The Kingdom of God.

He is only removed when the person Blasphemes the Spirit which results from ignoring The Holy Spirit and bringing Him into disrepute through this. Even though the sin may be against The Father or Jesus, The Spirit is the one ignored and brought into disrepute before the demons and angels through not being declared worthy of being listened too as He warned you and tried to stop you sinning against them.

The Promise of Jesus

To deny being able to be guided by or hear a Personal Holy Spirit is to call Jesus a liar and to deny the Love and Personality of The Holy Spirit. In a sense it is a type of blaspheming The Holy Spirit. It also means you need to use reason to do the work of God and God said we cannot reason out His Ways as they are so far above anything we can reason or work out (Is 55:8-9).

Jn 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

Jn 14:26 But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Joh 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but what- soever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

If a person can hear The Holy Spirit clearly then they do not need legalistic, denominationalistic, churchistic or use any other man-made guidelines to guide them (except for organizational or other legal requirements of them). The Holy Spirit will guide you personally and tell you what Jesus requires of you and not what man has reasoned out as being The Will of God for you.

Jesus promised The Holy Spirit would guide you into all truth, not just spiritual truth and would tell you what you needed to know about the future as well as the present and not what you think you needed to know (Duet 29:29).

How do you receive the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit is a gift from The Father (Luke 11:13) to mark us as His. But who is anointed (authorised and empowered for ministry) by The Holy Spirit is decided by Jesus (Jn 1:33). When we turn to Jesus to be our Lord (and thus saviour, redeemer) The Holy Spirit's presence fills our spirit and drives out any demons that are there (Rom. 8:16-17). The continual filling by The Holy Spirit refers to our soul, where The Holy Spirit replaces the demons that are cast out of our soul through the deliverance ministry or repentance. This cleansing of the Soul is to do with Holiness rather than authority or 'power'.

When do we receive The Holy Spirit and how often do we receive Him?

We receive The Holy Spirit when we become a Christians (Rom 8:17). The next stage is anointing through the Holy Spirit for purposes of ministry. While the Spirit is filled once our soul is filled whenever a demon is cast out because we ask The Holy Spirit to fill it so demons cannot come back in.

As we seek holiness and a deeper relationship with God (a result of seeking holiness), our soul and mind are purified and as we work at our side of the salvation partnership through faithful obedience to Jesus, The Holy Spirit can take over more of us and in that sense fill us more. But this is a gradual thing and not normally noticed, unlike the four events above when the presence of The Holy Spirit is felt to some degree.

However, in deliverance when the soul is cleansed we will often feel The Spirit's presence as He fills it and replaces the demons that are gone after we ask Him to do this.

We do not need to be filled to be anointed by The Holy Spirit. The filling replaces demons and purifies our soul more. The anointing is for promotion (authority) and is based on maturity and service and not how much we are filled by The Spirit.

Seek the Baptism of The Holy Spirit and associated giftings but first count the cost of obtaining them and ask yourself:

"Am I willing to pay it"! "Am I willing to do the ministry that will be associated with it for which it has been given to me?"

What do you need to do to receive The Holy Spirit

You need to Love Jesus and follow His teachings

Jn 14:15-17 If ye love me, keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

Who is He given too?

He is given to the followers of Jesus by The Father (Jn 14:17) at the direction of Jesus (Jn 15:26).

Why is He given to the followers of Jesus?

To mark them as belonging to Jesus and The Kingdom of God (2 Cor 1:22)

To anoint (set apart and empower) people for ministry (Luke 4:19)

To guide them into all truth, reveal the Will of God to them and guide them in the things they are to do for The Kingdom of God (Jn 16:13).

To teach them to be a good steward of their gifts and other things they have been given stewardship of.

To testify of Jesus (Jn 15:26)

To guide them to serve in the Kingdom of God (Jn 3:5)

To guide them in the true worship of The Father (Jn 4:2)

To guide them in spiritual warfare and deliverance (Mat 12:28)

The above teaching was exemplified in Acts, which is really a description of the working of the Holy Spirit in the early church and is the model of how The Holy Spirit should work in The Body of Christ today.

Jesus taught the disciples what The Holy Spirit would do when He came to replace Him. After Jesus died, the Holy Spirit came and carried out what Jesus said The Holy Spirit would do. (Jn 17:39).

