

**The Indwelling Gift of the Holy Spirit &
The Supernatural Gifting by the Holy Spirit**
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Major Point # 1: Although the Holy Spirit was supernaturally active among humanity prior to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit within individual believers was not available until after The Atonement was completed.

Key Scriptures:

On the last and greatest day of the festival, Jesus took a stand and shouted, saying, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink! The one who believe in me, even as the Scripture said, rivers of living water shall flow from within him!”

Now He said this about the Spirit, whom those believing in Him were about to receive, for the Spirit was not yet *given* because Jesus had not yet been glorified.¹

John 7:38-39 (My own translation)

[Jesus was saying,] “I will petition the Father and He will give to you a similar defender/companion, that He might be with you unto the ages – the Spirit of truth. The world cannot receive Him, because it isn’t looking for nor *does it* know *about* Him. You know *about* Him, because He remains with you *now* and shall be in you.

John 14:16-17 (My own translation)

Additional Information: During the Old Testament period the Holy Spirit specifically worked with three types of persons.

- Prophets (2 Peter 1:20-21; 1 Peter 1:10-12)
- Priests (Exodus 30:30)
- Kings/Leaders – Moses and the Seventy Israeli Elders (Numbers 11:16-29), Joshua (Numbers 27:15-23), the Judges of Israel (Judges 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:16, 19; 15:14), King Saul (1 Samuel 10:1, 10; 11:6) and King David (1 Samuel 16:13; 1 Chronicles 28:12)

The special status of these persons was usually indicated with a ceremony that involved them being anointed with holy olive oil.

Yahweh prophesied that there was coming a time when individual believers would possess the Holy Spirit. In Isaiah 44:1-4, the Holy Spirit was pictured as water being poured out. (cf. Isaiah 32:15; Joel 2:28). In Ezekiel 39:28-29, this pouring imagery introduces the description of a perfect temple (chapters 40-46) from which flows the river of the water of life (47:1-13).

The gospel is the “good news” that Jesus has paid the penalty for sin (1 Corinthians 15), making it possible for those who believe in and respond by means of repentance, confession and immersion to have his/her sins forgiven and to be immediately indwelt by the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). In a sense, Christians are “anointed” by *Yahweh* via means of the indwelling Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians 1:21) and become “saints” – “holy ones.” Paul writes that anyone who is not indwelt by the Holy Spirit does not belong to *Yahweh* (Romans 8:9).

¹ In John’s gospel, “glorified” is equivalent to The Atonement – the death, resurrection and ascension of Jesus.
Holy Spirit

Major Point # 2: There is a distinct difference between the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit and supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit.

Key Scriptures:

Therefore, on that first day of the week, as evening was arriving, with the doors to the place where the disciples were shut due to *their* fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their presence...he breathed on and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit."

John 20:19, 22 (My own translation)

When the 50th Day *festival* arrived, all *the Apostles* were together in the same *upper room*. Suddenly, a noise like a violently blowing wind came out of the sky and filled the entire house where they were sitting. There appeared to them fire-like tongues, *which*, having been divided up, sat upon each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit gave them *the ability* to speak..

Taking a stand with the *other* eleven *Apostles*, Peter raised his voice and spoke to them... "This is that which was spoken through the prophet Joel, 'It shall be in the last days,' says God, 'I shall pour out from My Spirit upon all *human* flesh...'"

Acts 2:1-4, 14, 16-17 [Joel 2:28] (My own translation)

Additional Information: By comparing the above passages, we can see that Jesus, having paid the penalty for sin in full, subsequently imparted the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit into His apostles shortly after His resurrection. Their supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit did not occur until 50 days later.

There are other examples of this distinction between the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit & the supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit.

We can be absolutely certain that Jesus possessed the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit from conception onward (Luke 1:35), and yet He did not demonstrate any supernatural gifting (e.g., John 2:11) until after the Holy Spirit empowered Him to do so at the time of His immersion (John 1:29-34).

