



 CONNECT

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 HOLY SPIRIT

 PARTNER

UNDERSTANDING THE MINISTRY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus announced that God's kingdom in heaven was breaking into the earth. He followed this teaching with miraculous signs, powers, healings, transformation, and peace provided by the Holy Spirit. After his death, he imparted the personal and powerful Holy Spirit to his disciples to continue building his ministry and kingdom within us and through us (the Church).

*"For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit . . . But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Acts 1:5,8*

RELATING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit reconnects us to God's spiritual realities. Like an antenna helps you tune into frequencies you could not detect previously, so the Holy Spirit reconnects us to God's spiritual activities.



1. We receive the Holy Spirit within us at salvation.

The Holy Spirit is God's personal gift to you so that you have personal access to relationship with God and all of the life he provides.

Ephesians 1:13

When you believed (in Jesus), you were marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:10-11

But if Christ is in you, then even though your body is subject to death because of sin, the Spirit gives life because of righteousness. And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies because of his Spirit who lives in you.

Discussion Questions:

- a) How does it change your perspective to know that, if you believe in Jesus, the Holy Spirit lives in you and makes God personally available to you?
- b) What did your church teach about the Holy Spirit growing up, or what has been your understanding of the Holy Spirit?

GOD



2. The Holy Spirit makes God's life available to us.

The Holy Spirit is God and relates to us in many different ways, like God does. Below is a New Testament list of activities of the Holy Spirit in a believer's life. Our desire is to embrace all of God's loving ways and activities in our lives. (see *Holy Spirit* booklet for scriptures.)



- A. The Holy Spirit gives us life.
- B. The Holy Spirit gives us relationship with God.
- C. The Holy Spirit gives us wisdom and truth.
- D. The Holy Spirit transforms us.
- E. The Holy Spirit gives us spiritual gifts (1 Cor 12).

Discussion Questions:

- a) Do you have a story or testimony of how God's Spirit provided one of these ministries in your life in a powerful way: life, relationship, wisdom, transformation, power?
 - b) Which of these activities is hardest for you to understand or trust in the Spirit? Why?
 - c) Have you ever seen the gifts of the Holy Spirit practiced in a church or small group? What impression did it leave you?
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GOD



3. The ministry of the Holy Spirit is ongoing.

We can always ask for more of the Holy Spirit's revelation of friendship, power, wisdom, and holiness. In fact, if we are going to fulfill the mission of God, we need the ongoing power of God.



The pattern we often see is the laying on of hands by other believers in prayer asking God to impart more of himself. In this verse we see the ongoing nature of being filled with the Spirit in contrast to satisfying our lives with carnal pleasures.

Ephesians 5:18

Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit.

Acts 4:31

After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.

Discussion Question:

- a) Why do you think God chooses to work through the prayerful laying on of hands by other believers to pour out his life and Spirit?
- b) What are some of the obstacles or objections that prevent us from seeking more of God's Holy Spirit?
- c) Is there an area of God's life, ministry, and activity you are hungry for more of?



HOLY SPIRIT @ PETRA CHURCH

Here are a few ways you may notice the Holy Spirit expressed in the Petra community!

1. **In our decision making** – seeking the Holy Spirit’s wisdom and leadership
2. **Prayer times** – as we pray for other people we hear God’s voice
3. **Worship** – more personal and expressive because the Spirit is among us
4. **Small Groups** – practice the gifts of the Spirit from 1 Corinthians 12 and 14
5. **Personal integrity and holiness** – transformative power to live free from sin
6. **Evangelism** – the boldness to talk about Jesus to pray for healing or to prophecy

RECEIVING THE EMPOWERING BAPTISM FOR YOURSELF



1. This Spirit baptism is a **gift** and is received by faith. Acts 2:38, 10:45; Galatians 3:14



2. We simply need to **ask** Jesus to baptize us with his Spirit. Lk. 11: 9-13; Matt 3:11



3. This empowering baptism of the Spirit was often imparted through the **laying on of hands**. God is not limited to this pattern, but it’s a biblical example we can follow. It’s good to ask someone who has received this baptism to pray for us. Acts 8:17-18, 9:17, 19:16; II Tim. 1:6-7



4. Every Sunday, the prayer teams are available to pray with you so you can also receive this wonderful impartation of the Holy Spirit into your life. Just ask!

To Watch the video on Understanding the Ministry of the Holy Spirit, go to...
www.petra.church/belong and scroll to the bottom.