

# Combined Fellowship: The Holy Spirit

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BPCWA COMBINED FELLOWSHIP (23 Aug 2014) Session II

## Doctrine of The Holy Spirit

### PURPOSE

To understand more clearly from Scriptures:

- I. The Person of the Holy Spirit
- II. The Works of the Holy Spirit
- III. The common questions concerning the Holy Spirit

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| <b>II The Work of the Holy Spirit (Part 2 for this session)</b> |
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As mentioned in the previous lesson, the Holy Spirit's work in man's life can be summarized into 3 operations:

- 1) Coming upon
- 2) Indwelling
- 3) Infilling

His ministry is seen both in the OT and the NT.

### 1) COMING UPON OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A quick summary of the previous session,

- a) The Holy Spirit is described to "come upon" upon believers as well as unbelievers too
- b) This describes the Holy Spirit moving, controlling, and giving abilities to the person He comes upon

### 2) INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

a) **This is the Holy Spirit dwelling only in believers.**

- i) The Bible speaks of indwelling only with regards to believers. In fact, without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, God says you are not a child of His ie not saved:
  - Rom 8:9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

b) **Indwells permanently from the time of salvation onwards**

- i) Indwelling occurs from the time a person is baptized with (not by) the Holy Spirit at the new birth.
  - John 1:33 And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost.
  - At salvation, the believer is the baptized with (not by) the Holy Spirit by Christ.
  - This Baptism with (not of) the Holy Spirit is one time event in the believer's life at salvation, not repeatable experience.
  - From henceforth, the true believer has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit permanently (Rom 8:9)
  - Note that the use of IN does not always indicate location (else we have problems with John 14:20)

# Combined Fellowship: The Holy Spirit

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- The Spirit dwelling IN the believer likewise is not the emphasis of location of God, but rather God is emphasizing the permanent and going relationship Spirit has and will have with the believer. Hence Rom 8:9.
- ii) This regeneration (new birth) work of salvation by the Holy Spirit results in indwelling.
- How does regeneration which leads to indwelling occur?
  - The believer is saved because of the saving work or regeneration work of the Holy Spirit. This is the Holy Spirit's work in the doctrine of the new birth. The Holy Spirit :
  - Reproves the hearer (general call) convict him of sin (John 16:8)
  - and then works in the hearer so that he will understand, receive, and believe in God (effectual and irresistible call)  
1Cor 2:12-14  
(12) Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.  
(13) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.  
(14) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
  - The believer is then baptized with and hence sealed with the Holy Spirit  
Eph1 :13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,
- iii) Proof that Jesus Himself asserted that that Holy Spirit also worked in OT believers to regenerate them and save them:
- Christ asserts to Nicodemus that regeneration work of the Holy Spirit for the new birth is a necessity before there could be entrance into the kingdom of God since OT times.
  - That the Holy Spirit regenerates OT believers is seen when Christ had to rebuke Nicodemus, being and OT believer and teacher, for not knowing about this doctrine of the Holy Spirit.

**PASSAGE :** John 3:4-9 :

(4) Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?

(5) Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.

(6) That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

(7) Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

(8) The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

(9) Nicodemus answered and said unto him, How can these things be?

(10) Jesus answered and said unto him, Art thou a master of Israel, and knowest not these things?

**QUESTIONS :**

1. Many dispensational teachers argue that the OT did not teach spiritual regeneration, neither were they any operation of the Holy Spirit in the OT believers with respect to regeneration. For example, Dwight Pentecost asserts that "the fact of the new birth [regeneration] had not been revealed in the Old Testament" (*The Words and Works of Jesus*, p126). Is he correct to say so? Why?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

# Combined Fellowship: The Holy Spirit

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2. Another dispensationalist teacher Lewis Sperry Chafer affirms that "The Old Testament will be searched in vain for record of Jews passing from an unsaved to a saved state, or for any declaration about the terms upon which such a change would have been secured." Hence, "No positive declaration can be made" if people in the OT were regenerated or not" (Chafer, Systematic Theology, VI, pp 63.74).

If OT saints were not saved by the regeneration work of the Holy Spirit (as Chafer asserts), then was it fair for Christ to expect and even rebuke the OT teacher, Nicodemus, for failing to know and believe in such a doctrine? Why?

Answer: \_\_\_\_\_

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iv) The Holy Spirit dwelt in believers in both the OT and NT :

- Num 27:18 And the LORD said unto Moses, Take thee Joshua the son of Nun, a man in whom is the spirit, and lay thine hand upon him;
- Is 63:11 Then he remembered the days of old, Moses, and his people, saying, Where is he that brought them up out of the sea with the shepherd of his flock? where is he that put his holy Spirit within him?
- Rom 8:11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.
- 1Cor 3:16 Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?

***The NT describes and reveals more clearly to us that the OT saints had the Spirit in them:***  
Proof that the OT believers had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit .

Peter says that the OT saints had the Holy Spirit in them in 1 Peter 1:10-12:

(10) Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

(11) Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

(12) Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

At the same time, notice that 1 Peter 1:11 speaks of the Holy Spirit being "sent down from Heaven" upon believers who preached the mystery of the Gospel. Why does the Holy Spirit need to be sent down from Heaven if He already indwells in the preachers?

**QUESTION :** If the Apostles and believers already had the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, why does the Bible yet say that the Holy Ghost was "sent down from Heaven" to be with them in their preaching?

