

THE HOLY GHOST



Bethel Discipleship Series

SCRIPTURE TEXTS:

Luke 24:45-51 – “Then opened he their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things. And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them. And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.”

Acts 2:1-7 – “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. And there were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad, the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that every man heard them speak in his own language. And they were all amazed and marvelled, saying one to another, Behold, are not all these which speak Galilaeans?”

Acts 2:12-18 – “And they were all amazed, and were in doubt, saying one to another, What meaneth this? Others mocking said, These men are full of new wine. But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and hearken to my words: For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel; And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy.”

Acts 2:37-39 – “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”

I. THE NEXT STEP – THE HOLY SPIRIT

- A. After the first step of faith and repentance, and the second step of water baptism in Jesus' Name, the next fundamental step in the scriptural plan of salvation is being filled with the Holy Ghost.
1. The terms Holy Ghost and Holy Spirit are used interchangeably in the New Testament. In fact, scripture refers to the Holy Ghost experience in several different ways:
 - the “*gift*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 10:45*)
 - the “*infilling*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 2:4*)
 - the “*baptism*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 1:5*)

 - the “*receiving*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 2:38*)
 - the “*coming*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 19:6*)
 - the “*falling*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 8:16*)
 - the “*pouring out*” of the Holy Ghost (*Acts 10:45*)
 2. The word “*ghost*” and “*spirit*” are both translated from the same Greek word “*pneuma*” which means a current of air, a breath or breeze; a soul, a spirit. The word reveals the connection between the “breath of God” and life itself.
 - God “breathed” into Adam and he became “a living soul” (*Genesis 2:7*)
 - Jesus “breathed” on His disciples and told them to expect to receive the Holy Ghost (*John 20:22*)
- B. After His death, burial, and resurrection, Jesus gave His disciples one of the most glorious promises that has ever been given to mankind. He promised to send them the “promise of the Father” (the Holy Ghost, *Acts 2:33*) which would endow them with power from “on high.”
- ***Luke 24:49*** – “*And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high.*”
- C. Jesus told His disciples that He would not leave them “comfortless” (abandoned, as orphans). He promised to return to them in the manifestation of the Comforter, the Holy Ghost. As you read the scriptures below, note that Jesus clearly identifies Himself as the Comforter that will return.
- ***John 14:16-18*** – “*(Jesus said) And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.*”
 - ***John 14:26*** – “*But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.*”
1. Jesus was promising to return to His disciples in another form or manifestation. He would no longer be with them “in the flesh” but He would return to them “in the Spirit.”
- D. This promise was fulfilled in Acts, chapter 2.
- ***Acts 2:1-4*** – “*And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.*”
1. There is no doubt that this experience, the pouring out of the Holy Ghost, was the promise

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of the Father. The Apostle Peter, in his “day of Pentecost” sermon, confirmed that this was it!

- **Acts 2:33** – “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, he hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear.”
2. Notice that this promise was something that the bystanders could *see* and *hear*. Those who were receiving the Holy Ghost were acting “peculiar” (onlookers thought they were drunk) and speaking “peculiar” (listeners heard them speaking strange languages).
- E. Once again, the breath (pneuma) of God had blown into mankind. However, this time, instead of bringing physical life, it imparted spiritual life.
- F. In this lesson, we will examine what the Bible says about being born of the Spirit. In the next lesson we will study “speaking with tongues.”

II. THE HOLY SPIRIT – THE PROMISE FORETOLD

- A. In the Old Testament, various kings, prophets, judges and patriarchs were moved upon by the Holy Ghost, but the Holy Ghost did not dwell within them. However, the prophets foretold the day when the Holy Spirit would dwell within people of all tribes, languages and nations.

1. The Prophet Isaiah (730 BC)

- **Isaiah 28:11-12** – “For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. To whom he said, This is the rest wherewith ye may cause the weary to rest; and this is the refreshing: yet they would not hear.”

(In 1 Corinthians 14:21 the Apostle Paul confirms that this prophecy of Isaiah referred to the Holy Ghost, speaking with other tongues.)

2. The Prophet Ezekiel (586 BC)

- **Ezekiel 36:26-27** – “A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.”

