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# Purpose of the Holy Spirit (The Introduction)

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Growing in the Spirit of God

Pastor Wil Nichols

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***Sermon: Growing in the Spirit of God: Purpose of the Holy Spirit (The Introduction)***

***Current Series Messages:***

- Theme Scripture: John 14: <sup>26</sup> **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.**
- Subject: **Grow Up or Swell Up** (Perfectured / Infected):
  - Learn the Spirit by Walking by Faith
  - Know the Spirit by Knowing the Word
  - Use the Spirit by Stirring up the Power

***Lesson Text***

Acts 1:4–5 (AV)<sup>4</sup> And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.** <sup>5</sup> **For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

Acts 2:1–4 (AV)<sup>1</sup> And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

Luke 11:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

***Introduction***

When it comes to the Holy Spirit, most of us have questions. These questions exist whether we are a new babe in Christ or have been saved for years.

What is the Holy Spirit? What is the role of the Holy Spirit? What are the characteristics of the Holy Spirit? What is the purpose of the gifts and the fruit of the Spirit? How do you receive the Holy Spirit? Do you have to speak in tongues? Can you lose the Holy Spirit? What does it mean to be filled with the Holy Spirit?

But before we begin to answer the many questions concerning the Holy Spirit, we must first understand the purpose of the Holy Spirit. If we don't understand the purpose, then any answers we obtain will be unfounded and possibly invalid.

For example, if you think that the purpose of a hammer is to kill flies, then any knowledge you develop concerning the use of the hammer will be wrong. It's not that you can't kill flies with a hammer, but that is not its true purpose. Not only will the wrong purpose make you ineffective in killing flies, you may hurt others in your feeble attempt to kill flies.

This is what I believe has happen to too many people in the Church. They have been hurt because of the misuse and even sometimes abuse of the Holy Spirit.

## Purpose of the Holy Spirit (The Introduction)

Page 2 of 5 (January 13, 2019)

The Holy Spirit has been used as something one must work or earn, or as a litmus test to prove a spiritual status. Some have claim to have the holy spirit, but had another spirit. All of which has resulted to people being hurt, becoming spiritual stunted, being spiritually misused or abused, or just giving up on God altogether.

The true purpose of the Holy Spirit can be revealed from his name. And yes I did say his name. The Holy Spirit is a person, not a thing. Notice the use of the pronoun “He” in scripture.

Luke 11:13 (AV)<sup>13</sup> **If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

Now when we look at his name, “Holy Spirit”, we see his purpose revealed. Holy means to be set apart, separated, or sanctified. Spirit is wind or breath, an invisible power that causes movement and change. **So then the Holy Spirit is the invisible power of the Godhead that separates (sanctifies) us from the world of sin, and moves us to Christ so that we become like him.**

When we don’t understand the true purpose of the Holy Spirit and properly utilize Him, then not only are people spiritually misused and abused, we as the Body of Christ don’t Grow; that is we are not separated from sin, and are not moved closer to Christ.

We will explore this in more detail in next week’s sermon, but today we to explore the purpose of the Holy Spirit from the perspective of how he was introduced to us; and how that introduction can become a hinderance to our spiritual growth.

### ***Series and Sermon: Growing in the Spirit of God: Purpose of the Holy Spirit (The Introduction)***

“Tarrying, Receiving, and Demonstrating the Holy Spirit”

#### ***I. Tarring for the Holy Spirit (Wait not Work)***

Acts 1:4–5 (AV)<sup>4</sup> And, being assembled together with *them*, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but **wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me.** <sup>5</sup> **For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence.**

How many of you who came from a Pentecostal or holiness background remember tarrying for the Holy Ghosts? A process in which one would fast, pray, sit on the alter, seek God until they received the Holy Ghost. Perhaps a praise service where you ask God over and over to fill you!

And they didn’t release you until you demonstrated that you had it by speaking in tongues.

There was some good in this process (prayer, fasting, dedication, devotion, seeking), but based on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Chapter of Acts, the process that we morphed it into was not biblical.

But they made us feel that if we simply working hard enough, fasting and prayer long enough, we would eventually receive the Holy Spirit.

**The Purpose of Tarring was not to Work and Earn the Holy Spirit, but to Wait on Him.**

## Purpose of the Holy Spirit (The Introduction)

Page 3 of 5 (January 13, 2019)

God doesn't tell us to earn him, but he does teach us to wait on him. The Holy Spirit is not a reward we get for work and effort, Jesus told us that he was a promise for us to wait on.

