

Living in our strength or through the Spirit of God?

Acts 2:38

Peter said to them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; **and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

Eph 1:13-14

And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were **marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**, who is a **deposit guaranteeing our inheritance** until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

Take home:

The Working of the Holy Spirit is Central to Revelation found in the Bible: from Creation to the Return of Christ.

Yet in within the Churches of Christ we are reluctant to talk about the HS.

Are we in danger of resisting, quenching, grieving, insulting, or blaspheming the HS?

The spirit returns to God

[Ecclesiastes 12:7](#) and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and **the spirit returns to God** who gave it.

[Psalm 146:4](#) **When their spirit departs**, they return to the ground; on that very day their plans come to nothing.

[Acts 7:59](#) While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "**Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.**"

The spirit of man is hidden from man but not from God

1 Cor 2:11

11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the man's spirit within him? In the same way no one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Samuel 16:7

7 But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not consider his [Eliab] appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The LORD does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the LORD looks at the heart."

Bible makes a distinction between Flesh and Spirit

John 3:6

Jesus answered, ... That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

Hebrews 12:9

Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

God makes Spiritual and Physical Distinctions

[Gal 4:24-29, Jas 3:13-18](#)



[Gal 4:24-29](#) [24](#) These things may be taken figuratively, for the women represent two covenants. One covenant is from Mount Sinai and bears children who are to be slaves: This is Hagar. [25](#) Now Hagar stands for Mount Sinai in Arabia and corresponds to the present city of Jerusalem, because she is in slavery with her children. [26](#) But the Jerusalem that is above is free, and she is our mother. [28](#) Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. [29](#) At that time the son born in the ordinary way persecuted the son born by the power of the Spirit. It is the same now.

The Spirit is intimately tied up with our new birth

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.



At the new birth we are given the Spirit

GOSPEL OBEYED
Romans 6:3-5; 17



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The Spirit is intimately tied up with our new birth

[Ga 4:6](#) Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!"

[Ephesians 1:13,14](#) And you also were included in Christ when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation. Having believed, you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit, [14](#) who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

[2 Corinthians 1:22](#) set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

At the new birth we have Christ himself

Acts 3:19-20

19 Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, **20** and **that he may send the Christ, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus.**

The Holy Spirit indwells the Christian

[1 Cor 3:16](#) Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?

[1 Cor 6:19](#) Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;

[2 Corinthians 6:16](#) What agreement is there between the temple of God and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will live with them and walk among them, and I will be their God, and they will be my people."

[James 4:5](#) Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely?

Indwelling in not just by agency of the word

Ephesians 2:19 Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, **20** built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

21 In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. **22** And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

Without the Spirit we do not belong to Christ

Romans 8:9 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.** **10** But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. **11** And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you.

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The realm of the Spirit-What the Spirit is NOT and does not do

A. THROUGH FEELINGS, INTUITION

[Jeremiah 17:19](#) For The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?

[Mark 7:21](#) For from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual immorality, theft, murder, adultery, [22](#) greed, malice, deceit, lewdness, envy, slander, arrogance and folly.

The realm of the Spirit-What the Spirit is NOT and does not do

B. THROUGH VISIONS, DREAMS

Deuteronomy 5:1-5

1 If a prophet, or one who foretells by dreams, appears among you and announces to you a miraculous sign or wonder, 2 and if the sign or wonder of which he has spoken takes place, and he says, “Let us follow other gods” (gods you have not known) “and let us worship them,” 3 you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The Lord your God is testing you to find out whether you love him with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 It is the Lord your God you must follow, and him you must revere. Keep his commands and obey him; serve him and hold fast to him.

C. THROUGH ENLIGHTENMENT 2Ti 3:16-17

Fruit of Spirit-Empirical Evidence of indwelling Spirit

Matthew 7:20 Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.

Luke 6:44 Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars.

James 3:12 My brothers, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

The realm of the Spirit-What the Spirit does

Romans 8:6-11

Life and peace;
Friendship with God.
Submission to God's law,
Please God.

Galatians 5:22-23

Fruit of the spirit

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, **23** gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law

Realm of the Spirit -Fruit

Gal 5:22-23, II Pet 1:5-8: 1. **Love** - active good will, expressed toward God and man 2. **Joy** - gladness, delight, especially in response to God's grace 3. **Peace** - tranquility, harmony, both with God and our fellow man 4. **Longsuffering** - patience, forbearance, self-restraint in the face of provocation 5. **Kindness** - sweetness of temper that puts others at ease (Plummer) 6. **Goodness** - generosity that reaches beyond just giving what is one's due 7. **Faithfulness** - the virtue of reliability (Barclay) 8. **Gentleness** - a humble and kind demeanor that helps to calm another's anger 9. **Self-control** - the virtue of one who masters his desires and appetites 10. **Faith** 11. **Virtue** 12. **Knowledge** 13. **Perseverance**, 14. **Godliness**, 15. **Brotherly kindness** 16. **Righteousness** 17. **Hope**

The Ancients

“The ancients were recommended for practicing the presence of God: He was very real to them, not an intellectual idea, not a convenient hypothesis”

Hebrews 11: 10 For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.

13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. **16** Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

Points for reflection and action

Holy Spirit is active in salvation

- a. Revealing and confirming the Word of Truth - [He 2:3-4](#)
- b. Convicting hearts of sin through the Word - [Jn 16:7](#)
- c. Regenerating those who respond to the gospel - [Jn 3:5](#)
- d. Indwelling those who obey the gospel - [Ac 2:38](#); [1Co 6:19](#)
- e. Leading those who walk in the Spirit - [Ga 5:16-18,25](#)
- f. Producing the fruit of the Spirit in those so led - [Ga 5:22-23](#)
- g. Strengthening those seeking to please God - [Ep 3:16](#)
- h. Serving as a seal, marking Christians as God's own - [Ep 1:13](#)
- i. Serving as an earnest (guarantee) of our inheritance - [Ep 1:14](#)

Cautionary note ...

"...much perversion of Scripture is indulged in to support sectarian error, and some perverting is done occasionally to refute the arguments of errorists."

**Robert .L. Whiteside, 2nd president of
Abilene Christian University**

Sins against the Spirit

a. **We can resist the Spirit** - [Ac 7:51](#) ...You always resist the Holy Spirit ..

b. **We can quench the Spirit** - [1Th 5:19](#) Do not quench the Spirit

c. **We can grieve the Spirit** - [Ep 4:30](#) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed by Self-Sins Love, Righteousness, Conceit...

d. **We can insult the Spirit** - [He 10:29](#) Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, .., and insulted the Spirit of grace?

e. **We can blaspheme the Spirit** - [Mt 12:31-32](#)

Therefore I say to you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy *against* the Spirit will not be forgiven men ...

Living in our strength or through the Spirit of God?

[Acts 2:38, 3:19-20, Jn 3:5-6](#)

Funeral? Casket lies what we call the remains of the person: Lifeless body that would soon disintegrate, and eventual turn back to dust.

Yet moments before that we had a breathing, living being. The essence of the person is gone into another dimension, God's dimension

Are you living in your strength or God's?