

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

PREFACE

In this series of lessons, we will be using the New International Version of the Bible (NIV). You may wonder why your version is not being used. For many years the King James Version (KJV) was the standard for everyone. Unfortunately, the English used in the KJV is difficult for many people since this version was translated in 1611. It is especially hard for people who do not speak English as their native tongue to comprehend the Elizabethan dialect used in the KJV. For that reason, the KJV is being replaced by modern language versions. In order to prevent difficulty with the language, I decided to use a modern language version for this series of studies. The text of the passages used will be given to you in this series to prevent problems with your understanding of the questions. Even though you will not need a Bible to complete these lessons, I encourage you to use your Bible, whatever version it may be, to follow along as you study.

One word of caution is needed. If you happen to be using a paraphrase version such as the Living Bible or the Reader's Digest Condensed Version, you should be aware that these are not translations of the original, rather they are what one man thought the Bible said in the case of the Living Bible and an abridged version in the case of the Reader's Digest version. If you have either of these versions, I would encourage you to purchase another study Bible. Among those I recommend are the New American Standard Version, the New King James Version and the NIV among modern translations and the KJV or American Standard of 1901 for older translations. All of these versions have errors in translation, but this group of translations adheres to a stricter standard of translation than other versions. By using several of these versions and other aids, you can arrive at an accurate translation. Remember, God's word is inspired and inerrant, but man's translations are not. By comparing several versions, we can weed out the errors planted by any one man or group of men.

I wish you every success in your study of God's word. May we all "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Gary Calton
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THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 1

PENTECOSTAL EXPERIENCE

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Acts 2:17 "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.

These passages of scripture have been given many different meanings by different religious groups. These range from a denial of the occurrence of these things to a requirement for any true believer to have had a similar experience. Our purpose here is not to espouse some particular doctrine, but to understand what these passages meant to Christians in the New Testament era, as well as to us today. Only through searching the Scriptures and reasoning together will we be able to understand God's message.

Let us start our study at an earlier point in the book of Acts. We must understand both who was present and what was happening in order to clearly understand the passage in Acts 2 on the Pentecostal experience.

1. To whom did Peter speak concerning Judas' transgressions?

Acts 1:15 In those days Peter stood up among the believers (a group numbering about a hundred and twenty) 16 and said, "Brothers, the Scripture had to be fulfilled which the Holy Spirit spoke long ago through the mouth of David concerning Judas, who served as guide for those who arrested Jesus-

Ans. _____

How many believers were present there? Ans. _____

2. What was the position that was filled?

Acts 1:25 to take over this apostolic ministry, which Judas left to go where he belongs." 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Ans. _____

3. What qualifications did Peter say were required for the position of an apostle?

Acts 1:21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

Ans. _____

4. How could Paul have been an apostle if it was necessary to be a witness of the resurrection?

I Cor 15:8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.

Ans. _____

5. What prophecy did the appointment in Acts 1 fulfill?

Acts 1:20 "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.' 21 Therefore it is necessary to choose one of the men who have been with us the whole time the Lord Jesus went in and out among us,

Ans. _____

6. Some teachers of the Bible have said that Peter made a mistake in allowing Matthias to be appointed to this apostleship. What position did Luke, the writer of Acts (guided by the Holy Spirit), believe Matthias held? (Hint: What were the Eleven?)

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Ans. _____

7. Who do we find together on the day of Pentecost?

Acts 1:26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles. 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place.

Ans. _____

Examine your answer for question 7 very carefully. It may help you in answering this question to know some rules of grammar. The word "they" is a pronoun. To find out whom is referred to, we must look for the antecedent of the pronoun (that means the word to which the pronoun refers). The pronoun must agree in person, number and gender with its antecedent. The Modern English Handbook tells us that "a noun expression immediately before a relative pronoun tends to be its antecedent." The noun closest to the pronoun "they" is "apostles". It agrees in all respects as the antecedent of the word "they."

It may also help you to know that when the book of Acts was written, the verse and chapter divisions were not a part of the book. These were added in 1244 by Cardinal Hugh of St. Cher.

8. When was the power that was prophesied in Mark 16:15-20 finally given?

Acts 2:1 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. 2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Ans. _____

9. Who received the Holy Spirit at this time, based on your answers to questions 5 and 6?

Ans. _____

The fact that it was the apostles who received the Holy Spirit and not the 120 of Acts 1:15 can also be seen as we study the next few questions.

10. Who began to speak at this time?

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them (See question 11).

Ans. _____

11. In answering question 10, it may be helpful to read further down in the chapter, as Luke tells us more about those who were speaking, and answer the following questions.

What area did the ones speaking come from?

Acts 2:7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"

Ans. _____

With whom did Peter take his stand?

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Ans. _____

Through whom did the wonders and signs take place?

Acts 2:43 Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.

Ans. _____

12. Who gave the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of pentecost?

John 14:16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever--
17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. ... 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Acts 2:2 Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole

house where they were sitting. 3 They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. 4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Ans. _____

13. Some have said that the miracle was in the hearing of those present, while others have indicated that the miracle was in the words spoken. We will examine this in the next few questions.

Why were the people amazed?

Acts 2:6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans?"

Ans. _____

What did the people hear?

Acts 2:8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Ans. _____

Of what did the people accuse the speakers?

Acts 2:13 Some, however, made fun of them and said, "They have had too much wine."

Ans. _____

Who arose to the defense of the speakers?

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say.

Ans. _____

Who did Peter say was responsible for the unusual occurrence?

Acts 2:15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 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.

Ans. _____

We can conclude that it was the apostles speaking and not the ones hearing who were responsible for this miracle when we review the answers in this question.

14. Were these tongues unknown or did the men present understand them?

Acts 2:6 When they heard this sound, a crowd came together in bewilderment, because each one heard them speaking in his own language. 7 Utterly amazed, they asked: "Are not all these men who are speaking Galileans? 8 Then how is it that each of us hears them in his own native language? 9 Parthians, Medes and Elamites; residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, 10 Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya near Cyrene; visitors from Rome 11 (both Jews and converts to Judaism); Cretans and Arabs--we hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!"

Ans. _____

Based on our study of the Scriptures, we can see that the word "tongues" as used in the Bible has reference to a foreign language which others could understand if they had been raised in the country where the language was spoken. The word "tongue" as used in the Bible is understood to be equal to the way we would currently use the phrase "foreign language." Some have said that all of those who are believers will be able to speak in tongues. We need to know what the Bible says about this.

15. Could all believers speak in tongues in New Testament times?

I Cor 12:28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues. 29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

I Cor 14:2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 4 He who speaks in a tongue edifies himself, but he who prophesies edifies the church. 5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

I Cor 14:19 But in the church I would rather speak five intelligible words to instruct others than ten thousand words in a tongue.

Ans. _____

16. If every believer in New Testament times could not speak in tongues, is it reasonable to assume that every believer today should be able to speak in tongues?

Ans. _____

We also need to find out exactly how the early Christians received the Holy Spirit. In this way, we can determine whether or not we have received the Holy Spirit in the same way these early Christians did. We will be studying how these early Christians, other than the apostles, received the Holy Spirit in future lessons.

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

As we review the lesson on the Pentecostal experience, it is obvious that many misunderstand what the Scriptures teach on this subject. However, when we put away the teaching that we have heard earlier on this subject and study only the Scriptures, the subject of the Holy Spirit and His gifts is not nearly so difficult.

In our study of the Bible, we find that the Holy Spirit was not given to the one hundred twenty of Acts 1:15, but they were present for the selection of Matthias to be an apostle. As we learned later in Acts 2:4,7,11, only the apostles received the power to speak in tongues on Pentecost. We know that Matthias was approved of the Holy Spirit to be an apostle because Peter asked the Lord to show which of the two men the 120 selected should be an apostle. We also found that Matthias was added to the eleven apostles, which would make him one of the apostles (Acts 1:26). Peter said that it was necessary for an apostle to be a witness of the Lord's resurrection. To know that it was Jesus who was resurrected, it was required that these men knew Jesus personally. Otherwise, they could have seen anyone and claimed that he was Jesus, just like many people do today. If we don't know what someone looks like, any imposter could claim to be him and we wouldn't know the difference. The apostle Paul claimed that he had seen the Lord in I Cor 15:8. Paul lived in Jerusalem at the time that Jesus was teaching and would have known whether it was Jesus who was risen or some other man. Today, no one living knows what Jesus looks like, so it is not possible for a man today to fit the qualifications laid down by the Holy Spirit, through Peter, for an apostle.

The prophecy given by Jesus in Mk 16:17-20 was fulfilled beginning in Acts 2 and culminating in Rev 22. Peter also says that this was a fulfillment of a prophecy in Joel. It was the apostles who were speaking in many different foreign languages on the day of Pentecost. The apostles were also the only ones that the Bible says were working wonders and miracles (Acts 2:43). The word "tongue" is the same as the word language. As we studied in Acts 2:4-7, the apostles were able to speak in different languages. They had not studied these languages and they even came from a part of Israel that was known for its backwardness (Acts 2:7). Clearly, the miracle was performed by the apostles speaking and not by the people who heard. Some accused the apostles of being drunk because they were speaking so many languages. Peter, coming to the defense of the apostles, said they were not drunk, but were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:6). We can easily see from our study, that the miracle was not in the hearing of the men from these foreign nations, but rather the miracle was in the apostles' ability to speak in each of these foreign languages. Some people believe that the tongues in which these apostles spoke were "unknown tongues," however, the men from the foreign countries certainly understood what the apostles said (Acts 2:6).

As Paul dealt with the problems that the church at Corinth had over the ability to speak in tongues, he pointed out that not all could speak in tongues. If they could have the body would have all been an eye or an ear rather than a whole person (I Cor 12:28-30). We know that the reception of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 was limited to the apostles and it was not given to the one hundred twenty at the same time because all of the speakers were Galileans and apostles.

It is important that we not be misled by those that would teach that all "born again Christians" must receive the gift of the tongues. Even in the New Testament, not everyone received this gift. It would be wonderful if we could all speak a number of foreign languages, so that we might teach the gospel in foreign lands. The Lord did not think we needed this ability or He would have given it to us.

In our next lesson, we will study the next occurrence of the miraculous giving of the Holy Spirit; the case of

Simon the Sorcerer.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 2

SIMON THE SORCERER

In our last lesson, we studied the reception of the Holy Spirit by the apostles on the day of Pentecost. We found that God gave this gift to the apostles in fulfillment of prophecy (Jn 14:16-26 and Mk 16:17-20). An important point is to determine whether all of the new believers received the ability to speak in tongues (foreign languages). We also want to find out just how and when the new believers received the Holy Spirit. For this, we move forward in our study of Luke's history of the church to Samaria, a city 42 miles from Jerusalem, in order to see how and when the Jewish converts to Christianity received the Holy Spirit and His gifts.

1. Who was Philip?

Acts 6:3 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 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

Ans. _____

2. What was he doing in Samaria?

Acts 8:5 Philip went down to a city in Samaria and proclaimed the Christ there. 6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said. ... 12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Ans. _____

3. Did Philip have the Holy Spirit?

Acts 6:3 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 4 and will give our attention to prayer and the ministry of the word." 5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

Acts 8:6 When the crowds heard Philip and saw the miraculous signs he did, they all paid close attention to what he said.

Ans. _____

4. What did the Samaritans do in response to Philip's preaching?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Ans. _____

5. Who was Simon?

Acts 8:9 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, 10 and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

Ans. _____

6. What was Simon's response to Philip's preaching and the miracles that Philip did?

Acts 8:13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Ans. _____

7. What was Simon?

Acts 8:9 Now for some time a man named Simon had practiced sorcery in the city and amazed all the people of Samaria. He boasted that he was someone great, 10 and all the people, both high and low, gave him their attention and exclaimed, "This man is the divine power known as the Great Power." 11 They followed him because he had amazed them for a long time with his magic.

Ans. _____

8. Were the tricks that Simon did anything like the miracles that Philip did?

Acts 8:13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Ans. _____

8. How many believers in Samaria were speaking in tongues?

Acts 8:15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

9. Did God give the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans when they believed?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

10. Did God give the Holy Spirit to the Samaritans when they were baptized?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

11. Did Philip tell the believers that they had to speak in tongues to show that they were saved?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

12. Did Philip tell the believers in Samaria that they could all speak in tongues and heal the sick?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

13. Did Philip tell the believers in Samaria that they should pray and they would receive the Holy Spirit?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

14. How did the believers in Samaria get the Holy Spirit?

Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money

Ans. _____

15. How far was it from Jerusalem to Samaria? (Samaria was the capital city of the northern kingdom of Israel and the region around it was known as Samaria in the time of Jesus and the apostles. See the introduction for this answer.)

Ans. _____

16. Why was it necessary for Peter and John to be sent to Samaria?

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Ans. _____

17. What mode of transportation was the most likely for Peter and John to use?

Luke 24:13 Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. 14 They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. 15 As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them;

Ans. _____

18. Would you like for someone to ask you to walk or even ride a horse 60 miles when there was no need for you to do so? Ans. _____

19. Could Philip give someone else the Holy Spirit?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women. 13 Simon himself believed and was baptized. And he followed Philip everywhere, astonished by the great signs and miracles he saw.

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

20. If Philip could have given the Holy Spirit to the baptized believers, would Peter and John have had to be sent to Samaria? Ans. _____

21. If the Holy Spirit could be received by prayer, would it have been necessary for Peter and John to be sent to Samaria? Ans. _____

22. If the Holy Spirit was given to every believer, why didn't the baptized believers in Samaria receive Him without the apostles laying their hands on them?

Acts 8:14 When the apostles in Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. 15 When they arrived, they prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit, 16 because the Holy Spirit had not yet come upon any of them; they had simply been baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Ans. _____

23. Was someone special required to lay their hands on believers in order to give them the gift of the Holy Spirit?

Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Ans. _____

24. What power did Simon the sorcerer want?

Acts 8:19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Ans. _____

25. Did the apostles give Simon the power he wanted?

Acts 8:18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit." 20 Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! 21 You have no part or share in this ministry, because your heart is not right before God. 22 Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will

forgive you for having such a thought in your heart. 23 For I see that you are full of bitterness and captive to sin."

Ans. _____

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

This study is a tremendous help in understanding the reception of the Holy Spirit. We find that Philip, the evangelist, was also one of the seven men who were chosen by the church to help in taking care of the needy widows in Jerusalem, had the miraculous gift of miracles. All of the men chosen for this task of taking care of the widows had to be full of the Spirit and wisdom. Philip was interested in the Lord's work and had gone to Samaria to preach the Gospel. He was an effective evangelist and many believed. As Jesus had foretold in Mark 16:20, Philip confirmed the word of Christ by the signs he performed. We find that all those who believed were baptized (Acts 8:12). Some may say that Holy Spirit baptism is all that a true believer needs; however, we see that these Samaritans who believed did not receive the power to speak in tongues or do signs and miracles. They had to be baptized in water for the remission of their sins as Peter told the believers on Pentecost (Acts 2:38) and as Philip instructs the man of Ethiopia (Acts 8:36-39).

One of the Samaritan believers was a magician named Simon. He was like magicians today since we find that he could not perform miracles, but that he did tricks which fooled the audience. He did not reveal his secrets or tell the Samaritans that his "magic" feats were tricks because he boasted that he was someone great (Acts 8:9). Philip, on the other hand, was performing miracles. The miracles that Philip performed were so great that Simon was amazed by the things Philip could do. Now the Bible says that Simon believed and we shouldn't doubt that he did truly believe and was baptized. We also know that it is very difficult to fool a magician because they are skilled in ways to fool people.

