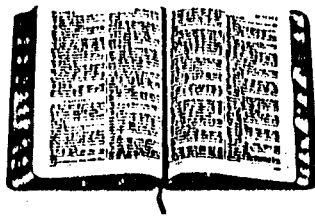


THE INSTRUCTOR



"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for *reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.*" (2 Timothy 3:16)

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"DO CHRISTIANS RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT TODAY?"

Several years ago I attended a debate in which a Pentecostal preacher asked a gospel preacher, "Have you received the Holy Spirit?" The gospel preacher replied, "No." Evidently, his idea was that Christians do not receive the Holy Spirit today in any sense. *Do Christians receive the Holy Spirit today?* If so, how can you tell? Human testimony, feelings and experiences are too subjective to be reliable. Objective revelation, the Scriptures, must furnish the answer.

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS A GIFT FROM GOD TO CHRISTIANS!

Paul said: "...God, who gave us the **earnest of the Spirit.**" (2 Cor. 5:5). We learn from Eph. 1:13-14 that Christians are "**sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise**" who is "**the earnest of our inheritance...**" The Spirit "**the earnest**" and 1 Thess. 4:8 and Acts 5:32 speak of Him as "**given**", hence *a gift*. Those who *repent and are baptized* in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins will "**receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.**" (Acts 2:38). Grammatically, this could be either the Spirit *as a gift* or a gift that the Spirit gives,

but in view of the Scriptures cited, it is not to far afield to see that the gift of the Spirit is the Spirit Himself. Eph. 1:13-14 not only refers to the Spirit as the "**earnest**" but says such is "**the Holy Spirit of promise**" or the *promised* Holy Spirit. This also fits well with Acts 2:38-39. Immediately following "**you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit**", it says, **for the promise is unto you and your children**", etc. *The Holy Spirit is given to believers when they obey* (Acts 5:32) *in repentance and baptism* (Acts 2:38).

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS SAID TO BE IN CHRISTIANS! Writing to saints Paul said: "**But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you...But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwelleth in you...**" (Rom. 8:9-11).

In fact, He is not merely said to be in the Christian, He is said to be in the Christian's body. 1 Cor. 6:19-20 says, "**Or know ye not that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have from God? and ye are not your own; for ye are bought with a**

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Editorial...

"HAS GOD PROMISED THESE THINGS?"

God has made many promises. His promises are precious, immutable and sure. (See 2 Pet. 1:3-4; Heb. 6:17-18; 10:23; 1 Thes. 5:24; 2 Cor. 1:20; 2 Pet. 3:9; Titus 1:2). However that are *some things that God has not promised. Has God promised the following things?*

I. HAS GOD PROMISED TO HEAR AN ALIEN SINNER'S PRAYER? Although many preachers preach the doctrine that sinners are saved by praying at an altar somewhere, there is no evidence in the Word of God that God will save a sinner because he prays. Prov. 28:9 says: "**He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**" The blind man whose sight was restored by Jesus said: "**Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth.**" (John 9:31). (Also see 1 Pet. 3:12). NOTE: "*Praying though to salvation is not of God because it is not taught in the Word of God! No, God has not promised to hear the prayers of sinners!*"

II. HAS GOD PROMISED TO SAVE MEN OUT OF THE

CHURCH? When a sinner obeys the gospel of Christ he is added to the church of Christ. (See Acts 2:47). When a sinner (who is a penitent believer is *baptized into Christ* he is *baptized into the body of Christ* which is the church that was bought with the blood of Christ! (See Gal. 3:26-27; 1 Cor. 12:13; Col. 1:18; Acts 20:28). We learn from Eph. 5:23-25 that Jesus Christ is the head of His body and He is the Saviour of His church! **No, God has not promised to save sinners out of and separate from the church!**

III. HAS GOD PROMISED US A LIFE FREE FROM HARDSHIPS? Paul said: "**Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.**" The apostles were beaten and imprisoned. (See Acts 5:17-18, 40; 16:22-24). Timothy was told to be "**partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God.**" and to "**endure afflictions**". (2 Tim. 1:8; 4:5). Paul was given "**a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet**" him lest he should be exalted above measure. (2 Cor. 12:7). Although he besought the Lord three times that it might depart from him, the Lord did not remove it. The Lord said: "**My grace is sufficient for thee...**"

In this life we will have problems and will face difficulties. There will be disappointments and heartaches. We should count it all joy when we fall into divers trials because the trying of our faith works patience. (See Mt. 5:11-12; Acts 5:41; James 1:2-4; 1:12).

Although God does not remove all hardships from our lives He will give us strength to bear the burdens and to carry the load. **Yes, there will be hardships in our lives at times.**

IV. HAS GOD PROMISED US ANOTHER DAY TO LIVE? The uncertainty and the brevity of life are emphasized in both Old and New Testaments. Job 14:1-2 says: "**Man that is born of**"

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price: glorify God therefore in your body." It is interesting that virtually the same expressions are used to describe the *human spirit*. Daniel said, "As for me, Daniel, my spirit was grieved in the midst of my body." (Daniel 7:15). God "**formeth the spirit of man within him**" (Zech. 12:1). "**For who knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man, which is in him?**" (1 Cor. 2:11). Man's spirit is actually in him, in his body. A good rule for understanding the Bible is, "All words are to be understood in their literal sense, unless the evident context forbids it." (Dungan). If God had wanted to tell us that the Holy Spirit Himself is in us, what would he have said?

