

Lesson 9: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit

Lesson Introduction



In this lesson we will look at the Ministry of the Holy Spirit: His ministry in the Old and New Testaments, His ministry to the world and the church, and His ministry in the life of the Believer. We will see His involvement in Creation, the Incarnation, and the baptism and filling of the Believer. As we continue to study the Holy Spirit, we will gain a better understanding of His work and how He is working in our lives. Finally we will end this lesson with a look at

what it means for the believer to walk in the Spirit.

Lesson Outline

Topic 1: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Bible

Ministry in the New Testament

Ministry in the Life of Christ

Topic 2: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the World

Topic 3: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Church

Topic 4: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Believer

The Earnest of the Spirit

Contrast Between Baptism of the Spirit and Filling of the Spirit

Fruit of the Spirit and Walking in the Spirit

Topic 1: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit in the Bible

What was the role of the Holy Spirit in the Old Testament? We'll try to contrast that with what the Holy Spirit does today and does in the New Testament. The Holy Spirit, we read about Balaam and about Othniel, Samuel, Gideon—the Holy Spirit came upon these people. There [were] instances where the Holy Spirit was active in people's lives in the Old Testament, and you can read all about that. As a matter of fact, it said that Gideon was clothed by the Spirit. The Spirit came upon Gideon. The Spirit was poured out upon people in the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit rested on men. It says that about the 70 elders in Numbers 11. And it says in (Psalm 51:11) Remember Psalm 51 was the Psalm of penitence after David sinned? And he is saying cast me not away from thy presence—this is a fellowship issue, not a salvation issue—he later said, “Restore to me the joy of my salvation.” But here he's saying (Psalm 51:11). We have something better today, and that is the Spirit of God is indwelling the believer. We'll talk about two different things, though. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit and the filling of the Holy Spirit. Two different things, and we'll talk about that. The Holy Spirit will come and leave men according to the Holy Spirit's pleasure in the Old Testament. The Holy Spirit was also active in Creation. Okay, in the generation of the heavens and the earth, and the animals, and the men. The Holy Spirit was there, and doing work in that. And also, the Holy Spirit is doing work in the preservation of the creation, where we know that the primary Agent of creation was Jesus the Son, but the Holy Spirit was doing work as well. Also,

inspiration. Of course, the Spirit is so involved in the inspiration of Scripture, and we believe that the Bible is the Word of God, that men wrote as they were moved, or pushed along. The Holy Spirit is also always known as breath or wind. Pneumos, pneumatology, is this idea of the Holy Spirit. And the Holy Spirit is pushing along like the wind pushes along like the wind pushes along a sailboat. And that's how we got the Scriptures. It says in (2 Samuel 23:2). That's how literally it is that the Holy Spirit is the Author of the Scriptures, but the pen is the pen of a man, and the pen is in the hand of a man. But that way we know that what we have here isn't just man's opinion, but it is the Word of God because the Spirit of God is involved in the inspiration of Scriptures.

QUESTION 1

In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit did not indwell men _____.

QUESTION 2

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would _____ upon and _____ upon men.

QUESTION 3

In the Old Testament, the Holy Spirit would _____ men to write and speak.

QUESTION 4

The Holy Spirit was _____ at Creation.

Ministry in the New Testament

Then we go into the ministry of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament. And the first area we see the Holy Spirit working is in the area of preaching. That's why preaching is so critical, to hear the preaching of the Word of God, because the Spirit of God is helping that preacher. It says in (1 Peter 3:18-20) So you see that preaching then, and hopefully now, is done by the power of the Spirit of God. How important it is that the man in the pulpit is a godly man that is filled with the Spirit, and that that preaching is done by the power of the Spirit of God. We also see the importance of the Holy Spirit in prophecy. In (1 Peter 1:10) Isn't that interesting? Isn't that what all prophecy is? All prophecy predicting Christ is predicting grace. It's preaching the future coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. (1 Peter 1:11) Isaiah 53 I think is a perfect example of that, showing not only a reigning Savior, but a suffering Savior. And we can see the Holy Spirit's work in predicting all of that. It was the work of the Holy Spirit to produce the humanity of Christ. Now don't think by that statement that what I mean is that at the birth of Christ, Jesus came into existence. No, the deity of Christ was always the deity of Christ. He was eternally the Son of God. The Holy Spirit is not the Father of Christ. There's some false doctrines that have come out of this doctrinal statement, but it is the work of the Holy Spirit to produce the humanity of Christ. The Holy Spirit was involved in that miracle that took place. And the deity of Christ was all through His eternity, not just at His birth. And the Holy Spirit did cause the humanity of Christ to originate. Again, hard to understand. But we see the Virgin birth, and we see the miracle that took place and the Holy Spirit's role in that.

