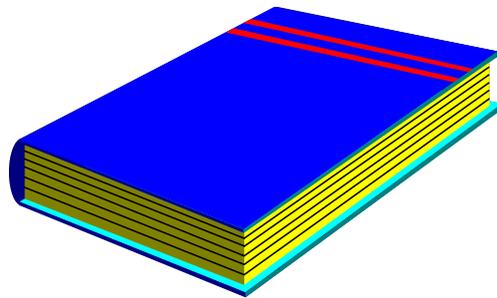


THEWORD

BIBLE TRAINING COURSE FOR LEADERS



FIRM FOUNDATIONS COURSE

PARTEIGHT

THE HOLY SPIRIT

But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name,
He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance
all things that I said to you. (John 14:26)

I indeed baptise you in water unto repentance, but He who is coming after
me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry.
He will baptise you in The Holy Spirit
and with fire (Matthew 3:11)

The object of this study is

TO DISCOVER AND PROVE:-

The reality of The Holy Spirit in the life of a believer.

On completion of this study you will:-

- Have an understanding that The Holy Spirit is a person
- Have an understanding that The Holy Spirit is a part of the Trinity
- Know how to receive The Holy Spirit
- Know that you must be filled with The Holy Spirit

NOTES

There are four practical aspects to these courses; exercises, Bible reading, learning and questions. The following notes are for your guidance:-

- 1. Exercises** are to be written in your own words and returned to the Course Administrator through whom this course was given to you or returned to the address below.
- 2. Bible reading** is to be done at the point of the course where you are asked to read. Do not just read the passage but meditate upon it before continuing.
- 3. Learning.** These are usually short passages of the Bible for you to learn so that you are able to speak them without reference to the Bible.
- 4. Questions** are listed at the end of each study and are to be answered when you are satisfied that you have completed the study. Your answers can be sent back to your Course Administrator or e-mailed or posted to the address below.

Once you have completed the work you can e-mail it to stangain@btinternet.com for assessment. On successful completion of the whole course a certificate will be sent to you.

If you were given this course by your Course Administrator then return your work only to him. If this course came to you direct from London then please post your work to:-

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This study is divided into two parts and will look at two aspects of The Holy Spirit. Firstly who is He? Secondly what is the baptism in The Holy Spirit? It is not possible in a foundation course to go into great depth, but to ensure that you have a firm foundation in your understanding of Him.

A Person

The first and most important thing to be said about The Holy Spirit is that He is a person. He is not a thing! He is not an 'it'! He is not a force or influence! He is a person with a personality. He is as much a part of the Trinity of God as The Father and The Son. When we talk of the "Three in One" God, we are talking about three persons that make up the one God.

In Genesis 1:26-27 we read:

‘Then God said “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.’

When the Triune (three in one) God created man in His own image he created a triune being – man. Man the body; man the soul and man the spirit. Just as God is God the Father; God the Son and God The Holy Spirit. Three separate parts but only complete in unity. Man is not complete without his three personality parts. God is not complete without His three persons.

Just as it is possible to have a relationship with The Father and the Son, so it is possible (in fact it is necessary) for the believer to have a personal relationship with The Holy Spirit. Why? Because Jesus has sent Him to us to be a helper and to lead us into all truth. In fact, Jesus said many things about the work of The Holy Spirit in the life of the believer.

Exercise 1

Read and study carefully John chapters 14 – 16. In these chapters, Jesus makes many references to The Holy Spirit.

- a) Make a note of every reference where Jesus refers to The Holy Spirit as “He” or “Him”. What conclusion do you come to from this?
- b) Jesus mentions many things that are the work or the functions of The Holy Spirit. Write out every verse that mentions The Holy Spirit’s work. i.e. ‘He will glorify Me’ John 16:14
- c) Why did Jesus say “It is to your advantage (or better) that I go away”?

The Holy Spirit has now been sent from heaven by the Father in the Name of Jesus to be with us as the representative of the Triune God here on earth.

Jesus left the earth and promised that He would send another, who is just like Himself, to be with us. The Holy Spirit is another person. He commands and deserves the same respect and reverence that is given to the Father. He is intimately related to God the Father and God the Son.

If He did not have a personality, he would not be able to do the things that Jesus said he would do in John 14 – 16!

Why is He Called Holy?

Simply, because He is a part of the Trinity. There is a perfect unity that exists between all three persons of the Godhead. If we are to be holy, as God is holy, this means that we are to be holy as God the Father is holy; as God the Son is holy and as God the Holy Spirit is holy! There is no difference.

If He is now the representative of God here on earth, then we would expect him to be in every way like God. Therefore, just as the Father and the Son have personality so does The Holy Spirit. The nature of all three is holiness.