None of the believers in Samaria could speak in tongues (Acts 8:15) although they believed and were baptized. We find that Philip could do signs and wonders and that he was full of the Holy Spirit. However, Philip did not tell the Samaritans to pray for the Holy Spirit to come on them and the Samaritans did not get the Holy Spirit when they believed. They were not baptized in the Holy Spirit but in water. Philip did not tell the Samaritan believers that they had to speak in tongues to show that they were saved. In fact, none of the believers in Samaria could work a single miracle. They couldn't pick up snakes or drink poison without harm. Why people today will say that the signs of Mark 16:17-20 have to be given to all believers is a mystery to me. Certainly, this ability was not present in these baptized believers (Acts 8:15).

To the contrary, we find that it was necessary that the apostles send Peter and John to take care of giving the Samaritans this gift (Acts 8:14-16). There can also be no doubt that Peter and John accomplished this through the "laying on" of their hands. Certainly we can see from this passage of Scripture that no one but the apostles had the ability to give the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was what really amazed Simon the magician. He figured that the ability to give the power to do miracles to others was the power that was really important. He could get rich selling this power to others. He knew that Philip couldn't do this since he had been following Philip around for some time. He also saw that Peter and John had something special and had to walk or ride 30 to 60 miles just so the Samaritans could have these gifts. Simon also saw that people couldn't get the power to do these miracles by praying or Philip would have already told them to pray. Most certainly, Simon knew that the Holy Spirit was not given to every one that believed since he and the other Samaritans all believed and were baptized and not a single one of them had received the Holy Spirit.

The fact that the reception of the Holy Spirit was only through the "laying on" of the apostle's hands is also confirmed by other passages of Scripture in which the giving of the Holy Spirit is referenced. We will reserve that passage for Lesson 4 and we will turn our attention to the household of Cornelius in our next lesson.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 3

CORNELIUS

In Lesson 1, we studied the reception of the Holy Spirit by the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The only other time we read of the Holy Spirit being given in this manner is in the case of Cornelius and his household. This occurs some time after the events in Samaria with Philip, Peter and John. The story is an exciting one starting with the Lord having to show Peter the same vision three times in order to convince him to go to the Gentiles. We will examine this occasion in detail to determine how and for what purpose the Holy Spirit was given.

1. Who was Cornelius?

Acts 10:1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Ans. _____

2. Was Cornelius a Jew or a Gentile?

Acts 10:25 As Peter entered the house, Cornelius met him and fell at his feet in reverence. 26 But Peter made him get up. "Stand up," he said, "I am only a man myself." 27 Talking with him, Peter went inside and found a large gathering of people. 28 He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.

Ans. _____

3. Had the gospel ever been preached to a gentile?

Acts 10:28 He said to them: "You are well aware that it is against our law for a Jew to associate with a Gentile or visit him. But God has shown me that I should not call any man impure or unclean.

Ans. _____

4. Was Cornelius a proselyte (a convert to Judaism)?

Acts 6:5 This proposal pleased the whole group. They chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit; also Philip, Procorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas from Antioch, a convert to Judaism.

If neither Peter nor anyone else had preached to a gentile, was Nicholas considered a gentile?

Ans. _____

Ans. _____

5. Why did Peter go to the household of Cornelius?

Acts 11:12 The Spirit told me to have no hesitation about going with them. These six brothers also went with me, and we entered the man's house. 13 He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. 14 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

Ans. _____

6. What happened as Peter spoke to Cornelius?

Acts 11:15 "As I began to speak, the Holy Spirit came on them as he had come on us at the beginning. 16 Then I remembered what the Lord had said: 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' 17 So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"

Ans. _____

7. Who gave the Holy Spirit to the household of Cornelius?

Acts 11:17 So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?"

Ans. _____

8. Was the pouring out of the Holy Spirit an unusual occurrence or did it happen all the time?

Acts 10:44 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. 45 The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on the Gentiles.

Notice the parallel account of Cornelius' conversion in Acts 11.

Acts 11:17 So if God gave them the same gift as he gave us, who believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I to think that I could oppose God?" 18 When they heard this, they had no further objections and praised God, saying, "So then, God has granted even the Gentiles repentance unto life."

Ans. _____

(Had these Jewish brethren who accompanied Peter been objecting? What made them change their minds? Could they have objected if Peter laid his hands on them rather than receiving this miraculous gift directly from God? Ans. _____)

9. What did Peter ask concerning baptism?

Acts 10:47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Ans. _____

10. How many baptisms are commanded for believers?

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Ans. _____

11. What kind of baptism did Peter want for Cornelius?

Acts 10:47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Ans. _____

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

Even though Cornelius was a righteous man, he still needed to be saved (Acts 10:1; 11:14). Cornelius was a Gentile and had not become a convert to Judaism (a proselyte), because Peter knew that a Jew should not go into the house of a Gentile, but Nicolas was already in the church and was a Gentile until he was converted. Peter had never preached to a Gentile because Jews could not associate with Gentiles (Acts 10:28). The only reason Peter went to visit Cornelius was because the Spirit told him to go (Acts 11:12). As Peter began preaching the Gospel to Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit came upon them just like He came upon the apostles in Acts 2 (Acts 11:15). Peter asked the Jewish brethren whether he could oppose God if this truly unusual occurrence also happened with these Gentiles (Acts 11:17). The Jewish brethren had evidently been objecting to this visit (Acts 11:18) but at this astonishing occurrence, they could no longer object to the introduction of the Gentiles into the church. At this point Peter wanted to know if any of the Jewish brethren would object if the Gentiles were baptized (Acts 10:47). Since no one could object, Peter offered them the one baptism that is commanded of all obedient believers, baptism in water. We know from our studies elsewhere that this baptism was to wash away their sins (Acts 22:16; Matt 1:21; I Pet 3:21) and that it was an immersion in water (Acts 8:36-39).

This unusual reception of the Holy Spirit changed the whole nature of the church by introducing those who were previously rejected-- the Gentiles. Until this time, the church had been guilty of extreme prejudice. Now through this miraculous event, no one could object to the fact that all men everywhere had a right to salvation through Jesus Christ. In our next lesson, we will once again examine the reception of some of these Gifts of the Holy Spirit by some newly baptized believers.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 4

THE BAPTISM OF JOHN

In our last lesson, we studied the conversion of Cornelius and his household. We learned that until that time, no Gentile had ever been allowed to become a member of the church. The only reason that the Jewish brethren stopped objecting to Cornelius and his household being members of the church was the miraculous gift that God gave them. The Jewish brethren realized that this was something that was very extraordinary. As a result, no one objected when Peter wanted to baptize these good Gentiles in water for the remission of their sins. We will now study the baptism of John to see whether it promised the Holy Spirit and whether those who received it could perform miracles.

1. What was John's baptism for?

Luke 3:2 ... the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the desert. 3 He went into all the country around the Jordan, preaching a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins.

Acts 19:4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus."

Ans. _____

2. What substance was used for John's baptism?

John 3:23 Now John also was baptizing at Aenon near Salim, because there was plenty of water, and people were constantly coming to be baptized.

Ans. _____

3. What was Jesus' baptism for?

Matt 28:19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

Acts 2:38 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.

Acts 2:41 Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

Ans. _____

4. What substance was used for Jesus' baptism?

Acts 10:47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have."

I Pet 3:20 who disobeyed long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, 21 and this water

symbolizes baptism that now saves you also--not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a good conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

Ans. _____

5. Into what had these men in Acts 19 been baptized?

Acts 19:3 So Paul asked, "Then what baptism did you receive?" "John's baptism," they replied.

Ans. _____

6. Was John's baptism the one they needed? (Hint: if so, why did Paul baptize them in the name of Jesus?)

Acts 19:4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus.

Ans. _____

7. How many baptisms did Jesus command?

Mark 16:14 Later Jesus appeared to the Eleven as they were eating; he rebuked them for their lack of faith and their stubborn refusal to believe those who had seen him after he had risen. 15 He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation. 16 Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.

Eph 4:4 There is one body and one Spirit-- just as you were called to one hope when you were called-- 5 one Lord, one faith, one baptism; 6 one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Matt 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Ans. _____

8. Did Paul tell them to be baptized in the Holy Spirit or did he do something else to give miraculous gifts to baptized believers?

Acts 19:4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Ans. _____

9. Did these believers receive the Holy Spirit when they believed?

Acts 19:2 and asked them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" They answered, "No, we have not even heard that there is a Holy Spirit."

Acts 19:4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the

one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Ans. _____

10. Did these believers receive the Holy Spirit when they were baptized?

Acts 19:4 Paul said, "John's baptism was a baptism of repentance. He told the people to believe in the one coming after him, that is, in Jesus." 5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Ans. _____

11. Did these believers receive the Holy Spirit when Paul laid his hands on them?

Acts 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Ans. _____

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

We can see that based on our study of the Scriptures, that the Holy Spirit was not given through prayer nor to everyone that believed. Rather, it was given through the laying on of the apostle's hands. John did not baptize with the Holy Spirit. Rather, his baptism was for repentance. We know that John preached only to the Jews. All Jews were born into a covenant relationship with God because of the covenant God had made with their father, Abraham. The Jews were God's chosen people and as a result there was no need for them to become adopted sons of God. Jesus used the same substance for baptism that John did -- water. However, the baptism of John was not for forgiveness of sins but for "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus' baptism was a new birth and the child was born into a covenant relation with God. Those who knew of John's baptism did not know about the Holy Spirit.

Jesus commanded only one baptism and so we do not find that all believers had the baptism of the Holy Spirit and water baptism. Jesus' baptism was for the remission of sins and this is the one that Peter asked the Jewish brethren if they objected when he wanted to bring the Gentiles into the church. Even with the baptism of Jesus, we do not find that the Holy Spirit was given in miraculous measure since Paul had to lay his hands on the men he taught and baptized before they could speak in tongues or prophesy.

We can conclude from our study of this passage that disciples in New Testament times did not receive the ability to perform miracles or speak in tongues through a direct action of the Holy Spirit, but that it was necessary to have an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ present to bestow this gift.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 5

APOSTLES

In our last lesson, we learned that the baptism of John was given to the Jews who were already in a covenant relationship with God. John's baptism was for repentance unto remission of sins, but Jesus' baptism was to put one into a covenant relationship with God by remission of all sins. Both of these baptisms were in water. Jesus commanded that all men were to be baptized by his authority and we find that this baptism was in water. Neither Jesus' nor John's baptism was accompanied by the power to work miracles. The power to work miracles was given by the apostles through the laying on of hands. In fact, in this lesson, we will find that this ability to impart the power to work miracles was a sign that set the Lord's apostles apart from other believers.

1. What does the word apostle mean?

W. E. Vines in his Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words gives the following definition: "lit., one sent forth. The word is used of the Lord Jesus to describe his relation to God, Heb 3:1; see John 17:3. The twelve disciples chosen by the Lord for special training were so call, Luke 6:13; 9:10. ... Paul was commissioned directly, by the Lord Himself, after His Ascension, to carry the Gospel to the Gentiles. The word has also a wider reference. In Acts 14:4, 14, it is used of Barnabas as well as of Paul; in Rom 16:7 of Andronicus and Junias. In 2 Cor 8:23 (R.V., margin) two unnamed brethren are called 'apostles of the churches;' in Phil 2:25 (R.V., margin) Epaphroditus is referred to as 'your apostle.' It is used in I Thess 2:6 of Paul, Silas and Timothy to define their relation to Christ."

Ans. _____

2. What were the twelve?

Matt 10:2 These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon (who is called Peter) and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; 3 Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; 4 Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, who betrayed him.

Acts 1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.

Acts 1:20 "For," said Peter, "it is written in the book of Psalms, "'May his place be deserted; let there be no one to dwell in it,' and, "'May another take his place of leadership.' ... 26 Then they cast lots, and the lot fell to Matthias; so he was added to the eleven apostles.

Ans. _____

3. Who sent the twelve?

Matt 10:5 These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: "Do not go among the Gentiles or enter any town of the Samaritans. 6 Go rather to the lost sheep of Israel. 7 As you go, preach this message: 'The kingdom of heaven is near.' 8 Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse those who have

leprosy, drive out demons. Freely you have received, freely give.

Ans. _____

4. What did Jesus tell the twelve concerning their power?

Acts 1:2 until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen. 3 After his suffering, he showed himself to these men and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God. 4 On one occasion, while he was eating with them, he gave them this command: "Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. 5 For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

Ans. _____

5. At the last supper (John 13 and following), Jesus spoke to his disciples concerning many things. What did Jesus tell the twelve concerning his will?

John 14:26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

Ans. _____

6. When God fulfilled Jesus prophecy (question 5), what powers did God give the twelve ?

Acts 2:4 All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money

Ans. _____

7. Did the apostles perform miracles that were easily seen to be beyond natural happenings?

Acts 3:1 One day Peter and John were going up to the temple at the time of prayer--at three in the afternoon. 2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts.

Ans _____

A. Did the crippled man know Peter and John?

Acts 3:3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have,

Ans. _____

B. Did the crippled man believe Peter and jump up immediately or did Peter have to lift him up?

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Ans. _____

C. Did the crippled man jump up and walk because he believed in Jesus or because Peter picked him up?

In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Ans. _____

D. How long did it take for a miracle performed by an apostle to work?

Acts 3:7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Ans. _____

E. Did the crippled man have faith or did the apostles have the faith necessary to heal someone who didn't even know that the apostles had no money.

Ans. _____

F. Do we have any record of someone being healed of a disease that could not be seen such as feeling better, or an improvement in stomach pain or hearing?

Ans. _____

8. What power was given only to the apostles?

Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money

Ans. _____

9. What were the apostles to do?

Acts 1:22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these

must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

Acts 4:33 With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and much grace was upon them all.

Ans. _____

10. What was Barnabas?

Acts 4:36 Joseph, a Levite from Cyprus, whom the apostles called Barnabas (which means Son of Encouragement),

Acts 13:1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen (who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch) and Saul. 2 While they were worshiping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off. 4 The two of them, sent on their way by the Holy Spirit ...

Acts 14:14 But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of this, they tore their clothes and rushed out into the crowd, shouting:

Ans. _____

11. Who sent Barnabas and Saul out?

Acts 13:1 In the church at Antioch there were prophets and teachers: Barnabas, ... 3 So after they had fasted and prayed, they placed their hands on them and sent them off.

Ans. _____

12. What was Paul?

Gal 1:1 Paul, an apostle--sent not from men nor by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the Father, who raised him from the dead--

Ans. _____

13. Who called Paul to be an apostle

Acts 9:4 He fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" 5 "Who are you, Lord?" Saul asked. "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting," he replied. 6 "Now get up and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do." ... 15 But the Lord said to Ananias, "Go! This man is my chosen instrument to carry my name before the Gentiles and their kings and before the people of Israel.

Gal 1:15 But when God, who set me apart from birth and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not consult any man, 17 nor did I go up to Jerusalem to see those who were apostles before I was, but I went immediately into Arabia and later returned to Damascus.

Ans. _____

14. What was the primary qualification of an apostle?

Acts 1:22 ... For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

Ans. _____

15. Who was the last person to fulfill this qualification?

I Cor 1:1 Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God ...

I Cor 15:8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born. 9 For I am the least of the apostles and do not even deserve to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God. 10 But by the grace of God I am what I am, and his grace to me was not without effect. No, I worked harder than all of them--yet not I, but the grace of God that was with me.

Ans. _____

16. If Paul was "last of all" to see Jesus, has anyone living now seen Jesus?

Ans. _____

17. Was Paul able to perform the works of an apostle of the Lord?

Acts 19:5 On hearing this, they were baptized into the name of the Lord Jesus. 6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

Ans. _____

18. Did Paul claim to be able to perform the works of an apostle of the Lord?

II Cor 12:11 I have made a fool of myself, but you drove me to it. I ought to have been commended by you, for I am not in the least inferior to the "super-apostles," even though I am nothing. 12 The things that mark an apostle--signs, wonders and miracles--were done among you with great perseverance.

