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Focus

for  
Teens



# Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“Spirit Baptism” – December 1, 2013

Lesson – “The Promise”

Scriptures – Acts 1:4-5; 2:16-18, 38-39

## Introduction to lesson

Everyday, people say one thing but then do another. They make promises that they will never keep. Although man’s word is unreliable, God’s Word is trustworthy. He will do all he has promised in his Word. The baptism with the Holy Ghost is the Father’s promise to every believer. Jesus said, “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?” (Lu. 11:13). The Father desires to give the gift of his Spirit to his children. We can be sure he will fulfill his promise and give his Spirit to all who ask and believe. God is faithful and true; he will keep his promises.

**Key Verse:** “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call” (Acts 2:39).

## Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Why did Jesus command his disciples to remain in Jerusalem (Ac. 1:4)?
- ✚ From whom did the disciples hear the promise (v. 4)?
- ✚ What was the promise of the Father that Jesus taught to his disciples (v. 5)?
- ✚ When the disciples were baptized with the Holy Ghost on the day of Pentecost, what did Peter say that this experience was fulfilling (Ac. 2:16)?
- ✚ When would Joel’s prophecy take place (v. 17)?
- ✚ What is God pouring out in these last days (vv. 17-18)?
- ✚ On the day of Pentecost, Peter preached to the multitude about Jesus Christ and his promise of the Holy Ghost. Who is ready to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (v. 38)?
- ✚ To whom did the Lord make this promise (v. 39)?

**Think about it:** When the Holy Ghost was poured out on the church according to the Word of God, Peter understood that the baptism with the Holy Ghost was God’s promise to every believer, even to all future generations (Ac. 2:38-39). Therefore, every believer should pray and seek to be baptized with the Holy Ghost – the promise of the Father. Are you trusting in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, have you been baptized with the Holy Ghost? As a born-again believer, pray to be sanctified, and seek to be baptized with the Holy Ghost – this great promise of the Father.

Sunday  
School  
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Zion Assembly Church of God

Writer: Todd D. McDonald

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## Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“Spirit Baptism” – December 8, 2013

Lesson – “Outpouring of the Spirit”

Scriptures – Ac. 1:4, 12-15; Ac. 2:1

### Introduction to lesson

Before he ascended back to the Father, when Jesus promised to send the Holy Ghost (Jn. 15:26; 14:26), he told his disciples to “wait” and “tarry” for the promise of the Father” (Ac. 1:4; Lu. 24:49). They were to remain in Jerusalem for a few days until they were baptized with the Holy Ghost (Ac. 1:5). In today’s lesson, we want to think about what was taking place in the days leading up to the outpouring of the Spirit in the church.

**Key Verse: “And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit . . .” (Ac. 2:18).**

### Questions to Discuss:

- + Jesus commanded his disciples to “wait” in Jerusalem for the promise of the Father (the outpouring of the Holy Spirit). What does it mean “to wait” for something (Ac. 1:4)?
- + After Jesus ascended back to the Father, where did the disciples go and why (vv. 12-13)?
- + Who was present in the upper room (vv. 13-14)?
- + How did Jesus’ disciples understand “waiting” on the promise? In other words, what did Jesus’ disciples do while they were waiting for the promise of the Spirit (v. 14)?
- + The prayer service lasted for some 10 days. About how many were present for these prayer meetings (v. 15)?
- + How does the Book of Acts describe those who were praying for the promise (v. 14)?
- + What were the factors that united them (see Ac. 1:1-4)?
- + When you consider all of the above, how would you describe the faith of the disciples?
- + The Holy Ghost was poured out in the church on the Day of Pentecost, a Jewish festival. Once again, how does the Book of Acts describe the saints when the Holy Ghost was poured out (2:1)?

**Think about it:** Jesus promised to send the Holy Ghost upon the church, and he commanded them to wait in Jerusalem to receive the promise. Their “waiting” was expressed in prayer, unity, and faith. Do you have faith in God’s promise? Do you believe to the point that you are willing to seek God for the outpouring of his Spirit in your life? As God’s people, we need to unite together and pray in faith for a mighty outpouring of God’s Spirit in the church today.

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## Sunday School Services

Zion Assembly Church of God  
Writer: Todd D. McDonald

# Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“Spirit Baptism” – December 15, 2013

Lesson – “Speaking in Tongues”

Scriptures – Acts 2:1-13

## Introduction to lesson

Although the Spirit was poured out in the church almost 2000 years ago, many people including Christians are still unfamiliar with speaking in tongues. This manifestation of the Spirit may seem foreign to them. But for those who are baptized with the Holy Ghost, speaking in tongues is a normal part of worship in the church. In today’s lesson, we will consider the initial outpouring of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost and the importance of speaking in tongues today.

**Key Verse:** “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries” (1 Co. 14:2).

## Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ When the Holy Ghost was poured out in the church on the Day of Pentecost, what happened first (vv. 1-2)?
- ✚ In addition to the “rushing mighty wind,” what appeared and rested on each of them (v. 3)?
- ✚ What do you suppose was the significance of the wind and fire?
- ✚ When they were baptized with the Holy Ghost, what two things occurred (v. 4)?
- ✚ When they were filled with the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues, who heard them, and what did they hear (vv. 5-6)?
- ✚ What was the reaction of the people who witnessed this mighty outpouring of the Spirit (vv. 7, 12-13)?
- ✚ Why did the manifestation of speaking in tongues capture the attention of the people in Jerusalem (vv. 8-11)?
- ✚ Typically, when we speak in tongues we speak in “unknown” tongues, and no one, including ourselves, understands what we are saying – that is, no one but God. When we speak in tongues, what are we saying to God (Ac. 2:11; 1 Co. 14:2; Ro. 8:26-27)?

