

# **Understanding and Using the Gifts of the Holy Spirit**

**Lesson 1: The Promise of the Father**

In this lesson you will learn:

1. What is the Promise of the Father?
2. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost?
3. What happened on the Day of Pentecost?
4. How does a Christian receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

1. What is the Promise of the Father?

During his ministry on earth, Jesus spoke about a great blessing that would come to God's people AFTER his mission was accomplished.

### John 7:37-39

- <sup>37</sup> In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.
- <sup>38</sup> He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
- <sup>39</sup> (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: **for the Holy Ghost was not yet given;** because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)



Why didn't Jesus simply remain on earth after his resurrection to establish his kingdom? Jesus said that he needed to go away so he could send **the Comforter** to his people.

### **John 16:7**

<sup>7</sup> Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient [necessary] 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



The Comforter is the Spirit of truth that comes from God the Father.

### John 15:26

<sup>26</sup> But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father,  
even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:



Jesus said the Comforter would guide his people into all truth and show them things to come.

### John 16:13

<sup>13</sup> 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.*



After his death and resurrection, Jesus again spoke about the Comforter. He told his disciples he would send **the promise of my Father** upon them, and they would be **endued** or clothed with power from on high.

### **Luke 24:49**

<sup>49</sup> And, behold, I send **the promise of my Father** upon you:  
but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.





Just like John the Baptist baptized with water, the Lord would baptize his people with the Holy Ghost.

### Acts 1:4-5

- 4 And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for **the promise of the Father**, which, *saith he*, ye have heard of me.
- 5 For John truly baptized with water; but **ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost** not many days hence.



John the Baptist said the same thing even before Jesus began his public ministry.

### **Mark 1:6-8**

- <sup>6</sup> And John was clothed with camel's hair, and with a girdle of a skin about his loins; and he did eat locusts and wild honey;
- <sup>7</sup> And preached, saying, There cometh one mightier than I after me, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to stoop down and unloose.
- <sup>8</sup> I indeed have baptized you with water: but **he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost.**



Jesus said the baptism of the Holy Ghost would give God's people power to bear witness to his name.

### **Acts 1:8**

<sup>8</sup> But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you:  
and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.



Acts 4 shows that things happened just like Jesus said they would.

### **Acts 4:33**

<sup>33</sup> And with great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all.



Jesus prepared his disciples to receive the Spirit of truth into their hearts. He said, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”

### **John 20:21-22**

- <sup>21</sup> Then said Jesus to them again,  
Peace *be* unto you:  
as *my* Father hath sent me,  
even so send I you.
- <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this,  
he breathed on *them*,  
and saith unto them,  
**Receive ye the Holy Ghost:**



What is the promise of the Father?  
It is the special anointing that Jesus called the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, and the Holy Ghost. The Comforter will guide us, teach us, and empower us to serve God and his people.

### **John 20:21-22**

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1. What is the Promise of the Father?
2. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost?

The One True God manifests himself in three 'persons'

THE FATHER

THE SON

THE HOLY SPIRIT



The One True God manifests himself in three 'persons'

THE FATHER  
*gives life*

THE SON  
*brings  
salvation*

THE HOLY SPIRIT  
*equips us for  
holy living*

This is the Mystery of the Holy Trinity, the Godhead



The King James Bible [KJV] makes a distinction between the Holy SPIRIT and the Holy GHOST. Other English translations do not do this.

Luke 12:12 [KJV]

<sup>12</sup> For **the Holy Ghost** shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say.

Luke 12:12 [New International Version]

<sup>12</sup> for **the Holy Spirit** will teach you at that time what you should say.

The third member of the Holy Trinity is **THE HOLY SPIRIT**. Like God the Father, the Holy Spirit is everywhere at the same time.

When the Holy Spirit is **INSIDE** a person, it is called **THE HOLY GHOST**.

The Holy Spirit is everywhere.

The Holy Ghost is the Holy Spirit inside a human tabernacle.

David spoke **by the Holy Ghost** –  
by the anointing of the Holy Spirit that  
was upon him.

### **Mark 12:36**

<sup>36</sup> For David himself said **by the  
Holy Ghost,**  
The LORD said to my Lord,  
Sit thou on my right hand,  
till I make thine enemies thy  
footstool.



When you read “the Holy Ghost said,” do not imagine a voice coming down from heaven. When the Holy Ghost speaks, you hear the voice of a person speaking words given to him by the Holy Spirit inside him.

### **Acts 13:2**

<sup>2</sup> As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, **the Holy Ghost said,** Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.



This is how all true prophecy is given.

**2 Peter 1:21**

<sup>21</sup> For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake *as they were* moved by the Holy Ghost.



People cannot see Spirit of God living in a person. They only see the person. This is one reason they are slow to believe God's messengers. As Stephen said, they "resist the Holy Ghost."

### **Acts 7:51**

<sup>51</sup> Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears,  
**ye do always resist the Holy Ghost:**  
as your fathers *did*, so do ye.





In the Old Testament, the anointing of the Holy Spirit could be lost. When David confessed his sin to God, he prayed that God would not take his Spirit from him.

### **Psalm 51:11**

<sup>11</sup> Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.



But because of the work of Christ, the Comforter now makes a permanent home inside a Christian's heart.

**1 John 4:13**

<sup>13</sup> Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.



The Holy Ghost comes to SEAL our salvation. This seal is our assurance that our adoption into the family of God is genuine and secure.

### **Ephesians 1:13-14**

- <sup>13</sup> 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,**
- <sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.