Ans. _____

19. Did Paul speak for the Lord?

I Cor 14:37 If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

II Pet 3:15 Bear in mind that our Lord's patience means salvation, just as our dear brother Paul also wrote you with the wisdom that God gave him. 16 He writes the same way in all his letters, speaking in them of these matters. His letters contain some things that are hard to understand, which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction. (Here Peter calls Paul's writings Scripture)

Ans. _____

20. Do apostles of Jesus Christ exist today?

Acts 1:22 beginning from John's baptism to the time when Jesus was taken up from us. For one of these must become a witness with us of his resurrection."

I Cor 15:8 and last of all he appeared to me also, as to one abnormally born.

Rev 2:2 I know your deeds, your hard work and your perseverance. I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false.

(If one had to see the risen Lord and Paul was the last to see him, could anyone else have fulfilled this qualification? Would anyone who had not met Jesus during his lifetime recognize him as the person, Jesus?)

Ans. _____

REVIEW AND SUMMARY

The word "apostle" simply means one sent. It was not translated from the Greek word, apostolos, but was put in an English language form. When Judas hung himself, Matthias was chosen to take his place as a witness of the Lord's resurrection. Jesus sent the twelve to be witnesses to the world. Today, we are not reliable witnesses of the Lord's resurrection because we were not there when it happened. The apostles knew Jesus personally and could testify to the fact that he was raised from the dead. Today, we do not even know what Jesus looked like.

The apostles were to testify about the resurrection of the Lord. Jesus promised to baptize the apostles with the Holy Spirit. The only other persons to receive this baptism in the same way were the ones in Cornelius house. Jesus promised to teach the apostles all things, but we have to learn through study. Jesus told the apostles that he would remind them of everything he said to them. They wrote it down and gave it to us. Most specifically, Luke records that it was only by the laying on of the apostles hands that a believer could do miraculous works.

The kinds of miracles that the apostles performed were easily seen. The results happened immediately. In the example of the crippled man that we studied, the man did not even know Peter and John or he would have known that they had no money. He didn't believe he was healed because Peter had to reach down and pick him up. We can see from this that the faith of the person performing the miracle was effective. It was not necessary for the person being healed to even know anything about Jesus. In the New Testament, we see immediate healings of things that are easily evaluated. No one was healed of something that others couldn't immediately see. Today, faith healers cannot match the signs and wonders performed by Jesus or the apostles.

The word, apostle, was used to refer to a number of men in the New Testament. The key to understanding its use is to determine who sent the men in question on their mission. For instance, we find that Barnabas was called an apostle in Acts 14:4, 14, but we know that the church at Antioch sent out Barnabas. Even though the Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas on their way, Barnabas was not one of the Lord's apostles, but rather he was an apostle of the church at Antioch. On the other hand, the twelve were apostles of the Lord.

Jesus sent the twelve, just as he sent Paul to be a witness of his resurrection. Paul had seen the Lord after his resurrection and thus met that qualification for being an apostle. Paul says that he was the last person to see the Lord of all those to whom Jesus showed himself. Paul was able to lay hands on men and give them the power to perform miracles. Both Paul and the apostle Peter, claimed that Paul's epistles were part of the Holy Scriptures, God's word.

Today, no man or woman can justly claim to be one of the Lord's apostles because of two facts. They haven't seen the risen Lord and they can't give the ability to perform signs and wonders to those on whom they lay their hands. In addition, they cannot even perform a miracle such as the one we studied in Acts 3 where the man didn't know the apostles who healed him and his obvious affliction was immediately healed.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 6

REVIEW OF LESSONS 1-2

REVIEW, LESSON 1

In the religious world today, it is obvious that many misunderstand what the Scriptures teach on the subject of the Holy Spirit. However, when we put away the teaching that we have heard earlier on this subject and study only the Scriptures, the subject of the Holy Spirit and His gifts will not be nearly so difficult.

In our study of the Bible, we find that the Holy Spirit was not given to the one hundred twenty mentioned in Acts 1:15. Rather, we find that the one hundred twenty were present for the selection of Matthias to be an apostle. Then at the conclusion of Acts 1 we find that Matthias was numbered with the eleven (v.26) and the group referred to changes. In Acts 2:1, the pronoun "they" refers to the noun just previous to it which is the word "apostles." This was also the group who were told to wait in Jerusalem (Acts 1:5) for the power which was to be given to them. As we learn later in Acts 2:4,7,11, only the apostles received the power to speak in tongues on Pentecost. We know that Matthias was approved of the Holy Spirit to be an apostle because Peter asked the Lord to show which of the two men the 120 selected should be an apostle. We also find that Matthias was added to the eleven apostles, which would make him one of the apostles (Acts 1:26). Peter said that it was necessary for an apostle to be a witness of the Lord's resurrection. To know that it was Jesus who was resurrected, it was required that these men knew Jesus personally. Otherwise, they could have seen anyone who claimed that he was Jesus and they would have been unable to determine whether the person who appeared really was Jesus. Many people today who claim to have seen Jesus are in the same situation, they don't know what Jesus looked like and certainly couldn't pick him out of a police line-up. If we don't know what someone looks like, any imposter could claim to be him and we wouldn't know the difference. The apostle Paul claimed that he had seen the Lord in I Cor 15:8 and that he knew him in II Cor 5:16. Paul lived in Jerusalem at the time that Jesus was teaching and would have known whether it was Jesus who was risen or some other man. There are those who say that Paul had to ask who Jesus was (Acts 9:5); however, anyone would ask for confirmation if they saw a dead man and they didn't believe that he was alive. Today, no one living knows what Jesus looks like, so it is not possible for a man today to fit the qualifications laid down by the Holy Spirit, through Peter, for an apostle (Acts 1:22).

The prophecy given by Jesus in Mk 16:17-20 concerning the ability to speak in tongues, heal the sick, pick up deadly snakes and drink poisons, was fulfilled beginning in Acts 2. Peter also says that this was a fulfillment of a prophecy in Joel. It was the apostles who were speaking in many different foreign languages on the day of Pentecost. The apostles were also the only ones that the Bible says were working wonders and miracles (Acts 2:43). The word "tongue" is the same as the word language. As we studied in Acts 2:4-7, the apostles were able to speak in different languages. They had not studied these languages and they even came from Galilee, a part of Israel that was known for its backwardness (Acts 2:7). Clearly, the miracle was performed by the apostles speaking and not by the people who heard. Some accused the apostles of being drunk because they were speaking so many languages. Peter, coming to the defense of the apostles, said they were not drunk, but were filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:6). We can easily see from our study, that the miracle was not in the hearing of the men from these foreign nations, but rather the miracle was in the apostles' ability to speak in each of these foreign languages. Some people believe that the tongues in which these apostles spoke were "unknown

tongues," however, the men from the foreign countries certainly understood what the apostles said (Acts 2:6).

As Paul dealt with the problems that the church at Corinth had over the ability to speak in tongues, he pointed out that not all could speak in tongues (I Cor 12:29-30). If they could have the body would have all been an eye or an ear rather than a whole person (I Cor 12:28-30). Again, we know that the reception of the Holy Spirit in Acts 2 was limited to the apostles and it was not given to the one hundred twenty at the same time because all of the speakers were Galileans.

It is important that we not be misled by those that would teach that all "born again Christians" must receive the gift of the tongues. Even in the New Testament, not everyone received this gift (I Cor 12:29-30). It would be wonderful if we could all speak a number of foreign languages, so that we might teach the gospel in foreign lands. The Lord did not think we needed this ability or He would have given it to us.

1. Who was present when Matthias was chosen to be an apostle? _____
2. Who was present when the "they" were filled with the Holy Spirit? _____
3. What was the qualification for a man to be an apostle of the Lord? _____
4. Did Paul meet the qualification to be an apostle of the Lord? _____
5. Could anyone today meet the qualification to be an apostle of the Lord? Please explain why or why not.

6. When was the prophecy of Mk 16:17-20 fulfilled? _____
7. Who spoke in tongues on the day of Pentecost? _____
8. Who worked miracles during the days immediately after Pentecost? _____
9. What area did those who spoke in tongues come from? _____
10. What is a tongue? _____
11. Could all believers in the New Testament speak with tongues? _____

REVIEW, LESSON 2

A study of the work of Philip, the evangelist, is a tremendous help in understanding the reception of the Holy Spirit. Philip was one of the seven men who were chosen by the church to help in taking care of the needy widows in Jerusalem (Acts 6:5). All of the men chosen for this task had to be full of the Spirit and wisdom (Acts 6:3). Philip was interested in the Lord's work and had gone to Samaria to preach the Gospel (Acts 8:5). He was an effective evangelist and many believed (Acts 8:12). As Jesus had foretold in Mark 16:20, Philip confirmed the word of Christ by the signs he performed (Acts 8:13). We find that all those who believed were baptized (Acts 8:12). Some may say that Holy Spirit baptism is all that a true believer needs; however, we see that these Samaritans who believed did not receive the power to speak in tongues or do signs and miracles (Acts 8:16). They must have been baptized (Acts 8:12) in water for the remission of their sins as Peter told the

believers on Pentecost (Acts 2:38) and as Philip instructs the man of Ethiopia (Acts 8:36-39).

One of the Samaritan believers was a magician named Simon (Acts 8:9,13). He was like magicians today since we find that he could not perform miracles, but that he did tricks which fooled the audience (Acts 8:9,10). He did not reveal his secrets or tell the Samaritans that his "magic" feats were tricks because he boasted that he was someone great (Acts 8:9). Philip, on the other hand was performing miracles (Acts 8:13). The miracles that Philip performed were so great that Simon was amazed by the things Philip could do. Now the Bible says that Simon believed (Acts 8:13) and we shouldn't doubt that he did truly believe and was baptized. We also know that it is very difficult to fool a magician because they are skilled in ways to fool people.

None of the believers in Samaria could speak in tongues (Acts 8:15) although they believed and were baptized (Acts 8:12). We find that Philip could do signs and wonders and that he was full of the Holy Spirit (Acts 8:13). However, Philip did not tell the Samaritans to pray for the Holy Spirit to come on them and the Samaritans did not get the Holy Spirit when they believed. They were not baptized in the Holy Spirit but in water. Philip did not tell the Samaritan believers that they had to speak in tongues to show that they were saved. In fact, none of the believers in Samaria could work a single miracle. They couldn't pick up snakes or drink poison without harm. Why people today will say that the signs of Mark 16:17-20 have to be given to all believers is a mystery to me. Certainly, this ability was not present in these baptized believers (Acts 8:15).

To the contrary, we find that it was necessary that the apostles send Peter and John to take care of giving the Samaritans this gift (Acts 8:14-16). There can also be no doubt that Peter and John accomplished this through the "laying on" of their hands (Acts 8:17). Certainly we can see from this passage of Scripture that no one but the apostles had the ability to give the gift of the Holy Spirit. This was what really amazed Simon the magician. He figured that the ability to give the power to do miracles to others was the power that was really important (Acts 8:18-19). He could get rich selling this power to others. He knew that Philip couldn't do this since he had been following Philip around for some time. He also saw that Peter and John had something special and had to walk or ride 30 to 60 miles just so the Samaritans could have these gifts. Simon also saw that people couldn't get the power to do these miracles by praying or Philip would have already told them to pray. Most certainly, Simon knew that the Holy Spirit was not given to every one that believed since he and the other Samaritans all believed and were baptized and not a single one of them had received the Holy Spirit.

The fact that the reception of the Holy Spirit was only through the "laying on" of the apostle's hands is also confirmed by the events of Acts 19:1-6.

1. Did Philip possess the Holy Spirit? _____
2. Could Philip perform miracles? _____
3. In what did Philip baptize the believers? _____
4. Did Simon, the magician believe? _____
5. Could Simon or any other of the baptized believers perform miracles or speak in tongues?

6. Did Philip tell the Samaritan believers to "just accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your savior?"

7. Who had to come to Samaria to give the power to do miracles? _____

8. How was the Holy Spirit given? _____

9. Do all believers today receive the power to do miraculous things through the Holy Spirit?

10. Do any believers today receive the power to do miraculous things through the Holy Spirit?

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 7

REVIEW OF LESSONS 3-4

REVIEW, LESSON 3

Cornelius and the baptism of the Holy Spirit

Cornelius was a righteous man. He did many things that would lead many people today to believe that he was a Christian and was saved. However, the Bible indicates that it would be necessary for him to do something additional in order to be saved (Acts 10:1; 11:14). Cornelius was not told to pray, just to accept Jesus as his Savior or just to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, but the angel told Peter to go bring him a message that would allow him to know what to do to be saved (Acts 11:14). After preaching to him, Peter wanted to baptize him in water (Acts 10:47).

Cornelius was a Gentile and had not become a convert to Judaism (a proselyte), because Peter knew that a Jew should not go into the house of a Gentile. This means that Cornelius was the first Gentile converted. Nicolas, a proselyte, was already in the church (Acts 6:5) and was a Gentile until he was converted to Judaism. Nicolas must have then become a believer in Jesus and been obedient to the Lord's commands. Peter had never preached to a Gentile because he knew that Jews could not associate with Gentiles (Acts 10:28). The only reason Peter went to visit Cornelius was because the Spirit told him to go (Acts 11:12). As Peter began preaching the Gospel to Cornelius and his household, the Holy Spirit came upon them just like He came upon the apostles in Acts 2 (Acts 11:15). Peter asked the Jewish brethren (who Peter had taken with him as witnesses) whether he could oppose God if this truly unusual occurrence also happened with these Gentiles (Acts 11:18). The Jewish brethren had evidently been objecting to this visit (Acts 11:18) but at this astonishing occurrence, they could no longer object to the introduction of the Gentiles into the church. At this point Peter wanted to know if any of the Jewish brethren would object if the Gentiles were baptized (Acts 10:47). Since no one could object, Peter offered them the one baptism that is commanded of all obedient believers, baptism in water. We know from our studies elsewhere that this baptism was to wash away their sins (Acts 22:16; Matt 1:21; I Pet 3:21) and that it was an immersion in water (Acts 8:36-39). We also know from this passage that there weren't any babies in the household to be baptized, because everyone who heard Peter's message began to speak in foreign languages.

This unusual reception of the Holy Spirit changed the whole nature of the church by introducing those who were previously rejected-- the Gentiles. Until this time, the church had been guilty of extreme prejudice. Now through this miraculous event, no one could object to the fact that all men everywhere had a right to salvation through Jesus Christ.

1. What kind of man was Cornelius? _____
2. What did the angel tell Cornelius that Peter would do? _____
3. How did Peter want to baptize Cornelius? _____
4. Was Cornelius a Jew or a Gentile? _____

5. What does the word "proselyte" mean? _____
6. Did Peter think he should preach to the Gentiles before he had the dream? _____
7. Did Peter think it was wrong for him to go to a Gentiles' house before he had the dream?

8. What happened to Cornelius and the members of his household while Peter was preaching to them?

9. Did Peter and the other Jews think that what happened to Cornelius was unusual? _____
10. Did anyone object to Peter baptizing Cornelius and the members of his household? _____
11. Did Peter pour a little water on Cornelius when he baptized him? _____
12. Did Peter sprinkle a little water on Cornelius when he baptized him? _____
13. Were any infants members of Cornelius' household? _____
14. Who has a right to salvation through Jesus Christ? _____

REVIEW, LESSON 4 The Baptism of John

Paul was always preaching the Gospel to everyone he could. When he found some men who had been believed and had been baptized, he asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit. When they said they didn't know about the Holy Spirit, he realized that they hadn't heard the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He immediately began to teach them (Acts 19:1-5). By the fact that Paul asked these men if they had received the Holy Spirit, we can understand that everyone did not receive the Holy Spirit when they believe and are baptized. In fact, in this passage we see that the Holy Spirit was not given through prayer nor to everyone that believed. Rather, it was given through the laying on of the apostle's hands (Acts 19:6). John did not baptize with the Holy Spirit. John's baptism was for repentance. We know that John preached only to the Jews. All Jews were born into a covenant relationship with God because of the covenant God had made with them (Deut 5:1-3). The Jews were God's chosen people and were adopted sons of God (Rom 9:4) as we must become today (Eph 1:5). Jesus (Acts 10:47) used the same thing for baptism that John did (John 3:23) -- water. However, the baptism of John was not for forgiveness of sins but for "repentance for the forgiveness of sins." Jesus' baptism was a new birth (John 3:5) and we are clothed with Christ (Gal 3:27) and are brought into a covenant relation with God (Heb 9:15, Col 2:12) through baptism.

