

Part 3: THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

The prophets and John the Baptist envisaged one day there would be a new outpouring of the Holy Spirit, linked with the appearing of Jesus.

A. WHAT IS A PROMISE?

*A **promise** is a declaration or assurance made by one person to another, committing to do exactly what has been said.*

B. WHAT IS THE PROMISE?

The promise is that God will send, impart and pour out His Spirit upon all flesh.

a. The prophets saw that one day, God would fulfil the promise.

Read **Eze.36:26-27 & Joel 2:28-29**

b. John saw this and linked the outpouring of the Holy Spirit as one of the key purposes of the coming of Jesus the Messiah.

Read *Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8 & Acts 2:1-4*

An event that culminates and completes the promise of the Father.

It is foundational for every single believer and understanding this will release us to live freely and victoriously.

As a believer, we need to understand that there is a process involved here.

From hearing the word of God, to receiving the Holy Spirit, to being full or filled by the Holy Spirit, to being baptised by the Holy Spirit.

Read **Matthew 13:18-23**. The Parable of the Sower and the seed.

There are a few things that are common to them:

- *They all heard the word.*
- *They all received the word in their heart but only one bears the fruit.*

The first 3 did not allow the work of the Holy Spirit but the last one invested time to understand and allowed the process of the Holy Spirit to do His work in his heart and life.

C. WHY DID GOD GIVE THE PROMISE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

We are created to spend eternity with God.

We are meant to live the very life of God on this earth which He created.

When God breathed on Adam the breath of life, the very presence, the very Spirit, the very life of God came into that dust that was formed.

Prov. 20:27 - *The LORD's light penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive.*

The radiance, the brightness of God's glory, God's presence blinded them from seeing themselves naked.

SIN BROUGHT DEATH (SEPARATION)

Gen. 2:16-17 – *And the LORD God commanded him, "You... must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil; for in the day that you eat of it, you will surely die."*

Also read *Rom. 5:12; Rom. 6:23*

D. JESUS CAME TO GIVE HOPE TO THOSE WHO ARE SEPARATED AND WALKING IN DARKNESS.

Matt. 12:18, 20

Here is My Servant, ... I will put My Spirit on Him, and He will proclaim justice to the nations

A bruised reed He will not break, and a smouldering wick (smoking flax) He will not extinguish, till He leads justice to victory.

In the prophecy, the “*bruised reed*” and the “*smouldering wick*” refer to the spiritually, physically, or morally weak.

We became morally corrupt and spiritually bankrupt. We were so weak that we could not stand before God.

But God gave us a glimpse of HOPE.

A reed that is bruised may be damaged, but it is not irreparable.

The “*smoking flax*” may be out of its fire altogether, but it can still be reignited, refired and renewed.

JESUS CAME AS THE LIGHT.

Read *Jn 1:5; Jn 8:12; Matt. 4:16; Acts 26:18*

Jesus came to restore that light that was once lost. Jesus came for the light to penetrate the human spirit.

E. WHAT IS GOD’S ULTIMATE PURPOSE IN THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?

Read *Luke 24:49; Acts 1:1-5,8*

The coming of the Holy Spirit is one of the most profound and transformative events in the Bible. It not only fulfills the promises of Jesus but also initiates a new relationship between humanity and God, empowering believers to live a life of faith, purpose and victory.

a. Receiving the Holy Spirit.

The initial infilling of the Holy Spirit.

Read *Acts 2:38; Acts 8:14-17; Jn 20:21-22*

b. Being filled by the Holy Spirit.

Read *Acts 2:4; 4:8, 31; Acts 7:55; Acts 9:17; Acts 13:9; Acts 13:52*

c. Being baptised by the Holy Spirit.

Luke 13:16 - *John answered them all, “I baptize you with water. But one who is more powerful than I... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.*

Our prayer is no longer more of you and less of me but all of you and none of me.

Colossians 3:3 - *For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.*