

## “Getting to Know the Holy Spirit”

*Acts 1:4 – 9*

### **Open: Intro.**

- God intended to personally teach man what His will was and how to do His work while on earth; but man sinned and broke off the direct access man had with God. **Gen 2-3**
- Because of man’s sin, God had to use a different method to get His messages to man and to teach man how to do His work.
- When Jesus died on the cross, He not only made salvation available to all mankind; but Jesus’ death also made it possible for man to have direct access to God through the Holy Spirit. **Heb. 4:16** *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*
  - Note: God needed to give us the Holy Spirit because we still had a sin nature.  
Our sin nature prevented God from being able to return to His original method of communication with man in the garden of Eden.

### **Tran:**

- The 3 different stages of God’s communication with Man.
  - Before Jesus came to earth, God communicated His will for man through messages given to specific men of God.
    - Individuals – Jacob, Moses, Joseph etc...
    - Preachers – Elijah, Samuel, Isaiah, etc...
    - Couples – Joseph and Mary, Manoah and his wife, Abraham and Sarah etc...
  - While Jesus was on earth God showed, through the life of Jesus, how we can live obedient to God through yielding to and obeying the Holy Spirit.
    - Obedience through Baptism
    - Following the guidance of the Holy Spirit – The wilderness of temptation.
    - Yielding so He could help others in need – Feeding, healing, witnessing, and preaching.
  - After Jesus left this earth, He asked His Father to send the Holy Spirit to all those who would get saved, so they could experience the same Spirit filled life He had enjoyed. **John 14:16-18** *“And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; [17] Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. [18] I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”*

### **Story:**

- Before Jesus returned to heaven, He tells His closest followers, that they are to wait for the Holy Spirit to be sent. **vs. 4**
- Jesus reminds them of His promise to them that they would receive the Holy Spirit. **vs. 5**
- The disciples want to know when Jesus will come back, but Jesus simply tells them that is not for them to know and to stay busy doing what they have been trained to do. **vs. 6-8**

## I. The Holy Spirits *Responsibilities.*

### A. Guide you unto all truth.

1. **John 16:13** *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”*
2. **I Cor. 2:13** *“Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”*

### B. Reminds you of all truth. – **John 14:26** *“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”*

### C. Performs the work of God.

1. Works for God. **Gen 1:2** *“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*
2. Works through the life of an obedient Christian. – **Acts 2:4** *“And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*

## II. The *Reason* we need the Holy Spirit.

### A. For Salvation

1. He reassures of Salvation. **Rom 8:16** *“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God:”*
2. He is the seal of Salvation. – **Eph. 1:13** *“In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”*

### B. For Service

#### 1. Leads in the work of God

- a. Joseph was used greatly because he followed the guide of the Holy Spirit in his life. **Gen 41:38** *“And Pharaoh said unto his servants, Can we find such a one as this is, a man in whom the Spirit of God is?”*
- b. Jesus had victory in His life, on earth, because He followed the guidance of the Holy Spirit. **Luke 4:1** *“And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,”*

#### 2. Comfort you to walk in truth.

- a. Stephen remained faithful until the end, because he was yielded to the Holy Spirit. **Acts 7:55** *“But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,”*
- b. The church grew in difficulty because the Christians followed the Holy Spirit by faith. **Acts 9:31** *“Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.”*

### III. The Right Response to the Holy Spirit.

- A. Understand the Holy Spirit cannot be purchased. – **Acts 8:18-20** “*And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles’ hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, [19] Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. [20] But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.*”
- B. Realize the Holy Spirit is available to all. – **Acts 10:45** “*And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.*”
- C. Recognize the importance of personally yielding to the Holy Spirit – **Rom. 6:13** “*Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.*”
- D. Understand that the Holy Spirit is given to those who are obeying, not to those who are thinking about obeying. **Gal 5:16-25**
- vs. 16** = Tells us we are to walk in the spirit not the flesh. Notice this is an action not an emotion or an intention.
  - vs. 17-18** = Describes the battle between following after the flesh or walking in faith.
  - vs. 19-21** = Tells us what the works of the flesh are and show us indicators in our lives we can look at to see if we are walking in the flesh.
  - vs. 22-25** = Shows us what the Holy Spirit can produce in our lives if we are willing to obey.
- **Note:** If you are not doing anything you do not need the Holy Spirit; but if you are trying to live a life that is pleasing to God and trying to do a work for God, then the Holy Spirit will be made available to you. **Acts 5:32** “*And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*”

#### Close:

- We are not to be filled with the spirit (s) this world gives, we are to be filled with the Spirit that comes from God. **Eph 5:18** “*And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;*”
- Who are you yielding to, Holy Spirit or the carnal spirit of the flesh?

### II Tim 1:7

“*For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.*”