

# Mystery 6

## The Mystery of Receiving the Spirit

**In order to enter the realm of the Holy Spirit, I must receive the Spirit.**

*But a natural man does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised. 1 Corinthians 2:14 NASB*

**ICEBREAKER:** Share a time when you tried to share with a non-believer something spiritual or a spiritual experience you've had and what type of reaction you got.

### 1. How does one receive the Holy Spirit?

One receives the Spirit when one is led by the Spirit to confess their sins and believe in Jesus Christ.

**DISCUSSION:** Matt talked about the thought that we are brought to faith through the power of the Holy Spirit and that it's not something we do on our own. How does that make you feel to know that the Holy Spirit was already at work in your life even before you believed in Jesus? How do you recognize your need for Him for your faith and to do good works? If he was at work in your life then, how much more do you think He wants to work in your life now?

*... no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:3b NASB*

*Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. Acts 2:38 NASB*

*For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free, and we were all made (forced) to drink of one Spirit. 1 Corinthians 12:13 NASB*

## 2. What about the Pentecostal's view of a second experience with the Spirit?

### a. How are they right?

The Christian life is to be a life led by the Spirit.

**DISCUSSION:** Has your spirituality become mundane? How are you living a life that is led by the power of the Holy Spirit?

The Spirit can and will move in our lives in miraculous ways.

**DISCUSSION:** What do you think and how do you feel when you hear someone claim that God has done a miracle in their life? Look back at your life, what event could've been a miracle of God? How?

The Christian should have a second experience with the Holy Spirit that is life changing.

**DISCUSSION:** How do you know if you have had a second encounter with the Holy Spirit?

### b. How are they wrong?

Christians should not only have a secondary experience that is life changing, but a third, fourth, fifth etc...

**DISCUSSION:** Share some life changing experiences you had with the Holy Spirit?

**DISCUSSION:** What are you doing in order to open yourself to the presence of the Holy Spirit so that you can recognize His work in your life?

They make the timing of the event as big of a deal as the event itself.

They misunderstand what it means to be saved.

Paul the Spirit and the People of God by Gordon D. Fee

## The Speaking in Tongues Controversy by Rick Walston

To be saved means to have entered into the age and realm of the Holy Spirit!

*You, however, are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. Romans 8:9 ESV*

**DISCUSSION:** Since you received the Holy Spirit in your life, how are you being led by Him? How are you being led by your flesh (desires)?

### **3. What is the evidence of the Spirit's presence in your life?**

#### **a. The Spirit tells you God is your father.**

*Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Galatians 4:6 NASB*

#### **b. The Spirit tells you the church is your family.**

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God. Romans 8:16 NASB*

God is not saving random individuals, but a people, a spiritual nation, and a family for Himself.

*...you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit. Ephesians 2:22 NASB*

**DISCUSSION:** Have you heard people say that they have a personal relationship with God and don't necessarily need to go to church? If the Holy Spirit is telling all of us that we are one family, how then can we reach out to those that don't want to or feel cut off from the body of believers?

**DISCUSSION:** How has the church become your family? How has God showed you that you belong?

#### **c. The Spirit produces spiritual evidence in your life.**

*But the fruit of the Spirit is... Galatians 5:22 NASB*

**DISCUSSION:** Read the verses that talk about the fruits of the Spirit as a group. How are the fruits of the Spirit evident in your life? What are some of the fruits that are not evident? Why? How can the Spirit produce those fruits in your life?

**d. The Spirit gives you spiritual gifts.**

**PRAYER PROJECT:** Spend 5-7 minutes alone with God and ask Him to show you what evidences of the work of the Holy Spirit you are showing in your life. Then take another 5-7 minutes and ask Him to show you what ways you are blocking His work and what changes He would like for you to make. Share with the group.