

WORSHIP ON WEDNESDAY (WOW)
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
DR. Rosby L. Glover, Sr. Pastor
Wednesday January 11, 2023

WHO IS HOLY SPIRIT : EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER

The Apostle Peter promises to those who repent and are baptized that they will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). And Peter said to them, "Repent [change your old way of thinking, turn from your sinful ways, accept, and follow Jesus as the Messiah] and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ because of the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. And Peter said to them, ". The Word of God tells us "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, '**You must be born again'. The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So, it is with everyone born of the Spirit"** (John 3:6-8).

Scripture clearly states that we must first be born again. To receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, we must be committed to new life in Christ. This is when the real transformation begins. What's amazing about the Holy Spirit is how we are drawn to it. Before you even choose to be born again(the new birth) , the Holy Spirit is at work in you, communicating with you, showing you your sin, and drawing you to Christ. We will receive revelation today about three ways to experience the Holy Spirit.

The first way is : Through Understanding

We can't experience the Holy Spirit with limited understanding of Him. To truly understand the Holy Spirit as a gift, it's important to understand what the Holy Spirit is. Holy Spirit is God – not simply a force. It is the third person of the Trinity, manifested as Father, Son and Holy Spirit, each person itself being God. As a result of this, everyone who has repented and invited and accepted Jesus Christ in their life has the power to receive the Holy Spirit. We cannot see it; but we can experience Him when we are filled with Him. There are several verses throughout Scripture that speak on "being filled" with the Holy Spirit, including:

Ephesians 5:8; "or you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord; walk as children of light".

Acts 4:31: "And when they had prayed, the place where they had gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and *began* to speak the word of God with boldness."

Galatian 5:17; "But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh."

Romans 5: 5; 'And hope will never fail to satisfy our deepest need because the Holy Spirit that was given to us has flooded our hearts with God's love.'

Understanding Holy Spirit will not only improve our listening of God, but also give us better direction. Holy Spirit enables us to do things in ways we could never ever imagine. **TO EXPERIENCE GOD'S PRESENCE AND POWER, THE MANIFESTATION OF THE SUPERNATURAL AND TO BECOME A GLORY CARRIER WE NEED TO HAVE THE HEART OF GOD. TO CATCH THE HEART OF GOD WE NEED TO SPEND TIME IN HIS PRESENCE. IN ORDER TO HEAR FROM GOD AND BE ABLE TO CARRY OUT GOD'S ASSIGNMENT FOR OUR LIVES, WE MUST MARINATE IN GOD'S PRESENCE. LONG AGO WHEN DOING LAUNDRY AFTER SEPARATING THE COLORS FROM THE WHITE CLOTHES THEY WOULD SOAK THE WHITE CLOTHES IN A SPECIAL SOLUTION AND THEY WENT THROUGH A SPECIAL PROCESS AND PRE-WASHED. THE SOAKING WAS DONE TO RID THE WHITE CLOTHES OF ANY SPOTS AND SOILS AND GET THEM WHITE AND CLEAN. THIS WAS DONE WITH CARE AND DILIGENCE EVERY WASH DAY. IF WE LOOK CLOSELY WE CAN SEE SIMILARITIES BETWEEN THIS OLD WASHING PRINCIPLE AND SPENDING TIME WITH JESUS . JUST AS SOAKING RIDS THE GARMENT OF STAINS AND MAKES IT CLEAN, SPOTLESS AND READY TO BE USED, OR MARINATE TENDERIZES AND ADD FLAVOR TO MEAT AND VEGETABLES, ALSO SOAKING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD CLEANSE AND TENDERIZES OUR HEARTS AS WE AS DISCIPLES OF JESUS CHRIST WHO SPEND TIME SOAKING OR MARINATING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD, IN THE WORD OF GOD IN PRAYER AND WORSHIP, WILL BE BAPTISED OR INNERSED IN HIS PRESENCE AND BECOME AS HE IS. SIMILAR TO HOW STAINS ARE REMOVED FROM WHITE CLOTHES WHEN THEY ARE SOAKED IN A SPECIAL SOLUTION. WHEN WE SOAK IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD EVERYTHING THAT HINDERS US FROM REFLECTING THE GLORY OF GOD WILL BE REMOVED WHEN WE CHOOSE TO SPEND QUALITY TIME IN GOD'S PRESENCE SOAKING. WHEN WE ARE SOAKED OR ARE BAPTISED**

IN SOMETHING, WE TAKE ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE THING THAT WE ARE SOAKED IN. WE BEGIN TO ACT LIKE AND SOUND LIKE OUR FATHER GOD.

The second way is: By Seeking God

Jesus promises Holy Spirit will be experienced by those who seek Him. In John 7:37 reads: "Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, 'Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.' By this he meant the Spirit, who those who believed in him were later to receive. Up to that time the Spirit had not been given since Jesus had not yet been glorified." This promise was fulfilled at Pentecost when Jesus' followers received the Holy Spirit. You will find this in Acts 2. The account begins with the Holy Spirit descending upon a group of followers who upon receiving it began to speak in tongues. "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound of heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the houses where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were filled with Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues, and the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-4). Because Holy Spirit came down, the Apostles were enabled to spread the good news of Christ, just as Jesus had promised. With the descent of the Holy Spirit, a New Covenant was established. Holy Spirit works through us when we are drawn to Christ.

The third way is : Through the Fruits of the Spirit

In Galatians 5:22-23 we learn about the fruit of the Spirit, which is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. The Bible says, "against such things, there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23). The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the result of His presence in our lives as disciples of Jesus Christ. We receive Him the moment we believe in Christ. When we receive the Holy Spirit into our lives, we have a new awareness of Christ, and can begin entering a relationship with Him. The primary purpose of Holy Spirit coming into our life is change. His role is to mold us into the image of Christ so that we may live in His likeness. Also Matthew's 7:17-20 says, "Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them." This

scripture helps us understand the visible behaviors of people who have allowed the grace of the Holy Spirit to be active in their lives. Practicing these fruits can change your life tremendously as we are allowing the grace of the Holy Spirit to be active in our lives.

Experiencing the Holy Spirit is a privilege, given to those who place their faith in Christ Jesus. Once we accept Christ Jesus in our heart, we will receive Holy Spirit now He lives inside of us. With this privilege comes great responsibility. With Holy Spirit guiding us, we must seek earnestly to remove ourselves from a context of sin and obey the Word of God. Our thoughts and our actions should build up the Kingdom of God where things on earth are patterned after those spiritual things in Heaven. 'Bring about Your kingdom. Manifest Your will here on earth, as it is manifest in heaven' **Matthew 6:10**. Just as the disciples received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, we too, as disciples of Jesus Christ, can enjoy the fullness, greatness and power of His manifestation working in our lives. Holy Spirit also enhances our relationship with God. There can be no clearer verses than 1 John 3:18-19, 23-24 to tell us when we are filled with Holy Spirit we will be filled with His fruitfulness. His initial levels of the fruitfulness in us is how everyone knows that our spirits have united and become one with Him. If we say we are filled with Holy Spirit but do not manifest the very first level as evidence of that, then it is easy for all to discern that you are not telling the truth. Holy Spirit from within our Holy of Holies(spirit) living within us, 'But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, **and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."** **ACTS 1:8 ESV**