

Lesson 9: The Gift of the Holy Spirit

The topic of the Holy Spirit has been the source of much confusion in the Christian church. Many questions arise such as when does it come to the believer, what does it do, what does it not do, and what is its vital role in the plan of salvation?

Justification by faith is not the end of the story. If our Justification is genuine, meaning if I have truly been justified by faith, then there will be a witness, testimony or simply evidence that can be clearly seen in the believer's life.

We will explore these concepts along with some of the more dangerous counterfeits in this lesson.

1. What happens immediately after Baptism?

Read: **Acts 2:38** - "Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let everyone of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins: and you will receive the gift of the _____."

A. The Holy Spirit is not something that we have to wait for or beg God to send to us. It comes to us as a result of having been Justified by faith which culminates in our baptism.

Read **Romans 6:22** - "But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your _____ unto holiness, and the end everlasting life."

When are we set free from sin? At Baptism, initially, and then subsequently through repentance, and the fruit that comes from that automatically is the receiving of the spirit.

2. What is the purpose of receiving the Holy Spirit?

Romans 15:16 "That I might be a minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles , ministering the Gospel of God, that the offering of the Gentiles might be acceptable, _____ by the Holy Spirit

Hebrews 10:14 "For by one offering He hath perfected forever them that are _____."

The Holy Spirit's job is to sanctify us after we have received Jesus as our Savior.

3. What does sanctified mean?

The Greek word Hagios: **ἅγιος** means holy, holiness, and it is also the same word for Sanctification. Therefore, the term Holy Spirit could also be translated as the Sanctifying Spirit. And Sanctification or Holiness simply means to be 'set apart'

4. What are we set apart for, or what does sanctification do?

1 Peter 1:2 - "Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, in sanctification of the Spirit, for _____ and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus"

Hebrews 10:15-16 - "But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; For after he had said before, This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord: I will put my _____ into their hearts, and in their minds I will _____ them"

John 16:8 "And when He has come, He will convict the world of _____, and of _____, and of _____."

Romans 5:5 "Now hope does not disappoint, because the _____ of _____ has been shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy spirit who was given us."

Romans 8:16 "The spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are _____ of God"

Romans 8:26 " Likewise the spirit also _____ in our weaknesses, For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the spirit _____ makes _____ for _____ with groanings which cannot be uttered."

A. After we have been justified by faith, and we receive the Holy Spirit according to the promise of God the Spirit goes to work. He teaches us obedience to God, writes the law in our hearts, convicts us of sin and right doing, puts God's love in our hearts.

He reminds us that we are the children of God and he prays for us to the father!
What an amazing gift the Spirit is. Do any one of these gifts have a special meaning to You?

5. When we are being led by the spirit and are being Sanctified what does the Christians life begin to look like?

Read **Galatians 5:22-23**. What are the fruits of the spirit? What is the connection between what we are being taught by the Spirit and what we become in the spirit?

6. The process of sanctification

We need to spend just a little time looking at the process of sanctification because there are some unbiblical views about this out there in the Christian world.

For instance, there are some that believe that Sanctification is instant and complete the moment you receive the Holy Spirit. Which means that you will be perfect and not sin anymore. There are others who believe sanctification eradicates the sinful nature, and you are no longer capable of sinning or that at least you will not.

These various ideas lead to two extremes. One, is that if you sin after being sanctified by the spirit it is a sign that you were not really sanctified so go back to trying to be sanctified!

And the second extreme is that it deceives people into being disingenuous about sin. In other words, because they can't sin then what they are doing must not be sinful even when it clearly is. It basically leads to a shallow mindedness about what sin actually is.

In this next section we are going to look at how the bible describes the process of sanctification, or in other words what does the daily walk with the spirit look like?

A. Once we have been filled with the spirit, it would seem that it would be easy to do whatever the spirit was asking us to do. But often, and for many, this is not the case. Why is this true?

Romans 7:23 “But I see another law at work ____ me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of _____ at work within ____.”

