

Have You! Received The Holy Ghost Since You Believed?

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*And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, **Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?** And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.*

Acts 19:1-2

The Apostle Paul asked this astonishing question to the disciples of John the Baptist in Acts Chapter 19 and verse 2

He was told that they had not heard anything about the Holy Ghost. The Apostle Paul then explained some things and then re-baptized them for a second time (only this time, in the name of Jesus). Afterward, when he laid his hands on them, they received the Holy Ghost and spoke with other tongues just like they did on the day of Pentecost!

So Then How does one know when they have received the Holy Ghost?

Some teach that the Holy Spirit is received automatically", with no apparent outward manifestation, when a person "believes" and accepts Christ as their personal Savior. However, in Acts 8:12-17, we read about people who believed, yet they had NOT received the Holy Spirit. Many professing Christians have never heard this because most ministers do not believe this Bible experience is for people today. However, regardless of the theology or doctrines that most ministers have been instructed to teach, the question above should be asked of every professing Christian today. Those who are truly independent thinking Bible students will search it out for themselves in the scriptures, and will find out what the Bible has to say about this matter.

Jesus told Nicodemus in John 3:5, "... *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God*". Romans 8:9 tells us, "...*Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.*" Some teach that the Holy Spirit is received "automatically" ... with no apparent outward manifestation ... at the same time a person is baptized in water. However, in Acts 8:12-17 (as shown above), & Acts 19:1-6 we read about those who received the Holy Spirit AFTER being baptized... but in Acts 10:44-48 we read about others who received the Holy Spirit BEFORE being baptized.

The Holy Spirit is not "automatically" imparted at believing ... or baptism!

A person shouldn't claim receiving the Holy Spirit entirely on the grounds of someone telling them they have received it ... without them knowing for sure. Nor should they believe things "implied" from very carefully selected portions of scripture by some ministers, as opposed to that which is plainly stated in scripture. There is a way to know for sure when one receives the Holy Spirit ... and the Bible states it plainly.

And those of the circumcision who believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because the gift of the Holy Spirit had been poured out on the Gentiles also. For they heard them speak with tongues and magnify God. Acts 10:45-46 (NKJV)

The Bible does not say the supernatural manifestations of God have ceased!

Miracles have *always* been closely associated with God, His work, and His people. However, there are professing Christians today who adamantly reject and denounce certain miracles and manifestations of the Holy Spirit which we read about in the Bible. They claim these supernatural manifestations were temporary and were only for

the purpose of confirming that the message of the Apostles was truly of Divine origin, and that God no longer uses them today. Some even claim that these supernatural manifestations were only for the 12 Apostles ... and/or that any and all supernatural manifestations in our day and age are of demonic origin and not from God.

Unfortunately for them they are missing out on a great move of God in the day in which we live. Miracles still happen, the Baptism of the Holy Ghost is still given, peoples lives are changed by the power of God each and every day.

Receiving the Holy Spirit Is The Earnest of your Inheritance with God

Ephesians 1:13-14

*13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, 14 **Which is the EARNEST of our inheritance** until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*

In the above verses Paul used the word "EARNEST" which is the Greek word ARRHABON, which means a pledge, PART of the purchase-money or property given in advance as security for the rest -a down payment, to describe the Holy Spirit in the heart of a believer. It is quite common for someone to put "earnest" money down on property or a possession in an act of good faith to secure it until they complete the transaction. It could be said that the joyous experience of the infilling of the Holy Spirit is just a small portion of what Heaven is going to be like because it is given to us as an EARNEST (PART) of our inheritance. The final transaction will take place when the Church is taken home to be with our Lord.

Has God quit imparting the GIFT of his Holy Spirit to believers today? NO! It is still for as and to be more direct, it is still for YOU tod In Acts 1:8 the scripture declares "you shall receive power after the Holy Spirit is come upon you". The Greek word for power is the word DUNAMIS which speaks of a miraculous power and is the word where we get dynamite from. When a person is filled with the spirit of God, or as we call it, the Holy Spirit, there is a miraculous force which fills there life. I encourage you to seek the power of God in your life for yourself. God is available to those who call on him in faith.