Jesus commanded only one baptism for all believers (Eph 4:5, I Cor 14:37) and so we do not find that all believers had the baptism of the Holy Spirit and water baptism. Jesus' baptism was for the remission of sins and this is the one that Peter asked the Jewish brethren if they objected when he wanted to bring the Gentiles into the church (Acts 10:47). Even with the baptism of Jesus, we do not find that the Holy Spirit was given in miraculous measure since Paul had to lay his hands on the men he taught and baptized before they could speak in tongues or prophesy (Acts 19:6).

We can conclude from our study of this passage that disciples in New Testament times did not receive the ability to perform miracles or speak in tongues through a direct action of the Holy Spirit, but that it was necessary to have an apostle of the Lord Jesus Christ present to bestow this gift.

1. What did Paul ask the men who were believers? _____
2. What did the men know about the Holy Spirit? _____
3. When Paul asked them the question about the Holy Spirit, did he believe that everyone who believed automatically received the Holy Spirit? _____
4. Did Paul think that everyone who was baptized automatically received the Holy Spirit? _____
5. Did Jews have a covenant relationship with God? _____
6. In what did John baptize? _____
7. In what did Jesus' disciples baptize? _____
8. What was John's baptism for? _____
9. What was Jesus' baptism for? _____
10. How many baptisms did Paul say there were in Eph 4:6? _____
11. What did Paul have to do before these believers could perform miracles? _____

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 8

MARVELOUS AND MIRACULOUS THINGS

This life is filled with many wonderful happenings. We all know of people who have recovered from some dreadful disease or who have survived a horrible accident. Sometimes the recovery is complete and people walk away from what appeared to be certain death without a scratch. Unfortunately, we all know people who have had the exact opposite occur to them. Sometimes it seems that the best and most religious people we know have many calamities fall on them. There are those in the religious world who immediately seize on these good things and say that they are miracles. At the same time, they will often accuse someone who has had a great calamity in their life of being sinful and bringing God's wrath on themselves. In this lesson we want to study the Bible to see if we can determine whether those that make these statements are telling the truth.

Our first concern is in determining whether a recovery from a dreadful disease is wonderful and marvelous or whether it is truly miraculous.

1. What does the word miracle as it is used in the Bible mean?

W.E. Vines Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words - miracle, power, inherent ability, is used of works of a supernatural origin and character, such as could not be produced by natural agents and means.

Ans. _____

2. Which of the two meanings given below for the word miracle as it is used at the present time come closer to the Biblical definition, 1 or 2?

Webster's New World Dictionary for Young readers - miracle, 1. a happening that seems to be against the known laws of nature or science, thought of as caused by God or a god [the miracles of the Bible]
2. an amazing or remarkable thing; marvel [It will be a miracle if we win]

Ans. _____

3. Which of the two meanings above is more common in everyday conversation today?

Ans. _____

4. If a child at school passes an arithmetic test and says it is a miracle does that mean that 1) God set aside the laws of nature and learning or 2) that the child learned enough in the few classes he attended and small amount of reading that he did to pass the test.

Ans. _____

We know that some will claim that any healing of a religious person is a miracle. Let's look at some of the miracles of the Bible and examine the definitions above to see which of the definitions above fits best.

5. Was the healing of the lame man by Peter and John a setting aside of the natural ways men are healed or was it merely a remarkable thing?

Acts 3:2 Now a man crippled from birth was being carried to the temple gate called Beautiful, where he was put every day to beg from those going into the temple courts. 3 When he saw Peter and John about to enter, he asked them for money. 4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." 7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong. 8 He jumped to his feet and began to walk. Then he went with them into the temple courts, walking and jumping, and praising God. 9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

Ans. _____

6. Have you ever heard of a Doctor healing someone who was over 20 years old, crippled from birth and who had never walked a step in his life?

Ans. _____

7. Was what Peter and John did a marvelous thing or was it something that set aside God's natural laws?

Ans. _____

8. How long did it take for the man to be healed?

Acts 3:7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Ans. _____

9. Was it necessary for this man to "wait on the Lord?"

Acts 3:7 Taking him by the right hand, he helped him up, and instantly the man's feet and ankles became strong.

Ans. _____

10. Did this lame man know who Peter and John were?

Acts 3:4 Peter looked straight at him, as did John. Then Peter said, "Look at us!" 5 So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them. 6 Then Peter said, "Silver or gold I do not

have, but what I have I give you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk." (Hint: do you ask someone that you know is broke to loan you fifty dollars)

Ans. _____

11. If the lame man didn't know Peter and John, who had the faith that healed him, Peter and John or the lame man?

Ans. _____

12. Is it easy to tell whether a man has ever walked by looking at his leg muscles?

Ans. _____

13. Does it take a doctor to know that an arm or leg is withered from lack of use?

Ans. _____

14. Did many people know that the lame man could not walk?

Acts 3:9 When all the people saw him walking and praising God, 10 they recognized him as the same man who used to sit begging at the temple gate called Beautiful, and they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him. 11 While the beggar held on to Peter and John, all the people were astonished and came running to them in the place called Solomon's Colonnade.

Ans. _____

15. When Paul brought blindness on Elymas, how long did it take for Elymas to lose his sight?

Acts 13:9 Then Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked straight at Elymas and said, 10 "You are a child of the devil and an enemy of everything that is right! You are full of all kinds of deceit and trickery. Will you never stop perverting the right ways of the Lord? 11 Now the hand of the Lord is against you. You are going to be blind, and for a time you will be unable to see the light of the sun." Immediately mist and darkness came over him, and he groped about, seeking someone to lead him by the hand.

Ans. _____

16. Can a man be blinded today by someone saying that he will be blind?

Ans. _____

17. Did Paul perform a miracle or could this have happened naturally?

Ans. _____

18. How long did it take for Peter to raise Tabitha from the dead?

Acts 9:36 In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which, when translated, is Dorcas), who was always doing good and helping the poor. 37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, "Please come at once!" 39 Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. 40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. 41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called the believers and the widows and presented her to them alive.

Ans. _____

19. How many people do you know personally that have been raised from the dead after being prepared for burial?

Ans. _____

20. Do you think that someone passing a difficult test and someone being raised from the dead are the same type of miracle?

Ans. _____

21. How long did it take Paul to raise Eutychus from the dead?

Acts 20:9 Seated in a window was a young man named Eutychus, who was sinking into a deep sleep as Paul talked on and on. When he was sound asleep, he fell to the ground from the third story and was picked up dead. 10 Paul went down, threw himself on the young man and put his arms around him. "Don't be alarmed," he said. "He's alive!"

Ans. _____

22. When Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake, did he suffer any ill effects?

Acts 28:3 Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. 4 When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, "This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, Justice has not allowed him to live." 5 But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. 6 The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead, but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

Ans. _____

23. Do you know anyone who has been bitten by a rattlesnake and after shaking it off had no ill effects?

Ans. _____

24. When Paul went to Publius' house, how long did it take Publius' father to be healed?

Acts 28:7 There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and for three days entertained us hospitably. 8 His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. 9 When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured.

Ans. _____

25. If you know of someone who is said to have healed a sick person, did the healer then heal all the sick in the town?

Ans. _____

26. Did Publius' father have the faith that cured him or was it Paul's faith?

Ans. _____

27. Who do people blame today for having a lack of faith when they can't heal someone immediately, themselves or the sick person?

Ans. _____

28. We often hear of someone surviving a terrible car wreck. Are all of these people Christians or are some of them Jews, Muslims or atheists?

Ans. _____

29. Is surviving a car wreck a miracle or something marvelous which can be explained by God's natural laws?

Ans. _____

30. What did Jesus say about sins causing calamity?

Jn 9:1 As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 "Neither this man nor his parents sinned," said Jesus, "but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.

Ans. _____

31. Who caused the calamities in Job's life?

Job 1:8 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil." ... 12 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, everything he has is in your hands, but on the man himself do not lay a finger." Then Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:3 Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil. And he still maintains his integrity, though you incited me against him to ruin him without any reason." 4 "Skin for skin!" Satan

replied. "A man will give all he has for his own life. 5 But stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." 6 The LORD said to Satan, "Very well, then, he is in your hands; but you must spare his life." 7 So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and afflicted Job with painful sores from the soles of his feet to the top of his head.

Ans. _____

SUMMARY

As we can see from our study of the Scriptures, there are many false doctrines taught about miracles. Most people do not take the time to distinguish between a miracle and something marvelous. In the Scriptures, we see many miracles. Things happened where God clearly set aside his normal laws and healed the sick or raised the dead. At the present time, those who are healed have diseases such as hearing loss or some ache or pain that you can't see. Oh yes, they will tell you that they feel better, but tomorrow watch them use their glasses to see better or take an aspirin for the pain. Today, no one raises people from the dead. They can't, because as we have learned in our earlier lessons on Simon in Acts 8 and Paul in Acts 19, it takes the laying on of an apostle's hands to be able to perform miracles. Today, we see people get well and we see people die, but we don't see withered hands made whole. I have seen ministers anoint the blind with oil and try to make the paralyzed walk, and then tell them to "wait on the Lord." When Jesus and his apostles healed someone, they healed them right then! Not later! When Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake he wasn't even hurt. Today when people handle snakes and finally get bitten, they go to the hospital. And then, they claim they were miraculously saved, even though they nearly die. Remember, the apostle Paul didn't even feel poorly!

I have seen reports of car wrecks where cars were completely demolished and where no one was hurt. Was this a miracle. No, it could be easily explained by fortunate circumstances. Only in the movies do we see a car mysteriously picked up as other cars collide; and we know that this is done with trick photography. When we look for a miracle, we should look for one like those in the Bible and not look for some story about a friend who felt better or who was cured of a cold or the flu. We need to distinguish between the miraculous and the marvelous! We can also see that those who say the Lord will take time to heal someone or that someone will just get better do not know the Scriptures which teach that the healings all happened immediately.

We must also realize that the Scriptures teach that calamities are not always a result of sin. As Jesus says in Matt 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Marvelous things happen to the Christian and the atheist, those who cheat and steal and those who don't. There will come a time when that will no longer be true, but that time is not now. Remember, Rev 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

The next time someone asks you whether you know someone who has performed a miracle or someone who had a miracle given to them, you can answer with the Scriptures that 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. (I Cor 13) Truly, many marvelous things are done by the Lord, but the age of miracles has ceased.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 9

REVIEW, LESSON 5

The Apostles

The word "apostle" means one sent. It was not translated from the Greek word, *apostolos*, but was transliterated into an English form. When Judas hung himself, Matthias was chosen to take his place as a witness of the Lord's resurrection (Acts 1:22-26). Jesus sent the twelve to be witnesses to the world of his resurrection (Acts 1:22). Today, we cannot be witnesses of the Lord's resurrection because we were not there when Jesus arose from the grave nor did we see him as he walked the earth. Each of the apostles knew Jesus personally and could testify to the fact that it was Jesus who was raised from the dead (Acts 1:21, I Cor 15:8). Thomas wouldn't even believe what the other apostles had seen (Jn 20:24-28). Today, no one alive even knows what Jesus looked like.

Jesus promised to baptize the apostles with the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:5). The only other persons to receive this baptism in the same way were the ones in Cornelius house (Acts 10:47). We know that this was not a normal happening, because the Jews who accompanied Peter were so amazed that they couldn't object to Cornelius and his household being baptized in water for the remission of their sins (Acts 10:47; 11:14). Jesus promised to teach the apostles all things, but we have to learn through study (II Tim 2:15). Jesus told the apostles that he would remind them of everything he said to them (Jn 14:26). They wrote it down and gave it to us (Jn 20:30-31, Eph 3:3-4). Most specifically, Luke records that it was only by the laying on of the apostles hands that a believer could do miraculous works (Acts 8:17-18; 19:6).

The kinds of miracles that the apostles performed were miracles that were easily seen. The results happened immediately. In the example of the crippled man that we studied, the man did not even know Peter and John or he would have known that they had no money (Acts 3:1-9). He didn't believe he was healed because Peter had to reach down and pick him up (Acts 3:7). We can see from this that the faith of the person performing the miracle was the faith which was important. Today, when someone claims to be able to perform miracles and then is unsuccessful, they blame it on a lack of faith on the part of the one being healed. It was not necessary for the person being healed to even know anything about Jesus or to know the one doing the healing. In the New Testament, we see immediate healings of things that are easily evaluated. No one was healed of something that others couldn't immediately see. Today, so-called faith healers cannot match the signs and wonders performed by Jesus or the apostles, but they do use tricks and better feelings to claim miraculous cures.

The word, apostle, was used to refer to a number of men in the New Testament. The key to understanding its use is to determine who sent the men in question on their mission. For instance, we find that Barnabas was called an apostle in Acts 14:4, 14, but we know that the church at Antioch sent out Barnabas. Even though the Holy Spirit sent Paul and Barnabas on their way, Barnabas was not one of the Lord's apostles, but rather he was an apostle of the church at Antioch. On the other hand, the twelve were apostles of the Lord.

Jesus sent the twelve, just as he sent Paul to be a witness of his resurrection. Paul had seen the Lord after his resurrection and thus met that qualification for being an apostle (I Cor 15:8). Paul says that he was the last person to see the Lord of all those to whom Jesus showed himself. Paul was able to lay hands on men and give them the power to perform miracles (Acts 19:6). Both Paul and the apostle Peter, claimed that Paul's epistles were part of the Holy Scriptures, God's word (II Pet 3:15-16).

Today, no man or woman can justly claim to be one of the Lord's apostles because of two facts. They haven't seen the risen Lord and they can't give the ability to perform signs and wonders to those on whom they lay their hands. In addition, they cannot even perform a miracle such as the one we studied in Acts 3:1-9, where the man didn't know the apostles who healed him and his obvious affliction was immediately healed.

1. What does the word apostle mean?

Ans. _____

2. What did the twelve apostles witness?

Ans. _____

3. Why can't we be witnesses of the resurrection of Jesus?

Ans. _____

4. Why didn't Thomas believe Jesus had risen?

Ans. _____

5. Who else received the Holy Spirit like the apostles did on Pentecost?

Ans. _____

6. Did an apostle have to study to know the word of God?

Ans. _____

7. Do you know anyone who didn't have to study and knows the entire Bible by heart?

Ans. _____

8. How did we get the word of God?

Ans. _____

9. How does Luke tell us that believers were able to do miraculous works?

Ans. _____

10. Did the lame man know Peter and John?

Ans. _____

11. Whose faith healed the lame man?

Ans. _____

12. Whose apostle was Barnabas?

Ans. _____

13. Did Paul see the risen Savior?

Ans. _____

14. By what two reasons can we be certain that there are no apostles of the Lord today?

Ans. _____

REVIEW, LESSON 8

Miracles vs. the Marvelous

There are many false doctrines taught about miracles. One of the biggest problems is that most people do not take the time to distinguish between a miracle and something marvelous. In the Scriptures, we see many miracles. Things happened where God clearly set aside his normal laws and healed the sick (Acts 3:2-11, Matt 9:27-31) or raised the dead (Lk 7:11-16, Acts 9:40, Acts 20:9-12). At the present time, those who are healed have diseases such as hearing loss or some ache or pain that you can't see. Oh yes, they will tell you that they feel better, but tomorrow watch them use their glasses to see better or take an aspirin for the pain. Today, no one raises people from the dead. They can't, because as we learned in our earlier lessons on Simon in Acts 8 (v 17-18) and Paul in Acts 19 (v 1-6), it takes the laying on of an apostle's hands to be able to perform miracles. Today, we see people get well and we see people die, but we don't see withered hands made whole. I have seen ministers anoint the blind with oil and try to make the paralyzed walk, and then tell them to "wait on the Lord" when they are not healed immediately. When Jesus and his apostles healed someone, they healed them right then! Not later! When Paul was bitten by a poisonous snake he wasn't even hurt (Acts 28:3-5). Today when people handle snakes and get bitten, they go to the hospital. Then, they claim they were miraculously saved, even though they get sick. Remember, the apostle Paul didn't even feel ill!

