

## DEPENDENCE ON THE HOLY SPIRIT AND GOD THE FATHER

(Wellsford Fellowship - 6/5/90 - EKB)

1. **Ac 19:1-6.** Paul came to Ephesus where he found some “disciples”. Paul’s question to them was “have you received the Holy Spirit since you believed?” (KJV). The only kind of “disciples” that can receive the Holy Spirit are disciples of Jesus Christ. The promise of the Spirit is only to believers in Christ, *Lk 24:49, Jn 14:16,17,26, Ac 2:38,39.*

**Note: Paul considered** it was possible to be a “disciple” of Christ and not to have received the Holy Spirit for power and service, *Ac 8:4-8,12,14-17.*

[In conversion the Holy Spirit works in our lives to bring us to repentance and faith in Christ as Lord and Saviour, and then Christ is the One who baptises us with the Holy Spirit, *Ac 1:4,5,8, Mat 3:11.*]

What made Paul ask, “have you received.....?”

Perhaps it was lack of gifts, *1Cor 12:7-11, Ac 19:6*

or lack of power, *Ac 1:8, 2Tim 1:7, 1Cor 4:18-20*

or lack of boldness, *Ac 4:8-13*

or lack of godliness, *Gal 5:22,23*

or lack of converts, *Ac 1:8*

or lack of joy, *Rom 14:17, Eph 5:18,19*

or something else.

2. What would Paul say to us today if he were here?
3. Are we doing things in our own ability, or are we conscious of our need of, and our dependence upon the Holy Spirit? The Christian life, as God intends us to live it, can only be lived in the power and life of the Holy Spirit. *Jn 4:10,14, Jn 7:37-39, Jn 14:26, Jn 15:26, Jn 16:7, Zech 4:6, Mic 3:8.*
4. Jesus spoke to His disciples and told them not to depart from Jerusalem but to **wait for the “promise of the Father,”** *Ac 1:4*, which would be for them “the baptism with the Holy Spirit,” *Ac 1:5*. This would endue them with God’s power, *Lk 24:49*, and enable them to be powerful witnesses to Jesus Christ unto the ends of the earth, *Ac 1:8*.
5. **Our preaching** of the Gospel is to be in power, and in the Holy Spirit and in much assurance, *1Thes 1:5*. It is to be in the demonstration of the Holy Spirit and power, *1Cor 2:4,5*, not in the wisdom of words, *1Cor 1:17*.
6. **The Holy Spirit:**

makes us able ministers of the New Covenant	<i>2Cor 3:6</i>
teaches us concerning all things	<i>1Jn 2:27</i>
fills us with the joy of the Lord, our strength	<i>Eph 5:18,19, Neh 8:10</i>
gives us the words to speak in all situations	<i>Mat 10:20</i>
makes us bold in our God, with power, love	<i>2Tim 1:7, 1Thes 2:2</i>
and a sound mind	
guides and directs our paths	<i>Ac 10:19,20;11:12;16:6,7,9,10</i>

equips with the gifts to do the works of Jesus	<i>1Cor 12:7-11</i>
empowers us to preach the Gospel and witness to the unsaved	<i>Ac 1:8</i>
directs the church to send out labourers into the harvest	<i>Ac 13:1-4</i>
liberates us from sins that bind	<i>Rom-8:2,13, Rom 6:6,11</i>
shows us the truths of God's Word	<i>Jn 16:13</i>
empowered Jesus to do good deeds and to bring healing to those oppressed by satan	<i>Ac 10:38</i>
breaks demonic strongholds and sets prisoners free	<i>Mat 12:28</i>
makes us stronger than he who is in the world	<i>1Jn 4:4</i>
causes the fruit of Christ's character to be brought forth in our lives	<i>Gal 5:22,23</i>

7. **Steps to receiving the Holy Spirit** - *Ac 2:38*

- a. **repent** and turn from the ways of self to Christ. Choose to make Jesus Christ the Lord of your life every day. Deny self and choose God's will in all things. **Confess** and forsake all sin and disobedience, *Pro 28:13*.
- b. **believe** in Christ and in His Word. He is your life. Believe in His death, His Blood, His Resurrection. Receive Him as Saviour and Lord.
- c. **be baptised** in water to identify with Christ in His death and resurrection to a risen life, *Rom 6:4*.
- d. **receive** the Holy Spirit by faith as a gift of God's grace, *Ac 2:38,39, Lk 11:13, Jn 14:26*. Often the gift of the Holy Spirit is imparted by the laying on of hands. *Ac 8:15-17, Ac 9:17*.
- e. **go on in the Holy Spirit** every day, praying in tongues, *1Cor 14:4,5*, continue always in prayer, *Eph 6:18, Lk 18:1*, read God's Word daily and let it fill you with new life, *Jn 16:13, Pro 4:20-22, Col 3:16*, lift up your heart to praise and worship God, *Eph 5:18,19*, and seek for opportunities to witness to others about the salvation that is in Christ, *Ac 1:8, Ac 4:20*.