Here are another translation of verse 14:

### New Living Translation

<sup>14</sup> The Spirit is God's guarantee that he will give us the inheritance he promised and that he has purchased us to be his own people. He did this so we would praise and glorify him.

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<sup>14</sup> Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.



It is almost too amazing to believe! By the grace of God, the Holy Spirit has come down from the throne of God to dwell in our hearts, to lead us and teach us. The Holy Ghost is our ever-present companion, teacher, and guide into a life that glorifies God.

### **1 Corinthians 6:19-20**

- <sup>19</sup> What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost *which is in you*, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?
- <sup>20</sup> For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.



1. What is the Promise of the Father?
2. What is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost?
3. What happened on the Day of Pentecost?



The promise of the Father was fulfilled on the Day of Pentecost which came ten days after Christ ascended into heaven.

We will now learn what happened on that special day.



Every summer, Jerusalem was filled with Jews who came from faraway places to celebrate the FEAST of Pentecost.

But the DAY of Pentecost we read about in Acts 2 was a very special day, marked by three very unique things that happened.





As the apostles prayed in the temple...

1. There was a sound from heaven that filled the place they were sitting.
2. The apostles saw a vision of flames of fire over their heads.
3. When the apostles spoke in tongues, the people who heard them understood what they were saying.

Remember that Jesus **breathed on his disciples** to show his them how they would receive the Holy Ghost:

**John 20:21-22**

- <sup>21</sup> Then said Jesus to them again,  
Peace *be* unto you:  
as *my* Father hath sent me,  
even so send I you.
- <sup>22</sup> And when he had said this,  
**he breathed on them,**  
and saith unto them,  
Receive ye the Holy Ghost:





On the Day of Pentecost, the sound of breathing came down from heaven!

### **Acts 2:1-4**

- 1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.
- 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting.
- 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- 4 And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

When the apostles received the baptism of the Holy Ghost, immediately they were empowered to do a thing that was impossible just seconds before. The Holy Ghost gave them the ability to speak in a language that they did not know.

### **Acts 2:1-4**

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- 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.
- 4 And **they were all filled with the Holy Ghost,** and **began to speak with other tongues,** as the Spirit gave them utterance.



The apostles spoke in tongues – in languages they did not know. They were not just making strange noises. They spoke in REAL languages. This is proven by the fact that the people around them understood what they were saying!



This was the reaction of the people who heard the apostles speaking in tongues:

### **Acts 2:5-8**

- 5 And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven.
- 6 Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak **in his own language**.
- 7 And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?
- 8 And how hear we every man **in our own tongue**, wherein we were born?





More than 16 different languages were heard giving praise to God!

### **Acts 2:9-11**

- <sup>9</sup> Parthians, and Medes, and Elamites, and the dwellers in Mesopotamia, and in Judaea, and Cappadocia, in Pontus, and Asia,
- <sup>10</sup> Phrygia, and Pamphylia, in Egypt, and in the parts of Libya about Cyrene, and strangers of Rome, Jews and proselytes,
- <sup>11</sup> Cretes and Arabians, we do hear them speak **in our tongues** the wonderful works of God.



In an average church congregation, you meet people of one or maybe two languages.

On the Day of Pentecost, God brought in people from many lands and languages. He knew they who would understand what the apostles said when they spoke in tongues.



Three wonderful things happened on the Day of Pentecost that are never recorded again in the Bible.

It is important to know that the wonders of Pentecost are NOT a pattern for what will happen every time someone receives the Holy Ghost!

1. There was a sound from heaven that filled the place they were sitting.
2. The apostles saw a vision of flames of fire over their heads.
3. The people who heard the apostle speaking in tongues understood what they were saying.

1. What is the Promise of the Father?
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4. How does a Christian receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost?

The special things that happened on the Day of Pentecost were only for that day, but the promise of the Father – the gift of the Holy Ghost – is for everyone who believes in Jesus.

### **Acts 2:38-39**

<sup>38</sup> Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

<sup>39</sup> **For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.**



How do we receive the gift of the Holy Ghost for ourselves?

Jesus said we must  
Ask,  
Seek, and  
Knock.

### Luke 11:9-13

- <sup>9</sup> And I say unto you, **Ask**, and it shall be given you; **seek**, and ye shall find; **knock**, and it shall be opened unto you.
- <sup>10</sup> For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened.
- <sup>11</sup> If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if *he ask* a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent?
- <sup>12</sup> Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion?
- <sup>13</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

But when we ask, we must ask in faith knowing that our heavenly Father keeps his promise.

**James 1:6-7**

- 6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.
- 7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.



Have you been baptized with the Holy Ghost? If not, pray this prayer of faith.

Lord Jesus, I repent of my sins and believe on your name for the remission of my sins and the salvation of my soul. Now in faith, I ask you to send the Comforter to make his home in me by baptizing me with the Holy Ghost. Seal me to yourself, and equip me to serve you. Fill me with power from on high so that I can glorify your holy name. In your name, I pray. Amen!



In our next lesson, we will learn the different ways the Holy Ghost shows he is alive inside us.

## Questions to help you understand the lesson:

1. In John 16:7, why did Jesus say he needed to go away?
2. In Mark 1:6, what is the difference between John's baptism and the baptism done by Jesus.
3. In the King James Bible, what is the difference between the Holy Spirit and the Holy Ghost?
4. What 3 special things happened on the Day of Pentecost that do NOT happen every time someone receives the baptism of the Holy Ghost?
5. According to Acts 2:39, who is the promise of the Father given to?

Each question is worth 20 points.





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