Answer : \_\_\_\_\_

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## 3) INFILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

- a) **Filling is described for the believer, this is the same the Holy Spirit coming upon, falling on the believer.**
- b) **For the purpose of enabling, empowering, walking**
- i) **Empowerment for task.** Special ability, wisdom, strength given by God through the Holy Spirit so that the believer might serve in the most effective way possible
- Craftsmen needed filling eg Ex 31:3 And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship,
  - Kings, rulers, judges, needed the filling. Many instances in the OT eg Othniel (Judges 3:10), David (1 Sam 16:13), Solomon (Prov 1:23)
  - Eph 3:16 That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man;
- ii) For the **purpose strengthening, and energizing**,
- Judges 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him.
  - Acts 4:31 And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness
- iii) For the purpose of **enabling the Christian walk**
- Commanded for believer :  
Eph 5:18 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;  
Eze 11:19-20 (19) And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and will give them an heart of flesh:  
(20) That they may walk in my statutes, and keep mine ordinances, and do them: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God.
  - **To understand God's Word** requires the work of the Holy Spirit  
1 Cor 2:13, 14 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.
  - **To obey God's Word** by the strength of the Holy Spirit  
Gal 5:16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.
  - **To pray according to God's will** through the Holy Spirit  
Rom 8:26 Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.  
Rom 8:27 And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.
- c) **The Holy Spirit's infilling is a repeatable event after salvation**
- i) Occurs in both NT and OT
- ii) Filling of the believer occurs only after salvation
- iii) It is needed to enable, empower, and strengthen the believer for both NT and OT believers
- iv) Unlike the baptism with the Holy Spirit, the filling is a repeatable event and therefore we must seek to be filled with the Spirit
- v) Filling means the control and dominance the Holy Spirit holds over the life and behavior of the believer
- vi) Filling is therefore the extent of control which the indwelling Spirit has over the believer
- vii) Filling hence is directly related to the degree of yielding to the Spirit's work in every aspect

# Combined Fellowship: The Holy Spirit

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**d) The Holy Spirit's operation in the believers life must teach us to depend upon Him**

- i) Pray for infilling
- ii) Depend upon it and not the flesh
- iii) Ask anew each time (but what if the task is not to be repeated?)

*QUESTIONS:*

*1. Does the Bible use terms like come upon, fall upon, sent to comfort, sent to fill a person when he already possess the Holy Spirit? Can you think of some? How do you explain this?*

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*2. What does it mean to "be filled with the Spirit " (Eph 5:18) ?*

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**Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

**(Zec 4:6)**

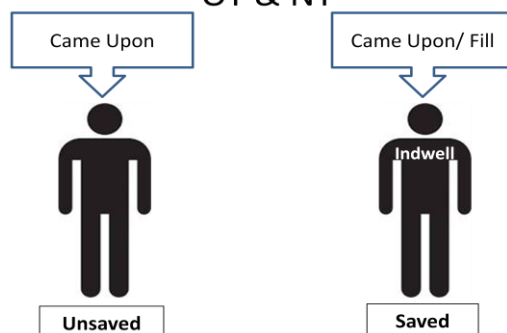
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## 4) SUMMARY



### THE OPERATION OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN OT & NT



A basic summary of the Bible's description of the operation of the Holy Ghost

| Bible's description of both OT and NT | Saved | Unsaved | Comments   |
|---------------------------------------|-------|---------|--|
| Came upon                             | Yes   | Yes     | To control, enable   |
| Dwell in                              | Yes   | No      | At salvation, permanent  |
| Fill                                  | Yes   | No      | Repeatable to help in Christian walk, eg energise, empower, give wisdom, understand Word, help in prayer, comfort, etc |

New Testament explains more clearly the Holy Spirit doctrine, that for both OT and NT believers:

- OT states that the Holy Spirit dwelt in OT believers (eg Nu 27:18, Is 63:11)
- Jesus taught that even in the OT, without regeneration by Holy Spirit means no new birth, ie cannot enter into kingdom of heaven (John 3:4-9)
- Apostle Paul explains that without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, a person is not saved (Rom 8:9) ie cannot be that only some OT believers had the indwelling.
- Apostle Peter affirms that the OT believers had the Holy Spirit in them (1 Peter 1:11)
- Holy Spirit comes to infill because there is indwelling. Hence for the believer:
  - the Bible's description of the Holy Spirit being sent, coming upon, and filling a person does not imply that the Holy Spirit was not already present in the believer's life
  - he therefore still prays that God send the Holy Spirit to fill him.

# Combined Fellowship: The Holy Spirit

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## III The common questions concerning the work of the Holy Spirit

- 1) We have seen from Scriptures that,
  - a) All believers in the OT and NT has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit and are sealed permanently with the Holy Spirit ie indwelling is permanent.
  - b) Yet, the believer should continue to desire the infilling in every area of his life in tasks and challenges
- 2) From the doctrines established earlier and summarized in 1), we can now understand the following commonly misunderstood verses more clearly:

**PASSAGE** : Psalm 51:10-12

(10) Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

(11) Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.

(12) Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.

**QUESTION 1** : Did David have the Holy Spirit? Can he loose the indwelling of the Holy Spirit? Which operation of the Holy Spirit was David referring to? Why?

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**QUESTION 2** : From Matt 12:31, can a believer commit this sin and loose his salvation? Why? What is this sin referring to? Give an example of such a person who committed such a sin in the Bible.

Answer 

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**PASSAGE** : John 14:16-19

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

(17) 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.

(18) I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.

(19) Yet a little while, and the world seeth me no more; but ye see me: because I live, ye shall live also.

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.

**QUESTION 3** : From Joh 14:16-19, the answer and explain the following

- a) did the disciples have the Holy Spirit when Christ said these words to them? Why?
- b) which operation is the giving and coming of the Holy Spirit was Jesus referring to for the disciples?
- c) what was Jesus referring to when He said "that he may abide with you forever" ... "shall be in you"

Answers 

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