WHAT DOES THIS NOT MEAN? It does *not* mean Holy Spirit baptism. There are only two recorded cases in the New Testament. Now there is *one* baptism (Eph. 4:5). It does *not* mean spiritual gifts bestowed through the laying on of the apostles' hands. The conditions for the "**gift**" in Acts 2:38 are repentance and baptism. It does *not* mean that one who receives such will work miracles. John the Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit even from his mother's womb (Luke 1:15), but John "**did no miracle**" (John 10:41). What miraculous deed did John do while he was in the cradle? It does *not* mean that one receiving such cannot sin. One can grieve the Spirit (Eph. 4:30), quench the Spirit (1 Thess. 5:19) and insult the Spirit (Heb. 10:29). Also see 1 John 1:7-9. There is no evidence that such will give new revelations or some information intuitively or subjectively. The evidence is just the opposite. All we know or can know has already been revealed in the Scriptures (2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Pet. 1:3). Nor is there any indication that such will give special illumination of the Scriptures.

WHAT IT DOES MEAN!
The Holy Spirit is "**an earnest of our**

inheritance" (Eph. 1:13-14; 2 Cor. 1:22; 5:5). Greek scholars tell us that such words have reference to "Money which in purchases is given as a pledge that the full amount will subsequently be paid" (Thayer). Arndt and Gingrich says, "First installment, deposit, down payment". The Holy Spirit is given by God as a pledge that He will later give us the full inheritance (heaven). The Holy Spirit is a seal (2 Cor. 1:22; Eph. 1:13-14; 4:30). Seals certify as a notary seal; secure and protect, as at the tomb of Jesus (Matt. 27:66); identify ownership. Cattle are branded; hubcaps are marked to show ownership. We belong to God (1 Cor. 6:19-20) and we receive the Holy Spirit as a seal of his ownership.

WHEN IS HE GIVEN? Acts 2:38 says when we *repent* and are *baptized*. Acts 5:32 says it is for those who obey. Gal. 4:6 says, "**And because ye are sons, God sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, father.**" The Holy Spirit is given *because we are* sons. He is not given to cause us to *become* sons. Gal. 3:26-27 agrees precisely with Acts 2:38 in this regard.

HOW MAY WE KNOW THAT WE HAVE THE SPIRIT? Not by physical perception, feelings, sensations, etc. Such can be deceptive and too subjective. Not by subjective experiences, but by objective revelation. *The Bible says so!* How do we know we have a soul, a spirit capable of eternity? *The Word of God says so!* How do we know we have remission of sins? By feelings? By human experiences? By "I felt the load of sin lifted from me"? *No!* By objective revelation. *The Bible tells me so!*

WHAT DOES THE SPIRIT DO BY HIS INDWELLING? Must He do something as a result of this? What if I do not know? Does that change the fact of His indwelling? As bro. Whiteside said, "What does the indwelling Spirit do? What if I am unable

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to answer that question? And what if no one else can give a definite answer, would our inability to answer the question nullify what God has said? If we cannot explain a thing shall we say there is no such thing? Let us not jump to unwarranted conclusions." (*Doctrinal Discourse*, p. 198). What are angels now doing as they minister for them who shall be the heirs of salvation? (See Heb. 1:14). Romans 8:24-27 tells us just as hope helps us, the Holy Spirit also helps us by interceding for us. An awareness of the Spirit's presence should cause me to be careful about where I go, what I do, what I say, what I see, etc. (See 1 Cor. 6:19-20). As God raised Christ Jesus from the dead, He will "give life also" to "our mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in" us. (See Rom. 8:11). --Hiram O. Hutto

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woman is of few day, and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." James 4:14 says: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? it is even a vapour, that appeareth for a

little time, and then vanisheth away."

None of us know how long we will live or when we will die. God has not promised us another day of life!

V. HAS GOD PROMISED US ANOTHER CHANCE TO PREPARE FOR THE JUDGMENT AFTER DEATH? According to the information we have in Luke 16:19-31 there will be no time to prepare after a person dies. The rich man discovered after death that it was too late to change his own fate or to affect the fate of others. Hebrews 9:27 says: "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Solomon said: "...if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." No man has the right to promise that God will hear an alien sinner's prayer, save men out of the church, give us a life free from hardships, give us another day to live or give us another chance to prepare for the judgment after death because God has not made such promises! (CRS)

GOSPEL MEETINGS

Wooley Springs, Athens, AL, June 3-8, 2001 at 7:30 p.m. except on Sunday. CRS, preaching.
EAST ALBERTVILLE--June 17-22, 2001 at 7:00 p.m. except on Sunday. Gerald Sutton, preaching.

SENTENCE SERMONS

If you eat forbidden fruit, don't be surprised if you get into a jam.

* * * * *

Always give to God what is right, not what is left.

* * * * *

Give Satan an inch and he will become your ruler.

* * * * *

Christ doesn't want a few shares of your life, He wants controlling interest.

* * * * *

The ways of men lead to a hopeless end, but the way of Christ leads to an endless hope.

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