

# The Progressive Work of the Holy Spirit

## 1) IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST:

- A. Christ was conceived (or *born*) by the Holy Spirit, Lk.1:35.
- B. Christ was *filled* with the Spirit just after He was water baptized, Lk.3:21-22 & Lk.4:1. To be “filled” or “baptized” in the Holy Spirit are the same terms, Acts 1:5 & 2:4.
- C. After Christ was filled with the Spirit and had fasted for 40 days in the wilderness, He then returned to Galilee with the *power* of the Holy Spirit, Lk.4:14. At this time He declared that He was now anointed by the Holy Spirit to begin His ministry of power, Lk.4:18-21. Although He was the Son of God from His conception by the Holy Spirit, He performed no miracles until He was filled and empowered with the Spirit at this time, Jn.2:11.

## 2) IN THE LIVES OF CHRIST’S DISCIPLES:

- A. The Holy Spirit was *with* them (but not *in* them) before the cross & resurrection, Jn.7:39, Jn.14:17.
- B. They *received* the Holy Spirit (breathed *into* them) when they saw the Resurrected Christ, Jn.20:22. (This was when they were ‘born again,’ Gen. 2:7, Jn.3:5-8).
- C. The Resurrected Christ then told His disciples to wait for the further anointing of “the promise of the Father” in Lk.24:49. This was also called being “*baptized* with the Holy Spirit” (Acts 1:5), and “power from on high,” Lk.24:49. This was given to them on the Day of Pentecost, Acts 2:1-4.

## 3) IN THE SAMARITAN BELIEVERS:

- A. In Acts 8:5-12, Philip’s preaching started a revival in Samaria. The people believed the gospel and were water baptized in verse 12. At this time as, they were born again, they would have *received* the Holy Spirit. However, none of them had yet had the Holy Spirit *fall upon* them in the further work of the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Acts 8:15-16.
- B. When Peter and John came and laid their hands upon the Samaritan believers, they received a further work of the Holy Spirit in their lives, Acts 8:17. It was a notable further anointing: it impressed Simon so much that he offered money to Peter & John so he could also impart that same anointing, Acts 8:18-19.

## 4) IN THE EPHESIAN BELIEVERS:

- A) The Ephesian believers were fully taught about salvation and were then water baptized by Paul, Acts 19:2-5. Although they were saved, they were not yet filled or baptized with the Holy Spirit.
- B) Paul then laid his hands upon them and they received the baptism of the Holy Spirit, Acts 19:6
- C) Years later Paul encouraged them to receive further anointings of the Holy Spirit- Eph.1:17, 3:16 & 5:18.

5) THE ‘DOWNPAYMENT,’ AND FURTHER PAYMENTS, OF THE HOLY SPIRIT: When we believe the gospel we are sealed with the Holy Spirit as a pledge or downpayment of our future complete redemption, Eph. 1:13-14. A downpayment means that we legally own something, but have not yet completely paid for it. Further payments will complete our ownership, or our redemption. Further “payments” or anointings of the Holy Spirit will be given us until we become fully redeemed with glorified resurrection bodies, 2 Cor.5:4-5.

## 6) FROM GLORY TO GLORY:

- A. The progressive work of the Holy Spirit is to change us “from glory to glory,” 2 Cor. 3:18.
- B. However, just as the word of God will effectively work in lesser or greater measures in the lives of different Christians (Mat.13:8), so shall the Holy Spirit work differently in each of our lives. In the resurrection, when our redemption has been completed, different Christians will have different levels of glory shining out of their lives. The glory of the Lord Jesus will illumine the entire New Jerusalem, Rev.21:23. Other Christians will shine with lesser, different levels of brightness, 1 Cor.15:40-42.

CONCLUSION: God has great plans for His people, but we must continue to press on to receive the fullness of what God offers us, Phil.3:12-14. “Christ in you” is now your hope of future glory, Col.1:27. However, the level of glory that we shall obtain to- the prize we will obtain at the end of our Christian race- depends upon our desire and dedication to let the word of God and the Holy Spirit work in greater and greater ways in our life. How thirsty are you for more of the Holy Spirit in your life? Read John 7:37-39, Isaiah 55:1-3, and Rev. 22:7.