

Acts 2 - The Holy Spirit

Acts 2:32-40 The Holy Spirit poured out on the day of Pentecost. The emphasis of this chapter is faith in the gospel message, belief in fundamental Bible doctrine. Do those who claim to have the Holy Spirit believe the apostolic teachings in **Acts 2**? That is the test.

v34 Bible doctrine: Mortality of Man. David did not go to heaven when he died.

v35 Bible doctrine: Christ's return to earth to set up God's Kingdom, quoting **Psa 110:1**.

v37 An appreciation of Christ's saving work motivates us to respond. "when they heard" - **Rom 10:17** "Faith comes by hearing" God's Word

v38 Bible doctrine: Repentance and Baptism essential for salvation. Forgiveness of sins granted to believers at baptism.

The Holy Spirit was to assist in development of the early ecclesia, thus believers at this specific time received the HS at their baptism.

v39 "the promise" is the forgiveness of sins

v41 Bible Doctrine: Basis of baptism is faith in God's Word.

v42 Bible Doctrine: Fellowship is based on the apostles' doctrine, being of one accord.

Other important Bible doctrines in Acts 2:

v27 Hell is the grave, quoting **Psalms 16:10**

v29 Mortality of Man - David dead and buried.

v30 Promises to David

32 This Jesus *hath God raised up, whereof we all are / witnesses.

33 Therefore ^hbeing by the right hand of God exalted, and having received ⁱof the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath ^lshed forth this, which ye now see and hear.

34 For David is not ascended ^ointo the heavens: but he saith himself, ^pThe LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou on my right hand,

35 Until I make thy foes thy footstool.

36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that ^rGod hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

37 ¶ Now when they heard this, they were ^vpricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, ^owhat shall we do?

38 Then Peter said unto them, ^eRepent, and ^fbe baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ ^hfor the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and ⁱto your children, and to all that are ^hafar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

40 And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this ^muntoward generation.

41 ¶ Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them ^oabout three thousand ^psouls.

42 And they ^ocontinued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

The Holy Spirit is described in different ways, eg.

Luke 1:35 The Holy Spirit came upon Mary to bring about the conception of Jesus.

2 Pet 1:21 "...holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (also **Heb 1:1**; **Neh 9:30**)

Matt 3:16 The "Holy Spirit descended in bodily shape like a dove" upon Jesus at his baptism.

Heb 2:3-4 "signs... wonders... miracles... gifts..."

John 16:13 HS shall "guide you into all truth"

What type of Spirit Gifts were given?

1 Cor 12:7-10 Wisdom, knowledge, miracles, prophecy, tongues, interpretations of tongues

Acts 2:8 Tongues were understandable languages

1 Cor 14:10-11 Languages helped them preach.

Holy Spirit Gifts in the Old Testament: The Holy Spirit Gifts were not a new phenomenon in the N.T. At the beginning of the Mosaic era there was an outpouring of God's Spirit upon individuals to help Israel get started as a nation: **Num 11:24-25**; **Exod 35:30-33**; **Num 27:18-20**; **Deut 34:9**. This was a sign from God that He was with them. It also gave them assistance in building the tabernacle.

The Spirit Gifts gave no moral advantage:

1 Sam 11:6; **16:14** King Saul departed from God

1 Cor 12 There were some in the ecclesia who were abusing Holy Spirit gifts. **1 Cor 13** was then given to show them something so much better than the gifts.

Heb 6:4-6 Some brethren who had the Holy Spirit fell away from the Truth despite being "once enlightened"

1 Peter 1:23 Faith in God's Word is what changes us into new creatures, not by God directly influencing our minds by Holy Spirit power.

John 3:34; **6:63**; **17:17**; **Acts 1:16**; **Rev 2:7** God's Word is God's Spirit power by which we are changed.

Test those who claim to have the Holy Spirit:

1 John 4:1-2 The test of a believer is his doctrine, if it is in accordance with God's Word.

Deut 13:1-3 If those who do "miracles" speak against God's Word, we are not to listen to them.

2 Thess 2:8-10 Catholic Church is characterised by "power, signs and lying wonders" that deceive people. The test of a true believer is their doctrine, not the ability to work miracles. Also **Matt 7:22-3**; **24:24**.

Holy Spirit power was displayed in public places:

Acts 3:6-11 "immediately" the lame man was healed

Acts 2:43; **4:33**; **5:12** Healing by the apostles

Eph 4:11-14; **1 Cor 12:8-10** HS practical in nature

Acts 4:16 So obvious that witnesses could not deny it

Main reason Spirit Gifts were given in the NT:

1. For the benefit of the Apostles and for writing the Scriptures: HS shall "teach you... and bring all things to remembrance", **Jn 14:26**. "Holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit", **2 Pet 1:21**.

2. As a witness to the work of preaching, to confirm the spoken word: **Mark 16:20**; **John 16:8-11**; **Acts 10:44-45**; **Heb 2:3-4**.

3. For the benefit of building up the early ecclesia: **Eph 4:11-12**, "for the edifying of the body of Christ."

The Spirit Gifts were only for a limited time:

Eph 4:13 "UNTIL we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the **knowledge of the Son of God**..."

The "we" here is Paul and his first century audience. The "knowledge of the Son of God" came with the completion of the New Testament.

1 Cor 13 is consistent with **Eph 4:13**. See the context: "But covet earnestly the best gifts: and yet show I unto you a more excellent way", **1 Cor 12:31**. Appreciating the love of Christ and living it in our lives is so much more powerful than Spirit gifts.

1 Cor 13:8-10 "prophecies... they shall fail" "knowledge... it shall vanish away"

"when **that which is perfect** is come, then that which is done in part... shall be done away"

"that which is perfect" = the completed Bible:

2 Tim 2:15-17 "the Holy Scriptures which are able to make thee wise unto salvation... that the man of God may be perfect..." (perfect = to be mature, complete)

Eph 4:8-11 Holy Spirit gifts were given "for the perfecting of the Saints" because the Word of God was not yet complete. When the Word of God was completed, there was no more need for Spirit Gifts.

Spirit Gifts will return in the Kingdom Age:

"That which is perfect" does not refer to the Kingdom because the HS gifts return in the Kingdom:

Ezek 39:28-29 "I have poured out my spirit..."

Joel 2:28-32 A prophecy about the Kingdom Age: See context in **Joel 2:23-27**; **3:1-2,16-17**. **Joel 2** was only partially fulfilled at Pentecost: **Acts 2:16-21**.

Isa 35:5-6 Saints to have ability to heal in Kingdom.

Heb 6:4-6 Gifts were "powers of the age to come"

Colour code: Blue (God & Jesus); Red (sin/devil/judgment of wicked); Green (Kingdom); Orange (important words & phrases); Purple (Israel & Return of Jews to the land); Yellow (practical exhortation).

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