I have seen reports of car wrecks where cars were completely demolished and where no one was hurt. Was this a miracle. No, it could be easily explained by fortunate circumstances. Only in the movies do we see a car mysteriously picked up as other cars collide; and we know that this is done with trick photography. When we look for a miracle, we should look for one like those in the Bible and not look for some story about a friend who felt better or who was cured of a cold or the flu. We need to distinguish between the miraculous and the marvelous! We can also see that those who say the Lord will take time to heal someone or that someone will just get better do not know the Scriptures which teach that the miraculous healings all happened immediately.

We must also realize that the Scriptures teach that calamities are not always a result of sin. As Jesus says in Matt 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. Marvelous things happen to the Christian and the atheist, those who cheat and steal and those who don't. There will come a time when that will no longer be true, but that time is not now. Remember, Rev 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?"

The next time someone asks you whether you know someone who has performed a miracle or someone who had a miracle given to them, you can answer with the Scriptures that 8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away (I Cor 13:8) We know that we now have the "perfect" revealed will of God with us (II Tim 3:16-17, II Pet 1:3, Jude 3, Jn 20:30-31) Truly, many marvelous things are done by the Lord, but the age of miracles has ceased.

1. What is the definition of a miracle?

Ans. _____

2. What is the definition of something marvelous?

Ans. _____

3. Can people raise the dead who have been buried three days today?

Ans. _____

4. What was required in the New Testament for people to perform miracles?

Ans. _____

5. What happened when Paul was bitten by a snake?

Ans. _____

6. Do good things happen only to the righteous?

Ans. _____

7. Do good things happen to the evil?

Ans. _____

8. Do calamities fall on the righteous?

Ans. _____

9. Did God promise that he would heal the righteous of all their diseases?

Ans. _____

10. Will prophecies cease?

Ans. _____

11. Will speaking in tongues cease?

Ans. _____

12. When would prophecies and speaking in tongues cease?

Ans. _____

13. Do we have the perfect completely revealed will of God available to us today?

Ans. _____

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 10

The Unpardonable Sin

Matt 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

This passage and the misconceptions that surround it is the basis of our study in this lesson. The question of the unpardonable sin has worried those who think they may have committed this sin. Feeling that there is nothing they can do to be saved leads to despair and anguish. The questions we want to answer in this lesson are just what is the unpardonable sin and can it be committed today? As always in our lessons, we must find out who is talking; who is being talked to; and what the passage is talking about. This is the only way we can find out what the "unpardonable sin" is.

1. What has happened as Jesus makes his statement in Matt 12:31

Matt 12:22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. 23 All the people were astonished and said, "Could this be the Son of David?" 24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Ans. _____

2. How did the Pharisees say Jesus cast out demons?

Matt 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Ans. _____

3. What question did Jesus ask to show them they were wrong about the power he used?

Matt 12:25 Jesus knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be ruined, and every city or household divided against itself will not stand. 26 If Satan drives out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then can his kingdom stand?"

Ans. _____

4. Did Jesus show them that their thinking about using the power of Satan (Beelzebub) to cast out a demon was wrong?

Matt 12:27 And if I drive out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your people drive them out? So then, they will be your judges. 28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God

has come upon you.

Ans. _____

5. What power did Jesus use to cast out a demons?

Matt 12:28 But if I drive out demons by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.

Ans. _____

6. What two examples does Jesus use to show the Pharisees that they were wrong when they said Jesus did miracles by the power of Satan?

Matt 12:29 "Or again, how can anyone enter a strong man's house and carry off his possessions unless he first ties up the strong man? Then he can rob his house. 30 "He who is not with me is against me, and he who does not gather with me scatters.

Ans. _____

7. What is Jesus' conclusion about the casting out of the demon and the Pharisee's false accusation?

Matt 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Ans. _____

8. What had Jesus just done that allowed him to tell his listeners that speaking against the Holy Spirit would not be forgiven?

Matt 12:22 Then they brought him a demon-possessed man who was blind and mute, and Jesus healed him, so that he could both talk and see. ... 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Ans. _____

9. What accusation did the Pharisees make that Jesus said was speaking against the Holy Spirit?

Matt 12:24 But when the Pharisees heard this, they said, "It is only by Beelzebub, the prince of demons, that this fellow drives out demons."

Ans. _____

10. What did Jesus say that those who saw a miracle performed by the power of God and said it was performed by the power of Satan had done?

Matt 12:31 And so I tell you, every sin and blasphemy will be forgiven men, but the blasphemy against the Spirit will not be forgiven. 32 Anyone who speaks a word against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come.

Ans. _____

We have learned earlier that the power to perform miracles has ceased (I Cor 13:8-10). This power was given to confirm the words that the apostles spoke (Mark 16:20). It was the true sign of an apostle (Acts 8:17-18; Acts 19:6; II Cor 12:12). The power to work miracles has ceased. After the last apostle died, no one remained on the earth who could pass this gift on.

I Cor 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

Mark 16:20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Acts 8:17 Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit. 18 When Simon saw that the Spirit was given at the laying on of the apostles' hands, he offered them money 19 and said, "Give me also this ability so that everyone on whom I lay my hands may receive the Holy Spirit."

Acts 19:6 When Paul placed his hands on them, the Holy Spirit came on them, and they spoke in tongues and prophesied.

II Cor 12:12 The things that mark an apostle--signs, wonders and miracles--were done among you with great perseverance.

As you will recall our earlier studies which dealt with these questions in detail, we found that no one alive today can perform a miracle. Miracles have ceased even though there are many marvelous happenings.

11. Since miracles have ceased and the unpardonable sin was the sin of seeing them saying that these miracles were performed by the power of Satan, can anyone commit this "unpardonable sin" today?

Ans. _____

12. What reason does Mark's gospel give for the "unpardonable sin?"

Mark 3:29 But whoever blasphemes against the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven; he is guilty of an eternal sin." 30 He said this because they were saying, "He has an evil spirit."

Ans. _____

13. What does John say about asking God to forgive a brother of a sin for which there is no forgiveness?

I John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God

will give him life. I refer to those whose sin does not lead to death. There is a sin that leads to death. I am not saying that he should pray about that.

Ans. _____

14. What does John say about asking God to forgive a brother of a sin for which there is forgiveness?

I John 5:16 If anyone sees his brother commit a sin that does not lead to death, he should pray and God will give him life. ...

Ans. _____

15. What is sin according to John?

I John 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

I John 5:17 All wrongdoing is sin, and there is sin that does not lead to death. 18 We know that anyone born of God does not continue to sin; the one who was born of God keeps him safe, and the evil one cannot harm him.

Ans. _____

16. Some people believe that if you don't repent of a sin, there can be no forgiveness of the sin and this is the "unpardonable sin." Did Jesus make a mistake when he prayed for those who sinned?

Luke 23:34 Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." And they divided up his clothes by casting lots.

Ans. _____

Jesus prayed for the sins of those who crucified him and they had not repented of the sin at that time. Thus, a sin which has not been repented of is not the "unpardonable sin," but John speaks of the same sin as did Jesus.

Summary

As Jesus healed the demon possessed man by casting out the evil spirit, the Pharisees who saw the miracle said that this was done by the power of Beelzebub (which is another name for Satan). Jesus told them that this sin of blasphemy would never be forgiven. All other sins could be forgiven but this sin could not. Blasphemy means to speak against. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Holy Ghost in the King James Version. The Jews had actually seen a miracle performed and they said that Jesus was using the power of Satan to do this miracle. Jesus explained to them by using the example of the divided house, that Satan would not cast out demons because that would be against what Satan was trying to accomplish. Jesus then used the two examples of a divided kingdom and of a divided household to show that those who are divided cannot stand. Jesus told them that he drove out demons in the same way the Jews tried to drive out demons; through the power of God. Jesus then goes on to show the Pharisees that there must be strength and unity to defeat an enemy. He used the power of God to defeat the enemy but Satan would not attempt to defeat his own workers. Jesus then concludes that to say that those seeing a miracle performed by the power of God and saying that it was performed by the devil was an unforgivable sin.

We know from our earlier lessons that the power to perform miracles passed from the earth with the death of the last apostle since only the apostles could give this power to another person. No one today could commit the "unpardonable sin" since no one today could see a miracle, performed by the power of God, and say it was done by the power of Satan.

John says that we should not pray that an "unpardonable sin" should be forgiven, but that we should pray for all other sins. We know that the only ones who can who may pray to God as "Father" are His children. If we have not been "adopted" by God, we must put on Christ to be God's children (Rom 6:3-4, Gal 3:27). We do this by believing (Mark 16:15-16), repenting of our sins (Acts 2:38, Lk 13:3), confessing Jesus as Lord (Jn 12:42, Rom 10:9-10) and having our sins washed away (Acts 22:16).

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 11

Calling on the Name of the Lord

Acts 2:21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.

This verse and others such as Acts 22:16, Rom 10:13 and I Cor 1:2, have been the subject of a great deal of religious confusion. The passage in Acts 2 has been especially associated with the Pentecostal experience and the ability to perform miracles or speak in tongues. There are a large number of mistaken ideas about the method of "calling upon the name of Jesus." Many religious people believe that one must cry aloud for the Lord to hear them and give them a work of saving grace that they might be saved. Still others believe that they must call on the Lord in a spiritual frenzy in order to receive the Holy Spirit and began speaking in tongues as a sign of their salvation. Some believe that they must call on the Lord through prayer in order to receive the spirit. Which of these beliefs is correct? Once again, we turn to the pages of the Bible for a study of **calling on the name of the Lord.**

As we have studied previously, the apostles, not the 120, received the ability to speak in tongues on the day of Pentecost. As we reexamine this passage in Acts 2, we will find out what it means to "call on the name of the Lord."

1. Did someone saying that they were casting out demons in "the name" of Jesus mean that Jesus was with them?

Acts 19:13 Some Jews who went around driving out evil spirits tried to invoke the name of the Lord Jesus over those who were demon-possessed. They would say, "In the name of Jesus, whom Paul preaches, I command you to come out." 14 Seven sons of Sceva, a Jewish chief priest, were doing this. 15 the evil spirit answered them, "Jesus I know, and I know about Paul, but who are you?" 16 Then the man who had the evil spirit jumped on them and overpowered them all. He gave them such a beating that they ran out of the house naked and bleeding.

Ans. _____

2. Did someone saying that they were doing mighty works in "the name" of Jesus mean that Jesus was with them?

Matt 7:21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' 23 Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'

Ans. _____

3. When the rulers wanted to know about "the name" in which something was done, what other phrase did they use which is equal to that expression?

Acts 4:7 They had Peter and John brought before them and began to question them: "By what power or what name did you do this?" 8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them: "Rulers and elders of the people! 9 If we are being called to account today for an act of kindness shown to a cripple and are asked how he was healed, 10 then know this, you and all the people of Israel: It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified but whom God raised from the dead, that this man stands before you healed.

Ans. _____

4. Who has all authority now?

Matt 28:18 Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Ans. _____

4. Where is our religious authority obtained?

Col 3:17 And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

Ans. _____

5. What is God's attitude toward someone who does not go to the Bible for their authority to answer a religious question?

II Jn 1:9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

Ans. _____

6. Can we send money to someone who does not seek a Bible answer for religious questions?

II Jn 1:9 Anyone who runs ahead and does not continue in the teaching of Christ does not have God; whoever continues in the teaching has both the Father and the Son. 10 If anyone comes to you and does not bring this teaching, do not take him into your house or welcome him. 11 Anyone who welcomes him shares in his wicked work.

Ans. _____

7. By whose authority were the disciples to baptize?

Matt 28:19-20 19 Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Acts 2:38 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.

Ans. _____

8. Is the authority of Jesus the same as that of God?

John 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one:

Ans. _____

9. Where did Jesus get the things that he taught?

John 17:7 Now they know that everything you have given me comes from you. 8 For I gave them the words you gave me and they accepted them. They knew with certainty that I came from you, and they believed that you sent me.

Ans. _____

10. Is Jesus the same person as God? (Hint: Would Jesus speak this way to Himself?)

John 17:20 "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. 22 I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: 23 I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Ans. _____

Now that we have established that the phrase "calling on the name of the Lord" means to appeal to Jesus' authority, let us look at the way this phrase was used in the New Testament and what people did if they wanted to be saved.

11. What did Peter say that the ability of the apostles to speak in tongues fulfilled?

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 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.

Ans. _____

12. What day was to be marked by these events?

Acts 2:20 The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great and glorious day of the Lord.

Ans. _____

13. Who was to saved at "the great and glorious day of the Lord?"

Acts 2:21 And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.'

Ans. _____

14. Why did Jesus come to earth?

Matt 1:21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."

Ans. _____

15. Who was fulfilling the prophecy on the day of Pentecost?

Acts 2:14 Then Peter stood up with the Eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd: "Fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem, let me explain this to you; listen carefully to what I say. 15 These men are not drunk, as you suppose. It's only nine in the morning! 16 No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

Ans. _____

16. Why were the people who listened "cut to the heart?"

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Ans. _____

17. Did these people believe that Jesus was the Christ?

Acts 2:36 "Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ." 37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?"

Ans. _____

18. Were the people who listened saved from their sins when they believed that they had crucified Jesus, the Christ?

Acts 2:37 When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, "Brothers, what shall we do?" 38 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.

Ans. _____

19. What did Peter tell these believers to do to be saved from their sins?

Acts 2:38 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.

Ans. _____

20. When we studied the household of Cornelius, why did Peter have to go preach to this good man?

Acts 10:1 At Caesarea there was a man named Cornelius, a centurion in what was known as the Italian Regiment. 2 He and all his family were devout and God-fearing; he gave generously to those in need and prayed to God regularly.

Acts 11:13 He told us how he had seen an angel appear in his house and say, 'Send to Joppa for Simon who is called Peter. 14 He will bring you a message through which you and all your household will be saved.'

Ans. _____

21. What did Peter tell the believers in Cornelius' household to do to be saved from their sins?

Acts 10:47 "Can anyone keep these people from being baptized with water? They have received the Holy Spirit just as we have." 48 So he ordered that they be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. Then they asked Peter to stay with them for a few days.

Ans. _____

22. When Ananias came to Saul, what did he tell him to do be saved from his sins?

Acts 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Ans. _____

23. Did Ananias lay his hands on Saul so he could receive his sight while Saul was still in his sins?

Acts 22:13 He stood beside me and said, 'Brother Saul, receive your sight!' And at that very moment I was able to see him. 14 "Then he said: 'The God of our fathers has chosen you to know his will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from his mouth. 15 You will be his witness to all men of what you have seen and heard. 16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'

Ans. _____

24. What would happen to the Jews and Gentiles who called on the name of the Lord?

Rom 10:12 For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile--the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, 13 for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Ans. _____

25. What did Paul say these Jews and Gentiles needed to call on the name of the Lord?

Rom 10:14 How, then, can they call on the one they have not believed in? And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard? And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?

Ans. _____

26. What did Paul say these Jews and Gentiles needed to hear?

Rom 10:17 Consequently, faith comes from hearing the message, and the message is heard through the word of Christ.

