

DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT – Part 2

In part 1, we learnt that the Holy Spirit is a Person, a divine Person, the third Person of the Holy Trinity. Before Jesus went to the cross (passion), He promised that the Father and He would send His disciples “another Comforter” (Jn 14:16, 26; 15:26). The Comforter, or the Paraclete, from the Greek word, *parakletos* (meaning one who gives support), is a helper, advisor, strengthener, encourager, ally and advocate. “Another” points to the fact that Jesus was the first Comforter, and is promising a replacement who, after He is gone, will carry on the teaching and testimony that He began (Jn 16:6-7).

The Holy Spirit is a divine, distinct Person, separate from God the Father and God the Son. He must be obeyed, loved, and adored along with the Father and the Son. The work of the Holy Spirit, by its very nature, is personal and relational.

B. THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT (Continued)

The Holy Spirit ministers to the believer by applying all the benefits of salvation accomplished by our Lord Jesus Christ to individual believers. The Holy Spirit does this through the work of regeneration, indwelling, sealing, filling, empowerment, guidance, anointing, and interpreting Scriptures. Last week, we have covered the first three: regeneration, indwelling and sealing. The Holy Spirit enters the believer’s life at the time of his rebirth. The outward sacrament of baptism is a sign and seal of the inward work of the baptism of the Holy Spirit (i.e. regeneration received by faith). All believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at all times from the time of rebirth. And the Spirit is given as a seal to assure believers of their guaranteed redemption till they see Christ face to face in heaven. Today we continue with the Spirit’s work in a believer’s life: filling, empowering, guiding, anointing and interpreting Scriptures.

4 Filling.

a. The filling of the Spirit is the complete control of the Holy Spirit over the life of a Christian when he totally surrenders himself to the Spirit’s sanctifying work.

- *What positive command is given to all believers in Eph 5:18? Be filled with the Spirit.*
 - Eph 5:18-19 18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; 19 Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”
 - Note the contrast here is a life controlled by wine compared with a life controlled by the Holy Spirit. “Intoxication with wine or other drugs aims at happiness but results in a foolish, wasted and shameful life (excess). Being filled with the Spirit results in obedience, faith, wisdom, and joyous worship” – *KJV Reformation Heritage Study Bible*.
- *Being filled continually.* “be filled”, in the present imperative, implying a continual duty, a daily drinking deeply of Christ through faith in the word of Christ:
 - Eph. 3:17, 19 “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, ... And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God.”
 - Jn 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.)”
- Much of the confusion over the way Spirit-filling is understood stems from the fact that our English language uses “fill” in various ways. “Filled with the Spirit” should be understood as a continuing relationship of the Spirit that so influences, and transforms a believer’s mind, heart and life and conforms him to the image of Christ.

b. What happens when we are filled with the Holy Spirit?

- *Our life will produce the fruit of the Spirit.* Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance.

- *We will be eager to share the Gospel.* 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.
 - *We will be ready to serve God.* Acts 6:3-8 – deacons chosen for service were men full of the Spirit.
 - *We will love God* (Eph 5:18-21), *His Word and His people.* Acts 2:41-47.
- c. What must we do if we want to be filled with the Holy Spirit?**
- *Negatively, “Quench not the Spirit”* (1 Thes 5:19 “quench” = put out a fire) i.e. avoid a sinful lifestyle that will extinguish the fire of the Spirit burning in your soul. “quench” is an appropriate word to use of the Spirit, whose outpouring at Pentecost was with what appeared to be “tongues of fire” (Acts 2:3), and who brings warmth and light to the Christian life. A similar command is found in Eph 4:30 “Grieve not the Spirit”. The Spirit can be grieved and quenched by our idleness, immorality and sinful lifestyle.
 - *Positively, maintain a clear conscience and strive to live a holy life:* Ps 51:10-11 “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.” Confess and repent of our sins (1 Jn 1:9).
- d. What’s the difference between infilling and indwelling of the Spirit?**
- After conversion or regeneration, the believer is baptized by the Spirit into the body of Christ. *The Spirit then dwells/lives within the believer.*
 - *There is one baptism, but many fillings with the Spirit.* The filling with the Spirit, is the experience of being controlled by the Spirit, such that the believer submits to God’s will, obeys God’s Word and enabled to serve God with power. It may be experienced repeated times. The Apostles were filled with the Spirit on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4), but were again filled a few days after (Acts 4:31). Eph 5:18 commands the believers who have been sealed by the Spirit (Eph 4:30) to be continually filled [i.e. to be being filled again and again] with the Spirit.
 - The fact that we are commanded to seek this filling implies that there will be times when we have less of the power of the Spirit in our lives. This does not imply that the believer loses the indwelling presence of the Spirit in His life as the guarantor of His salvation.
- e. Both the baptism and the infilling may take place at once.**
- It is the will of God that we should be baptized and filled with the Spirit at the moment of conversion, and remain filled all the time.
 - *What was Christ’s plan for Paul?*
 - Acts 9:17: “And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, *even Jesus*, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 13:9 Then Saul, (who also *is called Paul*,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him,...
 - *Whenever we are called upon for any special service, or for any new emergency, we should seek a fresh infilling of the Spirit, empowering for life or service.*
 - Acts 6:3, 5: “Wherefore, brethren, look ye out among you seven men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business ... And the saying pleased the whole multitude: and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Ghost, ...”. Acts 11:24 “For he (Barnabas v.22) was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith: and much people was added unto the Lord.”

