

## Life in the Spirit

### Common Q + A from God's Word

- Scott Plavnick, Advisor to BSM

#### Q: What is the Spirit?

A: It's not "what", but "Who?" God's Spirit is not a thing to get, but a person to receive.

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive Him because it doesn't see Him or know Him. But you do know Him, because He remains with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you."

23 Jesus answered, "If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word. My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him."

Therefore, when a person puts his faith in Jesus, God comes to live inside that person forever. Jesus said the Spirit of God, the Father, and Jesus himself - the Trinity - will come to live in that person. If God in the Trinity has made His home in you, there is not any MORE of God that you could get at a later time!

Rather, we then we need to learn to let God live His life through us!

#### Q: How do I know if I have the Spirit of God residing in me?

A: Acts 2:38-29 "Repent and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus the Messiah for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

Notice, Peter is saying God's Spirit will come into anyone who believes, not merely that they will receive the Gifts of the Spirit. God's Spirit indwelling a believer IS the gift!

Water baptism (immersion) is a public confession of a person's faith in Jesus.

#### Q: Someone told me that even though I have received Jesus as my Lord and Saviour, I still need to be baptized in the Spirit, that I haven't necessarily received the Spirit. Is this right?

A: Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God lives in you. But if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Him.

Believers have the Spirit of Christ/ the Spirit of God/ the Holy Spirit/ the Holy Ghost/ Jesus/ God - living in them!

To say that someone needs to receive God's Spirit is to say that they are not a born-again Christian.

#### Q: What does the Spirit do in the life of a Believer?

A: John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit – the Father will send Him in My name – will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.

John 16:8 When He comes, He will convict the world about sin, righteousness, and judgment:

John 16:13-14 When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth. For He will not speak on His own, but He will speak whatever He hears. He will also declare to you what is to come. 14 He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and declare it to you.

Notice, God's Spirit is NOT at odds with Jesus, or His written Word. God is triUNITY.

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be My witnesses...

2 Corinthians 1:22 He has also sealed us and given us the Spirit as a down payment in our hearts.

#### Q: What are Spiritual Gifts and what are they for?

A: 1 Corinthians 12:7 A manifestation of the Spirit is given to each person to produce what is beneficial:

14:4 The person who speaks in [another] language builds himself up, but he who prophesies builds up the church.

14:5 ...so that the church may be built up.

14:12 So also you—since you are zealous in matters of the spirit, seek to excel in building up the church.

14:17 For you may very well be giving thanks, but the other person is not being built up.

14:26 All things must be done for edification.

Therefore, if someone is using what they call a Spiritual Gift for anything but building up the Church - either by helping unbelievers believe in Jesus, or by helping believers grow - then they are going against the Bible.

A Spiritual Gift is not so much an ability given to a Christian, as a way God's Spirit empowers a believer to build up the Church. A Spiritual Gift is not a thing, that the believer can use however he wants, such as a hammer which can be used for good or bad.

Therefore, God's Spirit will never empower someone to do something against His written Word. If someone is doing something contrary to the Word of God, it is the individual doing it, not a Gift of the Spirit. It is done by the individual, at best, and by some other spirit, at worst. (Which spirits work contrary to the Word of God?)

#### Q: Which is more important: the Gifts of the Spirit, or the Fruit of the Spirit?

A: Romans 12:4-8, 1 Corinthians 12 + 14, and 1 Peter 4:10 talk about Spiritual Gifts. These are special ways God's Spirit enables believers to build up the Church. God gives different believers different Spiritual Gifts.

Galatians 5:22-23 describes the evidence that God's Spirit is in a believer. It is not fruits of the Spirit, but fruit of the Spirit. God's Spirit will always be developing these character qualities in ever believer, everywhere, all the time. In that way the Fruit of the Spirit is more universal! If God's Spirit is truly empowering someone to act, these fruit will always be seen. And the last of these Fruit listed is Self-Control (temperance in the KJV).