His purpose is to make us daily more like Jesus. He is like Jesus, and His presence in us should, if we are walking with Him, make us more like Jesus also. It is also true that if He is dwelling in us that our lives should reflect the life of The Holy Spirit.

The Deity of The Holy Spirit

If The Holy Spirit shares all the qualities of the Triune God, then it is therefore true that He is a) eternal, b) everywhere, c) all-powerful and d) all knowing.

Learn the following four verses concerning these aspects of His nature:-

a) **Eternal – Hebrews 9:14**

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God?”

b) **Everywhere – Psalm 139:7-8**

“Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence? If I ascend into Heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in hell, behold you are there.”

c) **All Powerful – Luke 1:35**

“And the angel answered and said to her, ‘The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God’.”

d) **All knowing – John 16-13**

“However, when He, the Spirit of Truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth.”

If, as we have now seen, The Holy Spirit is a person, then it should be possible to know Him. We should be able to develop a relationship with Him in just the same way as we develop a relationship with the Father and the Son. We should walk with Him and talk with Him just as we do a friend – sharing our daily life with him. The bible calls this ‘Walking in The Spirit’.

A Relationship with The Holy Spirit

Read Galatians 5:16-26.

This passage shows us the difference between ‘Walking in The Spirit’ and ‘Walking in the flesh’. Looking at the list of the fruit of the flesh and the fruit of The Spirit it is obvious that the two are opposed to each other. It should be possible, therefore to bring forth the fruit of the Spirit if we ‘walk’ with Him. This is only done if we have a relationship with Him. How do we develop a relationship with Him?

Learn

“The fruit of The Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such there is no law”
(Galatians 5:22-23)

If you had never met me but only received a letter from me you would only know a little about me. You would know my name and the style of my writing and perhaps you would know something from the content of the letter, but that is all. You would not know what I looked like. If you passed me in the street you would not recognise me. But on the day that we meet, all that would change. You would know the sound of my voice, the colour of my hair, my height. If I came to your home, you would know what food I liked and how many hours sleep I need!

As we get to walk in The Spirit, the same thing happens. We begin to learn about Him and from Him; about His personality, what He does; what does He like and dislike. We begin to understand more and more His nature and character. The great thing is that as we do this we are also learning more and more about Jesus. They are of the same character. As we develop our relationship with The Holy Spirit, He leads us to Jesus.

Making Room for Him

We have seen that The Holy Spirit is not an 'it' or a 'thing' but a person. As such, it follows that we cannot have only a part of Him. When a man marries a woman, he cannot just take a part of the woman – he must have all or nothing. Many times we may ask for more of Him when really we mean we need more of His power, His love, His likeness to Jesus, His strength.

When Jesus was still with His disciples after his resurrection, we read in John 20:22 that “He breathed on them and said, ‘Receive The Holy Spirit.’” Now that Jesus had died for their sins and conquered death by rising from death He was able to save them. They were born again as those who put their trust in Him. At that time they received The Holy Spirit but they did not know His power. It was not until the Day of Pentecost as recorded in Acts 2 that we see the power of The Holy Spirit in their lives as they were filled with or baptised in The Holy Spirit. We will look at this at the end of this study.

When we are saved, we receive The Holy Spirit, but there is a need for us also to be baptised in The Holy Spirit if we are to allow Him to transform us daily into the image of Jesus. It is a conscious act of our will to ask to be filled. It is not that we need more of Him to enable Jesus to baptise us in The Holy Spirit, **but that He needs more of us**. He cannot fill a vessel that is already filled. If we are holding on to areas of our life, if we are still satisfying the desires of our flesh, we cannot be filled full. We must be in full submission to Him so that He can take full possession of us.

(FOR YOUR OWN REFLECTION AND NOT FOR SUBMISSION TO YOUR COURSE ADMINISTRATOR.)
Before we go on to consider baptism in The Holy Spirit, take time in prayer and private meditation and ask The Holy Spirit to show you those areas in your life that are not submitted to God. Consider those things and make a conscious decision to submit them to His authority. In this way you can be sure that you are able to receive all the fullness of The Holy Spirit.

Exercise 2

1. In Galatians 5:22-23 we read about the fruit of The Spirit. In your own words, explain what you understand each of the fruits below to be:-
 - a) love
 - b) joy
 - c) peace
 - d) patience
 - e) kindness
 - f) goodness
 - g) faithfulness
 - h) gentleness
 - i) self-control

Baptism in The Holy Spirit

There are many different expressions used to describe this experience. This has tended to cause some confusion about what exactly the baptism really is. To avoid any confusion in this study we will always refer to 'Baptism **in** The Holy Spirit.' We saw in Part 7 of this course that the meaning of the word 'to baptise' is to dip into something and remove it again. As we saw with Christian baptism we are dipped into water and then taken out again. Therefore if we are again talking about baptism it is correct to refer to baptism **in** The Holy Spirit. This is consistent with early documents used by translators.