QUESTION 5

In the New Testament, the Holy Spirit works in the area of _____.

QUESTION 6

The Holy Spirit is _____ for men being able to prophesy.

QUESTION 7

The Holy Spirit was involved in the miracle of Jesus' _____.

Ministry in the Life of Christ

Then we also see the baptism of Christ. We see the Spirit working in this New Testament. The baptism of Christ. We see the descent of the Holy Spirit on Christ, and the whole being of Christ was under the influence of the anointing of the Spirit. You say, "How was it possible that Jesus, the Son, Who is fully God, Who is a member of the Trinity, could ever be a part of the Spirit?" Well, again it's a little complicated. I'm not standing here to be able to explain all the details to you, but I do know in (John 3:34), it says . . . this is talking about Jesus. The Spirit wasn't just given out a little bit to Christ, but the Spirit was given fully to Christ, and all His miracles and all He did was done with the power of the Spirit of God. Was it not the Holy Spirit that led Jesus out into the wilderness for the temptation? It was, right after the baptism of Christ, it was the Holy Spirit that led Jesus out to the wilderness. It is the Spirit that glorifies Christ. That's His job. In (John 16:13), The Spirit is just going to emphasize the glory of Jesus Christ, and if He is working in your life, and that's the primary job of the Spirit of God, won't that be the primary thing that we're doing? Shouldn't we be about trying to glorify God and glorify our Savior? Try to serve Him and obey Him in everything that He asks us to do? We should be about glorifying Christ, as the Holy Spirit is. And He's also a witness for Christ. It says in (Acts 5:30-32) What is the obedience? Believing Jesus died and rose again, and we have the Spirit of God. And by having the Spirit of God, we can witness to Christ. That's what the Spirit is doing.

Assignment:

- Memorize John 16:13-14

QUESTION 8

The Holy Spirit was present at the _____ of Jesus.

QUESTION 9

Jesus' miracles and works were performed in the _____ of the Spirit.

QUESTION 10

We should be about _____ Christ, as the Holy Spirit is.

Topic 2: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the World

The Spirit is giving ministry to the world, and the primary way the Spirit is giving ministry to the world is found in John 16:8. This is very interesting (John 16:8) this is the Comforter, the Holy Spirit . . . The

world is every person. The Holy Spirit is working in the life of every person. What is the Holy Spirit trying to do? Well it says here it's trying to convict the world. Convict: to reprove. That is, of sin, because they believe not on me. That is the sin that sends you to Hell. Your sins have been paid on the cross. The only thing that will send anyone to Hell is rejection of the gift of eternal life. The Holy Spirit is convicting everyone, reprovng the world of sin, because they believe not on me. Of righteousness . . . in other words, there's a coming day when there will be judgment. Of judgment . . . So we have the threefold conviction of the Holy Spirit upon the world. God wants all to be saved. Jesus died for all people. The Holy Spirit is convicting every person of the truth of the gospel, they need a Savior, they're sinners, that there is One that is righteous. There is coming judgment of those that don't believe. We are still responsible, but we are not ultimately the only ones at work here. All people are called to be saved. The Holy Spirit is working on all people. Another thing that the Holy Spirit does in ministry to the entire world. I guarantee you one thing: when the Rapture happens, what happens to this world? All the Christians are gone, but so is the Holy Spirit. Do you know the restraining influence of the Holy Spirit upon evil today? You say, "Yeah, look around." Yeah, but if the Holy Spirit was removed, can you imagine how bad it's going to get? If you don't have any idea, read the book of Revelation. When the Holy Spirit is gone from chapter 4 to chapter 22, bad, horrible things this world hasn't ever known will be happening because of sin. The Holy Spirit is doing a work at repressing evil because the Holy Spirit is here in the life of the believer. It says this in (2 Thessalonians 2:7). Satan is about working very hard. . . . There is a time when this Restrainer, the Holy Spirit, that does hold back evil will be removed. And I'm telling you, this is a time of distress that this world has never, ever known. We've seen raw evil and wickedness in this world. When that Restrainer is removed, it's impossible to estimate what the church on earth, governments, and society owes to the inhabiting influence of the Holy Ghost in the life of a believer. It will be a terrible, terrible time. And the Holy Spirit is doing this work today, even though you probably didn't quite realize it.

Assignment:

- Memorize 2 Thessalonians 2:7

QUESTION 11

The Holy Spirit works in the life of _____ person.

QUESTION 12

The Holy Spirit convicts unsaved people that they need a _____.

