

HOLY SPIRIT: A BIBLICAL OVERVIEW

| DATE | TOPIC | TEXT |
|------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2.12 | 12. The Indwelling of the Spirit | 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 |
| 2.16 | 13. The Spirit and the Temple | 1 Corinthians 6:12-20 |
| 2.19 | 14. Unity of the Spirit | Ephesians 2 |
| 2.23 | 15. Rivers of Living Water | John 7:37-39 |
| 2.26 | 16. Spirit and Sanctification | 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 |
| 3.2 | 17. The Spirit and Pentecost | Acts 2 |
| 3.5 | 18. Spiritual Gifts and Cessation | 1 Corinthians 12-14 |
| 3.9 | 19. Praying for the Spirit | Luke 11:1-13 |
| 3.12 | 20. Praying in the Spirit | Romans 8 |
| 3.16 | 21. Fruit of the Spirit | Galatians 5 |
| 3.19 | 22. Led by the Spirit | Romans 8:12-14 |
| 3.23 | 23. Responding to the Spirit | 1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 |
| 3.26 | Teacher Prep Night | |
| 3.30 | Start of New Quarter | |

The following outline is an adaptation of a lecture entitled “The Holy Spirit and the Christian,” written by Jim Puterbaugh. It was published by the Florida College Press in the Florida College Annual Lectures 1982 “Their Works Do Follow Them.”

A Note on Disagreement and Fellowship**Three Methods for Interpretation:**

1. The Simplistic Position

2. The Deduction Position

3. The Definition Position

Conclusions

“Literal” Indwelling

“Figurative” Indwelling through Word

Indwelling Denoting “Fellowship”

Specific Texts

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Acts 2:38

Ephesians 1:13-14

Acts 5:32

1 John 3:24

Conclusions

GOAL: Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Imagine that you were present on the day in which God's glory filled Solomon's temple (2 Chronicles 7:1-3). What detail of this event would have inspired you to also bow with your face to the ground and worship?
2. What was the purpose of Solomon's temple? How does Solomon define the relationship between the temple and God's presence (2 Chronicles 6:18-21)?
3. How then should we understand our bodies as a temple of the Spirit?
4. Solomon's temple was eventually destroyed. Look to the prophecy of Ezekiel for an explanation (Ezekiel 8:5-6, 7-18). What did Israel do to cause the destruction of the temple?
5. Paul asserts, "Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you" (1 Corinthians 6:12-20). What changes does Paul hope this would inspire in the Christians at Corinth?
6. What changes should you make to be a temple for the Spirit?

GOAL: Your church is a temple of the Holy Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul describes the church as “being built together into a dwelling place for God” (Ephesians 2:22). He is not talking about the building; he is talking about the people! Take a moment to imagine the people of your church as a building.

2. Twice Paul mentions hostility to describe the relationship between Jews and non-Jews, or Gentiles (Ephesians 2:14, 16). What clues does he give in this section to explain why these two groups would have been hostile (2:11-22)?

3. What things have the potential to foment hostility and threaten the unity of your church?

4. How does the analogy of a building or temple illustrate the unity that is to characterize these fellow believers in each of the following verses?

5. What is the role of the Spirit in creating unity within this analogy (Ephesians 2:18-22)?

GOAL: Explain the promise at the Feast of Booths.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus visited Jerusalem during the Feast of Booths. The feast had ceremonies for water and light; Jesus declared that he is the true source of both (John 7:37; 8:12). What did Jesus promise about the Spirit on this occasion (7:35-39)?
2. Jesus said, “As the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water’” (John 7:38). What Scripture is he quoting?
3. Summarize the events of Ezekiel 47:1-5.
4. What effect did the river have wherever it went (Ezekiel 47:6-12)?
5. It is ambiguous when Jesus said, “Out of his heart” (7:38), whether he was referring to his own heart or the believer. How is Jesus like the overflowing temple? How should the believer be like the overflowing temple?

GOAL: The Holy Spirit helps us in holiness.

