

Introduction:

- In about 45 more days we will celebrate the *Feast of Pentecost, Shavuot, Feast of Weeks*. 50 days after passover. A celebration of the new harvest. 50 means Freedom! Where Spirit of Lord is there is freedom. (2 Cor 3:17)
- One of the most awesome acts of God in Bible outside of the giving of His Son for our salvation is the coming of the Holy Spirit.
- The giving of the Holy Spirit is a gracious act of God!
- The coming of the Holy Spirit expresses an 'event', a happening! The fact that He comes as a gift indicates that this is an act of God's grace! Therefore, He is a gift to be received! Thus when the word 'received' is used with Holy Spirit, it refers to the gift of the Holy Spirit.
- *"Paul said to them, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you believed?" So they said to him, "We have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit.""* (Acts 19:2, NKJV) I want to tell you today that there is a Holy Spirit! And the Holy Spirit is a Gift given to us by the Father through Jesus Christ!

I. Did You Receive?

A. Scriptural references to receiving.

1. Acts 2, the 120 received the Holy Spirit. Though the word 'received' is not used, Peter in Acts 10:47 uses it...*"Can anyone forbid water, that these should not be baptized who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?"* (Acts 10:47, NKJV)
2. Samaria is the second recorded instance of receiving the Holy Spirit. *"Then they laid hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit."* (Acts 8:17, NKJV)
3. In Acts 9:17 Ananias goes to Saul that he might be filled with the Holy Spirit. Though the word 'receive' is not used, the term 'filled' is—implying Paul received the Holy Spirit.
4. The fourth narrative is Acts 10. Here Luke refers to both 'the gift of Holy Spirit' and the fact they received the Holy Spirit. (vss 45 & 47)
5. Acts 19, our passage today, Paul literally asks, "Did you receive the Holy Spirit?"
6. Let me add, to receive from God is by faith. One does not work to receive the Holy Spirit.

B. There appears to be an urgency on the part of God for us to receive the Holy Spirit. God is excited about the Gift He is giving us.

1. OT scripture about the promise.
 - a) *"For I will pour water on him who is thirsty, And floods on the dry ground; I will pour My Spirit on your descendants, And My blessing on your offspring;"* (Isaiah 44:3, NKJV) That is an experience right there!
 - b) *"I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will keep My judgments and do them."* (Ezekiel 36:27, NKJV)
 - c) Joel 2:28 I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh...This is a promise from God which He committed to do.
2. Jesus words about us receiving the Gift.
 - a) *"And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—"* The Holy Spirit. (John 14:16,26 NKJV)
 - b) *"But when the Helper comes, whom I shall send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth who proceeds from the Father, He will testify of Me."* (John 15:26, NKJV)

- c) *"...It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you."* (John 16:7, NKJV)
- 3. Have you ever had a gift that you wanted to give someone and you were so excited for them to receive it and have it? IE. Engagement ring
 - a) The Father gives the Spirit at the request of Jesus
 - b) The Father will send the Spirit in Jesus name.
 - c) Jesus will send the Spirit from the Father.
 - d) Jesus will send the Spirit. God wants us to have Holy Spirit.
 - e) A gift is a gift whether you receive it or not. Whether you receive or not does not change the classification of 'gift'.

II. Why Should We Want This Gift?

- A. The Holy Spirit plays a critical role in the Christian experience and in his understanding of the Gospel.
 - 1. The Holy Spirit is not the center of Paul's Gospel, Jesus is. But the Holy Spirit surrounds Jesus at the center. The Holy Spirit comes from Jesus! Romans 8:9 (The Spirit of Christ)
 - 2. The Holy Spirit must play a vital role in our lives as believers.
 - a) *"When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all truth. He will not speak on his own but will tell you what he has heard. He will tell you about the future."* (John 16:13, NLT)
 - b) *"But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ."* (1 John 2:27, NLT)
- B. The Holy Spirit is the dynamically experienced nature of God that comes both to the individual and to the ongoing life of the Christian community. If Jesus is sitting at the right hand of the Father, then who is it that is with us? Holy Spirit. We experience Him.
 - 1. This is not something we work for but something we live from.
 - 2. The Spirit as an experienced reality is why Paul brought correction of the Corinthian church in the life of their community 1 Cor 12-14. They were really working with the Holy Spirit, desired the Holy Spirit, and also got in the flesh too while pursuing Holy Spirit.
 - 3. The Thessalonians are reminded of the reality of His presence at conversion. 1 Thess 1:4-6.
 - 4. To the Galatians Paul reminds them (Gal 3:1-5) that the reality of the experience of the Holy Spirit is the very life of Christ they received in the beginning and must continue in.
 - 5. To Timothy this experience of the Holy Spirit was what urged Paul to exhort Timothy to continue to fan into flame. (1 Tim 1:18)
 - 6. All of these words of Paul and more, serve to remind us of our need to experience this work of the Holy Spirit in our lives individual and as community.
- C. Also to Paul, the Holy Spirit is God's own personal presence to dwell in and among His people.
 - 1. This is evident in the tabernacle and temple illustrations.
 - 2. The promise of the new covenant spoken of in Jeremiah and Ezekiel where God's Spirit would live in men. Therefore:
 - a) God is One and He is personal.
 - b) The Spirit is the Spirit of God and personal.

- c) The Spirit and Christ are fully Divine and therefore personal.
- D. The Spirit is absolutely critical in the empowering of the believer to live the Christian life (both in ethics how we live, and in activity hope, joy, praying without ceasing). This makes for our Godly spirituality. One of the primary roles of the Holy Spirit after regeneration is to make us like Jesus. This is the essence of sanctification. One way the Holy Spirit does this is by giving us an appetite for transformation. He produces a hunger for God that is necessary to experience our transformation into Christlikeness.
 1. We are to be living in the Spirit
 2. ...walking in the Spirit
 3. ...led by the Spirit
 4. ...bearing fruit of the Spirit
 5. ...sowing to the Spirit

III. Will You Receive the Holy Spirit?

- A. They Received Holy Spirit in Acts
 1. Acts 2
 2. Acts 8, Samaritain receive the Gospel of Christ. Apostles go and lay hands on them to receive the Holy Spirit.
 3. Paul after his encounter with Jesus on road to Damascus was filled with Holy Spirit. Acts 9:17
 4. Acts 10 Cornelius and family were filled with the Holy Spirit.
- B. It was by faith.
- C. The Father wants you to receive His gift.

Conclusion:

- Invitation to receive the Holy Spirit.