QUESTION 13

Right now the Holy Spirit is _____ evil in the world through the lives of believers.

QUESTION 14

The world owes much to the Restraining _____ of the Holy Spirit.

Topic 3: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Church

Then the fourth thing we'll look at, the ministry of the Holy Spirit to the church. The church began at Pentecost. Why? Because the Spirit of God came at that time. Pentecost was the Feast of Weeks. Pentecost was there to bless three classes of people: Israel was blessed at Pentecost, or the Feast of Weeks; another group are the poor; and another group are the strangers. So we see that that was part of the ritual of the Feast of Weeks, the Feast of Pentecost. And at the time of Pentecost, when people were entering Jerusalem from all over the world, there was this tremendous thing that took place—the baptism and the filling of the Holy Ghost. This is when the Spirit came. Jesus had to leave, and the Comforter would come. And it had been promised, and it happened on that day. The ministry of the Holy Spirit to the church. There is no power to witness without the Holy Spirit. We need the Holy Spirit when we go out to do the job of telling others about Christ. We need to have that prayer time beforehand. Even if it's a quiet prayer: "Dear Lord, Help me to be an influence to this person. Help me to convince this person of the truth of the gospel. Help this person to accept the gospel." The Spirit of God is the One that is doing that, and we need to be in the power of the Spirit when we are witnessing. That's what the Holy Spirit does in the church. The power of the Christian life comes from obedience. Through obedience the Spirit abides in us and in the church. Look at 1 Corinthians 3. It says in (1 Corinthians 3:16-17) That is one of the greatest reasons why we need to live lives that are holy, that are pure, because we are the body, the temple of the Holy Spirit dwells in us. And we need to be aware of that. The Spirit abides in the church through the Spirit living in the believer. And the Spirit builds the church. The Spirit of God is the One in (Ephesians 2:22) The Spirit of God is instrumental in so many ways. Maybe you didn't even know about it. Maybe you didn't even think about it, but now you know. Now we need to thank God for all of these things, and trust Him more to do these works. All Christian service is by the exercise of spiritual gifts, and those spiritual gifts are given by the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit appoints officers in the church. It says in (Acts 20:28) And when churches call pastors, they are praying to the Lord that the Lord would make sure this man, this family, is called of God to be in this church, to be the overseer, to be the pastor, to be in leadership. Who do you think helps? Who do you think does this? It's the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit directs the work of the church. There's several examples of this. In Acts 13, Paul and Barnabas were called by the Holy Spirit. In Acts 10, the Spirit instructed Peter to go unto the three men. And in 16, the Holy Spirit did not allow Paul to go. The Spirit stopped Paul from doing what he thought he should do. And so we see the Holy Spirit is involved in the work of the ministry, in the work of the church. the Christian can be aware of the Holy Spirit by reading the Word of God, by applying the Word of God, and through prayer.

QUESTION 15

The Holy Spirit's ministry to the church includes giving the power to _____.

QUESTION 16

The power of the Christian life comes from _____.

QUESTION 17

The fact that the Holy Spirit _____ us should drive us to live pure lives.

QUESTION 18

The Christian can be aware of the Holy Spirit by _____ and _____ the Word of God.

Topic 4: The Ministry of the Holy Spirit to the Believer

Now we find another interesting work or ministry of the Holy Spirit. This is related to the indwelling for the presence of the Holy Spirit constitutes this seal. Some people say, “The Holy Spirit is sealing you.” Well, technically God the Father is the One that seals the believer. And I tell you, if you don’t understand this doctrine, you won’t understand the security that you have. Salvation is not based upon your performance or your emotions. Salvation is based upon a fact. Did you believe that Jesus died for you and paid for your sins? Did you believe in Him? Have you trusted in Him and Him alone? That’s salvation. It’s a fact. So anytime you have any doubts about that, go back to that fact. Go back to that fact. If you’re unsure about that date, if you were a child and you’re just not sure, ask yourself the question, “Right now, who am I trusting to go to Heaven?” [If it is] the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are secure for all eternity. There’s wonder in that. Now what makes this work is this sealing of the Holy Spirit. It’s almost like this wax seal, the impression on something that would guarantee it, and that could not be changed. It could not be changed. It’s a legal term. We see God the Father does the sealing, but it’s the presence of the Holy Spirit that makes the seal. In other words, He is the seal. If you have the Spirit of God in you, you have the seal. And if you’ve trusted in Christ, you have the Spirit of God in you. So it says in (2 Corinthians 1:21) We’ll talk about the earnest in a second, of the Spirit, but the seal of the Holy Spirit is Himself. (Ephesians 1:13) Isn’t that neat? That just happened, whether you knew it or not. We don’t have to explain that to you. You don’t have to ask for the Holy Spirit to seal you. It happens. It’s part of the Holy Spirit’s work. He’s in the background. You’re putting your trust in Christ. You have salvation, and the Holy Spirit indwells you, and that is the seal, the mark that you are now owned by God. You’re now a child of God. The significance of the seal is this: the person who does the sealing is responsible for that which is sealed. You’re not responsible now. You put your faith in God, and now He has sealed you, and now He’s responsible to get you all the way to Heaven. When we’re sealed, it’s a sign of ownership from God of us. It is our identification for the future. The next verse in (Ephesians 1:14) If you sold a house, you probably—or buy, bought a house, you probably know what earnest is. Earnest, we’ll talk about that in a moment. But this sealing signifies the security of the believer. The believer is sealed unto the day of redemption. That’s the day when we’ll be in Glory with God for all eternity. Nothing can change that. It’s a finished transaction. If you look up Jeremiah 32:10 to kind of get an idea what a seal does in a legal transaction. It’s very important to have that seal. And you all have probably seen a notary, where you actually stamp something on the page, and it’s a part of the legal process. And you need to have this.

