

A. The Promise of the Holy Spirit is for ALL Believers

Acts 2:16-21 (NIV) No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel: ¹⁷ "In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. (QUESTION) ¹⁸ Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy. ¹⁹ I will show wonders in the heaven above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke. ²⁰ The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. ²¹ And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.' (ANSWER)

- **Joel spoke of an age to come – Peter identifies the Church age as that time. (SPIRIT & GIFTS)**

The New Testament states "the last days" began with Jesus' incarnation.

Hebrews 1:1-2 (NIV) In the past God spoke to our forefathers through the prophets at many times and in various ways, ² but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son,

1 Peter 1:20 (NIV) He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake.

Acts 2:20 (NIV2011) The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord. (cf. Mt 24:3-36)

Matthew 24:29–31 (ESV) "Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from heaven,... Then will appear in heaven the sign of the Son of Man,

The last days were from that moment UNTIL Christ returns! We are living in the "last days"

Acts 2:38-39 (NIV) 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. ³⁹ The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call."

B. The Holy Spirit's Role in the Life of Believers

Titus 3:5 (ESV) ⁵ he saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit,

If every believer has the Holy Spirit, why Paul's apostolic command, to "be being filled with the Holy Spirit"?

Roles of the Holy Spirit:

1. **Salvation: Regeneration & Justification:** (Before) Draws us to God, convicts us of sin, judgment, righteousness, (At) regenerates us, births us into God's family, seals us, empowers us to life as NEW creations. (Jn 3:5-8, 6:44, 16:8-13; Tit 3:5; Gal 6:15)

- Peter explained in Acts, we receive forgiveness AND the gift of the Holy Spirit. Justified by Jesus' sacrifice! We are FORGIVEN!! And regenerated, birthed into God's family by the Spirit

NOW begins the LIFELONG PROCESS OF SANCTIFICATION: We are here ON Purpose, FOR Purpose. We were created to BECOME like Jesus – that is our “Telos” or END.

For example: Sailors stranded at sea! The Doldrums (Intertropical Convergence Zone): Located near the equator, this area is notorious for its sudden calms. John Galsworthy's 1895 story, *The Doldrums*, based on his own 1893 voyage, depicts the extreme distress and psychological toll on sailors trapped in "dead" sails for extended periods.

- Death by dehydration, starvation, despair, madness, sleeplessness, it could last 3-6 weeks!

Like the wind needed to propel a sailboat – NOT EVERY BELIEVER IS FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

“TOO MANY CHRISTIANS ARE LIVING THEIR LIVES STRANDED AT SEA. THEY ARE DEAD IN THE WATER BECAUSE THEY HAVE NEGLECTED THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT.”

Scripture says EVERY believer HAS the Holy Spirit – we looked at that last week. But we lose the FULLNESS of the Spirit through: Sin, unbelief, neglect, selfish living, lack of surrender, etc.

We need to be subsequently & continually FILLED WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT! (Wind in our sails to DO...(Acts 1:8..)

2. The Holy Spirit draws us close to Jesus:

- Reveals truth – reminds of us Jesus: John 14:26 (ESV)** 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 that I have said to you.
- Opens up Scripture: 1 Corinthians 2:10–12 (ESV)** *These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God....So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, that we might understand the things freely given us by God.*
- Motivates, Directs, & Empowers Prayer: Romans 8:26 (ESV)** *Likewise, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.*
 - Jude 20 (ESV)** *But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit,*
- LONGING FOR JESUS & HIS RETURN! MARANATHA! Ephesians 1:16–23 (NIV)** *I have not stopped giving thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers. I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better... That power is the same as the mighty strength he exerted when he raised Christ from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and*

dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come.