Those who believed the gospel preached by Philip at Samaria obviously received the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit when they repented and were immersed (Acts 8:12), otherwise they would not have been Christians (Romans 8:9). The apostles Peter and John evidently came later to specifically impart the supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit when they laid hands on the believers (Acts 8:14-17). That Philip, who clearly demonstrated supernatural gifts, was unable to impart the supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit to those he was immersing seems to indicate that this was a unique portion of the apostolic ministry. In Romans 1:11, Paul, an apostle like Peter and John (Galatians 1:1; 2:6-10), expressed the desire to impart supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit among the believers in Rome who obviously already had the indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit.

I have to conclude therefore that, while the automatic indwelling of the Holy Spirit continues to occur at conversion, the supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit has not been available since the deaths of the apostles ended the possibility of their laying hands on individual believers.

Major Point # 3: The supernatural gifting by the Holy Spirit aided in the transition between the Old and New Covenants.

The supernatural gifting of the Holy Spirit provided clear-cut evidence that *Yahweh* was involved in the gospel message (Acts 2:22, 43; Hebrews 2:1-3). The gifts also aided the apostles and prophets in laying the foundation of the Church (Ephesians 2:20), including the writing of the New Testament Scripture (John 14:26).

Because of what Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 12-14, the ability to speak in an unlearned language and the ability to prophesy are probably the two most often discussed supernatural gifts given by the Holy Spirit. Here are some of the things Paul tells us about the supernatural gifts as a whole.

- The supernatural gifts were given to individual believers for the benefit of the whole body.
- The Holy Spirit decided who should receive which gift – believers didn't get to pick.
- There was no supernatural gift which everyone received – not every believer could speak in an unlearned language nor did every believer prophesy.
- The supernatural gifts were temporary, while commitment love lasts forever.
- The supernatural gift of prophecy was superior to the supernatural gift of speaking in an unlearned language because the former imparted information to others while the latter simply captured the attention of others

Please note that the gift of speaking in an unlearned language was never used as a means of communicating the gospel, since Greek already filled that need as the universal language of the entire Roman Empire, and even beyond. Speaking in an unlearned language was a prayer of praise, addressed to *Yahweh*, which, being overheard by non-believers who spoke that particular dialect (1 Corinthians 14:2, 22), captured their attention.

On the day of Pentecost the apostles were “speaking the mighty deeds of God,” not in the sense of preaching, but in the sense of publicly praising Him for what he had done, in much the same way as most Old Testament Psalms do. The Jews, gathered in Jerusalem from all over the known world, heard the apostles praising in the dialects of their various native districts and that got their immediate attention (Acts 2:5-12). Peter was then able to openly preach the gospel to them all, no doubt in Greek (Acts 2:14ff).

A few years later, in the home of the centurion Cornelius, it was Peter and his Jewish companions whose attention needed to be captured by God. At that time they wrongly believed that salvation was only available to Jews or proselytes to Judaism. It took two visions (Cornelius' & Peter's) and a house full of Gentiles praising *Yahweh* in an unlearned language (probably Hebrew) to convince Peter - as well as the entire leadership of the early Church – that God wanted the gospel preached to pure Gentiles as well (Acts 10& 11).

Paul gave instructions regarding the use of supernatural gifts (1 Corinthians 14:26-33).

- Everything done had to build up the body, not tear it down.
- No more than three individuals could praise *Yahweh* in an unlearned language during the service; they had to do it one at a time and only if they knew an interpreter of that language was present in the service.
- No more than three prophets could speak during the service; they had to do so one at a time and what they said had to be carefully evaluated by others.²
- The worship service was to be characterized by God's peace, not by worldly chaos.

² This evaluation matches conditions set down in Deuteronomy 18:20-22 and 13:1ff.

Major Point # 4: The indwelling gift of the Holy Spirit basically aids individual believers in transitioning from this fallen world of sin into the perfect world of holiness (John 3:5; Titus 3:5-8; cf. Romans 12:1-2). He is, as the modern Greeks would say, *Yahweh*'s "engagement ring" to the saved – His presence promising even greater things to come (2 Corinthians 1:20-21; 5:5; Romans 8:23; Ephesians 1:13-14).

This remaking of individual believers into the holy image of *Yahweh* is an immense project, found throughout the New Testament, and therefore a bit beyond the scope of this particular study. If you're interested in continuing on your own, I would suggest starting at Galatians 5:16-25 and Romans 8:1ff, and doing a lot of cross-reference studies from there.