Ans. _____

27. What had Paul been preaching?

Rom 10:8 But what does it say? "The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart," that is, the word of faith we are proclaiming: 9 That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Ans. _____

28. What else did Paul say was necessary to become a "new man?"

Rom 6:1 What shall we say, then? Shall we go on sinning so that grace may increase? 2 By no means! We died to sin; how can we live in it any longer? 3 Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? 4 We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

Ans. _____

29. What did Paul call the Christians at Corinth?

I Cor 1:2 To the church of God in Corinth, to those sanctified in Christ Jesus and called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ--their Lord and ours:

Ans. _____

30. Although the Corinthians were divided about names, what had the Corinthians done as a result of their acceptance of Paul's preaching?

I Cor 1:12 What I mean is this: One of you says, "I follow Paul"; another, "I follow Apollos"; another, "I follow Cephas"; still another, "I follow Christ." 13 Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Were you baptized into the name of Paul? 14 I am thankful that I did not baptize any of you except Crispus and Gaius, 15 so no one can say that you were baptized into my name.

Ans. _____

31. In whose name should the Corinthians have gloried?

Rom 15:17 Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God.

Ans. _____

As we consider others who heard the gospel preached, we realize that they too must have "called on the name of the Lord" if they wanted to be saved.

32. When the Samaritans believed, what did they do?

Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip as he preached the good news of the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

Ans. _____

33. When the eunuch believed, what did he do?

Acts 8:35 Then Philip began with that very passage of Scripture and told him the good news about Jesus. 36 As they traveled along the road, they came to some water and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water. Why shouldn't I be baptized?" 38 And he gave orders to stop the chariot. Then both Philip and the eunuch went down into the water and Philip baptized him.

Ans. _____

34. When the Philippian jailer believed, what did he do?

Acts 16:30 He then brought them out and asked, "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" 31 They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved--you and your household." 32 Then they spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all the others in his house. 33 At that hour of the night the jailer took them and washed their wounds; then immediately he and all his family were baptized.

Ans. _____

35. When Lydia believed, what did she do?

Acts 16:14 One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15

When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Ans. _____

36. As we have studied the case of the apostles on Pentecost, the Samaritans, the eunuch, Lydia, the Phillipian jailer, Saul, the church at Rome and the church at Corinth, were any of them told to cry aloud for the Lord to hear them and give them a work of saving grace?

Ans. _____

37. Were any of them told to call on the Lord in a spiritual frenzy?

Ans. _____

38. Were any of them told to speak in tongues as a sign of their salvation?

Ans. _____

39. Were any of them told to kneel and say a prayer of salvation so that the Lord would give them an experience?

Ans. _____

40. Were all of them baptized in water when they believed? If not, which ones were not baptized in water?

Ans. _____

Summary

Simply saying something was being done in the name of the Lord did not mean that the Lord was pleased with such. This phrase indicates that they were appealing to Jesus' authority. When the priests called in Peter and John, they wanted to know who authorized them to preach. Peter and John said Christ Jesus gave them the right to heal and to preach. Jesus has all authority and whenever we speak religiously, we must appeal to Jesus' teaching, the New Testament. If we go beyond or fall short of what Jesus has taught, we share in a wicked work. Jesus said that baptism should be by his authority, which was given to Him by God the Father, thus baptism is done with the authority of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. They are one in their purpose although they are separate personalities.

Peter and the apostles fulfilled Joel's prophecy as they preached concerning the Kingdom of Christ at its establishment on the day of Pentecost. The news that they preached would allow all men to "call on the name of the Lord." That is, all men could appeal to the Lord through the knowledge gained by hearing His word proclaimed. Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins. When men hear, believe and obey His word, they may be saved. This salvation is open to all who obey Him, whether white or black, male or female, servant or master. When the Jews on Pentecost heard that they had crucified the Savior, they asked what to do and were told to repent and be baptized. Only by following this instruction could they be saved from their sins. They "called" as they obeyed.

Even though the Lord had made it possible for Cornelius and his household to speak in tongues, they were not saved until they obeyed (called on the name of) the Lord. Peter knew that they had to be baptized to do what

the Lord commanded.

Paul told the church at Rome the same thing. They had to hear the word. They had to believe it. They had to confess their belief in Jesus and they had to be baptized to be a new man in Christ. Only in this way could they "call on the name of the Lord."

Paul had preached to the Saints (those sanctified in Christ Jesus) at Corinth. Although he personally had baptized very few of them, all of them had been baptized. They were going around saying that they were baptized in the name of some preacher rather than in the name of Christ and that was sinful and divisive. The glory is to be given to God and Christ.

We find that in every case of obedience to God's will in the book of Acts (the account of the early church), that the people heard the word and were baptized. Sometimes they were told to repent. Sometimes they confessed. Sometimes they were told to believe. But every time, they heard the gospel and were baptized. We can only conclude that if someone believes that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, he or she should repent of their sins, confess Jesus before men and be buried in water (baptized) for the remission of their sins. Only in this way can we truly "call on the name of the Lord." It is not necessary to cry aloud, to pray through, to have an experience, to be able to speak in tongues, or to silently pray by the radio or at a mourner's bench. We must hear the word of the Lord and be obedient to it. When we are obedient we have "called on the name of the Lord."

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 12

Review - The Unpardonable Sin

When Jesus healed the demon-possessed man so that he could both talk and see, the Pharisees who saw the miracle said that this was done by the power of Beelzebul (which is another name for Satan (Matt 12:24). Jesus told the Pharisees that the sin of blasphemy (speaking against) the Holy Spirit, which they had just committed, would never be forgiven, either in this age or in the age to come (Matt 12:32). All other sins could be forgiven but the sin of seeing a miracle performed by the power of God and saying that it was done by the power of Satan could not be forgiven (Matt 12:32). Blasphemy simply means to speak against. The Holy Spirit is referred to as the Holy Ghost in older translations of the Bible, such as the King James Version. The Jews had actually seen a miracle performed and they said that Jesus was using the power of Satan to do this miracle. Jesus explained to them by using the example of the divided house (Matt 12:25-26), that Satan would not cast out demons because that would be against what Satan was trying to accomplish. Jesus told them that he drove out demons in the same way the Jews tried to drive out demons; through the power of God (Matt 12:27). Jesus then goes on to show the Pharisees that there must be strength and unity to defeat an enemy (Matt 12:29-30). Jesus used the power of God to defeat the enemy but Satan would not attempt to defeat his own workers. Jesus makes a clear distinction between those who spoke against Him and those who spoke against the Holy Spirit (Matt 12:32). Those who spoke against Jesus could be forgiven but those who spoke against the Holy Spirit, claiming that the power of the Holy Spirit was the power of Satan, could never be forgiven.

We know from our earlier lessons that the power to perform miracles passed from the earth with the death of the last apostle or possibly with the death of the last person upon whom they laid their hands, since only the apostles could give this power to another person (Acts 8:17; Acts 19:6). No one today can commit the "unpardonable sin" since no one today could see a miracle, performed by the power of God, and say it was done by the power of Satan.

John says that we should not pray that an "unpardonable sin" should be forgiven, but that we should pray for all other sins (I Jn 5:16). We know from Paul's statements in Rom 8:14-15 and Gal 4:5-7 that those who have obeyed God are His adopted children. Someone who has not been adopted into the family of God may not pray to God as "Father". In order to be "adopted" by God, we must obey his commands to come into this saved relationship. We do this by believing (Mark 16:15-16), repenting of our sins (Acts 2:38, Lk 13:3), confessing Jesus as Lord (Jn 12:42, Rom 10:9-10) and having our sins washed away (Acts 22:16). In this way we are in Christ (Rom 6:3-4, Gal 3:27). The only two places in the Bible that tell us how to get into Christ are these verses (Rom 6:3-4, Gal 3:27).

1. By whose power did the Pharisees think that Jesus cast out demons?

Ans. _____

2. When would the sin of speaking against the Holy Ghost be forgiven ?

Ans. _____

3. What was the sin against the Holy Spirit?

Ans. _____

4. What had the Jews seen?

Ans. _____

5. What is necessary to defeat the enemy?

Ans. _____

6. Could those who spoke against Jesus be forgiven?

Ans. _____

8. Could those who saw a miracle and said it was performed by the power of Satan be forgiven?

Ans. _____

9. When did the power to perform miracles pass from the earth?

Ans. _____

10. Can someone commit the unpardonable sin today?

Ans. _____

11. Who are God's adopted children?

Ans. _____

12. How do we come into a saved relationship with the Lord?

Ans. _____

13. How do we get into Christ?

Ans. _____

Review - Calling on the Name of the Lord

Just because someone says that something is being done in the name of Jesus does not mean that the Lord is pleased with it (Acts 19:13-16; Matt 7:21-23). The meaning of the phrase, "calling on the name of the Lord," means that someone was appealing to Jesus' authority (Col 3:17).

When the priests called in Peter and John, they wanted to know who authorized them to preach (Acts 4:7-10). Peter and John said Christ Jesus gave them the right to heal and to preach (Acts 4:10). Jesus has all authority (Matt 28:18) and whenever we speak religiously, we must appeal to Jesus' teaching (Col 3:17), the New Testament (Heb 8:13; 9:15-17). If we go beyond or fall short of what Jesus has taught, we share in a wicked work (II Jn 1:9-11). Peter said that baptism should be by Jesus' authority (Acts 2:38), which was given to Jesus by God the Father (Jn 17:7-8), thus baptism is by the authority of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost (Matt 28:19-20). They (God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit) are one in their purpose although they are separate personalities (Jn 17:20-23, Lk 3:21-22).

Peter and the apostles fulfilled Joel's prophecy as they preached concerning the Kingdom of Christ, the church, at its establishment on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:14-15). The news that they preached would allow all men to "call on the name of the Lord" (Acts 2:21). That is, all men could appeal to the Lord through the knowledge gained by hearing His word proclaimed (Rom 10:14-17). Jesus came into the world to save us from our sins (Matt 1:21). When men hear, believe and obey His word, they may be saved (Acts 2:36-38). This salvation is open to all who obey Him, whether white or black, male or female, servant or master (Jn 3:16). When the Jews on Pentecost heard that they had crucified the Savior, they asked what to do and were told to repent and be baptized (Acts 2:36-38). Only by following this instruction could they be saved from their sins (Acts 2:38). They would obey as they looked (called) to the Lord for their salvation (Acts 4:12).

Cornelius and his household did exactly the same thing. They heard the word and responded to it by being baptized (Acts 10:47). Even though the Lord had made it possible for them to speak in tongues (Acts 10:47), they were not saved until they obeyed (called on the name of) the Lord (Acts 11:14). Peter knew that they had to be baptized to do what the Lord commanded (Acts 10:48).

Paul told the church at Rome the same thing. They had to hear the word (Rom 10:17). They had to believe it (Rom 10:8). They had to confess their belief in Jesus (Rom 10:9) and they had to be baptized to be a new man in Christ (Rom 6:3-4). Only in this way could they "call on the name of the Lord."

Paul had preached to the Saints (those sanctified in Christ Jesus) at Corinth (I Cor 1:2). Although he personally had baptized very few of them (I Cor 1:14), all of them had been baptized (I Cor 1:13). They were going around saying that they were followers of some preacher rather than followers of Christ. That was sinful and divisive (I Cor 1:12). The glory is to be given to God and Christ (Rom 15:17) not some man or method.

We find that in every case of obedience to God's will in the book of Acts (the account of the early church), that the people heard the word and were baptized (Acts 2:36-38; 8:12; 8:35-37; 10:47-48; 16:30-33; 22:16). Sometimes they were told to repent (Acts 2:28). Sometimes they confessed (Acts 8:37). Sometimes they were told to believe (Acts 8:37). But every time, they heard the gospel and were baptized. We can only conclude that if someone believes that Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, he or she should repent of their sins, confess Jesus before men and be buried in water (baptized) for the remission of their sins. Only in this way can we truly "call on the name of the Lord." It is not necessary to cry aloud, to pray through, to have an experience, to be able to speak in tongues, or to silently pray by the radio or at a mourner's bench. We must hear the word of the Lord and be obedient to it. When we are obedient we have "called on the name of the Lord."

14. Is Jesus pleased when someone says they are doing something "in His name?"

Ans. _____

15. What is the meaning of the phrase "calling on the name of the Lord" in the New Testament?

Ans. _____

16. What question did the priests ask Peter and John?

Ans. _____

17. What answer did Peter and John give the priests?

Ans. _____

18. Who has all authority?

Ans. _____

19. What is to be our guide in religion?

Ans. _____

20. What happens if we share with a religious teacher who teaches a doctrine not found in the Bible?

Ans. _____

21. By whose authority are we to baptize?

Ans. _____

22. What verses tell us that Jesus speaks the same thing as God the Father?

Ans. _____

23. How do we know that God the Father is not the same person as Jesus?

Ans. _____

24. Who fulfilled Joel's prophecy?

Ans. _____

25. How could all men appeal to the Lord?

Ans. _____

26. Why did Jesus come into the world?

Ans. _____

27. When are men saved?

Ans. _____

28. What did Cornelius and his household have to do to be saved?

Ans. _____

29. What did Paul tell the Romans to do to be saved?

Ans. _____

30. What occurs in every account of obedience by those who heard God's word in the book of Acts?

Ans. _____

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 13

Regulation of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit in New Testament Times

We have studied the way in which the gifts of the Holy Spirit were given in the New Testament and we will now turn our attention to some of the problems that were encountered by Christians at this time. We have learned that the Holy Spirit was given to the Apostles on Pentecost (Acts 2:1-5), to the Samaritans by Peter and John (Acts 8:12 ff), to Cornelius and his household (Acts 10-11) and to the disciples who knew the baptism of John (Acts 19:1-6). Problems arose in the church at Corinth over miraculous gifts and Paul addresses these problems in I Cor 12, 13 and 14. As we begin our study of the problems that occurred in New Testament times, we can see that those who claim to be able to do miraculous works through the power of the Holy Spirit, make the same mistakes today that the Christians in Corinth made.

There are a number of things that are difficult to understand in this chapter, but we will study them carefully in order that we might know what God taught about spiritual gifts in New Testament times.

1. What is the subject of the twelfth chapter of I Cor?

I Cor 12:1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Ans. _____

2. When Paul says that "no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, 'Jesus be cursed,' and no one can say, 'Jesus is Lord,' except by the Holy Spirit," what is he speaking about?

I Cor 12:1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant.

Ans. _____

3. Did everyone get the same gift?

I Cor 12:4 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit. ... 8 To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, 9 to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, 10 to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues.

Ans. _____

4. Why were these gifts given to them?

I Cor 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Ans. _____

5. When Paul says that the gifts were for the common good, what illustration does he use to show how things

can work together?

I Cor 12:12 The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. 13 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. 14 Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

Ans. _____

6. Does the use of the body as an illustration mean that those members which have the most prominent part are more important than those who have a less prominent part?

I Cor 12:15 If the foot should say, "Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body," it would not for that reason cease to be part of the body. ... 17 If the whole body were an eye, where would the sense of hearing be? If the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? ... 19 If they were all one part, where would the body be?

Ans. _____

7. Which part of the body do we give more honor to, the most beautiful or the least beautiful?

I Cor 12:23 and the parts that we think are less honorable we treat with special honor. And the parts that are unpresentable are treated with special modesty, 24 while our presentable parts need no special treatment. But God has combined the members of the body and has given greater honor to the parts that lacked it,

Ans. _____

8. Should the Corinthians who had special gifts think less of those whose gift was not as obvious?

I Cor 12:25 so that there should be no division in the body, but that its parts should have equal concern for each other.

Ans. _____

9. What had God given the church?

I Cor 12:28 And in the church God has appointed first of all apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then workers of miracles, also those having gifts of healing, those able to help others, those with gifts of administration, and those speaking in different kinds of tongues.