Discussion Questions

1. What does “sanctification” mean? Consider how the word “sanctify” is used in the following passages. (Note: Consulting multiple translations may be helpful.)
 - a. Leviticus 21:8
 - b. Ephesians 5:26
 - c. 1 Thessalonians 5:23
 - d. Other synonyms include:
2. In what specific way did the Thessalonians need to apply their sanctification (1 Thessalonians 4:3ff)?
 - a. 4:3
 - b. 4:4
 - c. 4:5
3. What three things has God done to encourage our sanctification?
 - a. 4:6
 - b. 4:7
 - c. 4:8
4. Is sanctification a process or an event? Compare Hebrews 10:10 and 10:14.
 - a. 10:10 “We have been sanctified” Indicates an event.
 - b. 10:14 “Being sanctified” Indicates a process.
5. To the extent that sanctification is a process, what difficulty have you experienced to stop sinning and to live a holy life?

6. What does sanctification have to do with the Spirit? Consult the following verses.
 - a. 2 Thessalonians 2:13
 - b. 1 Peter 1:2
 - c. Romans 8:9-13

GOAL: The Spirit fulfilled promises on Pentecost.

Discussion Questions

1. Several passages form important background for the events of Pentecost. What about the Spirit is anticipated in each of the following passages?
 - a. Joel 2:28-32
 - b. Luke 3:16
 - c. Acts 1:4-5
 - d. Acts 1:6-8
 - e. Declarations of fulfillment.
 - i. Acts 2:16
 - ii. Act 2:33
2. Write a timeline of the events of the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-14)
 - a. 2:1
 - b. 2:2-3
 - c. 2:4
 - d. 2:5-6
 - e. 2:12
 - f. 2:13
 - g. 2:14
3. Peter affirms that the events of Pentecost are a fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Acts 2:14-21; Joel 2:28-32). What aspects of Joel's prophecy are fulfilled in this passage?

4. A New Pentecost: Chart comparing Sinai to Acts 2

| Sinai | Comparison | Pentecost |
|-----------------|------------|------------|
| Exodus 19:11 | | Acts 2:5 |
| Exodus 34:28 | | Acts 1:3 |
| Exodus 19:16-19 | | Acts 2:2-3 |
| Exodus 19:20 | | Acts 2:33 |
| Exodus 34:27-28 | | Acts 2:33 |
| Exodus 34:27 | | Acts 2:39 |

5. What conclusions can you draw from the events Spirit on the Day of Pentecost?

GOAL: Explain miraculous gifts and their end.

Discussion Questions

1. Paul begins the section concerning spiritual gifts by declaring, “No one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says ‘Jesus is accursed!’ and no one can say ‘Jesus is Lord’ except in the Holy Spirit” (12:3). Why is this an appropriate beginning to the topic?

2. What are spiritual gifts? Use Paul’s description in 12:4-11 to find the answer.
 - a. 12:4
 - b. 12:7
 - c. 12:7
 - d. 12:11
 - e. Summary:

3. What problems did the diversity of gifts cause in Corinth (12:12-31)?

4. Love is described as “a still more excellent way” (12:31-13:8a). What does Paul reveal about love that makes it the answer to the problems caused by spiritual gifts?

5. Paul declares that spiritual gifts will end. This is the pivotal verse for arguing “cessation,” a term for the age without miracles abilities. This will happen, “When the perfect comes” (13:10). Interpreting this phrase has multiple options. Present your best argument for the option you believe.
 - a. “When the perfect one comes,” meaning Jesus. The conclusion would be that miracles will exist until Jesus’ second coming.
 - b. “When the perfect revelation comes,” meaning the Scripture. This conclusion would be that miraculous abilities existed until the revelation was complete, but ceased shortly afterward.

GOAL: Encourage Christians to pray for the Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Jesus responds to his disciples' request to teach them to pray by giving a model prayer, an illustration, and an exhortation (Luke 11:1-13). Use this text to answer the following questions:
 - a. How should we pray?

 - b. How does God respond to prayer?

 - c. For what should we pray?

