

Holy Spirit 06

Being Filled With the Spirit

By Glen Davis

THE SPIRIT IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Read Numbers 11.16-17 and 24-29.

Questions

- What happened when the Spirit of God came upon the people?
they prophesied vs 25
- What did God tell Moses the purpose for the Spirit of God coming upon them was?
vs 17 – to help carry the burden of all the people
- What was Moses' desire?
vs 29 that all God's people would prophesy and have God's spirit on them

Here is a list of every passage in the Old Testament that talks about the Spirit of the Lord coming on a person. Try to keep two things in mind: the phenomena that accompany the Spirit's coming on a person and the purpose of the Spirit's coming on a person.

Who?	What Happened?	What was the purpose?
70 elders: Numbers 11.16-29	prophecy	to lead the people
Bezalel: Exodus 31.3; 35.30-31	no details	to serve God with skill
Balaam: Numbers 24.2	prophecy	to demonstrate God's power
Joshua: Deuteronomy 34.9	no details	to lead the people
Othniel: Judges 3.10	no details	to appoint him judge
Gideon: Judges 6.34	blew a trumpet	to deliver God's people
Jephthah: Judges 11.29	no details	to deliver God's people
Samson: Judges 13.25;14.6,19;15.14	no details/hurt things	to deliver God's people
Saul: 1st Samuel 10.9-13; 11.6; 19.23-24	prophecy	to lead the people
David: 1st Samuel 16.13	no details	to lead the people
Saul's Messengers:1st Samuel 19.20-21	prophecy	to allow David to escape

Who?	What Happened?	What was the purpose?
Amasa: 1st Chronicles 12.18	prophecy	to appoint them leaders
Azarash: 2nd Chronicles 15.1-8	prophecy	to encourage King Asa
Zechariah: 2nd Chronicles 24.20	prophecy	to judge King Joash

Notice that this is a rare occurrence in the Old Testament: just 14 occurrences!

When the Spirit of God comes on a person it is usually for the purpose of enabling them to do some task and is accompanied by some audible manifestation that the person gives in response to the Spirit's presence.

With that in mind, read Joel 2.28-32.

Questions

- What is the prophecy that is given?
God will "pour" His Spirit out
- Who will receive the Holy Spirit?
All of His people / servants

JOEL'S PROMISE EXPLAINED

Read

- Matthew 3.11
- John 14.15-17, 25-26
- John 7.37-39

Questions

- What is the prophecy of John the Baptist?
Jesus would baptize people with the Holy Spirit and with fire
- What is the promise of Jesus?
He would give the Spirit (the Counselor) to be with us forever
- Where will the Holy Spirit be?
He will be IN you
- What will the Holy Spirit do? (See also John. 15.26,16.13-15)
He will teach you all things and remind you of the words of Jesus
- What had to happen before the Holy Spirit could be given?
Jesus must be glorified – he must die, be resurrected, and return to the Father

Read

- John 20.21-22
- Acts 1.4-5
- Acts 1:8

They have an experience with the Holy Spirit, yet Jesus tells them to wait for another.

Questions

- How can you explain this?
Jesus obviously knew they needed something more
- Did they have the Spirit or not?
Yes, they had the Spirit inside them (they were saved) , but they were not filled or baptized with the Spirit.
- What is the purpose of the baptism with the Holy Spirit?
power to be a witness for Christ

JOEL'S PROMISE FULFILLED

Read

- Acts 2:1-18 , 39

Questions

- Peter links the events surrounding him with Joel's prophecy. What phenomena did Joel say would accompany the fulfillment?
vs 18 – they will prophesy (also some will see visions/dreams – but all will prophesy)
- What phenomenon does Peter interpret as fulfilling that prophecy?
the speaking in other tongues
- Who does Peter say that the baptism with the Holy Spirit is for?
(verse 39) for all that the Lord calls - - every Christian

THE SPIRIT IN THE BOOK OF ACTS

Ask 4 people to find and read these examples of people being filled with the Spirit for the first time.

- Acts 2:1-13
- Acts 8:14-19
- Acts 10:42-46
- Acts 19:1-7

Questions -

- In each of these, were those being filled with the Holy Spirit already saved?
 - yes
 - in Acts 2 they were all believers well before this experience
 - in Acts 8 they had already believed and had been baptized in water (vs 12)
 - in Acts 10 it only says that Cornelius was a “God-fearing” man, not that he was a believer in Christ
 - in Acts 19 again, Paul baptized them in water first as believers, then prayed for them to be filled with the Spirit (vs 5,6)
- Was the laying on of hands necessary for the baptism with the Holy Spirit?
 - no
 - in Acts 2 they did not lay hands and pray
 - in Acts 8 Peter and John did lay hands on them when they prayed (vs 17)
 - in Acts 10 Peter was only preaching, not laying hands on them, or even praying for them
 - in Acts 19 Paul placed his hands on them, then they received (vs 6)

- If the event was described in detail, were there any things that happened in each instance?
 - in Acts 2 they spoke in tongues
 - in Acts 8 there are no details – but something demonstrable must have happened to make Simon want to buy this ability
 - in Acts 10 they heard the people speaking in tongues and praising God
 - in Acts 19 they spoke in tongues and prophesied
 - speaking in other tongues seems to be the common experience or evidence in Acts of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Based on the questions and answers above, if you have not already been baptized with the Holy Spirit is there any reason why you should not seek now?

Whatever you decide about being filled with the Spirit, remember that this is not a one-time event. It's not a thing we receive but a relationship we experience.

Read Acts 4.23-31 and Ephesians 5.18: seek continually!