

ALPHA AWAY DAY

6 March 2010



THE HOLY SPIRIT

Introduction

For a long time in the church the person and work of the Holy Spirit has been:

- Ignored – a greater concentration on the Father or the Son
- Misunderstood – ‘Holy Ghost’; ‘He’ not ‘It’
- Resisted – He wants to take control

But Jesus Christ’s promise has not changed. “On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, ‘If any one thirsts, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’ Now this He said about the Spirit, which those who believed in Him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”

The person of the Holy Spirit

I. In the Old Testament

1. He was involved in creation
 - a) Bringing order out of chaos (Genesis 1 v 2)
 - b) Giving life to man (Genesis 2 v 7)
2. He came upon particular people at particular times for particular tasks, e.g.:
 - a) Bezalel – for artistic work (Exodus 31 v 1-5)
 - b) Gideon – for leadership (Judges 6 v 14-16, 34)
 - c) Samson – for strength (Judges 15 v 14,15)
 - d) Isaiah – for prophecy (Isaiah 61 v 1-3)

3. The promise of a 'new thing'
 - a) Jeremiah 31 v 31-34 ('they shall all know me')
 - b) Ezekiel 36 v 26, 27 ('I will put my Spirit within you')
 - c) Joel 2 v 28, 29 ('I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh')

But the prophecies remained unfulfilled for at least 300 years.

II. In the New Testament

1. With the coming of Jesus, there is a great activity of the Spirit
 - Luke 1 v 15 John the Baptist
 - Luke 1 v 35 Mary
 - Luke 1 v 41 Elizabeth
 - Luke 1 v 67 Zechariah
 - Luke 2 v 25-27 Simeon

but still on a few particular people.
2. John the Baptist promises the Baptism of the Holy Spirit and makes the link with Jesus
 - In Greek *baptidzo* = to overwhelm, immerse
 - Luke 3 v 16
3. Jesus, the Spirit filled man. Jesus received power through the anointing of the Holy Spirit at His baptism
 - Luke 3 v 22
 - Luke 4 v 1, 14, 18
4. Jesus predicts the work of the Spirit
 - John 7 v 37-39 (N.B. "not yet given")
5. Jesus promises the Spirit's presence
 - as a paracletos John 14 v 16
 - as a teacher John 16 v 13, 14
 - as the power of God John 14 v 12

6. But tells them to wait in the city until they are clothed with power from on high

- Acts 1 v 4, 5, 8

At Pentecost the disciples were filled with the Spirit and received

- new languages (Acts 2 v 4-12)

- new boldness (Acts 2 v 14)

- new power! (Acts 2 v 37-41)

“Now when the people heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, ‘Brethren, what shall we do?’ ... and there were added that day about 3,000 souls.”

Conclusion

We live in the age of the Spirit. God has promised to give His Spirit to every Christian (Acts 2 v 38, 39).

NOTES

THE FALLING OF THE SPIRIT

Acts 10 v 44-48

Background

Peter and those who were with him were not surprised by the outpouring of the gift of the Holy Spirit. They had witnessed and heard of such phenomena before:

- Acts 2 v 2-4 Pentecost
 - Acts 8 v 14-17 Samaria
 - Acts 9 v 17-19 Saul/Paul
- (see also Acts 19 v 1-6 Ephesus)

They were surprised that the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles as they had not witnessed this before.

What happened to Cornelius and his household when the Spirit fell upon them?

1. They were released in praise
“For they heard them...extolling God” (10 v 46)
Worship = worthship
Self-conscious or God-conscious (2 Sam 6 v 14-16, 20-23)
Our minds and our bodies should work together.
2. They experienced God’s love (10 v 46)
We live by faith not by feelings
God means us to experience Him (Romans 8 v 15, 16)
We must allow God to touch our emotions (not emotionalism)

3. The Spirit fell and everyone knew it
“...the Holy Spirit fell...and the believers from among the circumcised...were amazed” (10 v 45)
Filling with the Spirit never happens imperceptibly
(Acts 8 v 16)
It will be obvious to others (Acts 6 v 3, 5, 10)
Simon the Magician offered money for such power
(Acts 8 v 18)
4. Some reasons for not being filled with the Holy Spirit
5. What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?
 - a) If you confess Jesus as Lord you have received the Spirit (John 4 v 2)
 - b) To be filled with the Spirit is to allow the person of the Spirit
 - deeper access into your life
 - greater control over your actions and thoughts
 - to give you greater power to do His will
 - c) It is not a ‘one off’ event – it is on-going
(Ephesians 5 v 18)
6. The gifts are the manifestation of the Holy Spirit
Acts 10 v 46 – they all received a new language

Tongues is
 - for all (1 Corinthians 14 v 5)
 - for prayer and praise (v2)
 - for personal edification (v4)
 - not understood by the speaker (v2)
 - for constant use (v18)

7. Do you desire the Spirit's presence in your life at a deeper level?
 - Surrender (Acts 5 v 32)
 - Ask (Luke 11 v 9, 10)
 - Receive (Luke 11 v 13)

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