

GOD ANSWERS YOUR QUESTIONS

but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.” Hebrews 9:24.

11. Are there any limits to the efficacy of intercessory prayer?

“If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.” 1 John 5:16,17.

12. For what sin is there no forgiveness?

“But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost has never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.” Mark 3: 29.

13. What place should temporal rulers and authorities have in our prayers?

The Bible Speaks “I exhort therefore, that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for kings, and for all that are in authority.” 1 Timothy 2:1,2.

14. Why should we remember them?

“That we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.” 1 Timothy 2:2-4.

15. Whose kingdom, however, should be paramount in our prayers?

“Thy kingdom come.” Matthew 6:10.

16. For what, glorious future state should we daily plead?

a. End of sin. “Oh let the wickedness of the wicked come to an end; but establish the just: for the righteous God tries the hearts and reins.” Psalm 7:9.

b. Triumph of God’s will and purpose. “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.” Matthew 6:10.

12. The Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit

1. WHO is associated with the Father and Son in the triune Godhead?

“Go you therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Matthew 28:19.

2. What statements make it quite clear that the Spirit is a Person and not merely a divine influence?

a. He is capable of speech. “He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit said unto the churches.” Revelation 2:7.

b. He manifests emotions of pleasure, vexation, grief. “For it seemed good to the Holy Ghost.” Acts 15: 28. “But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit.” Isaiah 63:10. “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God.” Ephesians 4: 30.

c. He has executive ability and is capable of purposive action. “But all these work that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.” 1 Corinthians 12:11. “And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2.

d. He works wonders. “Through mighty signs and wonders, by the power of the Spirit of God; so that from Jerusalem, and round about unto Illyricum, I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.” Romans 15:19.

e. He gives guidance. “When He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth.” John 16: 13.

f. He appeals to the Father on behalf of men. “Likewise the Spirit also helps our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for or as we ought: but the Spirit itself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.” Romans 8: 26.

“To each Person in one passage or other of the New Testament are ascribed the same titles and works; each is acknowledged as Lord; each is eternal. Each is Creator; each wills with a supreme will; each is the Author of the new birth. What is all this but the Father Eternal, the Son Eternal, and the Holy Ghost Eternal; the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, Omnipotent; the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, God.” - Cardinal Newman in “Grammar of Assent,” page 133.

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3. What part had the Spirit in the work of creation?

“And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.” Genesis 1:2.

4. Since the entrance of sin how has God communicated with man?

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

5. How was the Holy Spirit associated with the incarnation?

“And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost, shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.” Luke 1: 3 5.

6. In what way did God manifest His approval of Jesus at His baptism?

“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon Him.” John 1: 32.

7. How was Jesus empowered for His ministry?

“And Jesus returned in ‘ the power of the Spirit into Galilee: and there went out a fame of Him through all the region round about.” Luke 4:14.

8. By what power was Jesus fortified to endure the cross?

“How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to -serve the living God?” Hebrews 9:14.

9. What part had the Spirit in the resurrection of Jesus?

“For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit.” 1 Peter 3:18.

10. Who was appointed to take the place of Jesus at His ascension?

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth.” John 14:16,17.

“Need I dwell upon the great thoughts that spring from that metaphor-how we have to look for a Person, and not merely a vague influence. A divine Person who will be by our side on condition of our faith, love, and obedience, to be our strength in all weakness, our peace in all trouble, our wisdom in all darkness, our guide in every perplexity, our comforter and cherisher, our righteousness when sin is strong, the victor over our temptations, and the companion and sweetener of our solitude? And this sweet, strong, all-sufficient Person is offered to each of us, and waits to enter our hearts.” - Dr. Alexander Maclaren.

11. In what ways is the Spirit still active in the work of redemption?

a. Convicts of sin, makes known divine righteousness, and warns of judgment. “And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.” John 16: 8.

b. Regenerates. “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.” John 3:5,6.

12. In what further work is the Spirit engaged on behalf of the children of God?

a. Sanctifies. “That 1 should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15: 16.

b. Illuminates. “Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak.” John 16:13.

c. Empowers. “Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, said the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6.

d. Protects. “When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him.” Isaiah 59:19.

“The great needs of the soul, conversion, communion, and character, are all made possible by the Holy Spirit, and His action covers the entire life of the believer from first to last.” His work embraces “a revelation of truth, a bestowal of life, and an equipment for service.” - Dr. Griffith Thomas in “The Principles of Theology.”

13. In what mighty way will the activity of the Spirit be manifest in the latter days?

“Be glad then, you children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for He has given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the, rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month.” Joel 2:23. (See also Hosea 6:3.)

14. In what way will the work of the Spirit in the latter days correspond with that at Pentecost?

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“And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, Save yourselves from this untoward generation.” Acts 2:40. “Come out of her, My people, that you be not partakers of her sins, and that you receive not of her plagues.” Revelation 18:4.

What Happened at Pentecost?

