

Do we need the Holy Spirit today?

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Holy Spirit

- 'He' is said to be the third person in the Trinity
- Many churches focus on the Holy Spirit as an influence that acts through the church
- Some believe that they possess the gifts of the Holy Spirit
 - Power to heal
 - Power to speak in tongues
 - Power of knowledge by guidance to clergy on spiritual issues

2

Question ?

- Should we search after these gifts for ourselves?
- Can we obtain this power? If so from where?
- What are our possible motives ?
 - Good works/healing etc.
 - Influence others
 - Fame

3

What does **Spirit** mean in the scriptures ?

- Many uses
- Context often defines the meaning
 - Spirit, wind, air, anger, blast, breath, courage, mind, etc
 - Spirit, ghost with Holy, ghost, life, wind, etc

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Spirit

- **Two general principles;**
 1. **Breath: life giving element to humans**
 - Living being, spoken word, mental disposition.
 2. **Wind**
 - Force, invisible power of God, angels
 - Holy Spirit, the special power of God
 - Holy Spirit has no identity except from God
 - (Never Holy Spirit of Christ)



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Spirit

- **Breath: Can't live without it**
 - Spirit of God = mental disposition of God
 - Spirit of Christ = mental disposition of Christ
 - i.e. attitude of mind which reflects the way of God/Christ
- **Our mental disposition has the greatest effect to bring changes in us**

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Mental Disposition

- What we take in will affect us
- Can tend towards carnal or spiritual
- Can change our thinking for good
- Born with carnal/decaying body and can't change
- Word of God disciplines our mind, and then God will change our bodies
- Must have the appropriate mental disposition rather than want God's power

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Definition of Holy Spirit

- Matt 3 v 16. The **word** of scripture defines Holy Spirit.
'And Jesus, when he was baptised, went up straightway out of the water: and lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: and lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased'.
- Acts 2 v 3. Pentecost.
'And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire and it sat upon each of them and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit'.

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Spirit in the First Century

- Test the spirits (teachings) for genuineness
- How? 1 John 4 v 1-3.
'Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: and every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God'.
- The Holy Spirit gave authority to the Word but the **Word** (scripture) is used to Test people's teachings for genuineness.

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Holy Spirit

- Apostles given signs to prove the **word** was with the authority of God.
Acts 4 v 29-31. Peter and John in prayer.
'And now, Lord, behold their threatenings: and grant unto thy servants, that with all boldness they may speak **thy word**, by stretching forth thine hand to heal; and that **signs and wonders** may be done by the name of the holy child Jesus. And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, **and they spake the word of God with boldness**'.

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Holy Spirit Gifts

- Spirit gifts less important than charity.
1 Cor 12 v 31, ch 13.
‘And yet show I unto you a more excellent way. Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity....

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Holy Spirit Gifts

- How they were replaced.
1 Cor 12 v 1, 13 v 8-10:
‘Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant....Charity never faileth; but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge it shall vanish away’.

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What next ?

- Spirit gifts have ceased
- So.....
- What then caused the church to grow and prosper?.....

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.....The **Word**

- In Jesus' terms is life.....John 6 v 62,63.
'What and if ye shall see the Son of man ascend up where he was before. It is the spirit that quickeneth: the flesh profiteth nothing: the **words** that I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life'.

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The **Word**

- Is profitable.....

11 Tim 3 v 16.

‘All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction for instruction in righteousness; *That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*’.

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What does the **Word** do for us?

1. Brings blessing: ‘Blessed are they that hear the **word** of God , and keep it’ Luke 11 v 27
2. Guides us: ‘Thy **word** is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path’ Psalm 119 v 105
3. Brings a special relationship with Jesus: ‘My mother and my brethren are these which hear the **word** of God and do it’. Luke 8 v 21
4. It is the power of God to salvation: Rom 1v16
5. *Brings repentance: Acts 2 v 37.*
6. Brings approval before God: 11 Tim 2 v 15
7. Brings faith: Rom 10 v 17. ‘So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the **word** of God’.

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What does the **Word** do for us?

It brings repentance:

Acts 2 v 37. Pentecost.

‘Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, **REPENT and BE BAPTISED** every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit’.

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Question ?

Does it follow, that from then to now all who hear the gospel, repent and are baptised receive the gift ?

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Who received the gift ?

Acts 2 v 39.

‘For the promise is unto **YOU**, and to **YOUR CHILDREN**, and to **ALL THAT ARE AFAR OFF**, even as many as the Lord our God shall call’.

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REMEMBER

- Holy Spirit does not.....
 - bring repentance
 - make us be baptised
 - discipline the mind
 - change our characters
 - make us righteous
 - make us obedient
 - bring us understanding of salvation
 - create faith
- We are not asked to desire it, but to seek wisdom. (Prov 4 v 5).

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Summary

- God is Spirit; i.e. invisible and visible power: the angels are ministering spirits
- Holy Spirit helped establish the early church
- The miraculous gifts gave support to the **word** of God being taught by the apostles
- The Holy Spirit today is exclusively the power of God and is used by God for His purpose
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit are not available or necessary today for our salvation.....
-BUT.....

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.....the **Word of God** is....

And it.....

- **Teaches salvation**
- **Shows Jesus as the example**
- **Brings knowledge of God's purpose**
- **Is the basis for our faith**
- **Brings a positive character change**
- **Guides us to develop a likeness to Jesus**

Conclusion

Do we need the Holy Spirit gifts today?

- *Not for our knowledge, salvation or our works*

Is the work of the Holy Spirit necessary today?

- *Definitely, as God uses His power to work His purpose through*

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The End

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