

## SERMON – “Receiving the Spirit”

**Yesterday** we reflected on the message – “The Person of the Spirit.”

**Today** we will reflect on the message – “Receiving the Spirit.”

Christ – “**Born of Spirit**” (Jo. 3:5); **breathed the Spirit** (Jo. 20:21-22)  
God’s **greatest gift** is the SPIRIT! (**Christ; Word of God? IIW speaker**)

**DA 671**: “The Holy Spirit was the highest of all gifts that He [Christ] could solicit from His Father for the exaltation of His people.” **SD 242**: “... through this [Christ’s] sacrifice comes the greatest blessing that God could bestow,—the gift of the Holy Spirit.” **MB 132**: “The Holy Spirit, the representative of Himself [Christ], is the greatest of all gifts ... The Creator Himself can give us nothing greater, nothing better.” **YRP 114**: “The donation of the Holy Spirit was the greatest gift God could bestow upon finite man. This is free to all and in this gift there could be no computation.”

**4MR 329, 335**: “The **Holy Spirit** is to be presented in **every discourse** ... Could there be a convocation of **all the churches on earth**, the **object** of their **united cry** should be for the **Holy Spirit**.”

**Receiving the Spirit** is **NOT AN OPTION!** Three questions about this!

1. **HOW** do we **receive the Spirit**?
2. **HOW** do we **KNOW** we’ve **received the Spirit**?
3. **WHEN** to we **receive the Spirit**?

**FIRST** – **HOW** do we **receive the Spirit**? Three simple steps:

1. **ASK** – We must ask for the Spirit! (**Luke 11:13**)
2. **REPENT** – We must truly repent of sin. (**Acts 2:38; 3:19**)
3. **OBEY** – We must obey God. (**Acts 5:32; John 14:15-17**)

**DA 671**: “There are many who ... talk *about* Christ and *about* the Holy Spirit yet receive no benefit. They **do not surrender the soul** to be guided and controlled by the divine agencies. We **cannot use** the Holy

Spirit. **The Spirit is to use us** ... But many will not submit to this. They want to manage themselves. This is why they do not receive the heavenly gift.” (**SD 31; DA 181; emptied of self; Spirit w/out measure**).

**SECOND** – **HOW** do we **KNOW** if we’ve **received the Spirit**?

- **Confess Christ as Lord**. (1 Cor. 12:3; Rom. 10:9)
- **Radical change in disposition**. (1 Cor. 6:9-11)
- **Fruit of Christian character**. (Gal. 5:22-23; next message)
- **Desire to honor God’s law**. (Jo. 14:15-17; Heb. 10:15-17)
- **Desire to witness**. (Jo. 7:37-39; Acts 4:31-33; GC 70; SC 78)

**SC 57**: “If the heart has been renewed by the Spirit of God, the life will bear witness to the fact ... A change will be seen in the character, habits, the pursuits. The **contrast** will be clear and decided between **what they have been** and **what they are**.” (before-after scenario).

**THIRD** – **WHEN** do we **receive the Spirit**?

The **WORK** of the **SPIRIT** is **ONGOING** – **pre-conversion; conversion; post-conversion work** (daily renewal; Titus 3:5; 2 Cor. 4:16)

- **Prior to water baptism**. (Acts 10:44-48)
- **During water baptism**. (Matt. 3:13-17)
- **After water baptism**. (Acts 19:1-7)
- **Daily spiritual renewal**. (Titus 3:5; 2 Cor. 4:16)
- **Laying on of hands**. (Acts 8:17; 9:17; 19:6)
- **Early Rain vs. Latter Rain** (Jam. 5:7; Joel 2:23; 1MR 180)

**Acts 19:2**: Have you **received the Spirit** since you **first believed**?

**HOSEA 10:12**: Heart prep; seek Lord; rains righteousness on us!

**Personal Experiences**: my baptism (Linda; Fred; measure of Spirit)

**Personal Experiences**: re-baptism of Spirit (saved? Ron; prayer heard)

I urge you again to **reflect on the question**, Have I received the Holy Spirit since I first believed? **Ask, Repent, Obey, Seek** (APPEAL).