

INTRO

We believe fully in the power of the Holy Spirit and our need of Him to walk out our daily life in Christ. We believe the expression of the Holy Spirit through gifts, signs and wonders and they continue today as they did in Scripture and did not cease to exist at the culmination of scripture, or the death of the Apostles.

We understand that our church has a unique heritage in that many at New River come from different theological backgrounds. The purpose of this paper is to help clarify our position on the Holy Spirit. Many churches and denominations have “distinctives” that are pillars of their beliefs and we believe this to be one of core beliefs of New River.

We encourage all of our church family to study on the Holy Spirit, pray, meditate on His Word, and seek the Lord asking Him to speak to you. Regardless of your background, you can begin a healthy dialogue about the Spirit, His gifts and how He operates in our lives. Ultimately we want everyone who calls New River home to have a better understanding of Scripture, and the Holy Spirit.

WHO IS THE HOLY SPIRIT?

The Holy Spirit is the third person of the Trinity that resides in us. Jesus promised us the Holy Spirit and He takes on several characteristics that help us in our journey of faith.

John 14:16-17 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

1) *He is our Advocate and Comforter*

John 14:25-26 But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.

2) *He is the one who gives us words to say*

Luke 12:11-12 When you are brought before the synagogues, rulers, and authorities, do not worry about how to defend yourselves or what to say. For at that time the Holy Spirit will teach you what you should say.

3) *He is Our Counselor*

John 16:8 When he comes, he will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgment: about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned.

4) *He is the one who gives us power*

Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.

WHEN DO WE RECEIVE HOLY SPIRIT?

1) *We receive the Holy Spirit as an indwelling in us at salvation.*

Ephesians 1:13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit

2) *We believe that all believers who profess Christ as their Lord have the Holy Spirit.*

Romans 8:9 You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE IN THE INDWELLING AND THE BAPTISM IN THE HOLY SPIRIT OR FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT?

Scripture clearly distinguishes between indwelling and filling. We believe all believers have the indwelling of the Spirit at salvation as stated above. We also see several examples of being “full of the Spirit” or being “filled with the Spirit”. In other words, receiving the fullness of the Spirit, to empower us to do things that are beyond our natural capacity.

Luke 1:15 for he will be great before the Lord. And he must not drink wine or strong drink, and he will be filled with the Holy Spirit, even from his mother’s womb.

Acts 4:8 Then Peter, filled with the Holy Spirit, said to them...

Acts 13:9 But Saul, who was also called Paul, filled with the Holy Spirit, looked intently at him.

Acts 13:52 And the disciples were filled with joy and with the Holy Spirit.

WHAT ARE SPIRITUAL “GIFTS”?

1 Corinthians 12:4-11 There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit a message of wisdom, to another a message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, to another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he distributes them to each one, just as he determines.

HOW ARE WE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT OR BAPTIZED IN THE SPIRIT?

1) *We ask and pray to receive it to be filled:*

Luke 11:13 If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

Acts 8:15-17 When they arrived, they prayed for the new believers there that they might receive the Holy Spirit, because the Holy Spirit had not yet come on any of them; they had simply been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. Then Peter and John placed their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Acts 10:44-45 While Peter was still speaking these words, the Holy Spirit came on all who heard the message. The circumcised believers who had come with Peter were astonished that the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out even on Gentiles.

WHERE DO WE GET HUNG UP?

The misuse and abuse of the manifested Gifts of the Spirit can sometimes cause confusion and division in the Church, especially in the realm of speaking in tongues and prayer languages, and we recognize this. We want to be clear that everything we teach, everything that we say is not out of our personal feelings or convictions but straight from scripture. We know that the Holy Spirit gave us a heavenly language that serves as an important aspect of our personal prayer life (praying in the Spirit) as well as an outward expression where interpretation is necessary to build up the Church (the Gift of Prophecy and Gift of Interpretation). For clarity, all people can have a prayer language, but all people may not have a prophetic gift or the gift of interpretation.

1) *Personal prayer language*

1 Corinthians 14:1-4 For anyone who speaks in a tongue does not speak to people but to God. Indeed, no one understands them; they utter mysteries by the Spirit. But the one who prophesies speaks to people for their strengthening, encouraging and comfort. Anyone who speaks in a tongue edifies themselves.

1 Corinthians 14:14-15 For if I pray in a tongue, my spirit prays, but my mind is unfruitful. So what shall I do? I will pray with my spirit, but I will also pray with my understanding; I will sing with my spirit, but I will also sing with my understanding.

Jude 20 But dear friends, build yourselves up in your most holy faith and pray in the Holy Spirit.

Ephesians 6:18 And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests.

2) *Outward Expression (Prophecy and Interpretation)*

1 Corinthians 14:4-13 The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church. Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up. Now, brothers, if I come to you speaking in tongues, how will I benefit you unless I bring you some revelation or knowledge or prophecy or teaching? If even lifeless instruments, such as the flute or the harp, do not give distinct notes, how will anyone know what is played? And if the bugle gives an indistinct sound, who will get ready for battle? So with yourselves, if with your tongue you utter speech that is not intelligible, how will anyone know what is said? For you will be speaking into the air. There are doubtless many different languages in the world, and none is without meaning, but if I do not know the meaning of the language, I will be a foreigner to the speaker and the speaker a foreigner to me. So with yourselves, since you are eager for manifestations of the Spirit, strive to excel in building up the church. Therefore, one who speaks in a tongue should pray that he may interpret.

3) *Evidence of Baptism of the Holy Spirit*

In some denominations and churches, speaking in tongues is the only evidence of being Baptized in the Holy Spirit. We believe there are multiple evidences of being filled with the Holy Spirit and they are unique to the individual. Previously we referenced 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 as a reference point. These evidences fall in line with the Equipping Ministry model we use according to Ephesians 4:11 (Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers)

CONCLUSION

Our prayer is that every person experiences the fullness of God's Glory on a personal level. We believe that the only way to experience this is through His manifested presence by the filling of Holy Spirit in them. We pray that each person uses their Gifting as the Holy Spirit leads them to edify The Church. We also know that there are many mysteries (1 Corinthians 2:6-7) that we will not fully know until we meet Him in Heaven. Until then, we will continue to seek Him and ask for wisdom.