

Chapter Two

“²⁹ The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world. ³⁰ This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. ³¹ And I knew him not: but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. ³² And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. ³³ And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. ³⁴ And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God” (John 1:29-34).

It is a sad testimony that Christianity has allowed the doctrine of the Holy Spirit (Pneumatology) to become so perverted. Many Christians have become very confused by false teaching regarding the different aspects of the ministry of the Holy Spirit, especially in the last century. In order to understand the New Covenant teaching about the baptism with the Holy Spirit it is necessary to get a Scriptural overview. The Word of God is quite thorough in its teaching about the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is personally involved in the life of every person in the world. He is working to bring each person to understand what sin is, what the righteousness of God is and the eternal consequences of sin.

“⁷ Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. ⁸ And when he is come, he will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment: ⁹ Of sin, because they believe not on me; ¹⁰ Of righteousness, because I go to my Father, and ye see me no more; ¹¹ Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged” (John 16:7-11).

The Holy Spirit is even more personally involved in the life of each person who trusts in the finished work of Christ and receives Jesus as Lord of his life. When a person calls on the Name of Jesus to save him, believing the gospel and acknowledging the divine authority of Jesus over his life, that person is immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit becomes an integral part of that person’s being.

The Holy Spirit is the impartation of the Divine Nature. He is the imputation of the righteousness of Christ. He personally multiplies in our lives all that God is. He is the indwelling presence of God in our lives, Who empowers believers to do all that God demands. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the baptism with the Holy Spirit are the acts of God which define the Age of Grace from every other dispensation of God.

“² Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord: ³ According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that *pertain* unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: ⁴ Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust” (II Peter 1:2-4)

The Holy Spirit is not some impersonal *energy* or *force*. He is the third person of the Godhead Who is given to the believer to form a cooperative partnership (“fellowship”) between God and the believer and to enable the born again child of God to live the life necessary for that fellowship to take place.

“³ That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship *is* with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ. ⁴ And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. ⁵ This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶ If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: ⁷ But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin” (I John 1:3-7).

The Holy Spirit is the source of the rivers of abundant life in Christ. He is the source of all that God provides to every believer in Jesus Christ. The “abundant life” (available to every believer) is conditioned on abiding in Jesus Christ. It is the Holy Spirit Who enables the believer to live within the circle of truth (obedience). Without the Holy Spirit’s empowering, it would be impossible for any believer to live the way God wants or accomplish anything of lasting value in this world.

“⁴ Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. ⁵ I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. ⁶ If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. ⁹ As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. ¹⁰ If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. ¹¹ These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full” (John 15:4-11).

The empowering of the Holy Spirit comes through what the Bible calls *the filling*. It is understood that a person is controlled by what he is filled with. Therefore, the filling of the Holy Spirit refers to a life brought under or yielded to the control of the Holy Spirit. This must be the focus of the life of every believer in that everything else in the Christian life depends upon this. Every Christian is commanded to be filled with the Spirit.

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit;” (Ephesians 5:18).

“¹¹ Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¹² Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. 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. ¹⁴ For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the law, but under grace” (Romans 6:11-14).

The filling with the Holy Spirit is the basis for the enabling of the Holy Spirit to give understanding of the things of God through the understanding of Scripture (the doctrine of illumination).

“⁹ But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. ¹⁰ But God hath revealed *them* unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. ¹¹ For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. ¹² Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 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. ¹⁴ But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. ¹⁵ But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶ For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ” (I Corinthians 2:9-16).

1. Teacher. (Illumination); The intervention of God enabling the believer to understand that which is outside the scope of his sensory abilities.

2. Comforter (Paraclete); One who is called to another's side to aide and strengthen him.

While the indwelling is the Holy Spirit in the believer, the baptism with the Spirit is the positioning of believer into the body (family) of Christ. The baptism with the Spirit is non-experiential and instantaneous with regeneration and is never repeated.

“¹² Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ¹³ (For until the law sin was in the world: but sin is not imputed when there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over them that had not sinned after the similitude of Adam’s transgression, who is the figure of him that was to come. ¹⁵ But not as the offence, so also *is* the free gift.

For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, *which is* by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many.¹⁶ And not as *it was* by one that sinned, *so is* the gift: for the judgment *was* by one to condemnation, but the free gift *is* of many offences unto justification.¹⁷ For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)¹⁸ Therefore as by the offence of one *judgment came* upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one *the free gift came* upon all men unto justification of life.¹⁹ For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.²⁰ Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound:²¹ That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 5:12-21).

"¹² For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also *is* Christ.¹³ For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether *we be* Jews or Gentiles, whether *we be* bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit" (I Corinthians 12:12-13).

"⁴ *There is* one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling;⁵ One Lord, one faith, one baptism,⁶ One God and Father of all, who *is* above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-5).

The baptism with the Holy Spirit makes the believer one with Jesus Christ and positionally united with Jesus Christ in everything that has happened to Him and belongs to Him.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3)?

"¹⁰ And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:¹¹ In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ:¹² Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with *him* through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead" (Colossians 2:10-12).

A central reason why so many Christians fail to realize their full potential in Christ is because of a misunderstanding of the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

1. If you are living under the constant guilt of sin, it is because the Holy Spirit is convicting you of sin. Acknowledge the sin He is convicting you of (confess it to God), turn from that sin (repent), and yield your body to His control (be filled).

2. If you need wisdom for some decision in your life, ask the Father for that wisdom and the Holy Spirit will give you wisdom.

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

3. If you are having difficulty understanding Scripture, you are either trying to do so with human intellect alone or you are not saved. Only the Holy Spirit can teach you spiritual truths.

4. If you are living a fruitless life, without inner joy, it is either because you are living your life in the power of the flesh, and not under grace (the enabling power of the Holy Spirit), or because you have never been “born again.”

Chapter Two

Discussion Questions

- 1.** Read John 16:7-11. Discuss what is meant by the statement, “The Holy Spirit is personally involved in the life of every person in the world.”
- 2.** What does a lost person need to do to make the Holy Spirit an integral part of his being?
- 3.** Read II Peter 1:2-4. Discuss what is meant by the statement, The Holy Spirit is the impartation of the “divine nature.”
- 4.** Read 1 John 1:3-7. Discuss the meaning of the word “fellowship” in its relationship to the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit and the fact that He is a Person and not just some impersonal energy or force.
- 5.** Read John 15:4-11. Discuss the abundant life available to all believers and how the Holy Spirit enables the believer to have it. Discuss what “abiding” in Christ means and how that is accomplished.
- 6.** From your answer to the question above, discuss why it is that so few Christians ever bear any real fruit in their lives.
- 7.** Read Ephesians 5:18 and Romans 6:11-14. Fully discuss what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, what the believer needs to do to insure that it is an habitual reality in his life and what the filling of the Holy Spirit makes available to the filled believer.
- 8.** Read 1 Corinthians 2:9-16. Discuss the doctrine of the illumination of the Holy Spirit and what is necessary in the life of a believer before this can take place.
- 9.** Discuss the difference between the baptism with the Holy Spirit and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.
- 10.** Read Romans 6:3 and Colossians 2:10-12. Discuss what the baptism with the Holy Spirit means to the believer who is made one with Christ through it.