



The Holy Spirit # 7

Hello everyone. Welcome to “Notes From the Presence.” This is the seventh in a series of short articles on the Holy Spirit. By way of a short review, we began our journey by focussing on two vital manifestations of the Holy Spirit in relation to our human species. We started by talking about Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden and how the Holy Spirit was both "in" and also "upon" them. We discussed how both of these works of the Spirit were eventually lost in the garden due to sin.

Later, we talked about the fact that the Holy Spirit would still come "upon" certain Old Testament prophets and leaders in order to accomplish mighty deeds. He would rest upon them, they would do something super-human-like, and then He would lift again returning them back to normal. However, He did not take up residence "in" anybody due to the fact that our very nature as humans had morphed into a sin-nature, making it impossible for the Holy Spirit to live in an unholy environment.

We then talked about Jesus, He was called the second Adam by Paul, and He was the first person since Adam to have the Holy Spirit living "in" Him. Then, after coming up from baptism, the Holy Spirit came down from heaven in the form of a dove, alighted "upon" Him, and remained. This completed the Holy Spirit manifestation in Jesus, allowing Him to live as a human person with the Holy Spirit both "in" Him and also "upon" Him once again.

We then moved to the subject of the death and resurrection of Jesus. We discussed that after Jesus was resurrected, He "breathed" on His disciples and told them to "receive" the Holy Spirit. This was the point in time that the Spirit came to live "in" the disciples. Jesus then spent a period of about 40 days with His disciples, giving them instructions not to leave Jerusalem but to "wait" for the promise of the Holy Spirit. They already had the Holy Spirit living "in" them, now they were waiting for Him to come "upon" them

once again. Here is a key portion of scripture that we quoted in our last article with this phrasing imbedded in it:

Acts 1:8 He (Jesus) said to them, "It is not for you to know times or epochs which the Father has fixed by His own authority; but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

Notice the phrase, "but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you." They were waiting for the Spirit to come "upon" them once again.

Today we pick up our story at this very exciting juncture. The disciples (they were now called apostles) were waiting in Jerusalem as they were given instruction. Exactly 50 days after Jesus' resurrection they were all gathered together one morning when an event happened that forever changed the way God would relate to His human creation. Here is the biblical account of the day of Pentecost:

*Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a noise like a violent rushing wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And there appeared to them tongues as of fire distributing themselves, and they rested **on** each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit was giving them utterance.*

What we have just read is the account of the Holy Spirit falling "upon" and coming to rest "upon" the Jewish apostles. We will now skip ahead a few chapters and read the account of the Holy Spirit coming "upon" the gentiles, as well. In this story, Peter had made a trip to Caesarea due to a prophetic dream, and he ended up speaking to a group of gentiles in the home of a man named Cornelius. He began telling them about Jesus and the Holy Spirit. This is what happened next:

*Acts 10:44-46 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit fell **upon** all those who were listening to the message. All the circumcised believers who came with Peter were amazed, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they were hearing them speaking with tongues and exalting God.*

Notice the phrasing here - the Holy Spirit fell "upon" them. Notice also, the correlation to the Holy Spirit "filling" humankind, being poured out "upon" us once again, and us being "baptized" in the Holy Spirit. These phrases are synonymous throughout the New Testament, they all mean the same thing. When the Holy Spirit comes "upon" us, a few things happen. First, it is said that we are "baptized" in the Holy Spirit. Imagine for an

instant being "dunked" into a churning vat of Holy Spirit glory. Wowzer!! The Holy Spirit also "fills up" our human body, making us a carrier of this glory. This is seen evident in the cloven tongues of fire that rested upon the apostles. We are in essence, glorified in much the same way that Adam and Eve were glorified in the beginning. The Holy Spirit also comes and alights upon us, making us a host to this marvellous promise of the Father both on the inside and also on the outside. When the devil looks at us, he has a hard time distinguishing us from Jesus Himself!

It is now evident how Jesus could make a statement such as:

John 16:7 But I tell you the truth, it is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you.

Standing there on the day of Pentecost was not just one person - not just one Jesus with the Holy Spirit "in" and "upon" Him. Instead, there were literally dozens of people in the same condition, complete with the full manifestation of the Spirit restored to humankind once again just like in the beginning. The redeeming plans and purposes of God are infinitely amazing. No wonder it will take an eternity to discover the grace that the Father has poured out on us.

In our next article, we are going to talk once again about the Holy Spirit. We are going to pick up on some thoughts relating to Noah's flood, as well as some statements Jesus made on the subject of releasing the Holy Spirit into our world. Stay tuned!

Thanks for reading. Jesus is real – and His return to heaven made a way for the promise of the Father to us – the Holy Spirit!!