1. BY what means was Israel instructed in the wilderness?

“Thou gave also Thy good Spirit to instruct them, and withheld not Thy manna from their mouth, and gave them water for their thirst.” Nehemiah 9:20.

2. Through whom did the prophets receive their messages?

“For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.” 2 Peter 1:21.

3. How did Israel relate themselves to these ministrations of the Spirit of God?

“But they rebelled, and vexed His Holy Spirit.” Isaiah 63:10.

4. What attitude did the Spirit therefore adopt toward Israel?

“Therefore He was turned to be their enemy, and He fought against them.” Isaiah 63:10.

5. With what promise, however, did God encourage the faithful remnant?

“And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out My Spirit upon all flesh.” Joel 2:28. (See also Isaiah 44:3.)

6. What profound results would follow this new outpouring of the Spirit?

“And I will put My Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you shall keep My judgments, and do them.” Ezekiel 36: 27.

7. By whom was the promise of the Spirit renewed?

John the Baptist. “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that comes after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire.” Matthew 3: 11.

8. In what fuller way did Jesus tell the disciples of the coming outpouring of the Spirit?

“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; even the Spirit of truth. Whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him: but you know Him; for He dwells with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:16,17.

9. After His resurrection, how did Jesus assure His disciples that the promise was about to be fulfilled?

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, said He, you have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but you shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.” Acts 1:4,5.

10. In what spectacular way was the promise fulfilled?

“And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:1-4.

“The Pentecostal outpouring was Heaven’s communication that the Redeemer’s inauguration was accomplished. According to His promise He had sent the Holy Spirit from heaven to His followers, as a token that He had, as priest and king, received all authority in heaven and on earth, and was the Anointed One over His people.” - E. G. White in “The Acts of the Apostles,” page 39.

11. What transformation did the Spirit work in the disciples?

“And they began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2: 4.

12. What revolutionary results followed their witness in the power of the Spirit?

“Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And many wonders and signs were done by the apostles.” Acts 2:37-43.

13. How did Peter explain the miracle of Pentecost to the multitude?

“But this is that which was spoken by the Prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh.” Acts 2: 16, 17. (Read verse 18.)

14. What promise was extended to all who responded to the gospel appeal?

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“Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2: 38.

15. For how many was this new outpouring of the Spirit intended?

“For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord, our God shall call.” Acts 2: 39.

“To us today, as verily as to the first disciples, the promise of the Spirit belongs. God will today endow men and women with power from above, as He endowed those who, on the day of Pentecost, heard the word of salvation. At this very hour His Spirit and His grace are for all who need them and will take Him at His word.” - E. G. White.

The Spirit and the Life

1. IN what way are believers distinguished from the world?

“Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.” 1 Corinthians 2:12. “God has also given-unto us His Holy Spirit.” 1 Thessalonians 4:8.

2. On what conditions does God bestow the gift of the Spirit?

a. Repentance. Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” Acts 2:38.

“Thou has neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.” Acts 8:21.

b. Faith in God and Christ. “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hanged on a tree. That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might-receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.” Galatians 3:13-14.

c. Obedience to His will. “And we are His witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God has given to them that obey Him.” Acts 5:32.

3. In what ways is the coming of the Spirit described?

a. Shed upon men. “Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior.” Titus 3:6.

b. Anointing men. “But you have an unction from the Holy One, and you know all things.” 1 John 2:20.

c. Baptizing men. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body.” 1 Corinthians 12: 13.

4. How closely does the Holy Spirit associate Himself with the life- of believers?

“He shall give you another Comforter, even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees Him not, neither knows Him: but you know Him; for He dwells with you, and shall be in you.” John 14:16,17. “What? know you not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which you have of God, and you are not your own?” 1 Corinthians 6: 19.

“He [Jesus] told them that, in spite of all the anguish with which they contemplated the coming separation from Him, it was actually better for them that His personal presence should be withdrawn in order that His spiritual presence might be yet nearer to them than it ever had been before. This would be effected by the coming of the Holy Ghost, when He who was now with them should be ever in them.”-Dean Farrar, in “Life of Christ,” page 390.

5. How fully does the Spirit desire to take possession of the lives of believers?

“And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.” Ephesians 5:18. “For he [Barnabas] was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith.” Acts 11:24.

6. What work does the indwelling Spirit accomplish in the life of the believer?

a. Mortification of sinful desires. “For if you live after the flesh, you shall die: but if you through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, you shall live.” Romans 8:13.

b. Sanctification of the life. “But we are bound to give thanks always to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God bath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.” 2 Thessalonians 2:13.