Here is a paraphrase to clear up the difficult syntax of the King James. Blanco’s paraphrase - Read and discuss:

“But inside me is a sinful nature. It’s always there urging me to think about myself, no matter how I set my mind against it. It’s even strong enough to take me captive and to overcome my inner most longings to be good”

How does Jesus describe this law of sin in our nature?

Read **Matthew 26:41** “watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation, The _____ is willing, but the _____ is weak.”

Galatians 5:17 “For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh. These are in _____ to one another, so that you may not do the things that you please.”

B. Read and discuss this commentary:

SDA Bible Commentary

“Thus Adam and Eve passed on to their posterity a tendency to sin and a liability to its punishment, death. By their transgression, sin was introduced as an infectious power in human nature antagonistic to God, and this infection has continued ever since. It is because of this infection of nature, traceable to Adam’s sin that men must be born again.”

C. In this next section we must then address the obvious dilemma, which is how can we defeat the flesh, so that we will do the things the spirit is asking us?

Read **Romans 8:5** “For they that are after the flesh do _____ the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the _____ of the Spirit.”

Colossians 3: 1-2 “If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. _____ your _____ on things above, not on things on the _____.”

Galatians 5:16 “ I say then: _____ in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.”

The idea is simple, but the practice is difficult. If we are to walk in the spirit then we must set our minds on things above, or things of God. There must be a setting of your mind on what God wants you to do. But if you turn to the flesh, or the things of the world, and begin contemplating what the flesh wants, then you will fulfill what the flesh wants instead of the spirit.

Class discussion: what are some ways you can set your mind or walk in the spirit, and what does it mean to set your mind on the flesh?

Discuss the following quotes:

“Jesus came to bring moral power to combine with human effort, and in no case are His followers to allow themselves to lose sight of Christ, who is their example in all things. He said, “For their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth” 1SM 262

“We cannot save ourselves from the tempter’s power; he has conquered humanity, and when we try to stand in our own strength, we shall become a prey to his devices; but “the name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.” Satan trembles and flees before the weakest soul who finds refuge in that mighty name.”—Manuscript 15, 1908. {CTr 219.6}

“By what means, then, shall we determine whose side we are on?” Who has the heart? With whom are our thoughts? Of whom do we love to converse? Who has our warmest affections and our best energies? If we are Christ's, our thoughts are with Him, and our sweetest thoughts are of Him. All we have and are, is consecrated to Him. We long to bear His image, breathe His spirit, do His will, and please Him in all things. Those who become new creatures in Christ Jesus will bring forth the fruits of the Spirit”

How does the bible Characterize the battle between the flesh and the spirit?

Read **Philippians 3:12-14**.

Hebrews 12:1-2 “Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin that so easily ensnares us. And let us _____ with endurance the _____ that is set before us.”

Paul says that this process of sanctification is characterized as a pressing to the goal, and a race that is to be ran with endurance. It was something that is worked out throughout the course of a lifetime.

Read and discuss the following quote:

‘Being justified by faith, he has peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.’ Romans 5:1. But because this experience is his, the Christian is not therefore to fold his hands, content with that which has been accomplished for him. He who has determined to enter the spiritual kingdom will find that all the powers and passions of unregenerate nature, backed by the forces of the kingdom of darkness, are arrayed against him. Each day he must renew his consecration, each day do battle with evil. Old habits, hereditary tendencies to wrong, will strive for the mastery, and against these he is to be ever on guard, striving in Christ's strength for victory.” AA 476

7. How important is the understanding of Righteousness by faith to the reception of the Holy Spirit? Consider, then discuss the following statement.

“We can be fitted for Heaven only through the work of the Holy Spirit upon the heart; for we must have Christ's righteousness as our credentials if we would find access to the Father.”

8. One final observation on our topic of sanctification which is this: What can I do if I find myself stuck in my sanctification? How can we keep the process of sanctification going in my life.

Read **Hebrews 12:1**

- The answer is found in **Hebrews 12:2**. What did you find?

Consider this quote from the SDA Commentary on **Romans 6:14**

“Sanctification in its very primal state is simply “union with Christ” and that union is facilitated by the Holy Spirit, and when that union takes place continually, the result is a Christ-like character that will be seen in all the world through works.”