

Accessing Gods' Holy Spirit

On the Day of Pentecost, a Phenomenon occurred that changed the Dynamics of our Relationship with God from that day onward. Yet, that was only a Foretaste of Astounding Developments prophesied to Come!

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The exclusive fellowship of those who've entered a particular class of worshipper is presently a strictly limited minority. Though politically correct religious society professes openness toward all believers, we are continually faced with the uncomfortable fact that to be a true person of Faith, one **MUST** possess Gods' Holy Spirit! Paul the Apostle put it distinctly when he wrote in Romans 8:9, "**...Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.**" This should be an 'eye opener' to those who are inclined to accept any and all into their fellowship equally. It effectively says that the 'true brotherhood' is predicated upon having received Gods' Spirit. That those not having received it are NOT one of His! Can we fully accept the implications of that statement of fact in this age?

The term '*Spirit of Christ*' warrants consideration. Do we understand this to be the same thing as the 'Spirit of God'? Perhaps this is something we ought to address first.

In Acts 5:3 and 5:9 we see the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of the Lord (*kurios*, (not *Theos* in this case)) used interchangeably. Paul in Romans 8 wanted to make certain we understand our **source of access** to this transforming Power.¹ Though God the Father was His source when in the flesh, He today projects it into those who are drawn to Him, thus the appropriateness of Paul's terminology. There is one Spirit, not two, but that Spirit is made available to those who have met the conditions of receipt, thru the administration of our Intercessor before God's Throne. (see Hebrews 7:25) "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with*

groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God." (Romans 8:26-27) (My article "*The Nature of Gods' Spirit*" dwells on this in greater detail.) The '*Spirit of Christ*' is the Spirit which He possesses and administers, having been given it by His Father.² "*For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God: for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto him.*" (John 3:34) This 'exception' leaves open the obvious, that it's effectively '*measured*' in all other situations. In other words, **we** receive Gods' Spirit in degrees, appropriate to our Faith which defines our conversion level.

On two distinct historic occasions a dramatic manifestation occurred which illustrated that prophesied phenomenon, the original outpourings of Gods' Holy Spirit: The more well-known one in Acts 2 and another in Acts 10:44-47 & 11:15. Though dramatic, these were limited occurrences, largely illustrating the reality of that initial fulfillment.³

But in general, the **gift** of Gods' Spirit is a **very restricted** resource. Limited by the requirement of having been **drawn** toward its receipt by God the Father! "*No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.*" (John 6:44) Compare

² Trinitarian thought would insist that the Spirit SENT by the Father into the Son was He Himself, and the Son would have received Himself into Himself, as all three are seen as one and the same Being! There's no end to the odd anomalies of that discipline! This article disregards that premise.

³ Acts 2:17 "*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:*

¹ In verse 9 Paul uses the term 'Spirit of God' and in verse 11 he refers to the 'Spirit of Him who raised up Jesus'!

this with Romans 8:11. *“But if **the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.**”* In John 6, Christ is described as doing the raising, but in Romans 8, the Father does it. To rectify this seeming discrepancy, we must realize that it’s the **same Spirit**, and that the Father works with us entirely by and through His Son! The Father being the source, with His Son directing its application. As with all things involving the Father and Son, we see a collaborative relationship.

Sons of God

But there’s more to possessing Gods’ Spirit than just salvation with the promise of a resurrection. With it comes an engendering relationship referred to as ‘sonship’! *“And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”* (Galatians 4:6) Being in possession of Gods Spirit makes us heirs of that same eternal generation. It’s in the first resurrection (or change, in the cases of those who are ‘alive and remain’) that we ultimately become Spirit Beings, immortal and incorruptible, ⁴ of similar life form as our Elder Brother. One Spirit is the dimension and provides the means of both the Father’s and the Son’s existence, and projects to us the same mind of, and the power to become, a son of God. *“But as many as received him, to them gave he **power to become the sons of God**, even to them that believe on his name:”* (John 1:12) ⁵ But such receipt is not without prerequisite. *“And he that keepeth his commandments dwelleth in him, and he in him. And hereby we know that he abideth in us, by the Spirit which he hath given us.”* (1st John 3:24) We also need to be aware of where repentance comes from. *“Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to **give repentance** to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, **whom God hath given to them that obey him.**”* (Acts 5:31-32)

⁴ 1st Corinthians 15:49-57

⁵ This verse is especially insightful, in that it speaks of ‘receiving Him’ as an accomplished fact, but becoming a son as a yet future attainment!

