



Lecture 7

The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

GOD'S DESIGN FOR OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE AS FOLLOWS:

1. We exercise God-given faith in Jesus at salvation
2. The Father adopts us as His “born of God” children
3. The Holy Spirit is sent by the Father to indwell us and we receive the seal/baptism of the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ according to Jesus’s prayer:

John 14:16-18 (Wuest translation)

“And as for myself, I will ask the Father, and another Counsellor of the same kind as I am He will give to you in order that He might be with you forever, the Spirit of the truth, whom the world is not able to receive because it does not see Him with discernment and does not know Him experientially. But, as for you, you know Him experientially, because by your side He dwells, and in you He shall be. I will not leave you behind, helpless. I come to you.”

4. We acknowledge the indwelling Holy Spirit and adjust and yield to Him.
5. We desire and pray for a greater manifestation of the Holy Spirit’s power and spiritual gifts, as we surrender according to Scripture.

1 Corinthians 14:12 (Wuest translation)

“Thus also, as for yourselves, since you are those who are most eagerly desirous of spirits [spiritual powers], (*manifestations of the Holy Spirit*) be desiring them in order that you may abound in them with a view to the building up of the local assembly.”

6. To the extent of our surrender and self-denial, the Holy Spirit will lead us, counsel us, direct us, comfort us, control us and help us conquer our weaknesses. He will also help us activate the gifts of the Holy Spirit and His power in us.

2 Corinthians 1:21-22 (Wuest translation)

“Now, He who is constantly confirming us more firmly in our position in and union with Christ [in conforming us to His likeness] and who anointed us is God, who also placed His seal upon us and gave us the token payment guaranteeing the payment in full of our salvation, which token payment is the Spirit in our hearts.”

Ephesians 1:13-14 (Wuest translation)

“In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation having also believed, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession, to the praise of His glory.”

WRONG TEACHING ABOUT THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

In Pentecostal circles, pastors teach the “Baptism in the Holy Spirit” as an additional impartation of the Holy Spirit. They define this second “baptism” as a distinct, supernatural experience for the purpose of anointing and equipment for service, an “experience” of the Holy Spirit that is in addition to being born of the Spirit at salvation. This so-called “second event” is presented as a “turbo charge” of God’s power that needs to be installed in the believer in order for them to be more effective and fruitful.

The truth is, **the believer does not need more power since the Holy Spirit has been placed in the believer in His fullness.** To teach an additional ‘Baptism in the Holy Spirit’ implies God did not give us the full Person of God the Holy Spirit at salvation! If we (supposedly) need “more” of the Holy Spirit, how much did we receive of Him at salvation? Half the Person of the Holy Spirit? Three quarters? This is totally unscriptural and nothing more than a ‘denominational doctrine’. What is more, the implications of teaching this ‘tradition of men’ are serious:

1. The believer does not need to depend on or submit to the Holy Spirit constantly as a habit of life because they have now “got it all”. This thinking will affect a believer’s entire spiritual life.
2. The believer is not invited or taught to depend totally and constantly on the Holy Spirit for His power, guidance, etc.

This denominational doctrine has been taught from one generation to the next and is what Scripture refers to as “traditions of men” (Mark 7:8, Colossians 2:8). The Scriptures do not describe a “second Spirit baptism” being needed by the 120 believers who were present at Pentecost, nor do the epistles teach of a “second Holy Spirit Baptism”.

Admittedly, many years ago, as I attended bible colleges and other ministries in Australia and America, I received this wrong teaching and subscribed to it. In the years since, I have learned to discern and understand the error in this pentecostal doctrine. Sadly, I have met many believers who claimed they had been “baptised in the Holy Spirit” but were far from experiencing the life, power and love of God in their lives. There was no evidence in their lives of this additional “turbo charge” of the Holy Spirit. Why? Because **the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit only manifest as we submit and depend on the Holy Spirit** moment by moment, day by day.

The fullness of the Holy Spirit becomes evident as a believer allows the Holy Spirit to take control in their lives. A Christian who claims to have experienced this so-called “baptism in the Holy Spirit” and yet who lives by the flesh will have zero power. To experience the love, wisdom, comfort, counsel and power of the Holy Spirit requires humility, trust and submission. The Holy Spirit desires to control the believer to make them like Jesus. We need to exercise our faith and trust to exercise more power and earnestly desire His gifts: speaking in tongues, prophesying, gifts of healing, words of wisdom, words of knowledge, the sacrificial love of God’s etc.

Sometimes believers in Jesus can go to church for a long time without ever acknowledging and adjusting to the Holy Spirit, sometimes not even realising He has made His home in their hearts. **If we don’t acknowledge Him, He will not force Himself on us.**

Experiencing more of God’s power in us is all about surrendering to Christ and being controlled by the Holy Spirit and desiring the fullness of the Spirit, who gives us the desire and power to live a life pleasing to God.