

Third person of the Trinity (1 John 5:7)

Sometimes called the Spirit of God

As such must have the same attributes as God

He is the presence and power of God on the Earth

All supernatural works of God are through the Holy Spirit

He has emotions (Isaiah 63:10)

But they rebelled and grieved His Holy Spirit ; So He turned Himself against them as an enemy, And He fought against them.

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#### The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

•He was present from the beginning of time (Genesis 1:2)

•He could work through men and animals (Number 22:22)

•It was through Him that the prophets were able to prophesy (Mark 12:36)

For David himself said by the Holy Spirit : " The LORD said to my Lord," Sit at My right hand,Till I make Your enemies Your footstool."

•He could come upon men at a particular time to perform His work (Numbers 24:2, 1 Samuel 10:10, 1 Samuel 16:14) and could leave them (1 Samuel 16:14)

•David knew this and asked God not to remove His Spirit from him (Psalm 51:11)

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The Holy Spirit filled certain chosen people only to carry out certain tasks

•Bezalel for wisdom in all workmanship and artistic things (Exodus 31:3)

•Daniel with the Holy Spirit and was able to have supernatural wisdom and interpret dreams (Danial 5:11,)

•David to prophesy about Jesus (Mark 12:36)

•John the Baptist from birth to prepare the way for Jesus (Luke 1:15)

•Joel prophesized that there would come a time when ALL men would be filled in the Spirit. (Joel 2:28)

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SUMMARY

- The Holy Spirit is God and is the presence and power of God (the emotional aspect of God)
  - He can work through anyone or anything to manifest God's power
  - Only a few chosen people were "filled" with the Holy Spirit.
- That is to have an abiding presence of God in their lives enabling them to do things that in ordinary circumstances they would not be able to.**
- Joel prophesied that a time would come when ALL flesh would be filled with the Holy Spirit

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The Holy Spirit in the New Testament

He came upon Jesus in the form of a dove after Christ's baptism (Luke 3:22)

Only after this was Jesus equipped to go into the wilderness and start His ministry

The Holy Spirit brings us to salvation (Nicodemus -John 3:8, Peter -Matt 16:17) and reveals to us that Jesus is God (Acts 5:32)

John the Baptist tells us that Jesus will be able to baptize people in the Spirit (Matt 3:11) (a different event to baptism in water)

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The disciples were sent out and were able to preach and heal - the Holy Spirit must have been working through them. However they were unable to cast out a particular demon. (Luke 10, Mark 9)

There would come a time when they would be able to do greater works the Jesus himself did (John 14:12). The Spirit is WITH them, but will be IN them (John 14:17). They had not yet received the rivers of living water which is the of the Spirit (John 7:39). (John 14:17)

When Jesus prepares his disciples for his death he tells them that though he is leaving the Holy Spirit will come to take His place. (John 14:26)

He breaths on them to receive the Holy Spirit but they do not receive Him right then. Jesus leaves the Holy Spirit on the Earth but the disciples must wait to receive Him in his fullness.

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Instances where people received the Holy Spirit

On the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-4)

To the Samaritans (Acts 8:14-18)

Paul (Acts 9:1-18)

The house of Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48)

The Ephesians (Acts 19:1-6)

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WHO?

WHEN?

The apostles in  
the upper room

Forty days after the ascension of  
Christ

The Samaritans

Sometime after they had received  
Christ

Paul

Three days after his conversion

Cornelius and his  
household

After Peter had taught them

The Ephesians

When Paul found them

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WHO?

HOW?

The apostles in  
the upper room

- A sound like a rushing wind
- Divided tongues of fire on each head
- They spoke in tongues

The Samaritans

- The apostles laid their hands
- Simon saw something happen

Paul

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Cornelius and his  
household

- They spoke in tongues

The Ephesians

- Paul laid hands on them
- They spoke in tongues and prophesied

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•THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS AT WORK FROM THE BEGINNING OF TIME AND THE DISCIPLES WERE ALREADY CARRYING OUT WORKS THROUGH HIM TO A CERTAIN DEGREE.

