

Who Has the Holy Spirit?

Contemporary Issues

Do you think that every Christian has received the Holy Spirit?

What do you think it mean to be baptised in the Holy Spirit?

What do you think it means to be filled with the holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit in the Old Testament

God's spirit was given to particular people for particular purposes

Exodus 35v30-36v1 (Bezalel and Oholiab)

1 Samuel 10v6 & 10; 16v13 (The King as the Lord's anointed)

God removed his spirit from those who disobeyed him

1 Samuel 16v14 (spirit had departed from Saul: cf Ps 51v11)

God dwelt with his people in his Temple

Exodus 40v34-35; 1 Kings 8v10-11)

God promised to set his spirit on his Messiah/Anointed One

Isaiah 11v2; 42v1; 59v20-21; 61v1-2

God promised that he would pour out his spirit on all his people

Joel 2v28-32; Ezekiel 36v24-27; Isaiah 44v3

The Holy Spirit in the Ministry of Jesus

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit

Matthew 1v21

Jesus received the Holy Spirit at his baptism to demonstrate that he was the Messiah

Luke 3v21-22; 4v14-21 (fulfilment of Isaiah 61v1-2)

John the Baptist prophesied that Jesus would baptise with the Holy Spirit

Luke 3v16

Jesus promised his disciples that they would be baptised with the Holy Spirit after he had returned to his Father in heaven

John 16v5-7; Acts 1v4-5

The Day of Pentecost

The Holy Spirit was poured out on Jesus' disciples on the Day of Pentecost

Acts 2v1-4

Read Acts 2v14-21

How does Peter understand what happened on the Day of Pentecost?

Should Christians expect that the disciples' experience on the Day of Pentecost will be repeated?

The Holy Spirit in the Church Age

The Day of Pentecost inaugurated a new era in salvation history. The Holy Spirit had been poured out on all of Jesus' disciples, fulfilling the promises of the Old Testament and of Jesus himself. The giving of the Spirit identified the disciples of Jesus as the *true people of God* (in contrast to those who had not received the Spirit) and as the *true temple of God* (in contrast to the Temple in Jerusalem). The New Testament makes clear that every Christian receives the Holy Spirit when they become a believer in Jesus.

1 Corinthians 6v19; Acts 2v38-39; Ephesians 2v22; 1 Corinthians 12v13; Galatians 3v5; Ephesians 1v13-14;

Each of these verses justifies one of the propositions below. Which verse (or verses) justify which proposition?

- (a) The Holy Spirit is given to everyone called by God
- (b) God gives his Spirit to those who believe the gospel
- (c) Every Christian has been baptised by the Holy Spirit
- (d) Every Christian is a temple of the of the Holy Spirit
- (e) The Church as a whole is a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit

Read Romans 8v9-14

Who, according to Paul, has the Holy Spirit living within them?

What effect does Paul expect the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to have on the life of Christian?

Experiences of the Holy Spirit subsequent to Conversion

Read Acts 4v22-31

What did the apostles pray for?

What was the consequence of their being filled with the Spirit? (see also Acts 4v8)

Do you think that the apostles thought that being filled with the Spirit was a special occasional experience, or a permanent way of life? (see also Acts 6v3)

Read Ephesians 5v18

Why did Paul want the Christians at Ephesus to be filled with the Spirit?

What effect did he expect that this would have on their lives?

Do you think that Paul thought that being filled with the Spirit was a special occasional experience, or a permanent way of life?

Summary

In the light of the evidence of the New Testament a person is baptised in the Holy Spirit when he or she becomes a Christian. There is no convincing support for the view that Christians will receive "baptism in the Holy Spirit" as a second experience after conversion. However Christians, who already have the Holy spirit dwelling in them, are urged to "be filled" with the Spirit, which will empower them for greater boldness in evangelism and for godly living

Two difficult passages

Two passages in Acts are thought to teach that baptism in the Holy Spirit is an experience subsequent to conversion.

Acts 8v14-17

The believers in Samaria did not receive the Holy Spirit until they were visited by the apostles from Jerusalem. The reason for this was to demonstrate that they received the same Spirit as was received by the Jewish believers at Jerusalem. In contrast when the gospel was first preached to a gentile- the Roman Centurion Cornelius- the Holy Spirit

was received immediately because an apostle was present (Acts 10v44-48). Acts 8v14-17 does not provide a precedent for today, but reflects the unique circumstance that the gospel was first preached to non-Jews by a person who was not an apostle (i.e. Philip).

Acts 19v1-7

In Acts 19v1-7 it is clear that the Ephesians Paul met were not Christians at all. They were disciples of John the Baptist but had never believed in Jesus. As soon as they believed in Jesus they received the Holy Spirit.

For Further reading:

Bruce Milne, *Know the Truth*, IVP, pp 198-200

D A Carson, *Showing the Spirit*,

Wayne Grudem, *Systematic Theology*, IVP, pp 763-787

J I Packer, *Keep in Step With the Spirit*, IVP, pp 89-93, 202-206

Sinclair Ferguson, *The Holy Spirit*, IVP, pp 87-89