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The Relationship of the Holy Spirit to the Believer After Pentecost

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What I am about to share with you will NOT be taught in any church. To do so would be to destroy the ‘churches’ influence, domination, and control over you; however, did not Jesus say that when he left, the Comforter, namely the Holy Ghost, would lead us and guide us into all truth. What is the Holy Spirit’s role in salvation and what is his relationship to the believer since Pentecost? What does scripture say, NOT man.

Some Background

Before Jesus returned to heaven, he was here for forty days. Over five-hundred people witnessed his bodily form before returning, in the cloud, to heaven to be seated at the right hand of the Father. Shortly after his resurrection, Jesus wanted to impart the Holy Spirit to the apostles in John 20:22, 23.¹ This would have allowed them, by the laying on of the apostle’s hands and as human extensions of that power, vessels that were capable of extending forgiveness to the penitent, while bequeathing the Holy Spirit to those being drawn by the Spirit’s influence.

¹ John 20:22, 23--And when he had said this, he breathed on *them*, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: [23](#) Whose soever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained.

Why is it that the apostles could not appropriate the Spirit in their lives at this point? FEAR! This emotion dominated their lives. Fear of being arrested and severely punished by the Jewish religious leadership, and fear of the Roman's military might and resolve in stamping out dissent it perceived as threatening the spread and maintenance of their imperial aspirations.

So how were the saints saved prior to Pentecost? Like all the elect preceding them, namely, by faith! Faith or God's gift by grace, strengthened the saint to perform great deeds through the eyes of faith--"the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." (Heb. 11:1)

And who performed imparting this gift to the saint . . . Why, the Holy Ghost, of course. He is called a ghost not because of a ghostly like phantom appearance but because of his mode of operation. In Jesus' conversation with Nicodemus, in John 3:8, we read, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit."

God's counsel and will are a total mystery! No one can know the mystery of God, an infinite,² all powerful,³ all knowing⁴ being, that is at all times everywhere.⁵

Now, for the Relational Aspects of the Holy Spirit to the Individual

Before Pentecost, the Bible says the Holy Spirit, the Holy Ghost or the Spirit, came upon and could leave the individual. In rare cases, like that of the prophet Ezekiel, God called the prophet the Son of man,⁶ a title given to Christ in the New Testament. This would

² Knowledge that is inexhaustible and unsearchable.

³ Omnipotent or possessing all power. This is why Taoism's concept of dualism is anathema in the Bible. Satan does not marshal and summon the demons . . . Jesus, their Creator, does so. Besides, Satan is the prince of the power of the air (Eph. 2:2). The demon's overseer, namely Abaddon in the Hebrew and Apollyon in the Greek, is the king of the underworld (Rev. 9:11). Satan, or the dragon, answers to the supreme Sovereign and King of kings, Jesus Christ (Matt. 28:18). Satan's foe is Christ, whose proxy, Michael the archangel and warrior prince, vanquished Satan throwing him out of heaven at the incarnation of Christ, along with a third of the rebel angels (Rev. 12:4-8).

⁴ Omniscient or all knowing. Foreknowledge is that aspect of Providence allowing him to know the future before it happens. As the Sovereign Conductor, God the Father, orchestrates all things after the counsel of his perfect will. He can do this because he exists outside the physical dimension man is constrained and compelled to operate within.

⁵ Omnipresent, or everywhere at all times.

⁶ In Ezekiel 2:3; 3:1, 3, 4 the prophet is called "the Son of man." This would suggest a temporary indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Ezekiel.

suggest that Ezekiel was temporarily indwelt by the Holy Spirit,⁷ not permanently abiding within as he does so for the believer today.

We see a “coming upon” of the Spirit on Othniel (Judges 3:9, 10. It also occurred in the life of Gideon, Jephthah, Samson, King Saul, King David, and Simeon in the New Testament.⁸

In the case of the New Testament, there was the exception of John the Baptist who was filled with the Holy Spirit from his mother’s womb, as well as the Baptist’s father, Zacharias, and mother, Elizabeth.⁹ Why these three exceptions of indwelling before Pentecost? Perhaps, it is because of the pre-eminent importance of the Baptist’s ministry of repentance, as well as John’s parents understanding the gravity of their son’s impact on national Israel to receive the person and message of Christ before “the great and dreadful day of the LORD,” or the 3.5 years of God’s trumpet and vial judgments in Revelation.¹⁰

The Importance of the Holy Spirit After Pentecost

The descent of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2, signaled several important truths:

