

A STUDY GUIDE FOR
THE BREATH OF LIFE: A THEOLOGY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life.
(Job 33:4)

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INTRODUCTION:

(Acts 19:1-7)

“Religious experience needs good theology the way a traveler needs a reliable map.”
(Clark H. Pinnock, *Flame of Love*)

A roadmap for the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian:

- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Ministry of Jesus and the Early Church
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian: The Baptism, Gift, and Fruit of the Spirit
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian: The Gifts of the Spirit
- The Work of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Christian: The Fullness of the Spirit

LESSON ONE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT:

Introduction: We must distinguish between the Old Covenant and the New Covenant;
(Gal. 4:4-6):

1. The Holy Spirit is fully God:

- A. The Trinity (Gen. 1:1-2; John 1:1-3; Matt. 28:19):
- B. The “Holy” Spirit (Psa. 51:11; Isa. 57:1; Isa. 63:10-11):
- C. The Holy Spirit is personal (Isa. 63:10):
- D. The immanence of God:

2. The Holy Spirit was active in creation and is active in sustaining creation:

- A. The creation of the universe: (Gen.1:2) (Gen. 2:7) *ruach; pneuma; “breath, wind, spirit”*; (Psa. 33:6) (Job 33:4)

- B. The sustaining power of the universe: (Psa. 139:7) (Acts 17:25)
 - C. The Spirit as God’s wisdom; communicating the words of God and revealing his will: (Psa. 143:10) (Neh. 9:20, 30) (Isa. 11:2)
 - D. The Spirit and creativity:
 - E. The Spirit and revelation (the inspiration of the Scriptures):
3. The Holy Spirit was sent by God to perform specific tasks, but then was withdrawn—there was no permanent indwelling of the Spirit in the lives of God’s people:
- A. To accomplish his will, God sends his Spirit upon people to fulfill a particular task:
 - Bezalel (Exo. 31:1-5; 35:31);
 - Moses, the 70 Elders (Num. 11:17, 24-25, 29);
 - Joshua (Num. 27:18);
 - Gideon (Jud. 6:34);
 - Saul (1 Sam. 10:6-7);
 - David (1 Sam. 16:13);
 - Balaam (Num. 24:2).
 - B. Not a permanent indwelling:
 - (1 Sam. 16:13-14) Saul and David;
 - (Psa. 51:10-12) David's prayer:
 - C. The concept of “anointing;”
4. God promised that the Holy Spirit would be made available to all people:
- A. The New Covenant:
 - Isaiah (32:15; 44:3);
 - Jeremiah (31:31-34; 32:40-41; 33:14-16; 50:4-5);
 - Ezekiel (36:24-27; 39:25-29);
 - Joel (2:28-32)
 - B. Water and Spirit: imagery of “pouring out”:
 - C. The Old Covenant fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus and establishment of the church:

LESSON TWO: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE MINISTRY OF JESUS AND THE EARLY CHURCH

Introduction: The ministry of Jesus marks a key turning point (“bridge”) for understanding the work of the Holy Spirit; the Day of Pentecost as the key event:

1. Jesus demonstrated the fullness of the Holy Spirit; the Anointed One (Messiah):
 - a. His birth was a miracle of the Holy Spirit (Matt. 1:18, 20; Luke 1:35); see also the Spirit’s filling of Elizabeth (Luke 1:41), Zechariah (Luke 1:67), and Simeon (Luke 2:25-27):
 - b. His ministry was established by the descent of the Spirit (Matthew 3:16-17):
 - c. His ministry was characterized by the power of the Spirit (Luke 4:1, 14, 18-19):
 - d. His Kingdom is identified by the presence of the Spirit (Matthew 12:28):
 - e. He changed the concept of "temple" as the dwelling place of God (John 2:19-22; I Corinthians 3:16-17):
2. Jesus promised the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit within His disciples:
 - a. His purpose was to give the Spirit to all believers (Luke 3:16; 11:13; John 3:5-8; 7:37-39; 14:17; 15:26):
 - b. He promised the Twelve that the Spirit would soon be within them; the special apostolic ministry (John 14:25-26; 16:12-15; 20:21-23; Acts 1:4-5, 8):
3. The importance of Pentecost as the fulfillment of Jesus’ promise (Acts 2:1-4):
 - a. It fulfilled Old Testament prophecy (Acts 2:16-18, 21):
 - b. It fulfilled the promise of Jesus (Acts 2:36-39):
 - c. It established the new covenant people of God (the church) as the dwelling place of the Spirit of God (Acts 4:8; 4:31; 9:31; 13:2, 4; 20:28):

