

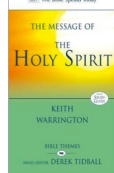
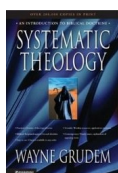
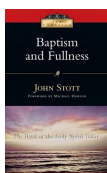


Talk Series Outline

Who is the Holy Spirit?	Tue 1
What is the Holy Spirit like?	Tue 2
How does the Holy Spirit bring us to Christ?	Weds 1
What are the 'filling' and 'fruit' of the Spirit?	Weds 2
How can people go wrong with the Holy Spirit?	Thurs 1
What are spiritual gifts?	Thurs 2

Here's some homework...

Bearing in mind that 'the best way to learn is to teach', here's a way to bed-in some of the learning from these talks. Write a reply to Ashley's letter. Try to answer all the questions that Ashley asks you, using the Bible to support your argument, as Ashley requests. Show sensitive, positive, practical pastoral concern for Ashley as you write. Try to keep it to no more than two sides of A4. (If you'd like someone else to see your letter, please feel free to email it to Derek at the address at the top of this page.)



Your friend Ashley has written you a letter...

My dear friend,

Is it possible to drive God away from my life? I am terrified that I may have grieved or even blasphemed the Holy Spirit, by ignoring him during these last three years since I became a Christian. To be honest, I fear that the Spirit may actually have left my life completely. I recently read Psalm 51:11 which says: 'Do not take your Holy Spirit from me'. That clearly implies that he could leave. Is this true? If not, why does this verse seem to suggest it?

You see, although I have been a Christian for three years, I have neglected God and been so distant from him. Recently I realised that God has much more to accomplish in my life than just taking me to heaven when I die. This started when I met some other Christians who seemed to have something I didn't have. They urged me to ask God to 'baptise me in the Holy Spirit', which I did - but nothing has happened. I know this because they told me that the evidence a person has received the Spirit's baptism is that they speak in tongues, and I haven't received that gift. Then I met someone else who told me I have already been baptised with the Holy Spirit (although I can't think when... but he didn't think there had to be any outward evidence).

He said that I needed to be *filled* with the Holy Spirit, but I don't even know what that means, let alone how to make it happen. It sounds really vague to me. The baptism idea sounds better because at least there is something concrete to show for it (tongues - or so I was told).

Do you understand what I'm looking for? How do I get this sense of being closer to God? Can you tell me what the Bible says about it all? And when you write, could you give me some verses and passages of Scripture, so I can study all this for myself? Please could you also tell me a little of how you experience the Holy Spirit in your own life? I'd love to learn from your personal experience as well as what you can help me with from the Bible.

Please write soon. To be honest, I'm afraid there may be no hope left for me...

Ashley



Recommended reading on the Holy Spirit

Keep in Step with the Spirit, J.I. Packer
I believe in the Holy Spirit, Michael Green
The chapters in *Systematic Theology*, Wayne Grudem
Baptism and Fullness, John Stott
The Forgotten God, Francis Chan
The Holy Spirit, Billy Graham
The Message of the Holy Spirit, Keith Warrington

Tuesday 1: Who is the Holy Spirit?

1. The Holy Spirit has existed from eternity and we find him in action right through the Bible, in:

- **Creation** Genesis 1: 2, 2: 7, Job 33: 4
- **The Old Testament:**
Prophets Isaiah 61:1, Craftsmen Exodus 35: 30-1, Judges 3: 10, Kings 1 Sam 16
- **In Jesus' Life** Luke 4:18
- **The Church Age** John 16: 7, Matthew 28: 20, Acts 16: 7

2. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a force

- Jesus said so John 14: 16,
- The things he does are personal John 14: 26, Romans 8: 26,
- The way he reacts is personal Eph 4: 30, Acts 5:5.

3. The Holy Spirit is God, just as the Father and the Son are God.

- Luke 3: 22, 2 Corinthians 13: 14, Matthew 28: 19, 1 Corinthians 12: 4—6, 1 Peter 1: 1—2, Ephesians 2:18, Galatians 4:6.



It is only when you grasp what it means for God to be a Trinity that you really sense the beauty, the overflowing kindness, the heart-grabbing loveliness of God. Mike Reeves, 'The Good God'

Tuesday 2: What is the Holy Spirit like?

