

## Series: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

# The Gift of the Holy Spirit: Introduction

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Growing up in church, we would sing “Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost” every week. We would sing the hymn, “Spirit of God descend upon my soul.” Sometimes the Holy Spirit would be mentioned here and there in a sermon. So I knew about Him, but I didn’t know Him.

My first introduction to the Holy Spirit happened on the night I was truly saved, September 27, 1972 at 1:00 a.m.

*I heard a Voice speaking to me: Mary, be still and know that I am God. I am the Living Spirit, and I come to live in you.*

*You have died, but since I am the Living Christ and have died and been raised from death unto life, you live and shall never die.*

This began a living relationship with the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of the Father, the Holy Spirit.

Today, many continue to deny the Holy Spirit’s personality, His role in salvation, and the supernatural agency of the Holy Spirit. Some who know of the Holy Spirit will not teach on the Holy Spirit because He glorifies Jesus Christ and not Himself, and studying the Scripture about Him would focus on Him. I have come to disagree. By maintaining silence many believers have been kept from this One who dwells within them, who applies the work of Jesus Christ to their lives, and who IS the gift of eternal life as the Promise of the Father.

As Christians, we believe and affirm:

1. That there is one living and true God.
2. That this same One is common to Three distinct Persons, who are designated Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. So, we have one God in three distinct Persons.
3. That the Father relates to the Son as God the Father. The distinguishing characteristic of the Father is fatherhood. The Son relates to the Father as God the Son. The distinguishing characteristic is sonship. The Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son. The distinguishing characteristic is procession.
4. That the Son is true God, of true God, the Infinite God-Man. The Son, Jesus Christ, is a Divine Person with a divine nature who took on a human nature in a human body, having two distinct natures without confusion, without change, without division, without separation.

As to the divine works, the Father is the Source **from which** every operation emanates. The Son is the medium **through which** it is performed, and the Holy Spirit is the Executive, the One **by which** every operation is carried into effect.

God is one. The Persons are distinct. We do not seek to explain this mystery, but rather to preserve this mystery. The call of the Church is to preserve truth and to promote justice and to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ to all creation.

There is a need to learn what the Scriptures say about the Holy Spirit. Many deny His existence. Many ignore Him. Mostly today we see the counterfeit holy spirit; people use the name Holy Spirit but the one to whom they refer is far different from the Holy Spirit of the Word of God. Then we have those who seem unaware of the broad scope of the work of the Holy Spirit.

Through this sermon series, of old and new testaments, I pray that our eyes will be opened to the breadth and richness of this One who is the Promise of the Father, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Christ, that Eternal Spirit.



Samuel Chadwick said in 1911 "The gift of the Spirit is the crowning mercy of God in Christ Jesus...The Incarnation and Crucifixion, the Resurrection and Ascension were all preparatory to Pentecost." (*Joyful News*, 1911)

"It cannot be gainsaid that it is no longer generally recognized that supernatural agency is imperatively required in order for the redemptive work of Christ to be applied to sinners. Rather do actions show it is now widely held that if unregenerate souls are instructed in the letter of Scripture their own will-power is sufficient to enable them to 'decide for Christ'...the greatest lack of all in Christendom to-day is the absence of the Holy Spirit's power and blessing." (A. W. Pink)

<sup>1</sup>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. <sup>2</sup>He was with God in the beginning. <sup>3</sup>Through Him all things were made, and without Him nothing was made that has been made. <sup>4</sup>In Him was life, and that life was the light of men. <sup>5</sup>The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. ...

<sup>9</sup>The true Light who gives light to every man was coming into the world. <sup>10</sup>He was in the world, and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. <sup>11</sup>He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him. <sup>12</sup>But to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God— <sup>13</sup>children born not of blood, nor of the desire or will of man, but born of God. John 1:1-5, 9-13 Berean

The Holy Spirit has attributes, characteristics. The Holy Spirit is freely given.

Being therefore exalted at the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, he has poured out this that you yourselves are seeing and hearing. Acts 2:33 ESV

<sup>10</sup>these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. <sup>11</sup>For who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. <sup>12</sup>Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God. <sup>13</sup> And we impart this in words not taught by human wisdom but taught by the Spirit, interpreting spiritual truths to those who are spiritual. 1 Corinthians 2: 10-13 ESV

1 Corinthians 12: 11 - All these are empowered by one and the same Spirit, who apportions to each one individually as He wills. ESV

Romans 15:30 - I appeal to you, brothers, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God on my behalf. ESV

The Holy Spirit can be quenched, quieted, vexed, resisted, insulted, lied to, limited, grieved, defrauded, despised, obeyed or disobeyed, refused or received, blasphemed or followed and yielded to, etc. We need to guard our relationship with the Living God and always regard the Holy Spirit with an understanding that He is holy. He applies to believers what Jesus has accomplished in our behalf. He is freely given but we are not to exploit, rob, spoil, or smear His glory.

To some, the Holy Spirit is an "it" and just a power. But in verses like 1 Timothy 4:1, Revelation 2:7, Luke 12:12; John 14:26; Acts 13:2; and Romans 8:26, we find actions ascribed to the Holy Spirit that demonstrate that the Holy Spirit is a Person, a Divine Person.

"The Holy Spirit is not a quality, as some speak, residing in the divine nature; not a mere emanation of virtue and power from God; not the acting of the power of God in and unto our sanctification, but a holy, intelligent subsistent, or person." (John Owen) It makes a difference if in fact the Holy Spirit is a Person and not merely some power or an "it."

The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Eternal Spirit (Hebrews 9:14). The Holy Spirit is God. (See Acts 5:3, 4; 1 Corinthians 3:16-20; 1 Corinthians 12:4-6; 2 Corinthians 6:16.) He is not a creature of God removed from God in essence and dignity and having a derived excellence and derived power rather than being the Author of such works that transcend finite ability and which can belong to none but God Himself. Rather, there subsists (exists) three Divine Persons who are co-essential, co-eternal, and co-equal.

Hopefully, we want to know Him. Luke 11:13 - If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!" ESV

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