
One from the Heart

Holy Spirit Living

Acts 1:4-9

“The Acts of the Holy Spirit”? “The Acts of Jesus through the Holy Spirit”?

It’s a book heavy with Holy Spirit activity, and in some minds, sets the scene for the heart motivation for the people of God.

The Spirit

Our “why?” as Christians: Jesus, through His obedient life and sacrificial death, made a way for us to be reconciled to God.

The Holy Spirit, then, is kind of the “how” we be the church.

The Forgotten God

Francis Chan wrote an excellent book on the person and work of the Holy Spirit, called “The Forgotten God”.

The Holy Spirit? Too much, too scary, too unknown, too mysterious, too difficult...

Do we need the Holy Spirit in our day-to-day living?

Do we live in the daily power and leading of the Holy Spirit, or do we hear these nice words on a Sunday, and then go about our week as if we didn’t have the Creator God Himself dwelling in us?

How Do We Know?

Ephesians 1:11-14

Romans 8:14-17

1 Corinthians 3:16

1 Corinthians 6:19-20

You have the Holy Spirit if Jesus has you!

What About This Holy Spirit Baptism Thing?

Luke 3:16 – “He will baptise you in the Holy Spirit and fire”

Jesus says, in Acts 1:5, “you will be baptised with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

Clothed with power from on high (Luke 24)

The Holy Spirit came upon them (Acts 19)

Drinking of the Spirit (1 Cor 12)

The gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2)

Be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph 5)

Born of the Spirit (John 3)

There is a sense that the biblical authors are trying to convey a concept that is beyond words, using language, metaphor, and the physical things around them to try to illustrate this idea.

There does seem to be moments when the presence of the Holy Spirit does seem to well up, to overflow, to overwhelm us.

Paul says it best – **Ephesians 5:18**

The Marker of God’s Covenant of Love

The mark of the new covenant of love, that Jesus made in His own blood, is the Holy Spirit.

We don’t want to be all religious and uptight about the Holy Spirit!

We have the inner witness of the Spirit in our lives to keep us close to God.

“The Holy Spirit is in me for me, but He’s on me for others” – Bill Johnson

He Makes His Home In Us

We make a place for Him in our lives and in our affection.

He's a person – He's able to feel and express joy, hope, grief, feeling unwelcome.

“Do not quench the Spirit.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:19 (ESV)

“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.” – Ephesians 4:30 (ESV)

The Fireplace

The fire of God is a picture of His presence, in fact at Pentecost, the Spirit came with flames on people's heads!

Proverbs 14:4

Come, Holy Spirit

Have you made the Spirit welcome in your life?

Have you quenched Him – put out His fire in your life?

Have you grieved Him? Made Him feel unwelcome, either by your attitude to Him or the way you live? Is your heart soft to Him today? Or do you resist His loving attention?

Have you never realised that the Spirit of God dwells in you, no matter how you feel about it?

Take a moment to yield yourself to Him – surrender yourself to Him.

Then pray the oldest prayer of the church – “Come, Holy Spirit!”

Discussion Questions:

1. What stands out to you from the New Testament about the work and presence of the Holy Spirit?
2. Have you ever experienced any of those things in your life?
3. Have you seen these things in the lives of those in the church? What testimonies and accounts of the work of the Holy Spirit have you heard?
4. The Holy Spirit is sometimes called the "Forgotten God". In what ways may that have been true in your life?
5. Are there aspects of the Spirit's work that you are more comfortable with? And some you are more uncomfortable with?
6. What confidence does the scriptural proof of the presence of the Holy spirit make in your life? What confidence does the presence of fruit, gifts and working give you?
7. "Baptism" in the Spirit is a loaded term in church circles – how have you heard or understood this term in the past? How does that match up with the Apostle Paul's instruction to be constantly filled with the spirit (Ephesians 5:18)?
8. What might you need to do in order to make the Holy spirit welcome in your life?
9. Why not take the time to pray and invite the Holy Spirit to come into your life a fresh and fill you?