Assignment:

- Memorize Ephesians 1:13-14

QUESTION 19

The presence of the Holy Spirit constitutes the _____ of God the Father.

QUESTION 20

The sealing of the Holy Spirit comes _____ at the time of salvation.

QUESTION 21

The One (God the Father) Who does the sealing is _____ for that which is sealed (the believer.)

QUESTION 22

The seal of the Holy Spirit signifies the _____ of believer.

The Earnest of the Spirit

And then we come to the earnest of the Spirit. The earnest of the Spirit is the presence of the Spirit. Well, the earnest in this, in salvation, is the presence of the Holy Spirit. Here's some illustrations of earnest of the Spirit that we can look at. In Genesis 24, the gifts that were given to Rebekah were proof that would indicate what was to come, what was to follow. We see in Numbers 13 the 12 spies, they brought the fruit from Canaan. That was the earnest of what was to be expected in the land. Just a small portion, a small illustration of something substantive that is going to show the greatness of what is to come. Ruth 2, the handful of grain that Boaz left in the field was an earnest of what was to come. Ruth was to join Boaz and become part of what he was doing, and being married to him. And be in the lineage of Jesus Christ. Leviticus 23, the first fruits of the harvest was an earnest of the future harvest with all of the grains and all the fruits. Jesus gives the Spirit of God as an earnest, a guarantee, of the earnest. The resurrection guarantees our resurrection. It guarantees our inheritance. Your inheritance is sure. Your bodily resurrection to glory is sure. It guarantees our glory, our glorification. We read about the glory of Christ. Well, we will be glorified as well. Not like that, but in a real similar way. The Holy Spirit guarantees all of this, because He's the earnest. And then we come to the filling of the Spirit. How does the Holy Spirit minister in your life and in my life? I believe this is the most important thing that we can know about the Holy Spirit. This is practical. This has to do with the life and work of the Christian. This has to do with the power that enables us to do what God wants us to do. It's a hard thing to always do what God wants us to do. The believer is commanded, look at (Ephesians 5:18). Wine, intoxicant drink, influences us in harmful ways. Don't be filled with that kind of stuff. We have something far greater that won't give you a hangover, and you won't want to look at yourself in the mirror the next day. Be filled with this. Be influenced. That's what filled means. As alcohol influences the person, so should the Spirit influence us and we should be filled with the Spirit. We're commanded to be filled with the Spirit. This is different than being baptized by the Spirit. When is the believer to be filled? The believer is to be filled when he yields. When he yields—when you say, “Lord, do this. Do this in me.” That is when you will be filled. To be spiritual means “Spirit-filled.” When you read about someone spiritual, you read about someone that is Spirit-filled, influenced by the Holy Spirit. Being spiritual is a daily deed in your life. It's not just something that happens one time. This is daily. We always need to say something like this, “Lord, do what You want with my life today.” Try that before or after the mirror tomorrow morning. “Do what You want with my life today.” Why does a believer need to be filled? Because there is no power without being filled. Prayer is seeking out God's will. In (Acts 4:31) What's the result of being filled with the Spirit? It's going to reproduce Christ in your life. You will be more like Him. People will see a difference in your life. You will be a conviction to the world. Your very life will be a conviction of what is wrong in other people's lives. I think that's part of how the Holy Spirit suppresses evil in the world. It's because believers are all over the place, and the Holy Spirit is there. The results of being filled will be a tremendous love for the Word. If you don't have a real love for the Word of God, you're finding it hard to make sure you're reading it every day, it's not that you have to try harder to read every day; it's that you need to be yielding to God. You need to be yielding to the Spirit and being filled with power. You will be full of life. It will be evident so clearly.