In Matthew 3:11, John the Baptist is talking about Jesus when he says' "I indeed baptise you in water unto repentance..... but He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit and with fire." The first thing to understand is that it is Jesus who is the baptiser in The Holy Spirit. It may be a man who lays hands on a believer, but Jesus is the one who baptises in this way.

The baptism in The Holy Spirit is for believers and does not make a person a Christian. One must first be saved before receiving this blessing. It is for Christians. It is a seal (deposit or guarantee) acknowledging the fact that the person has already, by faith, become a member of the body of Christ.

Learn It is sometimes good to learn a definition. Baptism in The Holy Spirit is

“The total immersion, surrounding and enveloping of the whole life and personality of a believer in the presence and power of The Holy Spirit”

The language of the New Testament indicates that The Holy Spirit comes down upon; is poured out upon, falls upon the believer and totally immerses them. On the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2) The Holy Spirit's presence 'filled the whole house where they were sitting'.

Exercise 3

From your knowledge and study of the Bible, make a detailed comparison of the lives of the disciples from the gospels (before Jesus died and rose again) with the Acts of the Apostles after the Day of Pentecost. What was it that made such a difference?

Filled With The Spirit

In your study of Acts 2, you will see another expression that is used about the coming of The Holy Spirit into the life of the believer. The tongues of fire descended upon the believers, just as John the Baptist had prophesied and "all of them were **filled with The**

Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as The Spirit enabled them.” In Ephesians 5:18 all Christians are exhorted to “**Be filled with The Spirit**”

This would appear to be more than an outward immersion in The Holy Spirit to baptise them, but an inward filling to empower them also. This is not an indication of two separate experiences, but rather an explanation of what happens when our lives are **fully** submitted to God. He is then able baptise us and **fully** fill us in and with The Holy Spirit.

It would also appear from the bible that it is possible to be filled with The Holy Spirit on more than one occasion. In Ephesians 5:18 the full sense of the meaning in the Greek manuscripts is not that we should be filled once with The Holy Spirit and be satisfied, but that we should be continually being filled.

If a car is filled with petrol and is driven for 300 miles it will run out of power if it is not filled again. A Christian who is filled with The Holy Spirit and is walking by The Spirit will run out of power if he is not filled again!

Study Acts 2:1-4 and Acts 4:23-31. You will see that on both these occasions those present were filled with The Holy Spirit. Peter and John and others were certainly present on both occasions. Therefore they were **filled** with The Spirit on more than one occasion even although there is need for only one baptism in The Holy Spirit.

How can we be **continually filled** with The Holy Spirit? I believe that it is as we are **continually obedient** to the Word of God. I believe that the experience of the early church is an excellent guideline for all Christians. The next exercise will help you to appreciate these key truths.

Exercise 4

1. Learn Acts 2:42-47. Commit these verses to memory.
2. Take note of the following
 - a) They continued steadfastly in the Apostles doctrine
 - b) They continued steadfastly in fellowship
 - c) They continued steadfastly in the breaking of bread
 - d) They continued steadfastly prayer
 - e) They were together
 - f) They shared what they had with each other
 - g) They continued daily with one accord
 - h) They were a people of praise

We will look at the effects that baptism in The Holy Spirit has in the life of the believer in the next study. There should always be a noticeable change in the life of the believer who has been baptised in and filled with The Holy Spirit.

Speaking in Tongues

There is much disagreement in the churches about whether or not those who are baptised in The Holy Spirit should speak in tongues. It is not the main subject of this study. However, I believe that the evidence of the bible is that all who are so baptised can speak in tongues. I believe that they all have the ability to do so. I believe that it is the evidence that the Apostles looked for as a sign of the baptism. However, although all those who are baptised in The Holy Spirit can speak in tongues, not all do. To say that because someone does not speak in tongues they are not baptised in or filled with The Holy Spirit is to bring doubt and bondage to those that don't. That is not the ministry of The Holy Spirit!

Receiving the Holy Spirit

Let us clear up at this point another confusion that can rob people of the experience of the baptism in The Holy Spirit. We said earlier that receiving The Holy Spirit at conversion is not the same as being baptised in The Holy Spirit – although they can both be experienced at the same time.

As this course is based only on the Word of God we will allow the Word of God to clear up the confusion. We will do this by looking at two Sundays in the life of Jesus. The first we will call 'Resurrection Sunday' as the day when Jesus rose from the dead. We will call the second 'Pentecost Sunday'.

One of the major events following the resurrection in connection with The Holy Spirit is recorded in John 20:22. On the first occasion that he appeared to His disciples after His resurrection he breathed on them and said "Receive The Holy Spirit". Up to this time the disciples were able to believe in Jesus as the Son of God but could not until that time acknowledge that He had been raised from the dead. This has now changed and they are able to receive The Holy Spirit as a seal of the fact that they were saved. This is what Paul confirmed in Romans 10:9.