John 14: <sup>26</sup> **But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send ...**

Acts 1: <sup>4</sup> ... but **wait for the promise of the Father, ...**

Throughout scripture we are taught to wait on the Lord

Psalms 27:14 (AV) <sup>14</sup> Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.

Isaiah 40: <sup>31</sup> But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew *their* strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

### ***II. Receiving the Holy Spirit (Introduction not Instruction)***

Acts 2: <sup>1</sup> And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. <sup>2</sup> And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. <sup>3</sup> And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them.

Many people have used the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter of Acts as instructions for receiving the Holy Spirit. Specifically, the 4<sup>th</sup> verse.

Acts 2: <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The disciples did receive the Holy Spirit, but this was not instructions, it was an introduction.

### **The Purpose of Receiving was not Instructions on how to get the Holy Spirit, but an Introduction to the Holy Spirit**

The Day of Pentecost, a sound from heaven, a rushing mighty wind, cloven tongues of fire in Acts 2 was not instructions on how we receive the Holy Spirit, it was how God introduced the Holy Spirit to mankind.

Today the Holy Spirit doesn't just show up on the Day of Pentecost, we don't experience a rushing mighty wind unless we're outside, I've not seen tongues of fire; but they did!

In chapter one, Jesus told his disciples to wait, and now the wait is over; and he is here!

To receive the Holy Spirit today, we don't tarry and wait on him, we Ask and Receive Him.

Luke 11:13 (AV) <sup>13</sup> **If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall *your* heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?**

We don't have to work for it, fast for it, live righteous for it, become deserving for, become justified for it; we simply have to ask for it!

Matthew 7:7 (AV) <sup>7</sup> **Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:**

### ***III. Demonstrating the Holy Spirit (Evidence not Litmus)***

Acts 2: <sup>4</sup> And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

The Purpose of the Holy Spirit during the Introduction

- To Wait on the Promise of the Holy Spirit
- To Ask and Receive the Holy Spirit
- To Receive and Demonstrate the Holy Spirit

Many Christians when referring to receiving the Holy Spirit will use Acts 2:4 as the evidence that one has truly received the Him. The main reason being because this is what happened to the disciples.

Although speaking in tongues is evidence of being filled with the Holy Spirit, it is not the only evidence. When we make it the only evidence, we make it a litmus test.

But the purpose of the demonstration of the Holy Spirit was never meant to be a litmus test to prove that we have him, but simply evidence that we have him.

Demonstrates himself through Witnessing:

Acts 1:8 (AV)<sup>8</sup> **But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.**

Demonstrates himself through Prayer:

Romans 8:26 (AV)<sup>26</sup> Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.

Demonstrates himself through Power:

Luke 10:19 (AV)<sup>19</sup> **Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.**

Demonstrates himself through Holiness:

1 Peter 1:16 (AV)<sup>16</sup> Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

## Midweek Study Lesson Plan (Sermon: Purpose of the Holy Spirit (The Introduction))

### Study Tools:

- Sermon Video & Notes: <https://victoriouspraise.org/>
- Bibles, Commentaries, Dictionaries: <https://biblehub.com/tools.htm>
- Book Source: The Complete Guide To Understanding The Holy Spirit: <https://victoriouspraise.org/product/complete-guide-understanding-holy-spirit>

### Lesson Text

- Acts 1:4–5, Acts 2:1–4, Luke 11:13

### Sermon Outline

- *Tarring for the Holy Spirit (Wait not Work)*
- *Receiving the Holy Spirit (Introduction not Instruction)*
- *Demonstrating the Holy Spirit (Evidence not Litmus)*

### Questions

#### I. Getting to Know “Me”

1. When you are truly relaxing, which of the following are you most likely to be doing? *a. Reading/Writing b. Hanging out with Friends c. Watching a movie or television show d. Playing a game or sport e. Shopping/Chores*
2. What did you find most enlightening in this Sunday’s sermon about the Holy Spirit?

#### II. Into the Bible

1. How long did the disciples wait after Jesus ascending into heaven before the Holy Spirit came?
2. What is the significance of the Day of Pentecost?
3. What is the biblical meaning of Joel 2:28, “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions:?” Does the Lord mean he’s going to give his Spirit to everyone? Reference your answer with scripture.

#### III. Life Application

1. What can you do to determine if you’re trying to earn the Holy Spirit as opposed to receiving the Holy Spirit?
2. How can you allow the Holy Spirit to evidence Himself through you in your everyday life?

### Prayer

- **Prayer Request:**
- **Personal Prayer:**