

## The Holy Spirit

The person and work of the Holy Spirit is always of interest to diligent Bible students. This should be the case!

### CONSIDER BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is one of the three persons of the Godhead (Mt. 28:19; Jn. 1:32-33; Col. 1:19; 2:9). The Spirit is holy (Jn. 1:33; 7:39; Rom. 1:4). The Holy Spirit is not a dove; it appeared in bodily shape *like* a dove (Jn. 1:32; Luke 3:22). John the Baptist needed to see a *visible* representative of the Holy Spirit in order to see the Spirit descending so as to identify the Christ who would baptize in the Holy Ghost (Jn. 1:33).

### THE SPIRIT WITHOUT MEASURE WHO RECEIVED IT?

Jesus had the Spirit without measure (John 3:34, the word **“measure”** is used in the Bible with reference to the Holy Spirit). He went forth **“in the power of the Spirit”** have been **“anointed...with the Holy Ghost and with power”** (Luke 4:14; Acts 10:38). Only Christ received

this measure. It was available to Christ alone then and it is available to no man today.

### THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT WHO RECEIVED IT?

The apostles enjoyed the baptismal measure (*portion of power*) of the Holy Spirit (Jn. 1:33; Jn. 14:17, 26; Jn. 20:22; Luke 24:49; Acts 1:8; Acts 2:1-4). Paul was included in this baptismal measure (I Cor. 15:9; 9:1; Rom. 15:19). Cornelius and the Gentiles associated with him, who heard the word Peter preached, also received the baptism of the Holy Spirit. This was for the purpose of evidencing the reality that Gentiles were allowed to enjoy the benefits of salvation in Christ as well as the Jews (Acts 10:43-47; Acts 11:15-18). This baptism is not available today (Eph. 4:5 - only one baptism today; Mt. 28:19-20 - water baptism, a burial).

### THE LAYING-ON-OF-HANDS WHO RECEIVED IT?

Certain others in the first century church received the laying-on-of-hands measure of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:17 - the new converts at Samaria; Acts 19:6 - twelve male converts at Ephesus). Only the apostles could impart miraculous gifts by this process of laying-on-of-hands (for example, Paul laid hands on Timothy to impart a miraculous gift to him - 2 Tim. 1:6; I Tim. 4:14). This portion of power is not available today (I Cor. 13:8-10; James

1:25).

### THE NON-MIRACULOUS INDWELLING WHO RECEIVED IT IN FIRST CENTURY? DOES ANYONE RECEIVE IT TODAY?

Through the medium of the influence of the Word of God all first century Christians received the indirect, representative (not literal) indwelling of the three persons of the Godhead: God The Father, The Son, and The Holy Spirit (They indwelt the Christian by/through **“the law of the Spirit,”** Rom. 8:2; Rom. 8:9-11; See also: God - 2 Cor. 6:16, I Jn. 4:12-16; Christ - Eph. 3:17, Col. 1:27; the Spirit - I Cor. 3:16, Eph. 5:18, Col. 3:16). In the first century the Holy Spirit as a rule (in whatever measure) was received upon becoming a child of God, and not until such (Gal. 3:2, these people had received the Spirit **“by the hearing of faith”** - an expression equivalent to obedience to the gospel).

Today, faithful Christians have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit as a result of their hearing, believing, and obeying the Word of God, that is, at the time of becoming a child of God (Gal. 3:2, this *order of reception* of the Spirit is the same for all Christians by implication). This is an indirect, representative (not literal) indwelling of the Spirit. When one is led by the written instructions of the Spirit today, he is