

Dear Friend,

Many times, over the years, I have been asked the question as to whether a born-again person has the Holy Spirit. When I press a little deeper as to what they mean it often comes down to one of two questions.

1. Is the reborn human spirit actually the Holy Spirit?
2. Or ... is a born-again person automatically "filled with" or "baptized in" the Holy Spirit when they are converted?

You probably already know the information in this letter, but I thought it might be good for you to have this teaching in a format that you could save so you can make a copy of it to give to friends in the future if they are struggling along this line. As always, the only source of truth is the Word of God. I believe both of these questions can be easily answered by looking first at the life of Jesus. After all, the book of Hebrews tells us that Jesus is the author and finisher of our faith.

**Hebrews 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.**

The life that we receive when we are born again is the very same life that Jesus was conceived with in the womb of Mary. The little embryo was alive because the Holy Spirit imparted the very life of God into Mary's womb.

**Luke 1:34-35 Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? (35) 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.**

The Holy Ghost came upon Mary, and the power of the Highest imparted new life into her womb. The body of Jesus grew within her womb from that moment on. The body was alive because there was a living spirit within it.

**James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.**

Let us pause for a moment and take note that the living spirit within Christ was not the same spirit as the Holy Ghost. It was the Holy Ghost that came upon Mary to impart that life within her, but it is obvious that the spirit within the embryo was alive, but separate, from the Holy Spirit.

That is one of the things that made Jesus different from every other person on planet earth. The life within Him did not originate from the first man Adam. If it had, he would have been born with a sin nature just like everybody else. No, the spirit within Jesus came directly from God. He was born righteous, with the very "life of God" within Him from the moment of conception.

That life empowered Him to walk above sin. The Bible is very clear that Jesus was tempted in all points just like we are, yet without sin.

**Hebrews 4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.**

His spirit came from God, but his body came from Mary ... which could be traced all the way back to Adam and Eve. His body was just like our bodies. His body was subject to temptation the same way ours is. What made Him so different? What gave Him the power to walk without sinning a single time His whole life? It was the power of righteousness contained within His spirit. Later on, Jesus would prophesy about those who would follow Him all the way into the new covenant ... that they would have the same life within them that He had, and that they would also be able to walk above sin because they would have the same "light of life" within them.

**John 8:12 Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**

The apostle Paul said the same thing when he wrote to the Romans concerning what it was that made them free from the law of sin and death. Paul referred to it as the "spirit of life in Christ Jesus."

**Romans 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.**

It was not the Holy Spirit that made Jesus free from sin. It was the power of righteousness within the "spirit of life" within Him. He was empowered to walk free from sin by the power of that life, and every born-again child of God is empowered to do the same because they also have the "light of life" within them.

It is important for us to know that Jesus walked sin free all of His life, but it is also important to notice He performed no miracles until after the day He was baptized by John in the Jordan River. Something happened on that day that gave Jesus more power than He ever had before.

**Matthew 3:13-17 Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be baptized of him. (14) But John forbad him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? (15) And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer *it to be so* now: for thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness. Then he suffered him. (16) And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: (17) And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.**

This is an amazing scene because we can identify all three members of the Godhead in it. We see the Son being baptized. We hear the voice of the Father speaking from heaven. We see the Holy Spirit descending like a dove upon Him. What an amazing sight. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit all portrayed at the same time, in this single passage. This is a great mystery because the Bible is very careful to teach us that there is only one God.

**Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God *is* one LORD:**

There is only ONE God, but He manifests Himself to us in three parts. This is a mystery our finite minds will never fully comprehend, but we must acknowledge the truth of it because God's Word declares it to be true.

God is one, yet we see absolutely the distinction between God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. They are separate entities, as seen in Matthew 3:13-17. The living spirit within Christ is distinct from the Holy Spirit who came upon Him.

As we read the four gospels, we see an amazing difference in the ministry of Jesus from that day forward. We see all sorts of miraculous healings and supernatural manifestations taking place through Him. Why? Because now His living, human spirit had been baptized, clothed upon, by God the Holy Spirit. Jesus told us exactly how He was doing the supernatural works:

**Luke 4:18-19 The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, (19) To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.**

Jesus could do all of those supernatural works because the "Spirit of the Lord was upon Him." Jesus, the human, and the Holy Spirit are two separate entities, co-laboring together to manifest the kingdom of God on earth.

I hope these passages make it clear that:

1. The living spirit within Jesus was different from the Holy Spirit upon Him.
2. Jesus was not born already having upon Him the baptism in the Holy Spirit.
  - a. That came during a separate event when He was thirty years old.

What about us? When we are born again, do we automatically receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit at that same moment? The answer is yes and no. In the household of Cornelius, the people who heard Peter preach the gospel received the baptism in the Holy Spirit at the same instant they believed the gospel.

**Acts 10:44-48 While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. (45) And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. (46) For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, (47) Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? (48) And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.**

I think that is God's best, and we should always strive to get people filled with the Holy Spirit immediately after they are born again. But the New Testament pattern shows that, for most people, they experience the new birth and the baptism in the Holy Spirit at separate times, just as Jesus did. He had the life of God from the moment of conception, but He did not receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit until He was thirty years old. Let's take the example of those who were born again under the ministry of Philip the evangelist.

**Acts 8:5-8 Then Philip went down to the city of Samaria, and preached Christ unto them. (6) And the people with one accord gave heed unto those things which Philip spake, hearing and seeing the miracles which he did. (7) For unclean spirits, crying with loud voice, came out of many that were possessed *with them*: and many taken with palsies, and that were lame, were healed. (8) And there was great joy in that city.**

**Acts 8:12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.**

Philip preached Christ unto them. They believed what Philip taught and were baptized in the name of Jesus Christ. By every definition I have ever heard of, these people were born again. But notice they were not yet baptized in the Holy Spirit.

**Acts 8:14-17** Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: (15) Who, when they were come down, **prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost:** (16) (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) (17) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.

This perfectly illustrates the fact that we do not usually get baptized in the Holy Ghost the moment we are born again. These people heard the gospel of Christ, they believed, and were baptized in the name of Jesus. They were born again. But the baptism in the Holy Spirit was a separate event for them, just like it was with Jesus.

The reborn human spirit is not the Holy Spirit. The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a separate event from being born again (even if it occurs almost simultaneously like at Cornelius' house.)

Your fellow servant for Christ,

*GARY*