According to what Jesus taught, if you only knew The Old Testament, The Holy Spirit, and your relationship with Him and The Father, you could live the Christian life, as He requires you too. Knowledge of theology is shown to be irrelevant. All you need to know is The Father, Jesus and what He has done for you as well as follow The Holy Spirit's guidance, listen to the truths He teaches you and speak what He tells you too. Theology incorrectly used only sidetracks you from the simplicity and purity of faith of The Gospel of The Kingdom of God.

However, theology applied correctly and not just knowledge of theology will help you know God better and serve Him better.

Most of the people in heaven got there without knowledge of theology. They knew how God worked and what He required of them and obeyed Him in whatever He asked them to do. They saw God work and were encouraged in their faith. Theology is knowledge only and is not relevant to the Christian life, unless it is applied. There are many theologians in hell as there are also ministers and pastors. It is only as theology is applied is there any benefit of it to the Christian life.

Satan will allow you to have as much knowledge as you like as long as you do not apply it.

The devil knows theology better than the best theologian but he does not apply it except where he can use it in some way to cause Christians to rebel against God (sin).

Theology is reasonings (words) about God and His things. Christian living is the practical application of what God reveals of Himself to you. You do not need to be a theologian to live as a Christian. Theology may give you an understanding of things but without application it becomes its own God and is of little benefit to anyone.

It is to be noticed that in a church and society where theology is emphasized The Gospel usually spreads much more slowly than where theology is absent or applied correctly. This is because faith is usually more reasoned and applied less where theology rules. In these theologically led societies The Holy Spirit also has a less important role and often His manifestation is missing, as is the outworking of His power and ministry through gifts and miracles so that The Authority of Jesus and The Kingdom is not demonstrated to those around. It is almost as if theologians are afraid to give up reason and be guided by The Holy Spirit into uncertainty of purpose and life as they see it.

Another comment of Jesus is that He describes The Holy Spirit as a 'comforter'. The one who walks alongside us, helping us relate correctly to God, ourselves, and others if we let Him. The intimacy of this relationship is what Jesus hinted at when using the word 'comforter'. The Holy Spirit goes through our trials with us and knows our innermost thought. He is in a position to encourage and help us in all we do so that we glorify God by our life and serve His purposes (Rom 8:26,27).

If all we need is what Jesus taught us, then why do we need the teachings of Paul and the other New Testament Writers? God knew man's heart and that man would make his own rules, so through Paul's writings God gave guidance on important matters, including how the Holy Spirit was designed to fit into the scheme of salvation as well as how to live as a citizen of the Father's Kingdom. This is why the writings of Paul and others in the New Testament on the Christian life include instruction on the role The Holy Spirit plays in the life of a Christian.

How is He received by a believer?

The Holy Spirit is sent by The Father (Gal 4:6). The Father loves His children and has given them not only Jesus but The Holy Spirit to help them. What an amazing thing it is that God desires us to relate personally with Him and has even made it possible for us to do so without anyone needing to be our go-between.' But then even more amazing is the fact that He created us to be His friend.

The Holy Spirit is also received as a result of believing in Jesus (salvation Eph 1:13) and cannot be received through the workings of The Law (Gal 3:2). The Father marks us as His very own through the Holy Spirit's presence in us. It says to the Devil, "Hands Off! This person is my property!"

By faith (Gal 3:14) we receive the Holy Spirit as we make ourselves open to His presence being in us. Faith in Jesus (salvation) is the key. Not faith in the Holy Spirit. That occurs as a result of salvation. One of the principles of the spiritual world is that God or Satan cannot really use us if we do not cooperate with either of them through our will not accepting what they want us to do. However, if we ignore God, while we are not listening to Satan, we are still helping Satan by our indifference to what God desires us to do for Him..

Satan can only get you to do what you accept from his suggestions to you. He suggests a thought or course of action and unless you accept it, he cannot get you to do it. SIN IS YOUR CHOICE!

Remember, even thinking about doing it is sin as the activities resulting is a result of our choice to do it.

Sin also occurs because you ignore the Holy Spirit urging you not to do the thing Satan is suggesting you do. Remember also, it is only those that are led by The Spirit that are 'sons' of God. God is merciful and through our heartfelt repentance restores us to the relationship we had before we 'sinned'.

The Holy Ghost is a witness to the new relationship we have with God as a result of our sins being remitted at Calvary and the spiritual consequences of them no longer affecting us if we repent of them (Heb 10:10-18).

The understanding of the laws of God are also placed in our understandings because the Holy Spirit is now in our spirit to teach us these.

We know we belong to Jesus (1 Jn 3:24) because The Holy Spirit's presence is in us. All we know about Jesus and the spiritual world has been revealed to us by The Holy Spirit (Job 32:8).