2. What benefit is given to the Christians who pray for the Spirit in the following verses?
 - a. Acts 8:14-15

 - b. 1 Corinthians 14:13

 - c. Ephesians 3:16

 - d. James 1:5

3. What benefits could Christians today expect to receive for praying for the Spirit?

4. Write a short prayer that you can use as a template to begin regularly praying for the Holy Spirit.

GOAL: The Spirit helps our prayers.

Discussion Questions

1. “Praying in the Spirit” is mentioned twice in the New Testament. Consult the two passages. From these verses alone, how would you define praying in the Spirit and how to do it?
 - a. Ephesians 6:18

 - b. Jude 1:20

2. Romans 8 is the most concentrated section connecting the Spirit and prayer. According to the following verses, how is the Spirit involved in our prayers?
 - a. Romans 8:15-16

 - b. Romans 8:26-27

3. What would you advise someone who wants to learn how to pray in the Spirit? Use the following phrases concerning praying in the Spirit to guide your answers.
 - a. Ephesians 6:18 “Praying at all times.”

 - b. Romans 8:15 “By Whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

 - c. Romans 8:26 “The Spirit helps us in our weaknesses.”

 - d. Romans 8:27 “The Spirit intercedes for us according to the will of God.”

 - e. James 4:3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions.

GOAL: The fruit is the manifest changes in the life of one following the Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Consider the law of sowing and reaping (Galatians 6:7), which says, “Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.”
 - a. How does gardening illustrate this principle?
 - b. Write one specific area of your life in which you have seen this principle generally true.
 - c. Why are the phrases, “Do not be deceived,” and “God is not mocked,” important reminders to this principle?
2. Jesus expects his disciples to be fruitful (John 15:1-6, et al). What do the following verses reveal about the kinds of fruits disciples are expected to produce?
 - a. Luke 3:7-14
 - b. Titus 3:14
 - c. 2 Peter 1:5-8
3. Paul gives two lists: the works of the flesh (Galatians 5:19-21) and the fruit of the Spirit (5:22-23). He also says that we can either sow to the flesh or sow to the Spirit (6:8).
 - a. What kinds of attitudes and actions would sow to the flesh to bear the fruit on the first list?
 - b. What kinds of attitudes and actions would sow to the Spirit to bear the fruit on the second list?
4. What promises does Paul associate with the law of sowing and reaping in Galatians 6:7 (cf. Romans 6:20-23)?

GOAL: Live a life led by the Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. If you have religious friends who talk about being “led by the Spirit,” what do they mean by the phrase?

2. What is the Spirit leading people to do in the following passages?
 - a. Matthew 4:1; Luke 4:1

 - b. Acts 8:29

 - c. Acts 16:6-10

 - d. Romans 8:12-14

 - e. Galatians 5:16-18

3. Which of these passages fit the definition for Spirit leading often used by religious people?

4. If this is the definition for Spirit leading, what ought a Christian do to be led?

5. What about the other passages? If these show the definition for Spirit leading, what ought a Christian do to be led?

6. How should I determine which definition of Spirit leading is expected of me?

GOAL: Do not quench the Spirit.

Discussion Questions

1. Stephen indicted his hearers, saying, “You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you always resist the Holy Spirit” (Acts 7:51). What did they do to resist the Spirit? (Acts 6:10; 7:51-60)

2. Stephen also says, “As your fathers did, so do you” (Acts 7:51). What did their fathers do to resist the Spirit?
 - a. Acts 7:52

 - b. Nehemiah 9:30

 - c. Isaiah 63:10 (Ephesians 4:30)

3. Imagine if Stephen’s hearers wore tennis shoes. What might they do to resist the Spirit as a twenty-first century Christian?

4. Paul identifies the opposite temptation. The Thessalonians seem so aware that not all teaching is accurate to God’s word that they were tempted to refuse any teaching. They were throwing out the Divine Baby with the bathwater! What should they do in order to keep from quenching the true Spirit? (1 Thessalonians 5:19-21)

5. How will you respond to the Spirit? Outline a strategy to test the spirits based on the following examples.
 - a. 1 John 4:1-6

 - b. Acts 17:11

 - c. Revelation 2:2