QUESTION 23

The earnest of the Spirit is the _____ of the Spirit.

QUESTION 24

The filling of the Spirit does not come _____ for the believer.

QUESTION 25

Being filled with the Spirit is _____ than being baptized by the Spirit.

QUESTION 26

The power in the life of the believer comes from being _____ with the Spirit.

Contrast Between Baptism of the Spirit and Filling of the Spirit

Now let's look at the differences between the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit. There are groups that get this really wrong. They believe the baptism of the Spirit happens sometime after salvation, and you have to get all emotional, and then it comes, and then you start speaking in tongues as evidence. That's all wrong, and we'll talk about that more next time. Let's look at the contrast between the baptism of the Spirit and the filling of the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit deals with the body of believers. You are baptized into the body of Christ, indwelt by the Spirit of God. You're sealed until the day of redemption. That's what happens at salvation, and that's for the body. The filling of the Spirit deals with you individually, and me individually. Every believer has the baptism of the Spirit. But not every believer is filled with the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit is outside. It's external. This is the Spirit placing you into the body of Christ. The filling of the Spirit is internal; it's inside. We have no exhortation to be baptized by the Spirit of God. Nowhere in Scripture does it tell us to be baptized, because it happens at salvation. It happens automatically. But we are commanded to be filled with the Spirit, just like our verse. Baptism of the Spirit happens at the time of salvation; being filled with the Spirit might happen years later. Hopefully not, but it could happen. Baptism of the Spirit happens one time; the filling of the Spirit happens many times. The baptism of the Spirit places the member as a member of the body, and the filling of the Spirit is necessary for service and rewards. You want to reap rewards in Heaven at the Judgment Seat? Be sure you're filled with the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit establishes your standing, and I love this one—the filling of the Spirit improves our standing.

QUESTION 27

The Baptism of the Spirit deals with the body of _____.

QUESTION 28

The filling of the Spirit deals with the _____ believer.

Fruit of the Spirit and Walking in the Spirit

Let's talk about the Fruit of the Spirit. You've read (John 15:5). We all ought to yearn for the fruit of the Spirit in our life. Not just one fruit, or two. Oh, you know, three or four. No, we should want every fruit of the Spirit. We are engrafted. The branch sends its root down into the vine. The vine sends sap up into the branch. Life comes from the vine. Fruit comes from being attached to the vine. The Father, the Husbandman, will prove the vine so it will bring forth much fruit. Now how is the Holy Spirit involved in this? The work of the Holy Spirit provides a vital life and service which only God can achieve. It is the responsibility of the Holy Spirit to bring the whole will of God to realization in the life of the believer. The fruit of the Spirit is not to produce some of the graces, and we'll read them real quickly in (Galatians 5:22-23). We all should be familiar with these. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance. We shouldn't want to just be producing one, or two, or three; we should want all of the graces, all of the fruit of the Spirit as evidence in our life. Why? Because these are the characteristics of God. The characteristics of God become ours as we walk in the Spirit. What is walking in the Spirit? Walking in the Spirit . . . How does the Holy Spirit help me? How does the Holy Spirit minister in my life? How does the Holy Spirit work in the New Testament, in the Church, in the life of the believer? (Galatians 5:16) says . . . There were people, called the Judaizers, they were the legalists that were telling people "Follow the law to live the Christian life." They were actually saying the Law was part of salvation, which we totally reject. We also reject the notion of "Following the law will help you live the Christian life." Notice what Galatians 5:16 does not say, "Do not fulfill the lusts of the flesh, and then you'll walk in the Spirit. It's the opposite of that. If you walk in the Spirit, you will not fulfill the lusts of the flesh. That is what comes first, and that is how we can have victory over those things that plague us. The passage literally means, "Walk by means of the Spirit." Victory over the flesh can only come by reliance on the Holy Spirit. Here we find some other ministries of [walking] in the Spirit, and some other outcomes that we read about We'll read about renewing of the Holy Ghost, the renewing of the Holy Spirit, the strengthening of the Spirit; we read about the sowing to the Spirit to the Spirit, the leading of the Spirit. All of these things are tied together with walking and with being filled with the Spirit.

QUESTION 29

The goal of the believer should be to see _____ of the Fruits of the Spirit produced in his life.

QUESTION 30

Walking in the Spirit comes _____ not fulfilling the lusts of the flesh, not the other way around.