

Holy Spirit - Nature and Role

Key Verse

Joel 2:28-29 - And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, and your young men shall see visions. Even on the male and female servants in those days I will pour out my Spirit.

Exploring the Bible

I. God's Promise of the Spirit

Read *Luke 11:9-13*

Question: What does the Father promise to give as a good gift to those who ask (verse 13)?

Answer:

Jesus gives an example of earthly fathers who know how to give good gifts to their children when they ask as an example of how much our heavenly Father wants to give the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:8 - But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

Question: What would the disciples receive when the Holy Spirit came upon them?

Answer:

This is one of the great promises to believers. When the Holy Spirit comes upon us, there should be a great increase in power. The word for power used here is the word from which we get the word "dynamite." There should be an explosive power that comes into our lives with the baptism of the Spirit. This is more than just power to do miracles. It is the power to walk out our gifting and purpose in life. We can teach with power, prophecy with power, evangelize with power, as well as having the power to see

healings and other miracles. Therefore, this becomes an extremely important aspect of kingdom life.

II. The Promise of an Outpouring

Hundreds of years before it happened God spoke prophetically through one of His prophets concerning a time when everyone would experience the Holy Spirit.

Read *Joel 2:28 – 32*

Question: Who will be poured out on all people (verse 28)?

Answer:

Question: What will be the result of this outpouring (verse 28)?

Answer:

Question: Who will receive this outpouring (verse 29)?

Can you imagine being a person in the Old Testament and reading this prophecy. All you know about the Holy Spirit is that He comes upon certain people for special acts of power or for prophecy. Now, you read that there is a time coming when everyone and anyone who desires can experience the Holy Spirit no matter who they are or what position in life they occupy. It would have caused great anticipation for the future.

III. The Outpouring Happens

Read *Acts 2:1 – 21*

Question: When does this outpouring take place (verse 17)?

Answer:

Question: What happened when people were filled with the Holy Spirit?

Answer:

Question: Who prophesied this event?

Answer:

When the people in the upper room poured out into the streets speaking in other languages and causing an uproar, Peter said that this is what the prophet Joel meant

when he prophesied about the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The anticipated time of the outpouring of the Spirit had come. When He came He did not come gently or quietly. There was an explosion of people out into the streets speaking in the languages of all the foreigners in the city causing some to question the sanity and sobriety of the people who were experiencing this outpouring.

IV. Examples of the Baptism of the Spirit

Read *Acts 8:14-17*

Question: What did the apostles do when they came to Samaria (verse 15)?

Answer:

Question: Did the people receive the Holy Spirit (verse 17)?

Answer:

Receiving the outpouring or baptism of the Holy Spirit was an essential part of the ministry of the early church. The story of the Samaritans' accepting the gospel is not complete until they receive the outpouring of the Spirit.

Read *Acts 10:44-48*

Question: What happened when Peter spoke to these people (verse 44)?

Answer:

Question: What was the manifestation of this outpouring of the Holy Spirit (verse 46)?

Answer:

It was the outpouring of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues that convinced Peter that God had accepted the Gentiles through Jesus Christ. This was the one evidence that convinced the apostles that God was truly moving in salvation among people.

Read *Acts 19:1-7*

Question: What did Paul ask the disciples he met in Ephesus (verse 2)?

Answer:

Question: How did these disciples receive the Holy Spirit (verse 6)?

Answer:

Question: What did these disciples do when they received the Holy Spirit?

Answer:

The baptism of the Spirit is so central to the move of the gospel in the New Testament that Paul checks on these disciples in Ephesus to make sure that they had been baptized in the Holy Spirit. This was not something that was optional; it was essential to the gospel message. After all, it was this outpouring that was promised in the Old Testament, experienced by everyone in the upper room, and passed on by the apostles to everyone to whom they ministered.

Practical Exercise:

Since the baptism of the Spirit is so important to the operation of the Kingdom of God, we want to pray for everyone who has not received this gift and who wants it.