

## The Empowering Presence of the Holy Spirit

### The Holy Spirit

*The Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, convicts the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Through the proclamation of the gospel, he persuades men to repent of their sins and confess Jesus as Lord. By the same Spirit, a person is led to trust in divine mercy. The Holy Spirit unites believers to Jesus Christ in faith, brings about the new birth, and dwells within the regenerate. The Holy Spirit has come to glorify the Son, who in turn came to glorify the Father. He will lead the Church into a right understanding and rich application of the truth of God's word. He is to be respected, honored, and worshiped as God the Third Person of the Trinity.*

### Empowered By The Holy Spirit

*In addition to effecting regeneration and sanctification, the Holy Spirit also empowers believers for Christian witness and service. While all genuine believers are indwelt by the Holy Spirit at conversion, the New Testament indicates the importance of an ongoing, empowering work of the Spirit subsequent to conversion as well. Being indwelt by the Spirit and being filled [empowered] with the Spirit are theologically distinct experiences. The Holy Spirit desires to fill each believer continually with increased power for Christian life and witness, and imparts his supernatural gifts for the edification of the Body and for various works of ministry in the world. All the gifts of the Holy Spirit at work in the church of the first-century are available today, are vital for the mission of the church, and are to be earnestly desired and practiced.*

## I. We serve a Living God

A. The Living God does works of power.

- i. **Joshua 3:9-13** *Joshua said to the Israelites, "... <sup>10</sup>This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup>See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. ... <sup>13</sup>And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap."*
  - a) One of the ways we are to know we serve a living God is by His acts of power done in our midst. He is doing something.
  - b) The greatest act of power God has ever done is our redemption wrought in Christ.

B. We should expect the Living God to be active.

- i. **1 Samuel 17:26, 36** *David asked the men standing near him, "What will be done for the man who kills this Philistine and removes this disgrace from Israel? Who is this uncircumcised Philistine that he should defy the armies of **the living God**?" ... "Your servant has killed both the lion and the bear; this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, because he has defied the armies of **the living God**."*

C. The Living God has power the gods of the world do not have.

- i. **2 Kings 18:31-35** *<sup>31</sup>"Do not listen to Hezekiah. This is what the king of Assyria says: Make peace with me and come out to me....<sup>33</sup>Has the god of any nation ever*

delivered his land from the hand of the king of Assyria? <sup>34</sup>Where are the gods of Hamath and Arpad? Where are the gods of Sepharvaim, Hena and Ivvah? Have they rescued Samaria from my hand? <sup>35</sup>Who of all the gods of these countries has been able to save his land from me? How then can the LORD deliver Jerusalem from my hand?" **19:4** It may be that the LORD your God will hear all the words of the field commander, whom his master, the king of Assyria, has sent to ridicule **the living God**, and that he will rebuke him for the words the LORD your God has heard. Therefore pray for the remnant that still survives." **19:14-20** <sup>14</sup>Hezekiah received the letter from the messengers and read it. Then he went up to the temple of the LORD and spread it out before the LORD. <sup>15</sup>And Hezekiah prayed to the LORD: "O LORD, God of Israel, enthroned between the cherubim, you alone are God over all the kingdoms of the earth. You have made heaven and earth. <sup>16</sup>**Give ear,<sup>a</sup> O LORD, and hear; open your eyes, O LORD, and see; listen to the words Sennacherib has sent to insult the living God.** <sup>17</sup>It is true, O LORD, that the Assyrian kings have laid waste these nations and their lands. <sup>18</sup>They have thrown their gods into the fire and destroyed them, for they were not gods but only wood and stone, fashioned by men's hands. <sup>19</sup>Now, O LORD our God, deliver us from his hand, so that all kingdoms on earth may know that you alone, O LORD, are God." <sup>20</sup>Then Isaiah son of Amoz sent a message to Hezekiah: "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: I have heard your prayer..."

a) He Hears and Responds to Prayer

b) He Hears Ridicule and Responds to Ridicule

- ii. **Jeremiah 10:7-16** <sup>7</sup>Who should not revere you, O King of the nations? This is your due. Among all the wise men of the nations and in all their kingdoms, there is no one like you. <sup>8</sup>They are all senseless and foolish; they are taught by worthless wooden idols. <sup>9</sup>Hammered silver is brought from Tarshish and gold from Uphaz. What the craftsman and goldsmith have made is then dressed in blue and purple—all made by skilled workers. <sup>10</sup>**But the LORD is the true God; he is the living God, the eternal King. When he is angry, the earth trembles; the nations cannot endure his wrath.** <sup>11</sup>"Tell them this: 'These gods, **who did not** make the heavens and the earth, will perish from the earth and from under the heavens.'<sup>12</sup>But God made the earth by his power; he founded the world by his wisdom and stretched out the heavens by his understanding. <sup>13</sup>When he thunders, the waters in the heavens roar; he makes clouds rise from the ends of the earth. He sends lightning with the rain and brings out the wind from his storehouses. <sup>14</sup>Everyone is senseless and without knowledge; every goldsmith is shamed by his idols. His images are a fraud; they have no breath in them. <sup>15</sup>They are worthless, the objects of mockery; when their judgment comes, they will perish. <sup>16</sup>He who is the Portion of Jacob **is not like these**, for he is the Maker of all things, including Israel, the tribe of his inheritance—the LORD Almighty is his name.
- iii. **Daniel 6:20, 26** When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?" ... **Daniel 6:26** "I issue a decree that in every part of my kingdom people must fear and reverence the God of Daniel. "For he is the living God and he endures forever; his kingdom will not be destroyed, his dominion will never end.