LESSON THREE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN THE “GIFT,” “BAPTISM,” AND “FRUIT” OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. Post-Pentecost: the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the Christian:
2. The Holy Spirit and the work of regeneration (1 Pet 1:23; Titus 3:5; 1 John 2:29, 3:9; 4:7):
 - a. Regeneration: the work of God in salvation that brings new life (“born again”) to the Christian who formerly had been separated from God and subject to decay and death;
(John 1:12)
(John 3:3-8)
(I Peter 1:23)
(Titus 3:4-6)
(I John 2:20; 3:9; 4:7)
 - b. Prior to conversion:
 - The power of the written Word of God and the preaching of the Gospel
(Pet 1:23; John 20:31; Rom 1:16; 10:17; 2 Tim 3:16; Heb 4:12; James 1:18)
 - God’s gracious, universal, providential intervention in the circumstances of human life (John 12:32, 36; Acts 16:14; 1 Tim 2:4)
 - c. In conversion:
 - The nature of regeneration:
(Rom 6:1-14)
(Col 2:11-13)
(Eph 2:4-8)
(2 Cor 5:17-18)
 - Two errors (all God’s work/all human’s work):
3. The gift of the Holy Spirit is given to every repentant believer at baptism:
 - a. The assurance of the permanent indwelling of the Holy Spirit
(Acts 2:37-39)
(Acts 5:31-32)
 - b. The connection of water and Spirit (Old Testament antecedents; Jesus’ baptism; John 3:5; Titus 3:5; John 7:38-39):
 - c. The baptism of the Holy Spirit:
(1 Cor 12:13)
(Gal 3:26-28)
(Eph 4:4)
 - d. The Samaritans (Acts 8:14-17) and Cornelius (Acts 10:44-48):

- e. The “Twelve Disciples” (Acts 19:1-7):
- f. The gift of the Holy Spirit as the “guarantee” (deposit; down payment; first-fruits; sealed) of salvation:
 - (Eph 1:13-14)
 - (Eph 4:30)
 - (2 Cor 1:21-22)

(see also 2 Cor 5:5; Rom 8:23; 2 Pet 1:4)

- 4. The fruit of the Holy Spirit is the evidence of the gift of the Spirit; the Spirit’s primary purpose is to produce godly character:
 - (Gal 5:22-25)
 - (2 Pet 1:3-9)
 - (John 15:1-8)

- 5. Opening the gift: “the law of the Spirit of life” (Romans 8):

- freedom (8:2)
- righteousness (8:4)
- renewed mind (8:5)
- peace (8:6)
- obedience (8:7-8)
- power (8:11)
- assurance that we are children of God (8:9, 14-16)
- assurance of future glory (8:17-25)
- assurance of intercession by the Spirit on our behalf (8:26-27)

LESSON FOUR: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN THE "GIFTS" OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

1. A controversy that has divided the Church:
2. What are the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. The lists of spiritual gifts; these are suggestive, not exhaustive:

(Romans 12:4-8)

(Ephesians 4:7, 11)

(I Peter 4:10-11)

(I Corinthians 12:4-11, 27-28)
 - b. Definition: spiritual gifts are various abilities given by God to Christians through the Holy Spirit to enable Christians to serve others in the church and the world for the glory of God;
 - c. Are spiritual gifts natural abilities or special abilities?
3. Who has the gifts of the Holy Spirit?
4. How do I know if I have gifts of the Holy Spirit?
 - a. Evidence: edification and service