**Think about it:** Tongues are the witness of the Holy Spirit and serve as the evidence of the baptism with the Spirit. In other words, when believers are baptized with the Holy Ghost, they speak with tongues. When we speak with tongues, the Spirit is actually the one who is speaking through us as we yield ourselves to God (Ac. 2:4). Paul explained, “For he that speaketh in an unknown tongue speaketh not unto men, but unto God: for no man understandeth him; howbeit in the spirit he speaketh mysteries” (1 Co. 14:2). So when we speak in tongues, we can have the confidence that we are speaking directly to God and praying according to his will.

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## Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“Spirit Baptism” – December 22, 2013

Lesson – “Filled with the Spirit”

Scriptures – Ac. 2:4, 12-16; Ep. 5:17-18

### Introduction to lesson

Through the experience of the baptism with the Holy Ghost, God desires to fill his people with his Spirit. When Jesus promised to send the Comforter, the Holy Ghost, he said, “Ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you” (Jn. 14:17). While God desires to dwell with his people, he desires even more for his people to be filled with his Spirit continually. Certainly, every born again believer should seek to be filled with the Spirit.

**Key Verse:** “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit” (Ep. 5:18).

### Questions to Discuss:

- + On the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Ghost first filled the room where they were gathered together. Next, what did the Holy Ghost fill, and what was the evidence of this filling (Ac. 2:4)?
- + Being baptized with the Holy Ghost as Jesus promised (Ac. 1:5), the saints were filled with the Spirit. Did everyone who witnessed their experience understand all that happened (2:12)?
- + How did some of the Jews react? When the saints were filled with the Spirit and as the Holy Ghost was working in them, what did this look like to some of the Jews (v. 13)?
- + How do people act when they are intoxicated? How does drunkenness affect their speech and actions?
- + Why do you suppose Peter stood up and spoke out (v. 14)?
- + What was Peter’s first argument against their accusation (v. 15)? Note: The third hour of the day is 9:00am.
- + What was Peter’s second argument against their accusation (v. 16)?
- + When we study the Scriptures, like the writings of the prophet Joel, what does God want us to understand (Ep. 5:17)?
- + Are people who fill themselves with alcoholic beverages being wise and understanding God’s will for their lives? Why or why not (vv. 17-18)?
- + What is God’s will for our lives (v. 18)?

**Think about it:** When the saints were baptized and filled with the Holy Ghost, Peter stood up to declare all that was happening. When he spoke, it was apparent that neither he nor the people were drunk, for Peter spoke with bold, clear speech and sound reasoning from the Scriptures. The work of God’s Spirit in our lives will not always be accepted and understood by unbelievers, nevertheless God’s will is that the Spirit fill our lives completely. We should therefore seek to be filled with the Spirit.

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## Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

“Spirit Baptism” – December 29, 2013

Lesson – “Empowerment”

Scriptures – Luke 24:44-51; Acts 1:8

### Introduction to lesson

Have you ever felt weak or inferior as a Christian, not because of anything you did wrong, but you simply felt inadequate to meet a spiritual challenge in your life? Maybe you wanted to tell a friend about Jesus, but you just did not know what to say or how to say it. At some point, every child of God feels this way because we are limited people. But our weaknesses are not a problem for God. In today’s lesson, we will see that God has provided all of the power which we need in order to meet every challenge in our Christian walk.

**Key Verse:** “Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ep. 3:20).

### Questions to Discuss:

- ✚ Before he ascended back to the Father (Lu. 24:50-51), Jesus spent time with his disciples after his resurrection. What did Jesus do with his disciples during their time together (vv. 44-45)?
- ✚ Specifically, what did Jesus want his disciples to understand about his purpose in coming into this world (v. 46)?
- ✚ Why was Jesus’ death and resurrection necessary (v. 47)?
- ✚ What is the gospel (“good news”) that we preach in the church (v. 47)?
- ✚ Who should hear and receive the gospel of Christ (v. 47)?
- ✚ Who should be Christ’s witnesses in the world today (v. 48)?
- ✚ What is required to be a witness for Jesus?
- ✚ When Jesus told his disciples that they were his witnesses, what promise did he make in order to help them be his witnesses (v. 49)?
- ✚ How were the disciples “endued with power from on high” (Lu. 24:49; Ac. 1:8)?
- ✚ What does the power of the Holy Ghost help us to do (Ac. 1:8)?

**Think about it:** God has given the power of the Holy Ghost to help us fulfill the Great Commission (Mt. 28:18-20). He baptizes believers with the Holy Ghost to make them powerful witnesses for Christ. Of course, God knows that we have many weaknesses and limitations. The apostle Paul wrote, “Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me . . . for when I am weak, then am I strong” (2 Co. 12:9, 10). Jesus said, “For my strength is made perfect in weakness” (v. 9). In other words, God wants to demonstrate his power through our weaknesses. By the Holy Ghost, God can accomplish through us “exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Ep. 3:20).

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