D. Encounters with the Living God are distinct from our all experience with Him.

- i. **Psalm 42:1-4** *As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. <sup>2</sup>**My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?** <sup>3</sup>My tears have been my food day and night, while men say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" <sup>4</sup>These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go with the multitude, leading the procession to the house of God, with shouts of joy and thanksgiving among the festive throng.*
- ii. **Psalm 84:1-4** *How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD Almighty! <sup>2</sup>**My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God.** <sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may have her young—a place near your altar, O LORD Almighty, my King and my God. <sup>4</sup>Blessed are those who dwell in your house; they are ever praising you.*

E. Not everything that comes in the name of the Living God is the Living God.

- i. **Jeremiah 23:33-39** <sup>33</sup>"When these people, or a prophet or a priest, ask you, 'What is the oracle of the LORD?' say to them, 'What oracle? I will forsake you, declares the LORD.' <sup>34</sup>If a prophet or a priest or anyone else claims, 'This is the oracle of the LORD,' I will punish that man and his household. <sup>35</sup>This is what each of you keeps on saying to his friend or relative: 'What is the LORD's answer?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?' <sup>36</sup>**But you must not mention 'the oracle of the LORD' again, because every man's own word becomes his oracle and so you distort the words of the living God, the LORD Almighty, our God.** <sup>37</sup>This is what you keep saying to a prophet: 'What is the LORD's answer to you?' or 'What has the LORD spoken?' <sup>38</sup>Although you claim, 'This is the oracle of the LORD,' this is what the LORD says: You used the words, 'This is the oracle of the LORD,' even though I told you that you must not claim, 'This is the oracle of the LORD.' <sup>39</sup>Therefore, I will surely forget you and cast you out of my presence along with the city I gave to you and your fathers.

F. The Church is the is the Church of the Living God

- i. **Hosea 1:10** <sup>10</sup>"Yet the Israelites will be like the sand on the seashore, which cannot be measured or counted. In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people,' they will be called '**sons of the living God.**'
- ii. **2 Corinthians 3:3** <sup>3</sup>You show that you are a letter from Christ, the result of our ministry, written not with ink but with **the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.
- iii. **1 Timothy 3:15** *if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is **the church of the living God**, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*
- iv. **Hebrews 9:14** *How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so **that we may serve the living God!***

- v. Acts 2 It is the coming of the Spirit that marks the birth of the church as we know it.

## II. Holy Spirit Baptism

### A. All Christians are Baptized in the Holy Spirit

- i. **1 Corinthians 12:13** For we were all baptized by [in] one Spirit into one body—whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free—and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
  - a) *ESV For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and all were made to drink of one Spirit.*
- ii. **Acts 1:5** *For John baptized with<sup>1</sup> water,a but in a few days you will be baptized with [in] the Holy Spirit."*
- iii. **Acts 11:16** *Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with<sup>1</sup> water,a but you will be baptized with [in] the Holy Spirit.'*

### B. The gift of the Holy Spirit comes with Salvation.

- i. **Acts 2:38** *Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

## III. Holy Spirit Empowering / Filling

### A. Empowering By / Filling for Service is not a one-time event and is for all Christians.

- i. In the Old Testament
  - a) **Exodus 31:3** *and I have filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—*
  - b) **Exodus 35:31** *and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, ability and knowledge in all kinds of crafts—*
  - c) **Deuteronomy 34:9** *Now Joshua son of Nun was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses had laid his hands on him. So the Israelites listened to him and did what the LORD had commanded Moses.*
  - d) **1 Samuel 19:19-24** Word came to Saul: "David is in Naioth at Ramah"; <sup>20</sup>so he sent men to capture him. But when they saw a group of prophets prophesying, with Samuel standing there as their leader, the Spirit of God came upon Saul's men and they also prophesied. <sup>21</sup>Saul was told about it, and he sent more men, and they prophesied too. Saul sent men a third time, and they also prophesied. <sup>22</sup>Finally, he himself left for Ramah and went to the great cistern at Secu. And he asked, "Where are Samuel and David?" "Over in Naioth at Ramah," they said. <sup>23</sup>So Saul went to Naioth at Ramah. But the Spirit of God came even upon him, and he walked along prophesying until he came to Naioth. <sup>24</sup>He stripped off his robes and also prophesied in Samuel's presence. He lay that way all that day and night. This is why people say, "Is Saul also among the prophets?"

e) **Micah 3:8** *But as for me, I am filled with power, with the Spirit of the LORD, and with justice and might, to declare to Jacob his transgression, to Israel his sin.*

ii. In the New Testament

a) **Luke 1:15** *for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. He is never to take wine or other fermented drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit even from birth.*

b) **Luke 1:67** *His father Zechariah was filled with the Holy Spirit and prophesied...*

c) **Acts 2:4** *All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.*

d) **Acts 4:8** *Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people!*

e) **Acts 4:31** *After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.*

f) **Acts 13:9-10** *Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord?"*

**B. 1 Corinthians 12:1-13** This empowering takes on different forms....

i. Note the contrast between mute idols and "speaking by the Spirit of God."

ii. The Gifts of the Spirit always point toward the Gospel and never detract take away from the Gospel.

iii. These are for all Christians for all are baptized in the Spirit: vs. 6, 7, 12, 13.

**C. We are to eagerly desire Spiritual Gifts**

i. 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:1

ii. 1 Corinthians 14:39