

Are We Ready To Receive The Holy Spirit?

[If so how are we filled with the Holy Spirit?]

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 [NIV] *“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.”*

The Holy life that God calls us to live can only be lived by our receiving and being full of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

We have to ask God to send the Holy Spirit but are we ready and willing to receive the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit, being God, will only dwell and be active in us on His terms.

There are certain questions we must ask and answer honestly.

Are we sure that we want to subject our will totally to another Being?

Matthew 26:39,42 [NIV] *“... not as I will, but as you will.” ... “may your will be done.”*

Here we see into the mind of our Saviour Jesus Christ the Son of Man.

This is our perfect example for this was the human Son of Man opening to us His mind not the Son of God.

Jesus the Son of Man was allowing His human spirit to be totally subject to, even possessed by, the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:1 [NIV] *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”*

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to do the will of His Father.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

Jesus lives in us today by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us.

Romans 8:9 [NIV] *“You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.”*

“Controlled” and “belong” the context of the statement indicate possession.

Acts 20:28 [NIV] *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he [Jesus Christ] bought with his own blood.”*

Purchased as a bond slave was in the slave market of that day to become the possession of His master.

Romans 1:1 [NIV] *“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God”*

Paul acknowledges he was a bond slave of Jesus Christ first, then called to be an apostle.

Deuteronomy 15:15-17 [NIV] *“... But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become **your servant for life**. Do the same for your maidservant.”*

The origin of what Paul was stating in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit will only dwell in us as our Master.

Do we want Him to be the Lord of our lives?

Do we want our very personality to be taken over by One Who will expect obedience to the written and living Word of God Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 4:30 [NIV] *“And do **not grieve the Holy Spirit** of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

A grieved Holy Spirit will not be active in our lives.

Ephesians 4:17-29 [NIV] *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. “In your anger do not sin”: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

Here we see a total re-making of our lives and personality by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

In the light of what God’s **Handbook for Life**, the Christian Bible, tells us are we ready to receive the Holy Spirit into our lives to take over and transform our lives?

Before we ask for God to fill our lives with the Holy Spirit we need to consider the full extent of what we are asking.

To be filled with the Holy Spirit follows a total surrender of our lives to our Creator God.

Romans 12:1-3 [Message Bible] *“So here’s what I want you to do, God helping you: **Take your everyday, ordinary life, your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life, and place it before God as an offering.** Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don’t become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. **Instead, fix your attention on God. You’ll be changed from the inside out.** Readily recognise what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. I’m speaking to you out of deep gratitude for all that God has given me, and especially as I have responsibilities in relation to you. Living then, as every one of you does, in pure grace, it’s important*

*that you not misinterpret yourselves as people who are bringing this goodness to God. No, God brings it all to you. **The only accurate way to understand ourselves is by what God is and by what he does for us, not by what we are and what we do for him.***

God will not fill what He cannot own.

Are we willing to take this **first step**?

This is a total surrender of life, our mind, our personality, our spirit, our love, our ambitions, our all!

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 [NIV] *“Do you not know that **your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honour God with your body.**”*

As a Christian we are owned by Jesus Christ who purchased us by His blood sacrifice.

Second step is to ask for the special **active presence** of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will **your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!**”*

God could have chosen to give us the special presence of the Holy Spirit without our asking but here He tells us to ask, so we go ahead and obediently ask.

This leads us directly into the **third step**.

Acts 5:32 [NIV] *“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has **given to those who obey him.**”*

Who is the “Him”?

John 14:23-26 [NIV] *“Jesus replied, “If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. He who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. “All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Counsellor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.”*

The one we obey is Jesus Christ.

The words we obey are Jesus Christ’s words.

Not those given to Moses.

Not any other person’s words.

Only those spoken by Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit will **not** be active in any person who does not obey this command of Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you **know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.** I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”*

God only gives the Holy Spirit to those who obey Jesus Christ.

Simply live by His Word, the Christian Bible, the **Handbook for Life** through the Holy Spirit reveals them to you, being with us, before He will be in us.

Simple but revolutionary.

The **fourth step** is to have faith in God and His Promises.

Galatians 3:2 [New Jerusalem Bible] *“There is only one thing I should like you to tell me; how was it **you received the Holy Spirit**, was it by the practice of the law [our own efforts], or **by believing in the message you heard?**”*

We receive the full measure of the gift of the Holy Spirit in the same way as we receive our salvation, by faith.

The three stages of this journey of faith with the Holy Spirit are:-

- a) **Know** – experience influence of Holy Spirit as He convicts us of sin.
- b) **Lives with you** – the Holy Spirit leads us into the knowledge of a new way of life by opening our minds to the Word of God.
- c) **Will be in you** – we surrender our bodies, minds, life and heart to the Holy Spirit.

Only then can we become a *“temple”* dwelling place for the Holy Spirit.

When we make this final decision of total surrender to the Holy Spirit, *“hold tight”* for your life will *“take off”* with unlimited power from God who will be driving it.

John 10:10 [Message Bible] *“... I came so they can have real and eternal life, **more and better life than they ever dreamed of.**”*

Jesus Christ comes into our lives through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, this is how we receive the abundant life He promised all His disciples.

The choice for this to happen to us individually is ours to make!