

investigating the reality of the Spirit
GHOST STORIES

WEEK 1: *POWER & PERSONHOOD*

WEEK 2: PLUNGING INTO GOD

Week 3: *Gifts of Grace*

Week 4: *Being Filled With God*

INTRODUCTION – Being “Haunted” By God

Psalm 139; Acts 17:28; John 16:8-11

The Anointing & Baptism of the Holy Spirit

The Anointing...

2 Corinthians 1:21-22; 1 John 2:20 & 27

The Promise...

Mark 1:8

The Fulfillment...

1 Corinthians 12:13

The Energy-Draining Mistake

Spiritual energy and attention can be easily drained away by the mistaken belief that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is something believers experience at some point *AFTER* becoming a Christian and therefore that believers must pursue, invite, or wait to experience something they have already experienced. Significantly, the New Testament writers NEVER encourage Christians to seek the baptism of the Holy Spirit (unlike many Christian teachers today). Instead they remind believers to look back on their experience of the Spirit and be encouraged by it.

We should _____ the apostles' teaching,
not _____ the apostles' experience.

THE APOSTLES' EXPERIENCE – A TIME OF TRANSITION



I) ACTS 1-2 – PENTECOST

Q: But didn't the 120 have to wait to be baptized in the Holy Spirit?

A: Yes, because they were the transitional disciples, following Jesus both before and after Pentecost. But notice that their experience does not set the pattern for what follows. Post-Pentecost, the Christian norm is the experience of the 3,000, not the 120.

II) ACTS 8:14-17 – THE “SAMARITAN PENTECOST”

Q: But didn't the Samaritan converts receive the Holy Spirit subsequent to conversion?

A: Yes, according to the text they did not even “receive” the Spirit at conversion, but only when the Apostles came to witness and bless their conversion. No Christians today believe this is a strictly normative pattern. Why the delay then? This was the first time the Gospel was proclaimed and received outside Jerusalem. Perhaps God wanted the Jewish Apostles to personally witness, endorse, and celebrate the fulfillment of **Joel 2:28-29**.

III) ACTS 19:1-6 – PAUL AND THE EPHESIAN CONVERTS

Q: But didn't the Ephesian disciples receive the Spirit after their conversion?

A: No, they “received” the Spirit at the point of their conversion, as this passage records. Before then they were disciples of John, not Jesus.

TAKE OUT #1:

The DESCRIPTIVE parts of Scripture (e.g., Acts) should be interpreted in light of the DIDACTIC parts (e.g., the Epistles).

TAKE OUT #2:

When you put your faith in Jesus you are _____ into God, _____ in his love, _____ in his Spirit, making you a valued member of Christ's body on earth. (1 Corinthians 12:13)

TAKE OUT #3:

Water baptism is a graphic, enacted _____ of Spirit baptism and should become believers' _____ demonstration of faith.

CONCLUSION – What Is The Spirit Telling You?

Romans 8:15-16

For further study, see *Baptism & Fullness*, by John R. W. Stott

HOME CHURCH QUESTIONS

WARMING UP...

1. Use your notes to review this week's message. Talk about what points most challenged, perplexed, or encouraged you. Take your time and be thorough. This week's “Look to the Book” will move us on to new things to prepare for next Sunday.

LOOK TO THE BOOK...

2. Read **1 Corinthians 14:1-19**, taking time to read it through in different translations if possible. a) What verse or idea stands out to you the most? Why? b) How is the gift of tongues talked about in this passage different from the tongues given to the Apostles at Pentecost (**Acts 2**)? c) Why does Paul consider prophecy a superior gift to tongues? d) We often say that the spirituality of Jesus is “relentlessly relational” and that his teachings move us toward becoming increasingly “other centred” (which is different than some other religions' approach to personal spirituality). How does Paul's point in **verse 12** demonstrate this idea?

SO WHAT?...

3. What is one thing you could change in your life this week to better practice the principle of **verse 12**? Pray for each other concerning this.

Bruxy Cavey @ THE MEETING HOUSE – Sunday, October 8 & 15, 2006