In this **obedience prerequisite**, we’re brought to a realization of another manifestation of the indwelling of Gods’ Spirit. Our natural minds are cross-grained **against** the Commandments of God. We, in our natural state, are loathe to truly obey. Romans 8:7 says it so well. ⁶ Most worshippers love to exhibit their profuse love for the Lord, but inwardly, they take strong exception to even the suggestion that we keep His Commandments! Entire religious denominations are built around the central premise that the Law is ‘all done away’!

One should ask himself, is the negative attitude toward Gods’ Law in any way detrimental to the receipt of Gods’ Spirit? After all, the same original mind-force produces both. Here, Romans 8:7 says a great deal on this matter. To take the attitude that obedience to the Law is immaterial would force the conclusion that the Spiritual mind referred to a verse or two before would represent the same general orientation toward the Law as would the carnal mind!

Automatic Conversion?

In this generation, we equate the receipt of Gods’ Spirit with conversion. Another area we should consider is whether Gods’ Spirit can be lost, and if so, ones’ converted status with it?

What few adequately consider is the fact that when in possession of Gods’ Spirit, we are repositories of a priceless treasure. As 2nd Corinthians 4:6-7 so well states it, *“For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the **knowledge of the glory of God** in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this **treasure in earthen vessels**, that the excellency of **the power** may be of God, and not of us.*

The question is, can a person **lose** the Spirit and what happens as a result? *“Know ye not that ye are the **temple of God**, and that the **Spirit of God dwelleth in you?** If any man defile the temple of*

⁶ “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because **the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**” (Rom. 8:5-7)

God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.” (1st Cor. 3:16-17)

The indwelling of Gods’ Spirit makes us Temples of God! A sanctuary of His Living Essence, which imparts knowledge AND the very Life of His Son in us! Anyone who would bring in and willingly harbor lethal contaminants, whether sinful habits or false beliefs which inhibit growth, are set on a course for destruction. The receipt of Gods’ Spirit is no small consideration. A couple of other scriptures make clear our obligation. **“Quench not the Spirit. Despise not prophesyings. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil. And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.** (1st Thess. 5:19-23) **“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”** (Heb. 6:4-5) Not only is it possible to ‘quench’ (as in putting out a fire) the Spirit, but once the glow is fully expunged, it can never be regenerated in that offender! Like with a ‘stillborn’ child, it can never again become the living fetus it once was! No, conversion is not irreversible, nor is salvation automatic! One could easily get the idea from the above that extinguishing that Life of Christ living within us by the indwelling of His Spirit is tantamount to the unpardonable sin.

Gods’ Spirit in the Future

Though in this age, Gods’ Spirit is meted out **with** our active participation: by attaining a level of belief; a desire to repent; developing a degree of faith (that which is ‘of ourselves’ ⁷ at first), and a commitment to ‘the Way’ as publicly affirmed thru baptism. From that progression, we enter into the development phase of that other kind of Faith which is essential to our ultimate salvation.

⁷ See my article on “*The TWO Kinds of Faith*” for explanation of the kinds of faith our conversion experience must develop from and then into. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Expanding Accessibility

Though at first, Gods’ Spirit was dramatically given and visibly manifested upon a large number of believers, apparently without their request, (most then had no idea anything like this was coming), yet through to this present age, it remains **measured** only to those specifically drawn by the Father, in accordance with their faith and growth.

In the Millennial age, we see its availability expanded to include **any** who desire to receive it, but still upon request, as alluded to in places like Revelation 22:17. **“And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”** ⁸ (also John 7:37-38)

But in the post-Millennial age, we see Gods’ Spirit poured-out upon all Israel, ***en masse***, without their specific request, upon being resurrected. ⁹ That receipt does not guarantee them ultimate salvation. They must from there ‘*work out their own salvation*’ just as we must today. (Philippians 2:12) To the rest of humanity living with them in that age, it remains freely available, but upon request, still subject to the same Faith-building process as described a couple of paragraphs back.

But the greatest privilege is to be drawn in this age, as we will collectively be the bride of Christ! **Ω**

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⁸ *The Spirit and the bride*, in unison, referring to the time period **after** the marriage of Christ to the Church. Other believers at that time also, (those who hear) encouraging all others to ‘*Come*’! Clearly referring to the Millennial Age!

⁹ See Ezekiel 37. A companion article to this expands on this development. “*When Gods’ Spirit is Poured Out*”.