•IF GOD IS ALWAYS THE SAME WHY IS THE HOLY SPIRIT COMING UPON THESE BELIEVERS IN THIS NEW WAY?

**WHAT HAS CHANGED?**

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**SUMMARY**

•The Holy Spirit is manifest in men in a new way. Now all can receive him and be used by Him.

•This Holy Spirit can now work in us in a new way because of Jesus on the cross broke the curse of sin and allows us to have access to God.

•The experience of receiving (being baptized/ being filled in the Holy Spirit) is a separate experience to salvation and baptism in water.

•There is an external manifestation of the infilling of the Holy Spirit, it is not just a "nice" feeling.

•The bible shows that people who were filled in the Holy Spirit spoke in tongues and prophesied

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The Holy Spirit brings us into salvation and baptises us into one body (1Cor. 12:13)

The Holy Spirit is operative in every believer for varied ministries in the church – we saw that even before the death of Jesus Christ that the disciples were working through the Holy Spirit.

However we need to understand that the baptism in or with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5) is a different event directed by Jesus to be received as a gift (John 1:22, Acts 2:38) that would be given after his ascension (Acts 1:8).

We need to answer the question as posed in Acts 19:2

HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT SINCE YOU BELIEVED?

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Three of the five accounts of receiving the Holy Spirit mentions tongues as having been spoken by the recipients.

So why is this gift mentioned so many times? Why is it important? Why is there so much controversy regarding this gift?

With regards to having received the Holy Spirit, it does function as a sign (Mark 16:17; 1Cor 14:22, Acts 10:44-46) amongst other things that those filled with the Holy Spirit will do.

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Twofold function of the gift of tongues

1. To edify personally
2. To edify the church

To edify means to:

1. instruct especially so as to encourage intellectual, moral, or spiritual improvement.
2. build up, strengthen, restore
3. Teach or persuade

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#### 1. For personal edification

It is not just a sign that once a person has spoken is enough. It is a gift that needs to be exercised and developed. Ephesians 6:18, 1 Corinthians 14:18-19

Prior to the death of Jesus, mankind could not enter into the presence of God. Only specially chosen men could do so. After Christ's death the relationship between mankind and God was restored. We are all now able to enter into his presence and "speak" with him. Tongues gives us a unique opportunity to reach an intimate level with our Lord as it is the only gift to be used for our own selves and is one where there is communion only with God. This gift was not present in the old testament because this experience was not available to all before the salvation of Christ.

1 Corinthians 14:4

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•Praying in the Spirit builds our faith and keeps us in the love of God

Jude 20-21

•Singing and praying in the Spirit is a means for rejoicing

Ephesians 5:18-19

•When we are weak the Spirit helps us to pray interceding with God on our behalf. He also prays the perfect will of God.

Romans 8:26-27

It is how we fight spiritual battles.

•Ephesians 6:11-18

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These ways of praying are the way we can get into a more intimate relationship with God. This is important as it is the one thing that we have been called to do.

Matthew 7:21-23

Make sure we desire to KNOW God, not just do the things that He has called us to do. Christianity is a heart relationship with God, not just a religion. The gift of tongues helps us to grow in that relationship.

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So why the tongue?

James 3 talks about the untamed tongue which is a small but powerful organ. We often cannot control it. Is it just a coincidence that God chooses this organ to be the one that we surrender to him?

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To edify the church

- Can only be of use in the church if interpreted and then operates in much the same way as the gift of prophesy

- If no-one is present to interpret the tongue should not be spoken

- There should not be confusion in the service but order should prevail.

- It is by no means "better" than any other gift of the Spirit and like all other gifts should be based on the love of God not just a boastful heart. (1Cor 13)

1 Corinthians 14

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