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The Holy Spirit
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Who is the Holy Spirit and what is His function? The book of Acts is an account of the 40 year period after which the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the early church after the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus. Jesus is preparing His followers in John 14, 15, 16 and 17 for His departure, the Holy Spirit had not yet been given, He was telling them that the Father will send the Holy Spirit to them and He would teach them in all things and bring to their remembrance all things that Jesus had said. The Holy Spirit will bring Godly counsel to us, He is our champion, will never leave us or let us down. He will give all the things listed to us, anything and everything that we may have need of.

John 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." KJV

*John 14:26 "But the Comforter (Counselor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you." AMP

It is so great that the Holy Spirit as we begin to read the Word of God, will teach us and bring to our remembrance and won't let us forget what we have learned but will recall in different seasons of our life the exact things that we are needing for encouragement.

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." KJV

John 14:16-17 "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." KJV

Jesus is telling His disciples that He must go away before the Holy Spirit comes or the Holy Spirit cannot come to them and that He would be with them forever. The difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament teaching of the Holy Spirit; in the Old he was just resting upon them because they were not born again, but the New teaches that He rests on us and dwells on the inside of the believer. We are the temple or residence of the Holy Spirit.

1 John 2:27 "But as for you, the anointing (the sacred appointment, the unction) which you received from Him abides [permanently] in you; [so] then you have no need that anyone should instruct you. But just as His anointing teaches you concerning everything and is true and is no falsehood, so you must abide in (live in, never depart from) Him [being rooted in Him, knit to Him], just as [His anointing] has taught you [to do]." AMP

John is teaching the people that false teachers have led them into error, that had they listened to the Holy Spirit, this would not have happened, reminding them that the Holy Spirit would never depart from them, He is the Spirit of Truth, but that they must continually stay hooked up with him.

Luke 24:49 "And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high." KJV

Jesus is giving instructions to the disciples regarding the Holy Spirit and His coming to them, and the gift that He has for them, but that they do not do anything regarding teaching and preaching or have a ministry until they had been endued with power on high. This instruction was before Jesus had ascended to heaven and the believers sometimes had trouble believing what had happened but He was alive and they saw and spoke with Him, but they must go and wait for the Holy Spirit.

The same instruction is for us that the Holy Spirit gives us special abilities beyond our abilities, gifts beyond our gifting, mixing the super with the natural, allowing the supernatural to take place.

There are always seasons in our lives, there are places that God wants us to be, there are certain times in our lives that He wants us to receive, but we must be where He wants us to be or we miss it, however, He will allow us to receive later. We have no need for man to teach us but, Jesus said the gifts of the Spirit have been set in the church for teaching the people; the evangelist, prophet, apostle, teacher and pastor. He has anointed them to teach and give us a word from God, when those who have the anointing are teaching, we need to hear that word for that season of our life. This is a part of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:4-5,8 "And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. 5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. 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." KJV

There had been 40 days since the appearance of Jesus, but it would be another 10 days before the Holy Spirit was poured out. When we receive a word from the Lord our desire is that we receive immediately, but that is not always the case. The people were told to wait or tarry for the promise that Jesus had for them. They had to receive the power that was to be given to them, they would need the power in order for what would be required of them. The apostles along with Jesus' mother Mary were in the upper room, approximately 120 people were waiting for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. The book of Luke tells us that Jesus had appeared to over 500 people before His ascension but only 120 responded to His instruction and followed through and believed to what He had said.

Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And **suddenly** there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were **all filled** with the Holy Ghost, and *began to speak with other tongues*, as the **Spirit gave them utterance**." KJV

As heaven and the Holy Spirit were about to do something great, the response of the people were in unity and harmony, there was no strife and bickering about doctrine, they were in one accord.

We know what it is to be in disharmony but Psalms tells us that it is pleasant to be in unity.

Psa 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!" KJV

The people were waiting for the promise, not trying to change things, but to wait on the Lord and on the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. It would be something they had never experienced before, suddenly something happened and they were filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues. They were ALL filled and began to speak as the spirit gave utterance. This is one of the outward signs or manifestations of being baptized or receiving the Holy Ghost.

The Jewish people did not understand what had happened, they did not understand tongues but they understood the symbolism of fire, we read about how sacrifices were made, when they were right and pleasing to God, that fire would come down supernaturally and consume the sacrifice (ie: Elijah and the prophets of Baal). Fire was a sign that the sacrifice was acceptable to God and the Jewish people understood this. Seeing the flames of fire they understood that God was involved in this, they didn't understand the tongues but they were all filled and began to speak, it was supernatural. ALL those waiting in the upper room were filled and spoke in tongues. Tongues were the outward manifestation that they had received the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Many people today question if they have not spoken in tongues are they saved? The bible teaches under the new covenant, that when we receive Jesus Christ as our Lord, we are born of the spirit and we have the Holy Spirit. If you are born again, you have the Holy Spirit, you are spirit led, you have him as *all the things that have been listed earlier in this teaching. John chapter 4 refers to the new birth experience as a "well of water". John chapter 3 tells about "being born again"

John 4:7 "There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink." KJV

John 3:4 "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?" KJV

Jesus is continuing to teach his disciples and is ministering to the Samaritan woman telling her all about her life, past and present, speaking of the rivers of living water which is the Holy Spirit, but as of this time, had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet died and been resurrected. He is telling them to come to him, believe on him and receive what He is going to do for them. There is power in the living water.

John 7:37-39 "In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. 39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)" KJV

This chapter of Acts has been about 10 years since the Holy Ghost had fallen on the day of Pentecost, the Jews or disciples continued to believe that the gospel of Jesus was for them only and the Gentiles being unclean by their standards, were not to receive it, but after Peter had been shown by a vision from the Lord, in which he learned that anything the God had made was not common or unclean, he realized that the gospel was for all who believed and received Jesus, that they were entitled to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

There was a man named Cornelius, a Gentile who had heard of what was happening and he requested that Peter come and tell them about the gospel and the baptism of the Holy Spirit that had been poured out. Peter first refused but after having the vision, realized that he was wrong in his thinking and went to Cornelius' house, ministering the gospel to him and his house hold, as they heard they received Jesus and received the Holy Spirit, and spoke in tongues. When the Jews or disciples heard them, they too realized that God had indeed poured out His spirit on all men. They realized that God is not a respecter of persons that the gospel is for everyone. The Holy Ghost fell on all of them that had hearing ears, not everyone received but those who wanted and were listening received all that He had for them.

Acts 10:44-47 "While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. 45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. 46 For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, 47 Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" KJV

God has a word for those with hearing ears and a word in season when he is weary.

Isaiah 50:4 "The Lord God hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned." KJV

Not all the church world realizes how much of a blessing that the Holy Spirit with speaking in tongues is to the believer. It is not the accepted practice in some congregations, but when people receive edification as a result, it truly is a blessed thing to experience. Speaking in tongues in our private lives is designed to build us up and edify us.

1 Cor 14:5 "I would that ye all spake with tongues but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying." KJV

God has given the gift of the Holy Spirit as a tool or asset to be used in our lives. Many people have believed that the speaking in tongues was of the devil, but don't be deceived by the devils lies, it is real and many people are beginning to realize that fact and take advantage of it.