"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"

It is clear that this is a separate experience from the baptism in The Holy Spirit that came on the Day of Pentecost. Jesus made it clear to the disciples before his ascension that although they had received The Holy Spirit they must wait for the power that would come with the baptism in The Holy Spirit. That power came at Pentecost. The differences between the two Sundays can be summarised as follows:-

Resurrection Sunday

The resurrected Christ
The inbreathed Spirit
The result was life

Pentecost Sunday

The ascended Christ
The outpoured Spirit
The result was power

The resurrection enables us to receive The Holy Spirit and Pentecost His power by baptism in The Holy Spirit. The two events give us two separate experiences.

Exercise 5

Compare the following two passages:-

1. “And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.” (Genesis 2:7)
2. “So Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace to you! As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.’ And when He had said this He breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’”

What does the resurrection tell us about the finished work of Jesus? You may find that Ephesians 2:1-10 will help you with this question.

The Promise of the Father

The outpouring of The Holy Spirit is referred to as “the promise of the Father” in Luke 24:49 and Acts 1:4. On what basis does a holy and all-powerful God offer to weak and sin-prone men the fullness of Himself in the form of The Holy Spirit?

The answer is, of course, in the plan of redemption that we looked at in an earlier study. It is by the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus that reconciliation to God as purposed in the plan that He set in motion in creating man is fulfilled. Paul links the promise of The Holy Spirit with the atonement of Christ in Galatians 3:13-14.

‘Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written “Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree”), that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith’

Paul says clearly that it is only through the death of Jesus on the cross that we can receive the promise of God, The Holy Spirit. It does not depend on man’s work but on the finished work of Christ and the grace of God.

The Atonement Completed in Heaven

The final act that sealed the work of the atonement of Christ took place in Heaven. That is why Jesus told the disciples to wait for a few days while He took the sacrifice of his blood to the Father.

‘But Christ came as High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of

this creation. Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. (Hebrews 9:11-12)

It was in Heaven that Jesus entered the presence of the Father, carrying His own most precious blood. He presented it to the Father as a final and eternal and sufficient sacrifice for sin. God the father expressed His satisfaction and Jesus, again glorified, sat at the right hand of God.

The Holy Spirit could now be poured out upon the church. Through His sacrifice, redeemed men and women can become the temple in which God now lives by His Spirit. Those who on the Day of Pentecost had believed in Jesus were able to receive the outpouring of The Holy Spirit. The Father was satisfied. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is evidence that the sacrifice for sin has been made and the precious blood of Jesus has now reconciled man to God.

How to Receive The Holy Spirit

There is no technique, no single method, to receiving the baptism in The Holy Spirit. He comes in many different ways and in many different circumstances. There is no special bodily attitude or correct words to pray.

To go back to Galatians 3:13-14 we read that Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law so that, **by faith**, we might receive the promise of The Spirit.

The gift of The Holy Spirit is made available by God purely on the finished work of Christ, not the works of men. The gift is received, simply, by faith.

However it is necessary to say that he will only indwell a person who has believed on the Lord Jesus Christ and is born again of the Spirit of God. It is also necessary for him to be living in obedience to God according to the understanding that he has been given.

Paul asked the Galatians “Did you receive The Holy Spirit by observing the law or by believing what you heard?”

Let the leaders in His church give wise instruction concerning the person and the works of The Holy Spirit.

Exercise 6

Be filled with The Holy Spirit

Questions

Part 8

1. Is The Holy Spirit an 'it', a 'thing', a 'force' or 'a person'?
2. What is the meaning of Triune God?
3. Do you have a living relationship with The Holy Spirit? How do you know?
4. Name at least six things that Jesus says are the work of The Holy Spirit in John 14-16.
5. If Jesus had not returned to God the Father, would it have been possible for The Holy Spirit to come to us?
6. Why is The Holy Spirit called "Holy"?
7. What four aspects of The Holy Spirit's qualities show that He is a part of the Triune God?
8. What are the works of the flesh as listed in Galatians 5:19-21?
9. What is the fruit of The Spirit?
10. What is the main barrier to being filled with The Holy Spirit?
11. Who baptises in The Holy Spirit?
12. What is a good definition of baptism in The Holy Spirit?
13. Are all believers who are baptised in The Holy Spirit able to speak in tongues? Do they all speak in tongues?
14. Name eight things in the life of the early believers that enabled them to be continually filled with The Holy Spirit.
15. What are the three differences between Resurrection Sunday and Pentecost Sunday?
16. What is the promise of the Father?
17. How do we know that God the Father accepted the sacrifice of the blood of Jesus?
18. How is the baptism in The Holy Spirit received?
19. Are you filled with The Holy Spirit today?