1. THE OLD SIN NATURE MUST DIE--While Jesus was the sin bearer and payment for man’s sin, crucifixion of the sin nature is accomplished by the Holy Spirit.¹¹ It is a one-time event, and is unseen in its deliverance and transformation of the saint out of darkness into the light of Christ
2. BAPTISM BY THE HOLY SPIRIT IMPUTES CHRIST’S RIGHTEOUSNESS TO THE SINNER--A permanent absence of the Holy Spirit within, cannot transfer Christ’s

⁷ In Ezekiel 3:25 the prophet is called the “son of man” indicating a momentary vacating of the Holy Spirit within. The temporary indwelling and momentary vacating of the Holy Spirit within the prophet Ezekiel, implies an absence of permanency, sealing, or permanency of the Holy Spirit within.

⁸ Judges 6:34 (Gideon); Judges 11:29 (Jephthah); Judges 14:19 (Samson); I Samuel 10:10 (King Saul); I Samuel 16:13 (King David); Luke 2:25 (Simeon in the temple encountering Jesus at eight days old)

⁹ Luke 1:15--For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother’s womb.

Luke 1:41--And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: . . .

Luke 1:67--And his father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Ghost, and prophesied, saying, . . .

¹⁰ Malachi 4:5, 6--Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: [6](#) And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.

¹¹ Romans 8:9--But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

Paul to twelve disciples of John the Baptist, said in Acts 19:2, “Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?” The disciples of the Baptist replied, “We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.” The important point not to miss here is that you can believe but be lost! If faith is not mixed with belief, you will eternally perish.

holiness in keeping Old Testament law to the saint. Belief, without Holy Spirit faith, invites God's wrath, with its eternal consequences in the hereafter¹²

3. THE SPIRIT IS THE BELIEVER'S TEACHER¹³--You have the inerrant, preserved scriptures in English, namely the King James Version, AND you have the Holy Spirit as your teacher. So, what are you waiting for? An engraved announcement!
4. MANY FALSE PROPHETS AND TEACHERS HAVE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD--If you are born again, are reading the Bible regularly, separating yourself from the world ('In the world, but not of the world'), and seeking his will through prayer, the LORD will make himself known to you. You cannot know the will of God without knowing the word of God, the Bible
5. A COUNTERFEIT 'CHRISTIAN' CHURCH APPEARED AFTER THE COMPLETION OF THE SCRIPTURES--If you cannot discern between the spirit of truth and the spirit of error, check to see if you're in the faith.¹⁴ You need to realize that what is called 'Christian' is not Christian, and what most identify as the 'church,' is NOT the church.¹⁵ If you are social butterfly you won't make it!¹⁶
6. THE FUNCTIONS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT ARE MANY
 - ◇ **sanctification**--God is the potter; you are the clay. You are not your own. The grip of the world has been loosened
 - ◇ **consecration**--He will identify your giftings and how will you use them for Christ's kingdom
 - ◇ **teacher**--He will lead and guide you into all truth
 - ◇ **enlighten**--He will give you understanding of Jesus' words, the Bible
 - ◇ **advocate**--He will give you the words in the day you need it, and in the hour you encounter your adversaries

¹² Matthew 22:11-14--And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: [12](#) And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. [13](#) Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast *him* into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. [14](#) For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

¹³ I John 2:27--But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

¹⁴ II Corinthians 13:5--Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

¹⁵ Revelation 18:4--And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues.
I Corinthians 10:20, 21--But *I say*, that the things which the Gentiles sacrifice, they sacrifice to devils, and not to God: and I would not that ye should have fellowship with devils. [21](#) Ye cannot drink the cup of the Lord, and the cup of devils: ye cannot be partakers of the Lord's table, and of the table of devils.

¹⁶ Galatians 1:10--For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

- ◇ **discernment**--While your moral conscience is a good start, the Holy Spirit can hone your spiritual awareness to divide light from darkness, while making you an invincible warrior for Christ
- ◇ **impute**--Only through death to self and the sin nature, can you receive Christ's righteousness that cleanses you from all sin. Belief in Christ **MUST** be accompanied by the Holy Spirit's crucifixion of self. Without that, no man will see God
- ◇ **saintliness**--As Paul stated in Romans 7:18, "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but *how* to perform that which is good I find not." Get out of his way!
- ◇ **death to self, the world, and the flesh**--Galatians 2:20--I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.
- ◇ **convict**--When you sin, it is the Holy Spirit that produces contriteness, remorse, and sorrow for your sin. Don't grieve or quench him!