



# The Power & Ministry of the Holy Spirit

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## DISCIPLE DEVELOPMENT MONTH

### What are the Disagreements about the Holy Spirit?

Week 4 || Jan 30 & Feb 1, 2024

**Session Purpose:** The aim of this session is to use God's Word to analyze and understand some of the disagreements regarding the ministry of the Holy Spirit.

#### Introduction:

- There are two main distinctive groups in Christianity:
  - 1) Charismatic/Pentecostals (656M worldwide & 68M in North America spread out in 2,321 denomination - World Christian Encyclopedia)
  - 2) Non-Charismatic/Pentecostals (387M worldwide & 71M in North America spread out over 1,249 denominations and movements - World Christian Encyclopedia)
- There are basically four disagreements about the ministry of the Holy Spirit:

#### ❶ Can a believer commit the unforgiveable sin of blaspheming the Holy Spirit?

- \_\_\_\_\_ (Matt. 12:24-32, Mark 3:22-30; Luke 11:17-23)
- After healing a demonized man who was blind and mute, the crowds were amazed and the religious leaders were appalled and concluded that Jesus was "*possessed by Beelzebul*" (Jn 7:20; 8:48, 52; 10:20) & casting "*out the demons*" by "*the ruler of the demons*" (Mk 3:22).
- Jesus refutes their blasphemous charges by saying their accusation was irrational (Mk. 3:23-24), inconsistent (Mt 12:27), and indefensible (Mt. 12:28-30).
- There is \_\_\_\_\_ sin that cannot be forgiven by God for those who truly repent, including the sin of blasphemy (God forgave Peter in Mr. 14:71; Paul's blasphemies & persecution - 1 Tim. 1:12-17)

- But not those who conclude that the ministry of Jesus is enabled by Satan. That is an eternal sin that is a defiant, deliberate and determined rejection refusal of God's salvation in Christ. This is hardened \_\_\_\_\_.

## ② Is being slain in the Spirit a biblical practice?

- \_\_\_\_\_ because it is not taught in Scripture.
- All the prooftexts fall short and do not meet the prescription of being slain in the Spirit (1 Kings 8:10-11; Ex. 40:34-38; John 18:5-6; Acts 26:13-14; Rev. 1:7)

## ③ Can a believer expect the Holy Spirit to speak to them today?

- It \_\_\_\_\_ upon what you mean by the word "speak".
- Romans 8:14: *"For all who are being led by the Spirit of God, these are sons and daughters of God."*
- Having the Spirit speak has been described as being led by your thoughts, feelings, impressions, convictions, teachings, direct words or teaching on how to hear the voice of God, but is this true?
- Some have taught various methods to hear the voice of the Spirit:
  - 1) Ask for specific \_\_\_\_\_ method:
  - 2) \_\_\_\_\_ for the "still small voice" method (1 Kings 19:11-15)
  - 3) "Read the \_\_\_\_\_" method: It is looking for little events as a sign from God
  - 4) Open, point and \_\_\_\_\_ method.

- We see the Spirit speaking in the book of Acts (8x - 8:29; 13:2; 10:19; 11:12, 28; 20:23; 21:11; 28:24)
- The Spirit speaks in \_\_\_\_\_ with His Word (Psalm 119:105; 1 John 4:1; Jude 3)

## ④ Are all the gifts of the Spirit still active today?

- \_\_\_\_\_.
- Two groups regarding the sign gifts with five prominent views:

### 1) The **continuationists** (all the gifts continue in operation)

#1: Third Wave \_\_\_\_\_ & New Apostolic reformation: there are apostles and prophets today who are a continuation of the original apostles and prophets in the Bible. They can do signs and wonders, command prosperity and impart gifts to others.

#2: Traditional \_\_\_\_\_: All of the gifts of the Spirit are operational and speaking in tongues can include ecstatic utterance and teaches that the baptism of the Spirit is a two-fold experience (Spirit brings you into the body, then subsequently you are given the baptism of the Spirit with speaking in tongues)

#3: Open-but-\_\_\_\_\_ continuationists: They are open to the sign gifts being normative, but carefully examine how the sign gifts are manifested in the church.

### 2) The **cessationists** (some of the gifts ceased, namely miracles, healings, tongues, interpretation of tongues, Apostles, Prophets)

#4: \_\_\_\_\_ cessationists who believe all the supernatural gifts have ceased and that God ceased from working miracles in this age.

#5: \_\_\_\_\_ cessationists believe the gifts of healing, miracles, tongues, interpretation of tongues, prophecy & apostleship were given by the Spirit specifically to authenticate the message of the apostles & built the foundation of the church (Eph. 2:20; Heb. 2:3-4; 1 Cor. 13:8-12)

See the handout: Discovering Your Unique Ministry Contribution

### **Small Group Questions:**

1. Which disagreement about the ministry of the Holy Spirit is most difficult for you to understand and why?
2. Why can't a true believer commit the unforgiveable sin? How is this a comfort for believers?
3. Why do you think so many people want to experience things like being slain in the Spirit?
4. Why is it dangerous to depend upon impressions, thoughts, and direct words when seeking to hear the voice of the Spirit? What is the best way to be led by the Spirit?
5. Which stance (continuationism or cessationism) has the most compelling case for its belief regarding the gift of the Spirit and why?
6. What is the most helpful truth you have learned from this class about the Person and ministry of the Holy Spirit?