Just as he who called you is holy, so be holy in all you do. For it is written, 'Be holy, because I am holy.' 1 Peter 1: 15

And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever—the Spirit of truth. John 14:16

But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. John 14:26

'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit,' says the Lord Almighty. Zechariah 4:6

3 Descriptions of the Spirit:

- *The Spirit is the unseen but awesome presence of God in our lives today.*
- *The Spirit is the power and presence of Jesus with us today.*
- *The Spirit provides the motive force when God acts to change things in history.*

1. The Holy Spirit is a spirit

Hebrew: 'ruach' = spirit, wind, breath
Greek: 'pneuma' = spirit, wind, breath

2. The Holy Spirit is holy

Positional sanctification: *I am already holy in Christ!* (Heb. 10:10)

Progressive sanctification: *I am being made holy.* (Hebrews 10:14)

Perfected sanctification: *The inside will match the outside!* (1 Cor 13:12)

1 Sam 2: 2	Holiness = God's character
Psalms 24: 3 – 4	Holiness = purity & devotion
Habakkuk 1: 13	Holiness = a hatred of sin
Deuteronomy 7: 6	Holiness = being set apart
Isaiah 5: 16	Holiness = right living
Exodus 3: 5	Holiness = God's presence
Zechariah 14: 20 – 21	Anyone can be holy

So: A person filled with and keeping in step with the Holy Spirit will...

manifest God's character, become increasingly pure, be increasingly devoted to God, have a growing hatred of sin, have increasingly high spiritual and moral standards, be increasingly committed to God's service, live with increasing standards of justice and 'rightness', daily enjoy the presence of God.

And this lifestyle is possible for anyone!

3. The Holy Spirit shares all the attributes & characteristics of God

Truth	John 14: 16, 1 Corinthians 2: 10
Revelation	John 14: 26,
Power	Zechariah 4: 6
Love	Galatians 5: 22, 1 Corinthians 13: 1

If God is not personal he is merely an infinitely extended rice pudding.
CS Lewis



Without Christ holiness tends to have all the charm of an ingrown toenail. If holiness is not first and foremost about knowing Christ, it will be about self-produced morality and religiosity. Such incurred self-dependence is quite the opposite of what pleases God, or what is actually beautiful. Nothing is more holy than a heartfelt delight in Christ. Nothing is more powerful to transform lives.
Mike Reeves, Christ Our Life



For healthy Christians, 'holiness' is an electric word. God has implanted a passion for holiness deep in every born-again heart. Holiness, which means being near God, like God, given to God and pleasing to God, is something believers want more than anything else in this world. One reason for their interest in the Holy Spirit is their awareness that making us holy is one of his main tasks.

Jim Packer, 'Keep in Step with the Spirit'



What makes an event or activity sacred is not calling it 'Christian' or inviting only Christians to it. Something is holy unto God when God's set-apart people do what they do for his glory: eating, drinking, playing, celebrating, working, resting, creating – you name it, God wants us to do all that we do for his glory.
Jeff Vanderstelt, 'Saturate'

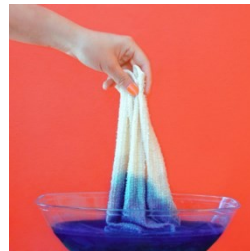


Wednesday 1: *How does the Holy Spirit bring us to Christ?*

1. **The Holy Spirit is at work on us before we become Christians** ('prevenient grace')
 - 2 Corinthians 4: 4
2. **The miracle of new birth happens through the Holy Spirit**
 - Conversion, Justification, Adoption, **Regeneration**, (mysterious, immediate, transforming)
3. **When we come to faith, the Holy Spirit tells us what has happened**
 - **We belong to God** Ephesians 1: 13—14
 - **God has even more in store for us** Romans 8: 23
 - **We are God's adopted children** Romans 8: 15—16
4. **When we become Christians we are 'baptised' with the Holy Spirit**

Baptism: *'To immerse one thing in another, so that the first thing takes on the characteristics of the second.'*

 - 1 Cor 12: 13, John 7: 37—39, Acts 2: 28, Romans 8: 9, Eph 1: 13—14
 - But what about Acts 8: 4—17?
 - Major barrier-breaking moments in Acts: 2: 1—4, 8: 1—14, 9: 1—7, 10: 1—48, 19: 1—7



The 'Acts pattern'. *Every time the gospel first breaks a major barrier, something obvious and visible occurs to authenticate what's happened as being genuinely of God.*