Ans. _____

10. Why had God given these gifts to the church?

I Cor 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Ans. _____

11. What did Paul tell the Ephesians that the apostles and prophets were given for?

Eph 4:11 It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, 12 to prepare God's people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up 13 until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

Ans. _____

12. Did everyone receive the same gift?

I Cor 12:29 Are all apostles? Are all prophets? Are all teachers? Do all work miracles? 30 Do all have gifts of healing? Do all speak in tongues? Do all interpret?

Ans. _____

13. What was the most excellent way and what was it more excellent than?

I Cor 12:1 Now about spiritual gifts, brothers, I do not want you to be ignorant. ... 31 But eagerly desire the greater gifts. And now I will show you the most excellent way. 13:1 If I speak in the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

Ans. _____

14. What would happen to gifts of prophecy?

I Cor 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Ans. _____

15. What would happen to the miraculous gift of tongues?

I Cor 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Ans. _____

16. What would happen to the gift of miraculous knowledge?

I Cor 13:8 Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.

Ans. _____

17. When would the miraculous gifts of prophecy, tongues and knowledge cease?

I Cor 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect

disappears.

Ans. _____

18. Some say that Jesus is the only perfect person in the world, but does I Cor 13:10 speak of a person or a thing?

I Cor 13:9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part, 10 but when perfection comes, the imperfect disappears.

Ans. _____

19. Has anything been given that is perfect?

James 1:25 But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it--he will be blessed in what he does.

II Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped (perfect in the KJV) for every good work.

II Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Jude 1:3 Dear friends, although I was very eager to write to you about the salvation we share, I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints.

Ans. _____

20. In an earlier lesson, what reason did we find for the gifts?

Mark 16:17 And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues; 18 they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well." ... 20 Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it.

Ans. _____

21. If the gifts were used to confirm the word, would there be any need to have gifts if the word were all written down?

Ans. _____

22. We found earlier in our study that the ability to give miraculous gifts ceased with the death of the apostles. Have any additions been made to the Scriptures, that is, prophetic utterances, since the death of the last apostle? (See Rev 22:18-19)

Ans. _____

23. What illustration does Paul use to show that the entire will of God had not been revealed when he wrote this letter to the church at Corinth?

I Cor 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.

Ans. _____

24. If we have the whole will of God, is there a need for a later revelation?

II Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped (perfect in the KJV) for every good work.

II Pet 1:3 His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

Ans. _____

25. Can we know the will of God completely today?

II Tim 3:16 All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped (perfect in the KJV) for every good work.

Ans. _____

26. Have we received the perfect will of God, such that we can know it fully and not in part?

Ans. _____

27. What was the most desirable gift?

I Cor 14:1 Follow the way of love and eagerly desire spiritual gifts, especially the gift of prophecy.

Ans. _____

28. Why was prophecy the most desirable gift?

I Cor 14:2 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to men but to God. Indeed, no one understands him; he utters mysteries with his spirit. 3 But everyone who prophesies speaks to men for their strengthening, encouragement and comfort.

Ans. _____

29. How did Paul tell the Corinthians that gifts were to be used at the start of our lesson?

I Cor 12:7 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.

Ans. _____

30. Which was greater, prophecy or speaking in tongues?

I Cor 14:5 I would like every one of you to speak in tongues, but I would rather have you prophesy. He who prophesies is greater than one who speaks in tongues, unless he interprets, so that the church may be edified.

Ans. _____

31. What good would it do if someone spoke in a tongue that all the members of the church did not understand?

I Cor 14:9 So it is with you. Unless you speak intelligible words with your tongue, how will anyone know what you are saying? You will just be speaking into the air. 10 Undoubtedly there are all sorts of languages in the world, yet none of them is without meaning. 11 If then I do not grasp the meaning of what someone is saying, I am a foreigner to the speaker, and he is a foreigner to me.

Ans. _____

32. What kind of gifts were the brethren at Corinth to desire?

I Cor 14:12 So it is with you. Since you are eager to have spiritual gifts, try to excel in gifts that build up the church.

Ans. _____

33. Who were tongues a sign for?

I Cor 14:22 Tongues, then, are a sign, not for believers but for unbelievers; prophecy, however, is for believers, not for unbelievers.

Ans. _____

34. What would happen if everyone in the church spoke in tongues at an assembly?

I Cor 14:23 So if the whole church comes together and everyone speaks in tongues, and some who do not understand or some unbelievers come in, will they not say that you are out of your mind?

Ans. _____

35. What would the teaching of the word do (by the prophets)?

I Cor 14:24 But if an unbeliever or someone who does not understand comes in while everybody is prophesying, he will be convinced by all that he is a sinner and will be judged by all, 25 and the secrets

of his heart will be laid bare. So he will fall down and worship God, exclaiming, "God is really among you!"

Ans. _____

36. What regulation did Paul lay down for those who spoke in tongues?

I Cor 14:27 If anyone speaks in a tongue, two--or at the most three--should speak, one at a time, and someone must interpret. 28 If there is no interpreter, the speaker should keep quiet in the church and speak to himself and God.

Ans. _____

37. What regulation did Paul lay down for those who taught the church?

I Cor 14:29 Two or three prophets should speak, and the others should weigh carefully what is said. 30 And if a revelation comes to someone who is sitting down, the first speaker should stop. 31 For you can all prophesy in turn so that everyone may be instructed and encouraged.

Ans. _____

38. Did the prophets have the ability to control when they would prophesy or was the prophecy an uncontrolled speech?

I Cor 14:32 The spirits of prophets are subject to the control of prophets. 33 For God is not a God of disorder but of peace.

Ans. _____

39. What were the women to do in the church?

I Cor 14:34 women should remain silent in the churches. They are not allowed to speak, but must be in submission, as the Law says. 35 If they want to inquire about something, they should ask their own husbands at home; for it is disgraceful for a woman to speak in the church.

Ans. _____

40. Since these were women who had husbands and Paul is speaking of spiritual gift, especially prophecy, is it reasonable that these were the prophet's wives?

Ans. _____

41. What did Paul tell Timothy about women speaking in the assembly?

I Tim 2:9 I also want women to dress modestly, with decency and propriety, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or expensive clothes, 10 but with good deeds, appropriate for women who profess to worship God. 11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. 12 I do not permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.

Ans. _____

42. Were Paul's thoughts on this subject his own or did they come from God?

I Cor 14:37 If anybody thinks he is a prophet or spiritually gifted, let him acknowledge that what I am writing to you is the Lord's command.

Ans. _____

43. What was Paul's final admonition about the church service?

Ans. _____

Review and Summary

In I Cor 12, 13 and 14, we find a discussion of the miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit as they were to be used in New Testament times. No one could perform a miracle and say that it was by the power of God if it were not so. All of the gifts that were given were given for "the common good." This means that the gifts were given to help the church, not the individual. These gifts were not given to every person nor were the same gifts given to every person. Paul uses the illustration of the body to show that each person is necessary to the church. Everyone had something to contribute.

The gifts that were given were to help each other and not to lift someone above the others. There were evidently some problems in the church at Corinth because some were able to speak in foreign languages (tongues) and were showing off. They were told that the greatest gift was the gift of prophecy. Prophecy simply meant to reveal what was unknown. They were revealing the will of God, because at that time it had not been written down completely. Today, it has been completely revealed and written down so that we have everything that we need "for life and godliness."

Love, a tender care and concern, for others is the greatest gift that one can have. Without love, there is no use for any of the gifts. These gifts would cease, but love would never cease. The gifts would cease, but not when perfect love came, for God's son had already shown them perfect love. These gifts would not cease when Jesus returns, for he will not set foot on the earth again, but will "meet us in the air." These gifts would cease when the perfect and holy will of God had been delivered to mankind. His word, the Bible, has been completed and today we are to live by the words of his Son's last will and testament, the New Testament. The Corinthians had to see as if in a bad mirror, but we can see clearly through God's word. We have no need for latter revelations. God has revealed his will to us once, for all time. We are not to add to his word nor take from it.

The greatest of the miraculous gifts was the gift of prophecy. This was so because others could profit from hearing the word of God. If someone spoke in a tongue (a foreign language), the rest of the church could not understand unless there was an interpreter. The gifts to desire were those that could help others, not those that would glorify self. Those unbelievers who could speak in a foreign language would be impressed by someone speaking in their language, just like the men from other nations were impressed by Peter and the eleven on the day of Pentecost.

Even though tongues were not to be forbidden, they were, nevertheless, regulated to speaking by two or three at the most, and even then, only with an interpreter. The prophet's speech was not something that was uncontrollable, but they could sit quietly and wait until another had finished. Everyone was to learn the word

of God from these prophets, for it was only being written down as Paul was writing.

Finally, Paul says that the women, even the prophet's wives, should not speak in the services, but they were to ask questions at home. Under the law of Moses, the women had not been allowed to speak in the services, but were to maintain an attitude of respect for the men. The same was to be true under God's new covenant as well. Whatever we do in the church is to be done "decently and in order." There should not be any confusion in any gathering of the Lord's church.

We need to remember that Paul wrote as he was directed by the Holy Spirit. The words that he spoke came from God and were not Paul's. We, like the Corinthians, must be obedient to God's commands. Fortunately for us, these are found in their entirety in the New Testament.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 14

The Gift of the Holy Spirit

As you know, the subject of the Holy Spirit and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are difficult. There are some today who teach that anyone who believes must have "a work of grace" or be able to speak in tongues to show that they have been saved. However, we learned that not everyone in New Testament times received miraculous powers by the Holy Spirit when we studied the case of Simon the sorcerer in Acts 8 and the problems with the gifts in I Cor 12. We learned that those who received the gifts were regulated. The most important gifts were those which edified (built up) the whole church (I Cor 12:7). We also learned that the miraculous gifts passed from the earth with the passing of the apostles (Acts 8:17, Acts 19:6). The apostles were the only one who could pass on these gifts to others (Acts 8:17). This disappearance of the miraculous gifts was a fulfillment of Old Testament prophecy (Zech 13:2) and was confirmed by the apostle Paul (I Cor 13:8-10). The miraculous gifts passed because there was no longer a necessity for the gifts to confirm the word (Mk 16:20), nevertheless, we find clear and unmistakable passages that tell us that the Holy Spirit is given to each believer. We now turn our attention to these passages and an examination of what the Holy Spirit does for us today.

1. What are all who repent and who are baptized promised in Acts 2:38?

Acts 2:38 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.

Ans. _____

[We see that it is not necessary to do anything other than be obedient to God in order to receive this great gift. The ability to perform miracles required that an apostle lay his hands on the recipient, (Acts 8:17, Acts 19:6). The gift of the Holy Spirit Himself, is given to all obedient believers. There is a difference in the miraculous gifts that were given by the Holy Spirit and the gift of the Holy Spirit itself. The gift that is promised is not the gift of performing miracles, but it is something that is promised to everyone who is obedient to God; the Holy Spirit Himself. We know that this is true because in Acts 8:12-17, the Samaritans believed and were baptized and yet they were unable to perform miracles. Only when the apostles laid their hands on them were the Samaritans able to work miracles. It was this ability to impart the power to work miracles that Simon wanted to buy.]

2. What is given to all those who obey God?

Acts 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Ans. _____

3. What had God given the brethren in Thessalonica?

I Thess 4:8 Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.

Ans. _____

4. How do we know that Jesus abides in us?

I Jn 3:24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Ans. _____

5. How do we know that we abide in God?

I Jn 4:13 We know that we live in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit.

Ans. _____

6. Should we have the Spirit of Christ in us?

Rom 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.

Ans. _____

7. How did the Galatians receive the Spirit?

Gal 3:2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? ... 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Ans. _____

8. How was the Spirit given to Christ? Does this imply that everyone else receives it in some other measure?

Jn 3:34 For the one whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God gives the Spirit without limit.

Ans. _____

As we think about how the Holy Spirit dwells in the Christian, the question arises of how the spirit which God gives to each person, righteous or unrighteous, inhabits our bodies. There are two words that the Bible uses which sometimes mean the same thing, but which are normally different. The first of these is the word "soul" which is used in Genesis 2:7 in the King James Version to indicate a living being (NIV) and the word "spirit" which Solomon uses to indicate the part of man which returns to God at death (Ecc 12:7). Jesus Himself, used the word spirit to indicate that part of his being which survived death (Lk 23:46), as did Stephen at his death (Acts 7:59). Each of us possesses a spirit and it inhabits our body. We do not know exactly where it is located, although there is an indication that our spirit and our intellect are closely related (Mk 14:38). We cannot feel our spirit, even though each of us has a spirit. We only know that it leaves the body at death. One visible evidence that each of us has a spirit, beyond simply being alive, is that all races of men in every age have sought

to worship a creator. Animals, which have no spirit but which are living, do not seek to worship.

9. How does our spirit enter us?

Gen 2:7 the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

Zech 12:1 This is the word of the LORD concerning Israel. The LORD, who stretches out the heavens, who lays the foundation of the earth, and who forms the spirit of man within him, declares:

Ans. _____

10. How do we know our spirit dwell in us?

Ja 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

Ans. _____

11. When does our spirit leave our body and where does it go?

Ecc 12:7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.

Ans. _____

At this point we need to recognize that our spirit is different than the Holy Spirit. The translators of our Bibles indicate this difference by capitalizing the Holy Spirit and using small letters in the word "spirit" to indicate the human spirit. Since the original manuscripts of the New Testament did not make this distinction, any reference must be examined to see whether the men who translated any version of the Bible have followed the context to correctly determine whether it is the Spirit or man's spirit that is being talked about.

12. How does the Spirit help us?

Rom 8: 26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Ans. _____

13. What is the earnest of our inheritance?

Eph 1:13 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 a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God's possession--to the praise of his glory.

Ans. _____

14. Who makes intercession for us?

Rom 8:26 In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groans that words cannot express.

Ans. _____

15. Where does God dwell?

Eph 2:21 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.

Ans. _____

16. How does God dwell in the saved?

Eph 2:21 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.

Ans. _____

EVIDENCE OF THE SPIRIT IN OUR LIFE.

The question of how we know that the Holy Spirit indwells us is one that troubles a great number of people. Since we have learned that the Holy Spirit does not indwell us in order to work miracles or allow us to speak in tongues, some have concluded that the Spirit dwells in us only through the word of God. There are certain things that the Scriptures tell us that the Holy Spirit does for us.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us.

17. What kind of strength does John say the Holy Spirit has in those who obey God?

I Jn 4:2 This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, 3 but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. 4 You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. 5 They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. 6 We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood.

Ans. _____

The Holy Spirit testifies of our faith.

18. How are we provided with the Spirit?

Gal 3:2 I would like to learn just one thing from you: Did you receive the Spirit by observing the law, or by believing what you heard? 3 Are you so foolish? After beginning with the Spirit, are you now trying to attain

your goal by human effort? 4 Have you suffered so much for nothing-- if it really was for nothing? 5 Does God give you his Spirit and work miracles among you because you observe the law, or because you believe what you heard?

Ans. _____

The Holy Spirit is given to us in baptism.

19. How do we enter the Kingdom of God

Jn 3:3 In reply Jesus declared, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." 4 "How can a man be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked. "Surely he cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb to be born!" 5 Jesus answered, "I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Tit 3:5 he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, 6 whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,

Ans. _____

The Holy Spirit shows us that God lives in us.

20. What do those who obey God's commands receive?

I Jn 3:24 Those who obey his commands live in him, and he in them. And this is how we know that he lives in us: We know it by the Spirit he gave us.

Ans. _____

21. What must we do to receive the Spirit?

Acts 5:32 We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him."

Ans. _____

The Holy Spirit helps us in our struggle against sin.

22. What is to control us?

Rom 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.

