

## Our Firm Foundation on God's Confirming Gift

In His wisdom, God knew that there would be those who would make a pretense of turning to Him, not because they had truly believed the message of His love and grace, but because of friends or relatives or other "peer pressures." Consequently, He who knows our thoughts and intents will confirm the sincere, wholehearted one who becomes truly "Born Again," by believing, repenting of his or her sins, and is baptized in His name with a sign that cannot be mistaken.

### GOLDEN TEXT:

**Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38**

### SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Acts 2:38,39,41; 8:12, 16; 10:48;  
19:4,5; Romans 6:3,4

ACTS 2:38,39,41

38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.

39 For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.

41 Then they that had heard his word were baptized: and the same day there were added *unto them* about three thousand souls.

ACTS 8:12,16

12 But when they believed Philip preaching the things concerning the kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women.

16 (For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.)

ACTS 10:48

48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord. Then prayed they him to tarry certain days.

ACTS 19:4,5

4 Then said Paul, John verily

baptized with the baptism of Repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on Him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus.

5 When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

ROMANS 6:3,4

3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?

4 Therefore we are buried with Him in baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.



### INTRODUCTION:

The Bible is very clear in teaching that WHEN we become genuinely saved, we AUTOMATICALLY and IMMEDIATELY receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. From the very first, in the beginning of the church in the book of Acts, there was a distinct and clear-cut way that new believers and those around them knew they had or had not received the Holy Ghost. It is the same way you can tell that you have received it today. It is one proof to the world that God knows we are born again of His Spirit.

### 1. WHAT IS GOD'S CONFIRMING GIFT?

#### A) The promise

"...Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost." (Acts 2:38). This is the promise. If you believe the gospel message enough to Repent and be Baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins, you will receive God's gift freely and without "tarrying" for it. If you do not receive the Holy Spirit in an unmistakable way when you have Believed, Repented and been Baptized in Jesus name [in which we are commanded to do everything, (See Colossians 3:17)], then search your heart for doubt, unbelief or some desire or habit which you are unwilling to fully repent and forsake. When you put yourself **wholeheartedly** on the altar, you will definitely receive the SURE promise of the Father which cannot and will not fail.

But what IS the Gift of the Holy Ghost? Is it just speaking in tongues? Is it a good, clean feeling on the inside? Is it being bold to witness? All those are a part of it, but it is much,

much more.

### A. The Comforter

“But when the Comforter, is come, whom **I** will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, He shall testify of Me.” (*John 15:26*). What comfort and reassurance when we feel discouraged and suddenly remember that Jesus has said **He** will never leave us nor forsake us! That is part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry as the Comforter. What a blessing when we are witnessing to some needy soul and the Holy Spirit brings those scriptures to our remembrance that are just right for the need. That is another part of the Holy Spirit’s ministry.

### B. The Empowerer.

“But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem and in all Judea , and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” (*Acts 1:8*). Jesus promised the Apostles power, and through them, all those that follow their teachings down through the ages.

“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” (*Romans 15:13*).

### C. The Sanctifier.

“That I should be the minister of Jesus Christ to the Gentiles, ministering the gospel of God, that the offering up of the Gentiles might be acceptable, being sanctified by the Holy Ghost,” (*Romans 15:16*). It is by the Holy Spirit that we first come unto God. As we **Believe** the message of salvation, we come under **Conviction** by the Holy Spirit, **Repent** of our sins, and are **Baptized** into Christ Jesus. From the watery grave where we bury our old man, we arise to walk in newness of life as new creatures whose desire is to honor, please and submit to the perfect Will of God. In other words, we are set apart, sanctified.

