

THE FLORAL HEIGHTS INFORMER

www.floralheightschurchofchrist.org

26 October 2008
VOLUME 8; ISSUE 43

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Bible Facts about the Holy Spirit

Part V

Given the Holy Spirit

REVIEW of Part I (Identity), II (Work), III (Indwelling), and IV (Baptism) of the Holy Spirit:

The Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) is an individual within the godhead (*theios*) and recognized in the scriptures as **deity** (Acts 5:3-4). The Holy Spirit has a distinct **work** in the sanctification of man by the Word of God (Jn. 16:8ff). The man or woman whose paths in life are guided by the word of God is said to have the **indwelling** of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:4, 9, 14; Gal. 3:1-2; 5:15-18). We also discussed **baptism of the Holy Spirit**. Baptism of the Holy Spirit occurred in the lives of the apostles so that God's power would be made manifest and their message confirmed as divine revelation (Mk. 16:20). Today's article will examine the following question, "What does it mean to be **given the Holy Spirit**?"

Preliminary Statements

The phrase, "**given the Holy Spirit**" is used a multitude of times in the New Testament. The apostle Peter, while on trial by the Sanhedrin Council for preaching in the name of Christ, uses this phrase. Peter said, "*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew, hanging him on a tree. Him did God exalt with his right hand to be a Prince and a Savior, to give repentance to Israel, and remission of sins. And we are witnesses of these things; and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him*" (Acts 5:30-32). Those who **obeyed** the command to confess Christ, repent of sins committed, and be baptized for the remission of sins are those who have been "given" the Holy Spirit (see Acts 2:22-47). What we must do to determine the full meaning of this phrase is to examine all associate passages and contexts where this is used.

An Inseparable Connection to the Work and Indwelling of the Holy Spirit:

The **work of the Holy Spirit** is the sanctification of mankind through the Word of God (Jn. 16:8ff). The word of God convicts

Local News:

Welcome to all our visitors:

We pray that you will be edified by our service and that you will ask questions if things are not as you are accustomed to seeing. Please do come back at your every opportunity!

Pam Husak will be having surgery on her left wrist this Wednesday October 29th. Please remember her in your prayers.

We are sad to announce that **Manuel Ruiz** did not qualify for parole this month. His next review date is September 2010.

Bible Studies: We now have 11 men in prison studying through the mail. We also began a new study with a person from Arkansas (Travis Pyle is studying with this person). Additionally, John is currently involved in a written debate with a Baptist preacher here in Wichita Falls. Please keep these studies in your prayers.

Continue to pray for our shut-ins:

Stella Davidson
696-1030 (Home)

Calvin York
692-0489 (Home).

Bessie Murphy
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sinners of wrong doing and drives them to seek or call out to Him for help (Acts 2:21). Luke tells us that all who would **seek** out God's gifts of salvation shall be given the Holy Spirit (Lk. 11:10, 13). The one who seeks the very truths the Holy Spirit delivered will be given the Holy Spirit; i.e., the truths he or she seeks.

Those who seek and call out to God for help when convicted of sins find help in the instructions of truth. When man is guided by truth to their spiritual health they are deemed to have the **indwelling of the Holy Spirit** (Rom. 8:1-14). This indwelling is something "given" by God through His word (see I Jn. 4:13).

We may now begin to connect some pieces of our puzzle. The **Holy Spirit is given to those who obey** God's word (Acts 5:32), **seek** out God's help through His word (Lk. 11:10, 13), and are **guided** by His word (Rom. 8 and I Jn. 4:13). Those who are given the Holy Spirit are those who **receive** the word of God as truth and they apply His principles and laws in their lives (see Jn. 14:15-17; Acts 15:6-9; II Cor. 1:22; 5:5; I Thess. 4:7-8; Heb. 6:4-5). While the Holy Spirit is not the Word of God, He is nonetheless metonymically equivalent to the word of God much like the name of Christ is at Colossians 1:25-27.

How are people "given the Holy Spirit?"

To summarize the above statements we find that those who receive the word of God as truth, seek its truths out, obey it, and are guided in life by it are those who have received the Holy Spirit. I make the presence of the Holy Spirit in my life evident to others by my speech and practices. You and I have been given the Holy Spirit when we accept, believe, and practice God's truths.

Why is the Holy Spirit not given to Some?

When Jesus spoke in parables his disciples asked him why he did this. Jesus replied saying, "*Unto you it is **given** to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is **not given**. For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that which he hath*" (Matt. 13:10-12). Jesus goes on to talk about their hardened hearts and lack of desire at Matthew 13:13-17. Those hardened in sin hear the gospel yet do not believe (Acts 28:23ff). Said people are not interested (Acts 2:12) and thereby they are unable to know truth (I Cor. 2:6-16). Not only do they voluntarily not know truth but they will not subject themselves to the laws of God (Rom. 8:7). The Holy Spirit is simply "*not given*" to them because they have "resisted" Him. God will twist no man's arm. He offers His comforter (the Holy Spirit) to those who would hear, believe, and obey.

The Christian and Civil Government

I. The Authority of Civil Government

- a. John 19: 10 - 11

II. What do we do if a government is oppressive or acting in an unrighteous way?

- a. Romans 13: 1 – 7

III. Do we have to pay taxes if we don't agree with what the government is doing with the money?

- a. Romans 13: 6 – 7
- b. Matthew 17: 24 – 27

IV. Do we have to be obedient to the government?

- a. Romans 13: 5
- b. I Peter 2: 13-14
- c. Titus 3: 1-2

V. Is it right to pray for the leaders of a corrupt country?

- a. I Timothy 2: 1- 3

VI. Can I work for a corrupt government?

- a. Luke 3: 11 – 14

VII. Is there anytime I can disobey the government?

- a. Acts 5: 17 – 29

VIII. Conclusion:

The duties placed on Christians toward their earthly governments are clear and simple. We are to be subject to governing authorities. We are to pay what is due in taxes and respect, and pray for all those in positions of authority. A very simple principle that is followed throughout this lesson is , so long as the government to which you are in subjection to does not command you to disobey Gods word then we have a duty to obey the governing authority. When it comes to insurrection, rebellion, an ungodly government to an oppressive government the fact remains that you have the responsibility to be in subjection to that government. The only exception that exists is if there is a requirement by the government to disobey God and if that is the case God is the ultimate authority and when that is the case then we must obey God rather than men.