

Part 2. The Nature and Work of God

Lesson 4: The Work of the Holy Spirit – The Two Aspects

Lesson Summary

Scripture reveals that the **Holy Spirit** works in **two complementary aspects**: the **inward aspect for life** and the **outward aspect for power** (John 7:37–39; Acts 1:8). Inwardly, the Spirit indwells every believer, giving spiritual life, regenerating the heart, and conforming us to Christ's image (John 20:22; Rom. 8:9–11). Outwardly, the Spirit empowers believers for witness and service, clothing them with power from on high (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:4). The baptism in the Holy Spirit is a completed, historical act at Pentecost (1 Cor. 12:13), shared by the whole Body of Christ, while fresh fillings of the Spirit provide ongoing empowerment for ministry (Acts 4:31). Speaking in tongues is not required as universal evidence; instead, the Spirit manifests in diverse ways to build up the Church (1 Cor. 12:29–30). Believers experience this inheritance by standing rightly in the Body of Christ, receiving by faith, and yielding to His Word (Eph. 5:18). God's ultimate goal is inward transformation, and His outward empowerment serves to advance His mission.

Key Takeaways

- **Two aspects of the Spirit's work**: inward for life (John 20:22) and outward for power (Acts 1:8).
- The **inward aspect** gives new life, sanctification, and communion with God (John 7:38; Rom. 8:11).
- The **outward aspect** equips believers for ministry and bold gospel witness (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:4).
- Spirit baptism is a **finished work**, accomplished once for the Body at Pentecost (1 Cor. 12:13).
- Fresh **fillings of the Spirit** provide ongoing empowerment as needed (Acts 4:8, 31).
- **Tongues are not required** for all believers; the Spirit gives diverse gifts as He wills (1 Cor. 12:29–30).
- Believers receive this inheritance by **faith, unity, and obedience**, not striving for signs (Eph. 5:18).
- God's aim is **inward life first**, with outward power serving His Kingdom mission (Zech. 4:6).

Questions & Answers

1. **Q**: What are the two aspects of the Holy Spirit's work?
A: The inward aspect for life (indwelling, transformation) and the outward aspect for power (empowerment for ministry) (John 20:22; Acts 1:8).
2. **Q**: How is the inward aspect described in Scripture?
A: As water, breath, and life—Christ dwelling in us through the Spirit (John 7:38; John 20:22).
3. **Q**: What is the outward aspect of the Spirit's work?
A: Being clothed with power from on high for boldness and witness (Luke 24:49; Acts 2:4).
4. **Q**: What does 1 Corinthians 12:13 teach about Spirit baptism?
A: That it is a completed, once-for-all act accomplished at Pentecost, placing all believers into one Body.

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5. **Q:** Must all believers speak in tongues as evidence of Spirit baptism?

A: No—Scripture shows that not all spoke in tongues, and Paul teaches that gifts are distributed diversely (1 Cor. 12:29–30).

6. **Q:** How do we personally receive and experience Spirit baptism?

A: By standing rightly in the Body of Christ, receiving by faith, and yielding to God's Word (Eph. 5:18).

7. **Q:** What is God's ultimate goal in giving the Spirit?

A: Inward transformation into Christ's image, with outward power serving His mission (Zech. 4:6).

“The Spirit gives life within and power without—transforming believers into Christ's likeness and clothing them with power for His mission.”