

## THE GODHEAD - A CLOSER LOOK (Part 5)

### I. A FEW MORE THOUGHTS IN REGARD TO THE INDWELLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.

- A. The context of Acts 2 shows us that the “promise” was the miraculous.
1. Let’s start with *Acts 2:2-4*. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. **3** Then there appeared to them divided tongues, as of fire, and one sat upon each of them. **4** And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.
  2. The people were astounded and wanted to know what was going on. *Acts 2:12*. So they were all amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “Whatever could this mean?”
  3. Peter tells them “this is that...” *Acts 2:16-18*. But this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: **17** ‘And it shall come to pass in the last days, says God, That I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh; Your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, Your young men shall see visions, Your old men shall dream dreams. **18** And on My menservants and on My maidservants I will pour out My Spirit in those days; And they shall prophesy.
  4. Now notice verse 33. Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.
    - a) Notice that the promise was something that they could SEE and HEAR.
    - b) What were they seeing and hearing?
    - c) Answer: tongues of fire and speaking in tongues. Miraculous.
    - d) They were seeing the fulfillment of promise of Joel 2 being fulfilled.
    - e) But Joel’s prophecy wasn’t limited to the apostles only.
    - f) It mentioned women being able to prophesy as well.
    - g) So the promise was not only to the apostles but to all who would serve God.
  5. Now notice *Acts 2:38-39*. Then Peter said to them, “Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”
    - a) Remember, the verse markers were put in by men.
    - b) Peter associates the “gift of the Holy Spirit” with “the promise.”
    - c) What promise is he talking about?
    - d) The promise of Joel, i.e. the ability to prophesy and dream dreams, etc.
- B. The grammar of Acts 2:38 shows that the gift of the Holy Spirit was not the Holy Spirit Himself.
1. Look at the phrase, “You shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”
  2. Let’s diagram the parts of this sentence.
    - a) Subject - You.
    - b) Verb - Shall receive.
    - c) Direct object (receives the action of the verb) - the gift.
      - (1) We know this because in the Greek there is a case that is always used for direct objects.
      - (2) The Accusative case.
      - (3) The Greek word for “gift” is in the accusative.
      - (4) You find the direct object of an English sentence by asking “Who” or “What” after the verb.
      - (5) So you ask, “Shall receive” who or what. The gift.
    - d) Adjectival Phrase - “of the Holy Spirit.”
      - (1) A prepositional phrase that describes “gift.”
      - (2) In the Greek, this phrase is one word. It is a noun in the Genitive case.
      - (3) The Genitive case is the case of possession.
      - (4) It means the Holy Spirit is the owner of the gift.
      - (5) There is an instance where the Genitive can be used to rename the noun it modifies.
        - (a) This is called the epexegetic genitive.
        - (b) In this case the phrase “of the Holy Spirit” would be renaming “gift.”
        - (c) It is a very rare usage of the genitive case.
        - (d) The context has to demand this translation. Which our context doesn’t.

- (e) The translators obviously did not believe it to be the epexegetic genitive because they would have supplied the words “namely” or “which is” instead of “of.”
- C. Some object to the idea of the gift of the Holy Spirit being the miraculous because if that is the case, then the whole verse (Acts 2:38) does not apply to us today.
1. And they say, if the whole verse does not apply to us, then how do we know that the first part of the verse applies to us?
  2. In other words, if we don't receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, because that is the miraculous, then how do we know that repentance and baptism are required for salvation?
  3. In answer to this, we must keep the Bible in its context.
    - a) There are certain promises that were made that were never meant for us today.
    - b) For example, the baptism of the Holy Spirit does not occur today.
    - c) A good example of this is found in Mark 16. **Mark 16:16-18.** He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.”
      - (1) We use this passage to show that baptism is essential for salvation. (And rightly so!)
      - (2) But we understand that the miraculous signs bestowed upon believers does not occur today.
      - (3) In the same way, Acts 2:38 points out that repentance and baptism are necessary for salvation, but the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit are not available to us today.
  4. What about **Acts 2:39.** For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.”
    - a) Some argue that this verse is saying that the gift of the Holy Spirit (non-miraculous) is to be available to all people of all time.
    - b) Peter's aim here is to show that these gifts are for both Jew and Gentile.
    - c) Nowhere does he affirm that these gifts will be available for people of all times.
    - d) History shows that these gifts were around for a few generations at most.

## II. WHAT HE DOES NOT DO FOR US TODAY... THAT HE DID DO IN THE PAST.

- A. He does not bestow miraculous gifts today.
1. **1 Corinthians 13:8-10.** Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.
    - a) We have dealt with this passage extensively recently so we will not spend much time on it right now, other than to note...
    - b) Paul says that prophecies would fail, tongues would cease, and knowledge would vanish away.
    - c) In the context of 1 Corinthians 12-14, Paul is dealing with the use and abuse of miraculous gifts.
    - d) Here he tells us that when the word was completed, those miraculous gifts would no longer be needed and would pass away.
  2. **Ephesians 4:11-13.** And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, 12 for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;
    - a) Verse 11 is referring to God giving miraculous abilities to some for the equipping of the infant church.
    - b) Verse 13 uses the word “till.”
    - c) This implies that God would, at some point, cease to bestow these gifts.
- B. He does not continue to reveal new truth today.

1. **2 Peter 1:3.** As His divine power **has given** to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue
  2. **Jude 3.** Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was **once for all delivered** to the saints.
- C. He does not place thoughts or ideas in anyone's mind apart from the word.
1. As we have already seen, when the Holy Spirit communicated directly with people (a miraculous event), He did it with words. **1 Corinthians 2:13.**
  2. **Acts 8:29.** Then the Spirit **said** to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot."
  3. **2 Samuel 23:2.** "The Spirit of the Lord spoke by me, And His word was on my tongue.

### III. OUR RESPONSIBILITIES TO HIM.

- A. We are to worship Him.
1. We have already seen from a previous lesson that the Holy Spirit is God.
  2. God is to be worshipped. **Matthew 4:10.** Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, and Him only you shall serve.'"
- B. We are to heed His instructions.
1. **Revelation 2:7.** "He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the tree of life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."
  2. In each of the letters to the churches, Jesus utters this phrase.
  3. To HEAR what the Spirit says is to HEED what the Spirit says.
  4. **Romans 8:1-2.** There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit. **2** For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has made me free from the law of sin and death.
- C. We are not to grieve Him. **Ephesians 4:30.** And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.
- D. We are not to quench the Spirit. **1 Thessalonians 5:19.** Do not quench the Spirit.
1. Quench - to extinguish, suppress, stifle.
  2. What does it mean to quench the Spirit.
  3. Look at the next verses. **1 Thessalonians 5:20.** Do not despise prophecies.
  4. When we despise His teachings, we suppress and stifle the truth.