

Ch. 1 “The Spirit-Filled Life Is For Every Believer”

“The Spirit-Filled life is the only way for a Christian to experience all that God wants us to be, say, and do. It is life to the fullest...the true abundant life that Jesus promised.”

Acts 2:36-39 – Peter said: “Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ.” When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Peter replied, “Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.”

Two gifts are given: the forgiveness of sins and the Holy Spirit. Why does Peter refer to the Holy Spirit as a gift?

Rom. 8:8-11 – “Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”

1 Cor. 12:13 – Paul wrote: “For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body – whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free – and we were all given the one Spirit to drink.”

What is required of a person to receive the Holy Spirit and start living a Spirit-filled life?

“In many ways, we need Christ Jesus in our lives because of our need for a relationship with the Father. But do we need the Holy Spirit?” Have you ever thought of this question and contemplated it?

“The Holy Spirit is part of the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Given this, why do you think He is often the most misunderstood member of the Trinity?

What are some questions you have had in the past concerning His role in your life?

Eze. 36:26-27 – Ezekiel wrote this between 593 and 571 B.C. during the destruction of Jerusalem and in exile in Babylon – “I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws.”

What does this scripture tell us about the heart?

What does it tell us about the role of the Holy Spirit in your life?

The Holy Spirit was present and active in creation. When do we see Him active in the Old Testament?

Isaiah 61:1 – “The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is on me, because the Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor. He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor and the day of vengeance of our God,...”

Exe. 2:1-2 – “He said to me, “Son of man, stand up on your feet and I will speak to you.” As he spoke, the Spirit came into me and raised me to my feet, and I heard him speaking to me.”

Have you ever considered the difference between the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament and the New Testament?

The difference between the Old Testament and the New Testament is that the Holy Spirit did not abide continually in the people in the Old Testament, but rather helped them through leadership, guidance, and direction.

Saul Made King – 1 Sam. 10:10 – “When they arrived at Gibeah, a procession of prophets met him; the Spirit of God came upon him in power, and he joined in their prophesying.” Saul’s character changed and it was evident by the people who had witnessed it.

David in Saul’s Service - 1 Sam. 16: 14 – “Now the Spirit of the Lord had departed from Saul, and an evil spirit from the Lord tormented him.” Saul made bad decisions without the Spirit of God, including his jealousy of David.

What was the role of the Holy Spirit during the time of the Old Testament?

How does that differ from the role of the Holy Spirit during the time of the New Testament and today in our lives?

Rom. 15:13 – “Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.” How does the Holy Spirit enable you to live a vibrant hope-filled life?

John 14:26 – “But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” What does this mean?

Are you open to a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Christ Jesus through the Holy Spirit?