## 2. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE TITLE “HOLY GHOST”?

In Greek, the language into which most of the New Testament was either written or translated, and from which all other good translations are made, the word we translate “Ghost” is “*pneuma*”. Look familiar? It should. It is the source of such English words as *pneumatic*, *pneumonia*, *pneumodynamics*, and more than a dozen other words all having to do with “air power”, breath or wind. In the King James Version, the same exact Greek word “*pneumatōs*” is translated “Ghost” in Acts 2:4, 33 and 38 and “Spirit” in verses 17 and 18 of the same chapter. Other variations of this same root word occur wherever you find the title “Holy Ghost” or “Holy Spirit” throughout the New Testament. The only instances in which another word is used for either “ghost” or “spirit” are those in which someone is said to have “given up the ghost”, (*Mark 15:37; Luke 23:46; Acts 5:5 and 12:23*), and the occasion of Jesus walking on the water when His disciples thought He was a “spirit” and the Greek word is “*phantasm*” (*Matthew 14:26; Mark 6:49*). As used in the New Testament, the Holy Spirit is the motivating, moving, empowering force of God. A careful study of the entire Bible will show that there is no difference between the Spirit of God that created the world in Genesis 1:2 and the Spirit of the Lord that spoke to men of faith all through the Old Testament as direct and singular manifestations but not as a constant “Comforter” and empowerer. The use of the word “He” as in “...when He, the Spirit of truth is come...” (*John 16:13*), does not indicate that the Holy Ghost is a person, because we know both from legend and Jesus’ own words that “...a spirit hath not flesh and bones” (*Luke 24:39*), so a spirit is NOT a person. Also, we use such terms of gender in speaking of ships as “she” and many other inanimate objects as “he”. The Holy Spirit, then, is the unseen but very real force, as the power of wind — powerful enough to support heavy airplanes or drive large ships on the ocean, but gentle enough not to hurt a baby! Though invisible Himself, His power is manifested through the objects He touches. He also has personal feelings, as the ability to love and care for us and to be

grieved by us. May we each be persons the Holy Spirit touches!

### 3. WHO SENDS THE HOLY GHOST?

#### a) God the Father

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in My name... (John 14:26).*

*And I will pray the Father and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever (John 14:16).*

Jesus, in His bodily form, is not the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. Here the Man Christ indicates that He will pray to the Father, the omnipresent Spirit of God, to fill us with Himself. This is not a second Spirit of God, for the Bible is quite clear throughout, that there is only one Spirit of God. We will study the identity of God and His Spirit in more detail in Book 2.

#### b) Jesus, Himself.

*But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father... (John 15:26).*

*...for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you, (John 16:7).*

### 4. WHY DO WE CALL THIS "GOD'S CONFIRMING GIFT"?

a) *...Repent...be baptized...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 2:38).*

b) *And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out of the gift of the Holy Ghost. (Acts 10:45).*

c) *Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life. (Acts 11:17,18).*

Here is a clear-cut example that demonstrates the confirming nature of the gift of the Holy Ghost. It was because the Jews that accompanied Peter to the household of Cornelius heard the Gentiles speak in tongues that they knew they had received the Holy Ghost and because God had given the Gentiles the gift of the Holy Ghost, they knew that God had confirmed their salvation.

d) *And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came upon them and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. (Acts 19:6).*

e) *For as yet He was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon [the sorcerer] saw that through laying on of the Apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money. (Acts 8:16-18).* There is nothing to indicate what the evidence was that the Samaritans had received the Holy Ghost, but whatever it was, two things stand out clearly: 1. They KNEW that they had received the gift; and 2. Simon the Sorcerer, who had believed, been baptized and followed Philip as miracles were performed never offered Philip money to be able to perform any of the signs or miracles, but he offered to pay Peter for the ability to impart so spectacular a gift as the Holy Ghost!

### 5. OF WHAT BENEFIT IS OUR GIFT?

#### A) To Empower witnessing

*...and ye shall be witnesses... Acts 1:8*

*But ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you... Acts 1:8*

#### B) To Comfort, Teach and Remind

*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost ... He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance... (John 14:26)*

So we are to be witnesses because we have the Power of the Holy Ghost who not only

empowers us, but teaches us and brings his Word to our remembrance.

**SUMMARY:**

God knows our hearts and whether we are sincere in our Belief, Repentance and Baptism and gives the wholehearted, sincere believer the gift of the Holy Ghost to: 1. Confirm our salvation; 2. Be a Comfort in time of need; 3. Give us power to witness; 4. Teach the true meaning of God's Word; and 5. To bring God's Word to our remembrance.

The command to tarry at Jerusalem for the Holy Ghost was given to the Apostles before, never again after, the gift had ever been given. If we were supposed to tarry, the command to go to Jerusalem would apply to us also! But since the day of Pentecost, all who receive the gift of the Holy Spirit receive the first evidence of speaking in tongues, the birth cry of the new babe in Christ. However this is NOT the ONLY evidence. The New Creature then goes on walking in newness of life filled with an insatiable appetite for the things of God and His love to share with others. "...and ye shall...be witnessess.(Acts 1:8).

**NOTES:**