1. **A little child is a picture of dependence.** He or she shows **full implicit trust** in their mother or father **to provide total care and provision**, *Mat 18:1-4*.

At breakfast time, they run to the table, jump up on the chair, grab their spoon and bowl and **look expectantly** for the food and drink to arrive. There are no **doubtful, anxious thoughts**. They do not go to the cupboard and check the supplies beforehand. They are not concerned about the balance in the cashflow card or cheque book. They are totally at peace and full of joyful expectation.

2. **Jesus' life is also a picture of dependence upon God, His Father.** As Jesus grew through childhood into a mature adult, He grew in the knowledge and love of God. He came to know intimately God's goodness, love, kindness, power, authority, righteousness, justice, truth, wisdom, knowledge and the constant leading and instruction of the Holy Spirit, *Lk 2:40-52*. **His will was fully surrendered to God's will**, *Jn 15:19,30, 6:38, Ps 40:8*. **He did not live independently from God in self-will**, pleasing Himself. He actively sought out the will of God and the completion of His work, *Jn 4:34*.
3. With this kind of relationship with God the Father, **Jesus depended totally upon God without fear or anxiety. He had total trust upon God to provide all His needs, to guide and direct all His paths, to give Him words to speak and the works to do**, as each new situation arose. He depended upon God **to deliver Him from the wicked and evil schemes of men** opposed to God, *Rom 1:18, 2Tim 3:1-5, Lk 4:28-30*.
4. **Our calling in Christ is into the same relationship of total dependence upon God the Father and the Holy Spirit that He had**, as well as to **full dependence upon our risen Lord, Christ Himself**. He also said, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age," *Mat 28:20*.
5. At our conversion, **we turn to God for salvation through repentance of sins**, failures, short-comings, all our independence from God, self centredness and self sufficiency. **We believe in Jesus Christ** as our Saviour and Lord, *Ac 16:31*. **We receive Him** into our lives, *Jn 1:12*. When we are water baptised, we are baptised into Christ and put on Christ, *Gal 3:27*, and the power of the Holy Spirit, *Ac 2:38,39*.  
  
What is actually happening is that **we are being put right with God and being set free from the old life of sin**, corruption and evil influence, *Rom 5:1, 2Cor 5:18, Col 1:13,14, Col 3:8-14*. **Christ becomes our life and lives in us**, *Col 1:27, Gal 2:20*. **We are in Christ and become new creations of God in Him**, *Col 3:1-3, Gal 3:27, 2Cor 5:17*.
6. **As we grow to understand God's goodness**, righteousness, faithfulness, authority, power, truth, love, kindness, care, compassion, mercy and faith, **our trust and dependence on God grows**.
7. As we come to the **place of full surrender** to God and His will, we actively seek to find and do what God wants. God now becomes the centre and focus of our lives and **we come to full dependence upon Him**.

8. **This is a place of great blessing**, security, confidence, strength, faith, power and fruitfulness.

**“Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord.....**

He shall be like a tree planted by the waters,  
Which spread out its roots by the river,  
And he will not fear when the heat comes,  
But its leaf will be green,  
He will not be anxious in the year of drought,  
Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

*Jer 17:7,8.*

9. **Now our dependence upon God the Father, the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ and God’s Word** is becoming stronger each day. **We depend upon Him** for security, health, financial provision, strength, salvation, guidance, wisdom, love, joy, peace, truth, opportunities, boldness, words of witnessing to those around us. **We depend upon Him to show us His will**, our gifts of ministry and to open doors of opportunity. **We depend upon Him to empower us**, flow through us as channels of blessing, truth and life to others, so that the blind see, the lame walk and God’s Kingdom is fully established.

10. Our dependence upon God the Father is expressed practically through our faith in the **PROMISES OF GOD** recorded in Scripture, *2Pet 1:3, 2Cor 1:20*.

Prepare or obtain lists of the promises of God for:

security of your home  
provision of work, finance and daily needs  
healing and health  
freedom from sinful habits  
boldness, words and opportunities to witness for Christ  
salvation for children and grandchildren  
guidance and direction  
the fulfilling of God’s plan and purpose in our lives  
and so on....

11. Whenever you sense an awareness of need in your life turn to the promises of God. Pray them, confess and thank God for them and believe what they say.