

LESSON SIX

A Brief study of the Holy Spirit

INTRODUCTION: John 3:34 There are “*measures*” of the manifestations of the Holy Spirit in that Christ received the Spirit without measure.

I. Two Miraculous measures of the Holy Spirit in the New Testament:

A. The baptism of the Holy Spirit

1. Promises of this to the Apostles only:

a. John 14:26 & 16:12-13; Mark 13:11; Luke 24:46-49; Acts 1:1-5,8 (Notice pronouns)

2. Receipt of this to the Apostles only:

a. Acts 1:26-2:11 (Note again pronouns, also this is the only place in the bible that defines the “*gift of tongues*” –that is languages.)

3. Only the Apostles performed miracles until Acts 6 though thousands were baptized and had received the “*gift if the Holy Spirit*”. See: Acts 2:43; 3:1-7; 4:33; 5:12

B. The laying on of the Apostles’ hands. Beginning with Acts 6 others received the ability to perform miracles but only through the laying on of the Apostles’ hands.

1. Acts 6:5-8; Acts 19:5-6. Note that this passage shows what kind of gifts were given (1 Corinthians 12:8-11 gives a more complete description). Note also that these did not receive all of the gifts as did the Apostles

2. Acts 8:5-24. Note Philip, one of the seven of Acts 6 who had the Apostles’ hands laid on him, performing miracles but sending for two apostles to confer Spiritual gifts (note especially vs.18). Philip, nor anyone with this measure could pass on spiritual gifts.

3. Romans 1:11; 2 Timothy 1:6. These are the only other places in the Bible that speaks of spiritual gifts being passed on and it again specifies the laying on of the apostles’ hands.

4. CONCLUSION: Once the last apostle died, the ability to pass on spiritual gifts also died, and thus spiritual gifts would come to an end. However, this was by design.

II. 1 Corinthians 13. A Direct Statement as to the Ending of Miraculous Gifts

A. 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:7. The more excellent way of love, more excellent than fighting over spiritual gifts that would soon cease.

B. 1 Corinthians 13:8-13

1. Vs. 8 gifts will cease
2. Vs. 9 Knowledge is NOW in part (about 58 AD)
3. Vs. 10 knowledge will be “*perfect*”, that is, complete, mature, totally revealed as opposed to the partial that was then in effect. Note James 1:25; Jude 3. (The last inspired book to be written completing revelation and knowledge of God was 68-69 A.D. or 95- 96 A.D., the book of Revelation. John, the apostle, died shortly after, being the last apostle to die, and thus ending passing on of spiritual gifts and fitting perfectly with the statement of this passage).
4. Vs.11 the church in its infancy used spiritual gifts, but in its maturity no longer needed them as “*all truth*” was revealed (John 16:13)
5. Vs. 12 at that time knowledge was still “*fuzzy*” as all was not revealed. But when the perfect, completed word was revealed, one would see face to face knowing the mind of God (1 Corinthians 2:16)
6. Vs. 13 faith, hope and love is what remained after the spiritual gifts ceased. (Note the perfect, therefore, could not have been the second-coming of Christ which would mean that faith and hope would last into heaven contradicting Romans 8:24-25 and Hebrews 11:1)

III. The Holy Spirit And The Christian Today

- A. For the Christian today, we benefit from all the miraculous work of the spirit in the first century by our study and application of God’s word, (Ephesians 3:3-5; 5:18; Colossians 3:16).
- B. The Holy Spirit is also an intercessor for us in our groanings to God in prayer, Romans 8:26-27).
- C. The “*gift of the Holy Spirit*” in Acts 2:38 refers to a culmination of all the promises and blessings that come from the Holy Spirit when we are obedient and come into covenant relationship with God. These promises and blessings are described for us throughout the Holy Spirit’s revealed message, the New Testament.