

'Fundamentals of the Faith' **(Lesson #7 – 'The Person & Ministry of the Holy Spirit')**

In Old Testament times, before Jesus' sacrifice on the cross and resurrection, the Holy Spirit did not take up residence within people. He came upon certain ones with power to accomplish God's will. Now, in these New Testament times following Christ's historic sacrifice on the cross, the Holy Spirit takes up residence in all who repent and fully trust Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord (*John 14:15-17, 2 Corinthians 1:21-22, Ephesians 1:13-14*).

- These initial actions of the Holy Spirit upon true believers are the *adoptive* functions of God (*Galatians 4:4-5*).
 - How do these biblical truths affect your thinking and feelings about your relationship to God in Christ?

- Some groups teach that you receive Jesus as Savior but the Holy Spirit at some other separate subsequent time (after baptism, a *second blessing* or *anointing* event).
 - Why is this an extremely flawed and false teaching according to **Romans 8:9-11**?
 - Talk about the theological consequences of receiving one member of the Triune God at one time and another member of the Triune God later.

- Extreme positions can be a problem to some Christians, churches and denominations – constant overemphasis on the Holy Spirit or no teaching at all on the subject. According to Jesus, why is constant focus on the Holy Spirit inappropriate (*John 16:12-15*)?
 - What groups are particularly guilty of this unbalanced approach to the Christian life?
 - On the other hand what's the problem of not teaching much at all on the Holy Spirit?

- Discuss what it is like to be '*filled (controlled) with the Holy Spirit*' – **Galatians 5:22-23, Ephesians 5:9, 17-21**.
 - Do you have to ask God to '*fill us with the Holy Spirit*', or is being '*filled with the Spirit*' an automatic condition when we are emptied of all that is not holy?

- What causes believers to become '*not full of the Spirit*' and what does one have to do to be refilled?
 - If you become '*not filled with the Spirit*' does the Holy Spirit move out of you and you revert to an unsaved condition? (*Hebrews of the 13:5*)

- If you think you lose the Spirit and salvation, do you believe you can come back and be saved all over again?
 - If so, do you need to get re-baptized?

- What else needs repeating? (*Please use Scripture to prove your opinion*)