Ans. _____

23. What does the Holy Spirit do for us?

II Cor 1:22 set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

Ans. _____

Summary

We find that all those believers who are obedient to the Lord in repenting of their sins and being baptized for the remission of sins are given the Holy Spirit. Receiving the Holy Spirit by every obedient believer does not mean that the believer will receive the ability to perform miracles. We learned in our study of the life of Simon the Sorcerer, that the people in Samaria who believed and were baptized could not perform miracles. It was necessary for an apostle to lay hands on those who had obeyed the gospel in order for the Christian to be able to perform miracles. But the gift of the Holy Spirit to the believer is most assuredly given to every child of God. We find that the Holy Spirit is given to all who obey God. We know that to reject the instruction of God is to reject God who gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey. One way we know that the Holy Spirit lives in us is because of our obedience to the commands of God. We must not be controlled by our fleshly desires, but by the Spirit. If anyone continues in sin (our fleshly desires), he does not belong to Christ. The Christians in Galatia were told that the Spirit and the working of miracles was a result of their obedience to the word of God that was preached to them. If the Galatians had not been obedient to the word that was preached, they would not have been given the Holy Spirit and no apostle would have laid his hands on them, that they might be able to perform miracles. God gave the Spirit unto Christ, without measure, but this is not the case with all other men. We know that men did not receive the Holy Spirit by praying, by calling Jesus' name over and over. To the apostles, God gave the ability to impart miracles to other believers. No one else had this power.

Just as we have a spirit within us, the Holy Spirit is given to us. God gave us a body; he put life in our bodies; and he gave us an eternal quality known as the spirit or sometimes soul. Our spirit will return to God if we are faithful children of God. Our spirit will suffer eternal torment if we are not obedient to God. Paul tells us that we do not know what our spiritual bodies will be like, but they will be as God decides. No one can feel their spirit or even know that his spirit resides within his body, nevertheless, we believe that our spirit is with us and it will survive death. God gives us this spirit at birth. Our spirit does not leave us till death. The way in which our spirit returns to God is a mystery to us, just as the type of body we will have in the resurrection is a mystery to us.

In the same way that we have a spirit, but are unable to show where it lies within us, we receive the Holy Spirit upon being obedient to God's commands. You may ask what the Holy Spirit does for every obedient believer. The answers that we get from God's word is that the Holy Spirit helps in our acknowledgement of the Father. The Holy Spirit confirms our inheritance as God's own. The Spirit helps us in our weakness and inability to express ourselves to God as we approach God in prayer. Thus, we become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and show that he lives within us by the lives that we live -- lives that are in conformity with the word of God.

The Holy Spirit strengthens us. He helps us as we struggle against sin and He is greater than the prince of darkness, who rules this world. The fact that we are obedient to the word of the Lord means that the Spirit is

with us. We cannot accomplish our salvation on our own, but through obedience to God and accepting His will for our lives. We receive the Holy Spirit at baptism. Those who have not been baptized for the remission of sins do not have the Holy Spirit. They have not been obedient to the clear commands of the Lord. The new birth is accomplished through the cleansing of the flesh by the water and our renewal by the Holy Spirit. We can tell whether the Holy Spirit is in us by examining the commands of the Lord and determining whether we are obedient to them. The Holy Spirit helps us in our struggle against sin and is our guarantee of an eternity in heaven.

You may say that you can't feel the Holy Spirit as you struggle against sin. I have not said nor does the Bible say that you can feel the Holy Spirit. Just as you know that Jesus loves you, you know that the Holy Spirit is with you -- the Bible tells you so. Your Lord and master has gone to prepare a place for the faithful. You have not seen the Lord. You have not seen the place He has gone to prepare. But the Lord had his faithful servants write down all you need to know. All these things are in the New Testament. If you will obey his commands, his Holy Spirit will be with you and you have been sealed for an eternal inheritance.

THE WORK OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

LESSON 15

Review: REGULATION OF THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN NEW TESTAMENT TIMES

Chapters 12, 13 and 14 in Paul's first epistle to the Corinthians, he discusses miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit as they were used in New Testament times. No one could perform a miracle and say that it was by the power of God if it were not so (I Cor 12:2). All of these gifts were given for "the common good (I Cor 12:7)." This means that the gifts were given to help the church, not the individual. All of these gifts were not given to every person nor were the same gifts given to every person (I Cor 12:28). Paul uses the illustration of the body to show that each person is necessary to the church (I Cor 12:15-25). Everyone had something to contribute.

The miraculous gifts were given to help each other and not to lift someone above the others (I Cor 12:25). There were evidently some problems in the church at Corinth because some were able to speak in foreign languages (tongues) and were showing off (I Cor 14:1-5). They were told that the greatest gift was the gift of prophecy (I Cor 14:1). Prophecy simply meant to reveal what was unknown. The prophets of the New Testament were revealing the will of God, because at that time it had not been written down completely (Jn 20:30-31; Eph 3:3-6). Today, God's will has been completely revealed (Rev 22:19-20) and written down (I Pet 1:3; II Pet 3:15-16) so that we have everything that we need "for life and Godliness."

Paul switches from the discussion of miraculous gifts in I Cor 12 to speak about love in I Cor 13. The Corinthians were putting themselves above others because of their gift and this was not to be. The love of which Paul speaks is a tender care and concern for others. This was not the love we see on the television. It is not passion nor does it involve sex. This love is the greatest possession that one can have (I Cor 13:1). Without love, there is no use for any of the gifts (I Cor 13:1-7). These miraculous gifts would cease, but love would never cease (I Cor 13:8-13). The gifts would cease, but not when perfect love came, for God's son had already shown them perfect love. These gifts would not cease when Jesus returns, for he will not set foot on the earth again, but will "meet us in the air (I Thess 5:16-17)." These gifts would cease when the perfect and holy will of God had been delivered to mankind (I Cor 13:12, Mk 16:20). His word, the Bible, has been completed and today we are to live by the words of his Son's last will and testament, the New Testament (Heb 1:1-2;9:15-17). The Corinthians had to see as if in a bad mirror because the will of God was just being revealed to them through Paul and the prophets (I Cor 14:37), but we can see clearly through God's word (II Tim 3:16-17). We have no need for later revelations (II Pet 1:3). God has revealed his will to us once, for all time (Jude 3). We are not to add to his word nor take from it (II Jn 9-11; Rev 22:18-19).

The greatest of the miraculous gifts was the gift of prophecy (I Cor 14:1). This was so because others could profit from hearing the word of God (I Cor 12:7; 14:2). If someone spoke in a tongue (a foreign language), the rest of the church could not understand unless there was an interpreter (I Cor 14:5). The most desirable gifts were those that could help others, not those that would glorify self (I Cor 14:5). Those unbelievers who could speak in a foreign language would be impressed by someone speaking in their language, just like the men from other nations were impressed by Peter and the eleven on the day of Pentecost (I Cor 14:9; Acts 2:6-11).

Even though tongues were not to be forbidden, they were, nevertheless, regulated to speaking by two or three at the most, and even then, only with an interpreter (I Cor 14:39 ; I Cor 14:27-28). The prophet's speech was not something that was uncontrollable, but they could sit quietly and wait until another had finished (I Cor 14:29-31). Everyone was to learn the word of God from these prophets (I Cor 14:31), for it was only being

written down as Paul was writing.

Finally, Paul says that the women, even the prophet's wives, should not speak in the services, but they were to ask questions at home (I Cor 14:34). Under the law of Moses, the women had not been allowed to speak in the services, but were to maintain an attitude of respect for the men. The same was to be true under God's new covenant as well (I Tim 2:9). Whatever we do in the church is to be done "decently and in order (I Cor 14:40)." There should not be any confusion in any gathering of the Lord's church.

We need to remember that Paul wrote as he was directed by the Holy Spirit (I Cor 14:37). The words that he spoke came from God and were not Paul's. We, like the Corinthians, must be obedient to God's commands (II Jn 9-11). Fortunately for us, these are found in their entirety in the New Testament (II Pet 1:3; Jude 3; Rev 22:18-19).

1. Why were miraculous gifts given?

Ans. _____

2. Were all Christians given a miraculous gift and did everyone receive the same gift?

Ans. _____

3. What does it mean to prophesy?

Ans. _____

4. Why did the prophets have to reveal the word of God and what was done with what was revealed?

Ans. _____

5. What is the kind of love Paul writes about in I Cor 13?

Ans. _____

6. What did Paul say would cease and what would not cease?

Ans. _____

7. When would the gifts cease?

Ans. _____

8. Why don't we need a later revelation?

Ans. _____

9. What will happen to those who add to God's word?

Ans. _____

10. What was the greatest miraculous gift?

Ans. _____

11. What were the most desirable gifts and why?

Ans. _____

12. What were the prophets to do if another prophet wanted to speak?

Ans. _____

13. What were the prophets wives to do during the services?

Ans. _____

14. Did Paul, speaking through the Holy Spirit, think that women should speak in church?

Ans. _____

15. Is there to be any confusion in church?

Ans. _____

16. Where did Paul get the things he wrote to the Corinthians?

Ans. _____

17. What did Peter write that tells us we have everything we need?

Ans. _____

REVIEW: THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

All believers who are obedient to the Lord in repenting of their sins and being baptized for the remission of sins are given the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Receiving the Holy Spirit by every obedient believer does not mean that the believer will receive the ability to perform miracles (Acts 8:12-16). We learned in our study of the life of Simon the Sorcerer, that the people in Samaria who believed and were baptized could not perform miracles (Acts 8:12-16). It was necessary for an apostle to lay hands on those who had obeyed the gospel in order for the Christian to be able to perform miracles (Acts 8:17). But the gift of the Holy Spirit to the believer is most assuredly given to every child of God (Acts 2:38). We find that the Holy Spirit is given to all who obey God (Acts 5:32). We know that to reject the instruction of God is to reject God who gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey (I Thess 4:8). One way we know that the Holy Spirit lives in us is because of our obedience to the commands of God (I Jn 3:24). We must not be controlled by our fleshly desires, but by the Spirit (Rom 8:9). If anyone continues in sin (our fleshly desires), he does not belong to Christ (Rom 8:9). The Christians in Galatia were told that the Spirit and the working of miracles was a result of their obedience to the word of God

that was preached to them (Gal 3:2). If the Galatians had not been obedient to the word that was preached, they would not have been given the Holy Spirit and no apostle would have laid his hands on them, that they might be able to perform miracles (Acts 19:6). God gave the Spirit unto Christ, without measure, but this is not the case with all other men (Jn 3:34). We know that men did not receive the Holy Spirit by praying or by calling Jesus' name over and over (Acts 19:13-15). To the apostles, God gave the ability to impart miracles to other believers (Acts 8:17). No one else had this power.

Just as we have a spirit within us (Mk 14:38), the Holy Spirit is given to us when we obey God (Acts 5:32). We realize that God gave us a body; he put life in our bodies; and he gave us an eternal quality which is known as the spirit or sometimes soul (Ecc 12:7, Lk 23:46). Our spirit will return to God if we are faithful children of God (Ecc 12:7). Our spirit will suffer eternal torment if we are not obedient to God (Matt 13:41-42). Paul tells us that we do not know what our spiritual bodies will be like, but they will be as God decides (I Cor 15:35-38). No one can feel their spirit or even know that their spirit resides within their body, nevertheless, we believe that our spirit is with us and it will survive death (Ja 2:26; Ecc 12:7). God gives us this spirit at birth (Gen 2:7). Our spirit does not leave us till death (Ecc 12:7). The way in which our spirit returns to God is a mystery to us, just as the type of body we will have in the resurrection is a mystery to us (I Cor 15:35-38).

In the same way that we have a spirit, but are unable to show where it lies within us, we receive the Holy Spirit upon being obedient to God's commands (Acts 5:32). You may ask what the Holy Spirit does for every obedient believer. The answers that we get from God's word is that the Holy Spirit helps in our acknowledgement of the Father (Rom 8:15; Gal 4:6). The Holy Spirit confirms our inheritance as God's own (II Cor 1:22). The Spirit helps us in our weakness and inability to express ourselves to God as we approach God in prayer (Rom 8:26-27). Thus, we become the dwelling place of the Holy Spirit and show that he lives within us by the lives that we live -- lives that are in conformity with the word of God (Rom 8:9-11).

The Holy Spirit strengthens us (I Jn 4:2-6). He helps us as we struggle against sin and He is greater than the prince of darkness, who rules this world (I Jn 4:4). The fact that we are obedient to the word of the Lord means that the Spirit is with us (Acts 5:32). We cannot accomplish our salvation on our own, but we receive our salvation through obedience to God and accepting His will for our lives (Matt 7:21). We receive the Holy Spirit at baptism (Acts 2:38). Those who have not been buried in water for the remission of sins have not received the Holy Spirit (Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38). They have not been obedient to the clear commands of the Lord (Mk 16:15-16). The new birth is accomplished through the cleansing of the flesh by the water and our renewal by the Holy Spirit (Jn 3:3-5; Tit 3:5-6). We can tell whether the Holy Spirit is in us by examining the commands of the Lord and determining whether we are obedient to them (I Jn 3:24). The Holy Spirit helps us in our struggle against sin and is our guarantee of an eternity in heaven (II Cor 1:22).

You may say that you can't feel the Holy Spirit as you struggle against sin. I have not said nor does the Bible say that you can feel the Holy Spirit. Just as you know that Jesus loves you (Jn 15:13), you know that the Holy Spirit is with you if you have obeyed the commands of God -- the Bible tells you so (Acts 5:32). Your Lord and master has gone to prepare a place for the faithful (Jn 14:1-6). You have not seen the Lord (I Cor 15:8). You have not seen the place he has gone to prepare. But, the Lord has had his faithful servants write down all the things you need to know (II Pet 1:3). All these things are in the New Testament (Jn 20:30-31). If you will obey his commands, his Holy Spirit will be with you and you will be sealed for an eternal inheritance (II Cor 1:22).

18. What must a believer do in order to receive the Holy Spirit?

Ans. _____

19. Can any obedient believer today perform miracles? Ans. _____
20. Could every obedient believer in New Testament times perform miracles? Ans. _____
21. Could any of the baptized believers in Samaria perform miracles? Ans. _____
22. What was necessary before any of the baptized believers in Samaria could perform miracles?
Ans. _____
23. What must one do to become a child of God and receive the Holy Spirit?
Ans. _____
24. To whom is the Holy Spirit given? Ans. _____
25. What happens if we reject the instruction of God?
Ans. _____
26. What is one way we know that the Holy Spirit lives in us?
Ans. _____
27. What is to control us? (Rom 8:9)
Ans. _____
28. What were the Christians in Galatia told the Spirit and the working of miracles resulted from?
Ans. _____
29. Did individuals in the New Testament receive the Holy Spirit by calling the name of Jesus out loud?
Ans. _____
30. What men had the ability to give the power to work miracles to other men?
Ans. _____
31. What is the eternal part of man called? Ans. _____
32. Where does the spirit of a faithful child of God go when he dies? Ans. _____
33. What will our spiritual bodies be like? Ans. _____
34. How does our spirit return to God? Ans. _____

35. What does Rom 8:15 say the Holy Spirit does for us? Ans. _____

36. What does II Cor 1:22 say the Holy Spirit does for us? Ans. _____

37. What does Rom 8:26-27 say the Holy Spirit does for us? Ans. _____

38. What does I Jn 4:2-6 say the Holy Spirit does for us? Ans. _____

39. How great is the Holy Spirit? (I Jn 4:4) Ans. _____

40. How do we receive salvation? (Matt 7:21) Ans. _____

41. What does the Bible tell us we must do for the remission of sins and to receive the Holy Spirit? (Rom 6:3-4; Acts 2:38; Mk 16:15-16)

Ans. _____

42. How is the new birth accomplished? (Jn 3:3-5; Tit 3:5-6) Ans. _____

43. How can we be sealed for an eternal inheritance? (II Cor 1:22)

Ans. _____