5 Empowering for Life and Service.

a. *The Holy Spirit sanctifies the believer enabling him to have continual victory over sin.*

There are two natures in a believer: the flesh and the Spirit (Gal 5:17). While the believer is still in the flesh, he does not live after the flesh but in the Spirit (Rom 8:10-13).

- Rom 8:2 “For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Rom. 8:9-11 “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. And if Christ *be* in you, the body *is* dead because of sin; but the Spirit *is* life because of

righteousness. 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.

- Gal 5:16 “*This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.” A believer’s way of life (walk) which is continually Spirit-controlled is led by the Spirit instead of being led by fulfillment of self or pleasures.
- b. *The Holy Spirit intercedes for us in our weakness.***
 - 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. 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.
 - Eph 6:18 – we are exhorted to pray at all times in the Spirit, putting on the whole armour of God (Eph 6:10-17) as we wage the spiritual war against sin, self and Satan.
- c. *The Holy Spirit empowers Othniel, Gideon & Samson for Service***
 - Judges 3:9-10 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him (Othniel),
 - Judges 6:34 “But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon,
 - Judg. 13:24 “And the woman bare a son, and called his name Samson: and the child grew, and the LORD blessed him. And the Spirit of the LORD began to move him at times in the camp of Dan between Zorah and Eshtaol.”
- d. *The Holy Spirit grants gifts to build up the church.***
 - 1 Cor 12:4-11 4 Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; 9 To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; 10 To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another *divers* kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.
 - Bezaleel was filled with the Spirit to equip him for serving as craftsman and supervising the building of the tabernacle according to God’s design and specifications. Ex. 31:1-6 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, 2 See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: 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, 4 To devise cunning works, to work in gold, and in silver, and in brass, 5 And in cutting of stones, to set *them*, and in carving of timber, to work in all manner of workmanship. 6 And I, behold, I have given with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee;
- e. *The Holy Spirit produces the blessed fruit of the Christian life.***
 - Gal 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance:”
 - Notice this fruit can be categorised in 3 groups: (i) *in relation to God* – love, joy, peace; (ii) *in relation to our fellow men* – longsuffering, gentleness, goodness; (iii) *for our individual Christian life* – faith, meekness, self-control.

6 Guiding.

- a. *The Holy Spirit guides the believer in his daily life.***
 - Rom 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” As the Psalmist has well said in Psalm 37:23 “The steps of a *good* man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.”
- b. *The Holy Spirit guides the missionary activities of the Apostles.***
 - For example, the Holy Spirit guides the apostles as to the mission field they should go to (Acts 8:27-29; 16:6-7; 13:2-4). Every step in the missionary activity of the early church seemed to be under the direct guidance of the Spirit.

7 **Anointing.** The Holy Spirit anoints (special endowment) the believer for three things:

a. **Knowledge, Teaching & Understanding.**

- 1 John 2:27 “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, ... ye shall abide in him.” And also v. 20 “But ye have an unction (i.e. anointing) from the Holy One, and ye know all things.”
- The Holy Spirit anoints a believer’s heart and mind with the love and truth of God. “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.” John 16:13 “when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth.”
- There are some great truths in God’s Word that are spiritually discerned; they cannot be understood apart from the teaching ministry of the Spirit. 1 Cor 2:10-14 “10 But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 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.”

b. **Service.**

- Even Christ was dependent on the power of the Holy Spirit to perform His ministry. Luke 4:18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach, “ etc (quoting prophet Isaiah in Isa 61:1 that the Messiah will be anointed by the Spirit to preach the good tidings, comfort the broken hearted and set the captives free).
- Acts 10:38 “How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him.”

c. **Consecration.** In the Old Testament, the prophet, the priest and the king are anointed for consecration. Oil was poured on the head of the person being anointed.

- Priest - Ex 29:5,7 “put upon Aaron the coat, ... 7 Then shalt thou take the anointing oil, and pour *it* upon his head, and anoint him.”
- King Saul was anointed by prophet Samuel who acted in God’s power and authority: “Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.” 1 Sam 15:1.
- Prophet Elisha was anointed “... Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abelmeholah shalt thou anoint *to be prophet in thy room.*” 1 Kings 16:13.

8 **Inspiring and Interpreting Scriptures.**

a. **The Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures.** Men of old spoke and wrote the Scriptures as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:20, 21 “Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. 21 For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.*”). The Scriptures came by the “in-breathing” of the Spirit (2 Tim 3:16). “Hear what the Spirit saith to the churches” (Rev 2 and 3).

b. **The Spirit is also the Interpreter of the Scriptures.** 1 Cor 2:10 tells us that God has revealed His Word and the “deep things of God” through His Spirit. He is the Spirit of “wisdom and revelation” (Eph 1:17). The Spirit will show us the truth (Jn 16:14, 15).

Next week: Part 3

- Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament;
- Gifts of the Holy Spirit
- Offences Against the Holy Spirit