Our position at Capernwray is that we do not see 'Baptism in the Spirit' as subsequent to salvation but the incorporation of the believer into Christ (as per 1 Cor 12:13) and we would like to maintain that position from the platform, without dismissing other views as heretical.
Charles Price, 2001

5. What's the connection between baptism in the Spirit and water baptism? Seven things to ponder...

- i. Baptism in the Spirit happens when a person believes in Jesus for their salvation and is born again (according to 'Opinion 2'. (Ephesians 1: 13b)
- ii. Apparently, water baptism is not *essential* for salvation. (Luke 23: 43)
- iii. But, water baptism *is* commanded and expected as part of a normal Christian birth. (Matthew 28: 19)
- iv. Water baptism, along with communion, are traditionally seen as the two physical acts (sacraments, 'oaths of obedience') that Jesus commands. (Luke 22:19)
- v. Water baptism and Spirit baptism are 'the outside and the inside of the same thing'. (Michael Green)
- vi. Ideally, repenting, believing, (being baptised with the Spirit) and being water-baptised happen 'as one'. (Acts 19: 4 – 5, Acts 10: 47 – 48, Acts 16: 31 – 34)
- vii. Despite the differences, guess what we'll do?
Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. Ephesians 4: 3

THE BIG QUESTION:

Does baptism in the Spirit describe something that should happen after someone becomes a Christian, or does it describe something that happens when someone becomes a Christian?

Opinion 1: "Baptism in the Spirit describes an event after you become a Christian that every believer should experience. Acts 8: 4 - 17 and personal experience suggest so."

Opinion 2: "No. Baptism in the Spirit is what happens to every believer when they become a Christian. All believers have the Holy Spirit."

For we were all baptised by one Spirit into one body.... And we were all given the one Spirit to drink.
1 Cor. 12: 13

Why does the Holy Spirit uniquely arrive late in Acts 8? Nobody's sure, but here's one of the best guesses...

"In Acts 8 the Holy Spirit was uniquely withheld so that the public acknowledgement, blessing and unity with the Jerusalem church can be shown by Peter and John. It probably stopped there being a 'Jewish' church and a 'Samaritan' church."

If Opinion 1 is right...

- Why are there *no other examples* – only Acts 8 - of the Spirit arriving *after* conversion?
- Why don't any of the letters in the New Testament ever tell Christians to 'be baptised with the Spirit'?

If Opinion 2 is right...

- What is happening when, after a person becomes a Christian, they experience speaking in tongues, warmth, or an overwhelming experience of God?

Wednesday 2: What are the 'filling' and 'fruit' of the Spirit'?

All of you must keep on allowing yourselves to be filled with the Spirit all the time

Ephesians 5: 18

It is implied that to be 'full' or 'filled' was a normal characteristic of every devoted Christian.

John Stott

We believe that full devotion to Christ and his cause is normal for every believer.

Willow Creek

Community Church

1. From Old Testament times God's people have yearned to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Joel 2: 28 - 29, Ezekiel 36: 26—27,

2. Jesus was filled with the Spirit

- Luke 4: 1, John 3: 34

3. Other people in the New Testament are described as being "filled with the Spirit"

- Acts 4: 8, 6:5, 11: 24.

Key verse: Ephesians 5:18. Which tells us that...

4. All Christians should be filled with the Spirit

5. Being filled with the Spirit is not a loss of self-control

Acts 2: 15, Galatians 5: 23, 1 Corinthians 14: 32

6. Being filled with the Spirit looks like Ephesians 5: 19—21

Deeper fellowship, deeper worship, deeper gratitude, deeper humility

7. Fullness of the Spirit is a daily pursuit

8. The Holy Spirit does the filling, not us

Luke 11: 13

9. We can be given extra power for extra service

Acts 4:8, 7:35, 15: 9



Every person is as full of the Spirit as he or she wants to be.
AWTozer

Those who are most used of God have no monopoly of the Holy Spirit – the Holy Spirit has the monopoly of them.
LAT Van Dooren

Being baptised with the Spirit (at conversion) and constantly being filled with the Spirit results in the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22—23) in our lives.



Being led by the Spirit is a remarkable expression. The Bible doesn't say 'Be driven by the Spirit'. No, the devil is a driver. The Holy Spirit leads us and encourages us.
Charles Spurgeon



If the genius of Shakespeare could come and live in me, then I could write plays like his. And if the Spirit of Jesus could come and live in me, then I could live a life like his.
William Temple



The comforter comes not in order to allow people to be comfortable, but to make them missionaries.
Michael Green

Our spiritual growth is not measured by the amount of scripture I may have memorised or the amount of time I spend alone in Bible reading and prayer, or the amount of Christian service in which I engage, or the number of people I lead to Christ.

