

“Foundations Of Faith: The Holy Spirit”
November 5, 2006 * John 3:1-8, 7:37-39

I. The Breath of the Spirit Gives Life

A. What was the Spirit doing at Creation?

Hovering over, watching and protecting it.

B. If God watches over and sustains my physical life, what does that mean for me?

It means my life matters. It means my life is a gift from God to me. I should use it well. I shouldn't waste it. I shouldn't throw it away. It means that he's nearby to help me with my life. It means I owe my life to God. I should thank him. I should serve him. I should love him for whatever time I am given on this earth.

C. If God watches over and sustains my spiritual life, what does that mean for me?

It means without the Holy Spirit I can't have a spiritual life. I can't know God. I can't have any kind of relationship with him. Only God's Spirit makes that possible.

II. The Wind of the Spirit Rules & Convicts

A. The Spirit as “Breath” is life-giving and gentle; the Spirit as “Wind” is life-shaking and **powerful**.

2 Ways The Spirit As “Wind” Exercises His Power:

B. He shows power in showing **sovereignty**.

1. What does sovereignty mean?

That you have the authority and might to do whatever you want.

2. Where do we see the Spirit showing this in the Bible?

In 1 Cor.12:11 the Spirit distributes spiritual gifts ‘as he determines’. In Acts 13:2 the Spirit gives

commands for Paul and Barnabas’ mission trip.

3. How should I respond to God's sovereignty?

I should yield to it.

C. He shows power in helping me be rid of **sin**.

1. What does the Bible compare sin to?

Chaff – the useless part of a stalk of grain, which the wind can easily blow away (Ps.1:4)

2. What does the Spirit do for those who don't believe?

III. The Water of the Spirit Regenerates and Indwells

A. Once I respond to the Spirit's conviction, what 2 things happen within me:

1. The Spirit **regenerates** my spirit.

2. The Spirit **indwells** me.

B. Sometimes this ‘indwelling’ comes with a real experience of God's presence in my life. What should I think about this ‘experience’?

If I have had this experience, I shouldn't expect everyone to have it to, and I should be careful not to say things that the Bible never says (i.e. that everyone should speak in tongues or have a “second blessing”).

If I haven't had a profound experience, I shouldn't doubt that God is at work in my life.

C. How do I know if the Holy Spirit is in my life?

If I know I belong to Christ, then I have his Spirit within me (Romans 8:9). If I can say, “Jesus is Lord” and mean it, then the Holy Spirit has enabled me to say that (1 Cor.12:3)

IV. The Fire of the Spirit Empowers & Equips

A. References to the Spirit as “fire”

Matt.3:11; Acts 2:2; 1 Thess.5:19

B. *God gives the fire of His Spirit for 3 reasons:*

1. *To help me overcome sin in my life.*

1 John 4:4; Gal.5:16

2. *To help me be a better, bolder witness for Christ.*

Acts 1:8; 4:31

3. *To help me build up his _____ and make it stronger.*

1 Cor.14:12

C. *How do I have more of the Spirit's fire in my life?*

1. *Don't be afraid of spiritual zeal.*

Romans 12:11

2. *Be filled with the Spirit.*

Ephesians 5:19

I am filled by whatever I allow to pass through the gateways to my soul (my gateways are my eyes, my ears, my mind, my feet, my hands, etc.)

3. *Submit to the Spirit.*

Romans 8:5

Does the Holy Spirit have a monopoly in my life?