



*Living Walking Serving*

# FAITH AND GRACE CHURCH

## BIBLE STUDY NOTE ON

### THE PROMISE OF THE FATHER – THE HOLY SPIRIT (Joel 2:28-32, Luke 24:49, Acts 1:4-5, 2:1-4, 2:16-21)

#### **STUDY 8: Steps to Receiving the Holy Spirit**

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:** Lk.11:11-13, Acts 1:4,5,8, 2:1-4, 37-39, 8:14-17, 10:44, 19:1-6, 1Cor. 14:2,4,5, 14,15,18, 27,28

The following are the steps to take for any believer to receive the Holy Spirit.

**Step Number 1:** Note that God has already given the Holy Spirit and that it is now up to you to receive God's free Gift. You don't need to beg God to fill you with the Holy Spirit. Just pray to receive. For instance, look at what the Apostle Paul said some years after the incidents recorded in Acts chapter 2.

ACTS 19:1-6. In V2 He said unto them, did you RECEIVE the Holy Spirit when you believed? [He didn't say, "Has God given you the Holy Spirit?" He said, "Have you received the Holy Spirit?"] And they said to him, we have not so much as heard whether there is a Holy Spirit. Paul didn't tell these disciples to pray that God would give them the Holy Spirit. The Bible says, ". . . the Holy Spirit came on them; and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied" (Acts 19:6). Notice also Acts chapter 8: 14-17 which occurred in Samaria some years after the Day of Pentecost.

**We must always pray to receive all that grace as freely given us – Salvation, Power, Authority, Healing, Prosperity, the list is endless including the Holy Spirit.**

**Step Number 2:** Note that anyone who is saved is ready to immediately receive the Holy Spirit. ACTS 2:37,38. It is true that sin which has not been confessed can hinder people from receiving the blessings of God. Once we confess our sins, the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9).

**Step Number 3:** When a minister of God lays hands on you, you are to receive the Holy Ghost. Anyone can lay hands on another in faith, for God honors faith. However, there is also a ministry of laying on of hands, and some are used along these lines more than others. But anyone can lay their hands on a person in faith as a point of contact, and tell them, "This is the time — right now — that you are to receive the Holy Ghost." The Holy Ghost is received by faith, and faith is always "now" or present tense (Heb. 11:1).

**Can I receive the Holy Spirit on my own without anyone laying hand on me?** The answer is **YES** you can, it is by faith. It is between you and God if you ask by faith. Acts 10:44

**Step Number 4:** Get over your fears First before you can receive the baptism in the Holy Spirit: you won't get something that is false or counterfeit when receiving the baptism in the Holy Spirit. Jesus has assured us of this truth in Luke 11:11-13. It is a different thing entirely, of course, when a sinner is seeking the Holy Spirit because the sinner cannot receive the Holy Spirit (John 14:17). But if a person who is a child of God is seeking the Holy Spirit, he is not going to receive an evil spirit.

### **Step Number 5:** What to expect as you receive the Holy Spirit.

You are to expect the Holy Spirit to move upon your vocal organs and put supernatural words on your lips which you will have to speak out yourself in cooperation with the Holy Spirit. It is not the Holy Spirit who is to do the talking. It is the person receiving the Holy Ghost who is to do the talking.

It is all right to be told to yield to the Holy Ghost. But notice again Acts 2:4: ". . . they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and [they] began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

The point is this: The Holy Ghost doesn't take you over, so to speak, and force you to do anything. But you can respond to Him and follow His promptings. He will give you the utterance, but you do the talking. ACTS 10:46, 1 CORINTHIANS 14:2,4,5, 14,15,18, 27,28

When the Spirit of God is moving on your tongue and lips, what you must do is lift your voice and put sound to it. If you will obey those promptings of the Holy Spirit, you will find yourself speaking with tongues. You must cooperate with the Holy Spirit. Speaking with tongues isn't entirely you, and it isn't entirely the Holy Ghost. It is a cooperation between you and the Holy Ghost.

**Step Number 6:** You must open your mouth and be ready to use your own mouth and vocal cords, for the Holy Spirit will give the utterance, but you must yield and give voice to that utterance. At the same time, you should tell God in your heart, "I am receiving the Holy Spirit right now by faith."

When the Holy Spirit begins to move upon you, lift your voice and speak out whatever utterance is given to you by the Holy Spirit, regardless of what it sounds like. Continue to praise God and speak to God with those supernatural words until the language becomes more and more fluent. When you can hear yourself speak in tongues in a distinct language, you will have assurance and confidence that you have received the Holy Ghost.

The Bible says the Holy Spirit will come to us as the rain. And Jesus said in JOHN 7:37-39 that we are to come and drink of the Holy Spirit. In other words, Jesus said receiving the Holy Ghost is like drinking water. No one can drink with their mouth shut, in the same way, in order to receive the Holy Spirit, a person must put action to his faith, open his mouth, and give voice to the unction of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "Come and drink" (John 7:37). If you will act on God's Word, He will honor His Word, and you can receive the Holy Ghost or whatever it is that He has promised.

**Step Number 7:** Don't be distracted.

For instance, a crowd around you may confuse you. Many times, folks are a little slow about yielding to the Spirit, but if someone is there to help encourage them to yield to the Holy Spirit, people can more readily receive.

Similarly, sometimes the minister can simply speak in tongues after praying with you, and this will encourage you to "follow you into the water," so to speak — into the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

**NOTE:** If others are standing nearby, have them pray quietly in tongues, not in their own language. If people are praying in their own native language, that person receiving the Holy Spirit can hear what they are saying and be distracted. In other words, he might get his mind on the others and what they're saying. This can prevent him from yielding to God.

By following these seven steps, believers will be helped to receive the Holy Spirit immediately without tarrying.

**NEXT: THE IMPORTANT REASONS WHY YOU MUST SPEAK IN TONGUE**