All of that is valuable and good. But the true quality of spiritual growth is measured by the extent to which the character of Jesus Christ is readily and more easily seen in me than he used to be. Charles Price, 'Christ in You'



Thursday 1: How can we go wrong with the Holy Spirit?

1. You can be a Christian without knowing much of the Holy Spirit

Sinful nature (Rom 8:9)
Old Self (Eph 4:22-3)
Law of sin & death (Rom 8:2)
Hostility to God (Rom 8:7)
Worldly (1 Cor 3: 1)

The Spirit
New self
Law of the Spirit of life
Submission to God
Spiritual

2. People can resist the Holy Spirit

- Acts 7: 51

3. Christians can upset the Holy Spirit

- Ephesians 4: 29—32

4. Christians can quench the Holy Spirit

- 1 Thessalonians 5: 19

5. But can Christians blaspheme the Holy Spirit?

- Matthew 12: 22—32



The heart to which the Spirit is given is not the heart that hungers for personal manifestations of power or Holy Ghost ego trips, but the one which yearns and thirsts and pleads for the glorifying of our Lord Jesus Christ.
 Bruce Milne



All other sins against the Holy Spirit are committed by believers. We can repent of them, be forgiven, and make a new start. Not so with blaspheming the Spirit. This sin is committed by unbelievers and is often called 'the unpardonable sin'.
 Billy Graham, 'The Holy Spirit'

Blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

'Blasphemy' noun: extreme disrespect

And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

Matthew 12: 31

This sin is not unforgivable because it's so horrible it can't be covered by the cross...

...it's unforgivable because they refuse the Spirit's revelation that forgiveness and life are found in Jesus...

..if they remain in that position until death, by definition that is unforgivable.

The most significant gifts in the church's life (preaching, teaching, leadership, counsel, support) are ordinarily natural abilities sanctified. Jim Packer

Fruit of the Spirit? God wants us all to be the same.

Gifts of the Spirit? God wants us all to be different.

DANGER!!!!
 Don't lose fruit that would last for ever by fighting about gifts that are only temporary.

Spiritual gifts are tools to build with, not toys to play with or weapons to fight with.
 Christopher Ash



Thursday 2: What are the 'Gifts' of the Spirit?

1. What are the gifts of the Spirit?

- 'Charismata' means 'the things that grace has done'

2. How many different sorts of gifts are there?

- Romans 12: 6 – 8, 1 Corinthians 7: 7 – 10, 1 Cor 12: 8 10, 1 Corinthians 12: 28, Ephesians 4: 11, 1 Peter 4: 9 - 11

3. Who gets the gifts of the Spirit?

- 1 Peter 4:10, Eph. 4: 7, 1 Cor 12: 7, Romans 12: 5 - 6

4. Do we all get the same gifts?

- Romans 12: 6,

5. What are the gifts of the Spirit for?

- 1 Peter 4:10, 1 Corinthians 12: 4, 7, Ephesians 4: 12

6. Are all the gifts equally important?

1 Cor 12: 14f, 1 Cor 14: 5

7. Does God still give all the gifts to the church today?

'No' 'Cessationists' point to Acts 2: 42-3, 2 Cor 12: 12 & 1 Cor 13: 8—13 and suggest that the gifts mentioned in those passages were authentications of apostolic authority, and so stopped when the Bible was finished in the 1C AD.

'Yes' 'Non-cessationists' (also called 'Continuists', or 'Continuationists') believe that 1 Cor 13 is about heaven. James 5:14-15 mentions elders, not just apostles, praying for healing. They believe all the NT spiritual gifts still available today.

When the body goes wrong...

Amputation is when members cut themselves off from a commitment to use their gifts.

Elephantitis is when one ministry grows to a size far greater than it should be.

Atrophy is when members think attending a service is all there is to the Christian life.

Fractures are when members fall out and the pain is felt by the whole body.

Arthritis is the grinding of bone on bone and it hurts. The name of cartilage in the Body of Christ is 'love'.



You have a teaching gift? You may use that to teach people who gather as the church weekly. However, what if you also used that ability to serve in the public schools as a teacher? Maybe you're a gifted administrator. Think how many places in your city need strong administration!
 Jeff Vanderstelt, 'Saturate'