- e. **REFLECTION: How many people in here want to grow in LOVE for Jesus? Grow in PRAYER? Understanding SCRIPTURE? YOU NEED THE (ongoing) Filling of the SPIRIT!**

3. The Holy Spirit empowers us to complete our mission & purpose!

- f. **Acts 6:1-3 (NIV)** In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Grecian Jews among them complained against the Hebraic Jews because their widows were being overlooked in the daily distribution of food. 2 So the Twelve gathered all the disciples together and said, "It would not be right for us to neglect the ministry of the word of God in order to wait on tables. 3 Brothers, choose seven men from among you who are known to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. We will turn this responsibility over to them **(the first Distribution Center – Clothing Closet!)**
- g. **1 Corinthians 12:4–7 (NIV)** *There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. 5 There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. 6 There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. 7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.*
- h. **Does everyone become a surgeon? NO! Does everyone become a pastor? NO!**
- i. **BUT everyone has access to the SAME SPIRIT to EMPOWER THEM TO FULFILL THEIR PURPOSE AND CALLING!!**
- j. **For example: PARENTS** – parenting is HARD! You lead and fail and don't measure up! **YOU NEED THE SPIRIT!** Samsons parents got specific advice from the Spirit! So did Mary & Joseph! And Zechariah with John! **SO CAN YOU!**
- k. **Whether MINISTRY, market place ministry, parenting, school, WHATEVER GOD CALLS YOU TO – HE WANTS TO EMPOWER YOU TO BEAR MUCH FRUIT!**
- l. **John 15:8 (ESV)** By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.
- m. **REFLECTION: How many people feel underqualified and lacking the resources to bear fruit at work, school, home, ministry? YOU NEED THE SPIRIT.**

4. The Holy Spirit produces Christ-like CHARACTER & FRUIT in our lives!

- **Galatians 5:22–24 (ESV)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
 - **Love: sacrificially – unconditionally – EVEN our enemies! 2 Corinthians 5:14–15 (NIV)** For Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.
 - **Romans 5:5 (NIV)** *because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.*
 - **LOVE for God & others is the MAIN sign of "walking in the Spirit."**

- **Joy – the ability to have JOY in the midst of CRISIS! SUFFERING! 2 Corinthians 6:10 (NIV)** sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; poor, yet making many rich; having nothing, and yet possessing everything.
- **PEACE: Peace with God that flows to peacemaking with others: Ephesians 2:14–15 (NIV)** ¹⁴ *For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility,*
 - **Ephesians 4:3 (NIV)** ³ *Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.*
- **Patience** – Same word used for being “steadfast”. KEY to love & forgiveness!
- **Kindness & Gentleness** – “gentle caring and concern for others” “integrity”. We speak truth, always, but with love. **Romans 2:4 (NIV)** Or do you show contempt for the riches of his kindness, forbearance and patience, not realizing that God’s kindness is intended to lead you to repentance?
 - **1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)** ¹⁵ But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect,
- **Goodness: uprightness of heart and life – we DO good deeds! Ephesians 5:9–10 (NIV)** ⁹ (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord.
- **FAITHFULNESS:** Faithfulness to God & others (NOT saving faith), loyalty, dependability, fidelity, holding to truth, etc.
- **SELF-CONTROL:** Surrendering to the Spirit’s leading in our lives. Resisting the desires of our sinful nature. **Galatians 5:16–17 (NIV)** *So I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the flesh desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the flesh.*

1 Thessalonians 5:16–19 (ESV) ¹⁶ Rejoice always, ¹⁷ pray without ceasing, ¹⁸ give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. ¹⁹ Do not quench the Spirit.

Ephesians 4:30 (NIV) ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

Ephesians 5:18 (ESV) *And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, “Be BEING filled with the Holy Spirit”*

C. Weekly Action Steps:

- Do you want to grow in LOVE for Jesus? Do you need empowerment in your life, home, work, school, or ministry?
- From the Gal 5 list: which areas are you needing to grow in?
- PRAY: Surrender these areas to God. Confess any sin standing in the way. Pray and ask for a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit.
 - Walk in step with the Spirit – obey Scripture & promptings the Spirit gives!