This receiving of The Holy Spirit is not The Baptism of The Spirit. That is a separate event but may coincide with this sealing of a person by The Holy Spirit.

Jesus giving the disciples The Holy Spirit

Joh 20:22 And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost:

There are two questions this verse raises.

What is required to receive The Holy Spirit?

Why was the Holy Spirit given to the disciples now and not earlier?

As we receive The Holy Spirit when decide to follow Jesus and He is not breathed on us by another, why did Jesus breathe on them to give them the Holy Spirit as their seal of belonging to Him.

The timing of the event.

After the death of Jesus, the disciples left off ministering and went back to their former occupations. Jesus had said that The Holy Spirit would be sent after He had died so He did not give it to them before His death as He was not needed because Jesus was there to tell them what God required of them and to personally authorize them to do His work. This shows how important the role of The Holy Spirit is in the life of a Christian that He represents Jesus to us.

After He had risen and by this verified who He was (the Christ) they left all and followed Him and now were truly His followers and so received The Spirit to verify this. They still had to wait for Pentecost to be anointed by The Spirit (authorised to minister in an area, empowered and receive the appropriate giftings) to do the work Jesus wanted them to do.

Why did He breathe on them?

This breathing is in allusion to God's breathing the breath of life into man, something only God can do. So, Jesus alone can breathe The Spirit of eternal life into a man.

It is not a person breathing a gift of The Holy Spirit or The Holy Spirit Himself into a person as Jesus alone gives The Holy Spirit on behalf of The Father and The Holy Spirit releases the gifts as needed by a person and not as the person asks or thinks they need.

So, you do not need to breathe on a person for them to be sealed (receive) by The Spirit at salvation or to receive The Spirit or His Gifts at any other time. Jesus gives The Holy Spirit and not you. Breathing on a person does not baptize them in the spirit (anoint them for ministry). Jesus does that and you have no part in it except by faith to breathe on them as a witness to God's working so to breathe on a person for any other reason is from you and not from God.

To breathe on a person without the direction of The Holy Spirit to do this is not of God and may allow Satan in as the person is receptive to a spirit entering and if it is not The Holy Spirit then person who is entering it can only be a demon.

To breathe on a person because of Pentecost is wrong as it says there was a sound like a wind and not that there was a wind blowing. So, to try and imitate this wind is also incorrect.

The breathing on them also marked them as belonging to Jesus!

Do you get The Holy Spirit in stages?

The Holy Spirit's presence is given in His fullness in your spirit and not piecemeal (Jn 3:34).

What happens in the soul is that a demon leaves and there is a vacant area left. The Holy Spirit is asked to replace the demon and fill that vacant space. His presence protects that space as long as Jesus is Lord of it. It is not a new infilling but an extension of the original one when the soul was first given to Jesus to be Lord of.

This is different to The Baptism of The Holy Spirit where He rests on you like a covering to mark your position and authority in The Kingdom of God.

The Holy Spirit in The New Testament

When Jesus died at Calvary, He removed the defilement of the sin that was the barrier between God and mankind that stopped mankind entering The Kingdom of God and also removed all the obstacles that stopped mankind relating directly to God (Jn 17:3). Because we are now not defiled by sin as a result of the redemption that occurred at Calvary, The Holy Spirit can now place His presence in you, communicate directly with you and guide you individually. God no longer sees you as unholy, declaring you pure and undefiled and in a correct relationship with Him through what Jesus did at Calvary so that the presence of The Holy Spirit can now inhabit you.

The Holy Spirit was sent by Jesus to help you live now as God requires you too. So, to ignore The Holy Spirit is to ignore God's provision for living The Christian life as a good citizen of The Kingdom of God should live it.

Job 33:4 The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

Acts 1:8) But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.

(Act 3:12) And when Peter saw it, he answered to the people, Ye men of Israel, why marvel ye at this? or why look ye so earnestly on us, as though by our own power or holiness we had made this man to walk?

(Jn 14:26) But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.

Jn 16:13 Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

(Rom 8:14-16) For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:

Responsibilities after receiving The Holy Spirit

Once you have received The Holy Spirit you are required to live the Christian life and show you do belong to Jesus and are not just nominally accepting Him and what He did for you.

You need to show the Fruit of The Spirit in your life and to love others in the same way Jesus does. Not to do these things shows you are very immature or not a Christian or may need deliverance in an area of your life.

Having chosen to be a Christian it is foolishness not to live as one.