(Ephesians 4:11-13, 15-16)

(I Peter 4:10-11)

(I Corinthians 13:1-3)

(I Corinthians 14:1-5, 26)
 - b. Discovering my spiritual gifts: what do I do best to serve others in Christ's name?
5. What about miraculous gifts?
 - a. Gifts categorized as "miraculous":
 - miraculous powers (1 Cor. 12:9)
 - miracle working faith (1 Cor. 13:2)
 - miracles (1 Cor. 12:10, 28-29)
 - healing (1 Cor. 12:9, 28, 30)
 - tongues (languages; 1 Cor. 12:10, 28, 30; 14:1-39; Acts 2:4, 11; 10:46; 19:6)

- interpretation of tongues (languages; 1 Cor. 12:10, 30; 14:5, 13, 26-28)
- prophecy (supernaturally revealed knowledge; word of wisdom; 1 Cor. 12:8, 10, 28; 13:2, 8; Rom. 12:6; Eph. 4:11)
- discerning of spirits (1 Cor. 12:10; 1 Tim. 4:1; 1 John 4:1)

b. Pentecostal versus Cessationist Views:

c. “Hedge Theory”: the *Via Media*

- The Purpose of Miracles (Heb 2:1-4)
- Apostolic Authority (Eph. 2:20; 3:5; 4:11)
- The Purpose of Spiritual Gifts (Eph. 4:12; 1 Pet. 4:10; 1 Cor. 14:1-5, 26)
- The Biblical Definition of Spiritual Gifts
- Accept the Limitations Scripture Places on Miraculous Gifts

d. Conclusions:

“Theology always gets into trouble when its practitioners think they know what God is like apart from what revelation says God is like.” (Pinnock, *Flame of Love*, 33)

“Speak where the Scriptures speak; be silent where the Scriptures are silent.”

“In faith, unity; in opinion, liberty; in all things love.”

**LESSON FIVE: THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE LIFE OF THE CHRISTIAN
"BE FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT"**

1. Christians with the gift of the Spirit are to seek the "fullness" of the Holy Spirit in bearing fruit (godly character) and exercising their gifts (effective service); Christians are commanded to "be filled with the Spirit (Eph. 5:18):
 - a. Definition: to be filled with the Holy Spirit is to be controlled by the Holy Spirit and to allow the Holy Spirit to work unhindered in our lives (sanctification):
 - b. Christlikeness (to imitate Jesus) is the heart of Christian discipleship (Eph. 4:13, 15);
 - c. Christians are to be "filled with the fullness of God" (Eph. 1:23; 3:19); sharing the new life of grace;
 - d. Christians are to live under the control of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18).
2. Christians need to be continually filled with the Holy Spirit (an ongoing process):
 - a. Vital union with Christ (John 15; Rom 6).
 - b. Do not grieve the Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).
 - How do we grieve the Spirit (the context of Ephesians 4)?
 - How do we deal appropriately with sin (I John 1:9)?
 - c. Do not quench the Spirit (I Thessalonians 5:19); analogy of the campfire:
3. Christians must discover the biblical pathways to be filled with the Holy Spirit—the "place of blessing" (Eph. 5:18-20; 6:14-18):
 - a. Seek God in worship and prayer (5:19-20; 6:18-20);
 - b. Demonstrate humility, submission, and service in all of our relationships (5:21-6:9);
 - c. Put on the whole armor of God (6:10-17).
4. Christians must understand and pursue the identifying marks of a "Spirit-filled" church:
 - a. Fruit (Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 4:1-6; 5:9; Philippians 2:1-5).
 - b. Growth (Acts 9:31; Ephesians 2:21-22; 4:15-16).
 - c. Holiness (Romans 8:1-4; II Thessalonians 2:13).
 - d. Worship (John 4:24; Ephesians 1:12-14; 5:19-20).

- e. Bold witness (Acts 1:8; John 16:8-13 I Thessalonians 1:5).
- f. Fervent prayer (Romans 8:26; Ephesians 2:18; 6:18).
- g. Attracts others to Jesus (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:14).