

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Handout for Lesson 12 of *Thought Provoking Questions*

1. What is the gift of the Holy Spirit and when is it received? Does the Holy Spirit dwell in a Christian, and, if so, how? Are we guided today by the Holy Spirit, and, if so, how?

1. The gift of the Holy Spirit is the Holy Spirit as a gift, not a gift that the Holy Spirit gives.

2. The gift of the Holy Spirit is received at baptism.

3. The gift of the Holy Spirit received at baptism is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

4. The gift of the Holy Spirit received at baptism does not refer to miraculous endowments.

5. The indwelling of the Holy Spirit is a personal indwelling, not a representative indwelling.

6. Objections to the concept of a personal indwelling.

1. Acts 2:38 cannot refer to the indwelling of the Holy Spirit because that would mean the incarnation of deity in every Christian.

2. If the Holy Spirit dwells in every Christian, he would have to be divided into as many pieces as there are Christians on earth at any one time.

3. Many verses speak of the “fact” of the indwelling, but only two tell us “how” the spirit dwells in us: Eph. 5:18-19 and Col. 3:16.

2. How does the Holy Spirit work in today’s world – miraculously or non-miraculously?

1. The purpose of miracles was to confirm the message and the messenger.

2. Miraculous endowments were received through the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

3. There are two recorded instances of Holy Spirit baptism (Acts 2, 10) and one implied instance (Gal. 1-2; 2 Cor. 12:11).

4. All other miraculous manifestations of power by the Holy Spirit resulted from the bestowal of such gifts by the laying on of the apostles’ hands (Acts 8).

5. Miraculous powers were a temporary expedient necessary to the functioning of the church in its infancy (1 Cor. 13).

6. They ceased when the last of the apostles and the last person on whom the apostles bestowed miraculous gifts had died.

7. This conclusion is borne out by Eph. 4:7-16.

3. Are we guided by the Holy Spirit today, and, if so, how?

1. All agree that the Holy Spirit guides today; the real issue is the manner in which the Holy Spirit guides.

2. There are only three avenues available through which the Spirit may lead – physical, moral, and spiritual (defined as a direct operation by the Spirit of God upon the spirit of man without any agent or other means).

3. When we think of the power of the Spirit exerted upon the

minds of men we are prepared to think in terms of verbal communication.

4. If man is not persuaded by the word of God, he will not be persuaded by a messenger from Heaven or Hell (Luke 16:23-31).

5. There is no “new light,” no “converting power,” no “assistance to believe” beyond the word of God.

6. Always and in every instance of conversion there was a precedent proclamation of the word.

7. The Holy Spirit does not lead by affecting subjective feelings, urges, or experiences separate and apart from the word.

8. The Holy Spirit is a “speaking” Spirit and has always led by communicating to man in speech.

9. The Holy Spirit’s message is final and complete.

10. Those in error must denigrate the Scripture.

11. When one speaks of being “open” to the leading of the Holy Spirit, or claims to be “led” by the Holy Spirit, but is teaching and practicing that which is contradictory to the Scripture, he has done the very opposite of that which he claims to be doing; instead of following the leadership of the Spirit, he has turned his back on the only message the Holy Spirit has given to the world.