“Every step of progress in the Christian life is taken by a fresh and fuller appreciation of Christ by faith, a fuller baptism of the Holy Spirit. As we are more and more emptied of all self dependence, and as by faith we secure deeper and deeper baptisms of the Holy Ghost, and put on the Lord Jesus Christ more thoroughly, by just so much faster do we grow in the favor of God. You must pray in faith for the Holy

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Spirit. At every forward step in your progress you must have a fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit through faith.” - Charles G. Finney in “Lectures on Revivals.”

c. Peace of soul. “For the kingdom of God is righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.” Romans 14: 17. “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” Romans 15:13.

7. By what visible evidences is the Spirit’s activity manifest in the life?

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.” Galatians 5: 22, 23. “For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.” Ephesians 5: 9.

8. What divine illumination is promised to believers through the Spirit?

“But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name, He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.” John 14:26.

9. By what means are God’s messengers equipped for service?

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. To another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues: but all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.” 1 Corinthians 12:7-11.

10. Upon what power may the children of God ever rely?

“Then he answered and spoke unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, said the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4: 6. “You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and you shall be witnesses unto Me.” Acts 1: 8.

“The promise of the Spirit is not appreciated as it should be. Its fulfillment is not realized as it might be. Learning, talents, eloquence, every natural or acquired endowment may be possessed; but without the presence of the Spirit of God, no heart will be touched, no sinner be won to Christ. On the other hand, if they are connected with Christ, if the gifts of the Spirit are theirs, the poorest and most ignorant of His disciples will have a power that will tell upon hearts.” - E. G. White in “Christ’s Object Lessons,” page 328.

11. In view of the benefits resulting from the indwelling of the Spirit what did the psalmist ask God never to do?

“Cast me not away from Thy presence and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.” Psalm 51:11.

12. How may we prove ourselves worthy of the abiding presence of the Spirit?

“Quench not the Spirit.” – 1 Thessalonians 5:19. “And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30.

13. What will be the glorious outcome of sowing to the Spirit?

“For he that sows to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that sows to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” Galatians 6:8.

14. What fitting invocation therefore does the Apostle Paul offer for all believers?

“The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.” 2 Corinthians 13:14.

The Gifts of the Spirit

1. WHEN Jesus ascended to heaven, what did He receive from the Father on behalf of His disciples?

“Thou has ascended on high, Thou has led captivity captive: Thou has received gifts for men.” Psalm 68: 18 (See also Ephesians 4: 7, 8.)

2. Through whom are these spiritual gifts communicated to men?

“God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to His own will.” Hebrews 2:4.

3. How anxious was Paul that the church should understand the nature and purpose of spiritual gifts?

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“Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant.” 1 Corinthians 12:1.

“I have written and preached much of the Holy Spirit, for the knowledge of Him has been the most vital fact of my experience. I owe everything to the gift of Pentecost.” - Dr. Samuel Chadwick.

4. How varied did he declare them to be?

“Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:4.

5. What are some of the gifts of the Spirit?

“And He gave some, apostles; and some, Prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, Pastors and - teachers.” Ephesians 4:11. (See also 1 Corinthians 12:28.)

6. Elsewhere what other gifts of the Spirit does Paul enumerate?

“For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; to another faith by the same Spirit. To another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy; to another discerning of spirits; to another divers kinds of tongues; to another the interpretation of tongues.” 1 Corinthians 12: 8-10.

7. On what basis are the gifts of the Spirit dispensed?

a. According to the will of God. “But all these works that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will.” 1 Corinthians 12: 11.

b. Appropriate to the individual. “But every man has his proper gift of God, one after this manner, and another after that.” 1 Corinthians 7: 7.

8. How is the Christian’s experience enriched by spiritual gifts?

“Thank my God always on your behalf that in every thing you are enriched by Him, in all utterance, and in all knowledge.” 1 Corinthians 1:4,5.

9. What may the Christian, therefore, legitimately covet?

“But covet earnestly the best gifts.” 1 Corinthians 12:31.

10. What, however, is even more to be desired than the gifts of the Spirit?

“And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.” 1 Corinthians 13:2. (See also 1 Corinthians 14:1.)

11. For what purpose are the gifts of the, Spirit conferred?

“But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.” 1 Corinthians 12: 7.

12. In what ways does the church profit, from the exercise of spiritual gifts?

“For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.” Ephesians 4: 12.

13. What responsibility, therefore, does the recipient have toward his gifts?

“As every man has received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God gives: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ.” 1 Peter 4:10,11. (See also Romans 12:6-8.)

14. How did Paul encourage Timothy in the use of his particular gifts?

“Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.” 2 Timothy 1:6. “Neglect not the gift that is in thee, which was given thee by prophecy, with the laying on of the hands of the presbytery.” 1 Timothy 4:14.

“There is no limit to the usefulness of one who, putting self aside, makes room for the working of the Holy Spirit upon his heart, and lives a life wholly consecrated to God.” – E. G. White.

15. What should always characterize the exercise of spiritual gifts in the church?

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” “Let all things be done decently and in order.” 1 Corinthians 14:33,40.

16. For how long will the gifts of the Spirit be made available?

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a Perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.” Ephesians 4: 13 j~