3. The Prophet Joel (800 BC)

- **Joel 2:28** – “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions.”

On the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost first fell, the Apostle Peter repeated these words of Joel. (Acts 2:17-18).

- B. John the Baptist is quoted in all four gospels as proclaiming the coming of the Holy Ghost.

- **Luke 3:16** – “John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the

Holy Ghost and with fire.”

(See also Matthew 3:11, Mark 1:8, John 1:33)

C. Jesus Himself made many important statements about the Holy Ghost.

1. Jesus established that all those who believe on Him should receive the Holy Ghost.
 - **John 7:38-39** – “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”
 - a. Jesus clearly stated that those who believe on Him should receive the Holy Ghost. This scripture is clear that after “believing” should come “receiving.” (See also Acts 19:2)
 - b. The word “should” in this scripture is translated from the Greek word, “mello” which conveys the idea of expectation; to intend, in the sense of purpose, duty, and necessity.
2. Jesus said that true believers shall have this river of living water flowing from them – and this river of living water is the Holy Ghost. He did not imply that this was optional or elective; it was the expected, intended, purposed, necessary duty of every true believer – receive the Holy Ghost!
3. Jesus also confirmed that being born of the Spirit is part of our entrance into the kingdom of God.
 - **John 3:5** – “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
 - a. Jesus spoke it very plainly – unless we are born of both water and the Spirit, we cannot enter the kingdom of God.
4. Jesus also made it clear that He would return in the Spirit as the Holy Ghost and would dwell within His disciples.
 - **John 14:17-18** – “Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you.”
5. At one point in His ministry, Jesus breathed upon His disciples and told them to expect to receive the Holy Ghost.
 - **John 20:22** – “And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost.”
 - a. However, they did not receive the Holy Ghost at that time because the Holy Ghost could not come until Jesus was crucified, risen, and ascended back up into heaven.
 - **John 7:39** – “(But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)”
 - **John 16:7** – “Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you.”
6. Although Jesus had already commissioned His disciples for ministry, He specifically told them not to begin their work until they had first received the Holy Spirit.
 - **Acts 1:4-5** – “And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost

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not many days hence.”

7. Jesus also declared that the Holy Ghost would bring power to the disciples – power to fulfill their ministry and to be witnesses of Him to all the world.
 - *Acts 1:8 – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”*

III. THE HOLY SPIRIT – THE PROMISE FULFILLED

- A. The book of Acts, which is the history of the original church, has numerous examples of believers being filled with the Holy Ghost. Let’s examine some of these examples.
 1. Jerusalem: The Holy Ghost was first poured out in this city on the Day of Pentecost (33 AD). Those who received the Holy Ghost acted in strange and unusual ways, prompting observers to think that the believers were drunk.
 - *Acts 2:1-4 – “And when the day of Pentecost was fully come...they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.”*
 2. Samaria: In this city, the gospel was preached by Philip and believers were baptized in the name of Jesus and received the Holy Ghost.
 - *Acts 8:14-17 – “Now when the apostles which were at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had received the word of God, they sent unto them Peter and John: Who, when they were come down, prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Ghost: (For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost.”*
 - a. In this city, the inhabitants had received the Word of God (believed) and had been baptized in the name of the Lord, but they had not yet received the Holy Ghost. In order to complete this work, the apostles sent Peter and John to Samaria and when Peter and John laid hands on these baptized believers, they received the Holy Ghost.
 3. Caesarea: Here, an Italian Centurion named Cornelius, as well as his family and neighbors, received the Holy Ghost first and were afterwards baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.
 - *Acts 10:44-48 – “While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word. And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost. For they heard them speak with tongues, and magnify God. Then answered Peter, Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord...”*
 4. Ephesus: In this city, Paul discovered twelve believers who had been baptized with John’s baptism. Paul was not satisfied that they were “believers.” Neither was he satisfied with their baptism. He insisted that they be baptized in Jesus’ name and receive the Holy Ghost.
 - *Acts 19:1-7 – “And it came to pass, that, while Apollos was at Corinth, Paul having passed through the upper coasts came to Ephesus: and finding certain disciples, He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed? And they said unto him, We have not so much as*

heard whether there be any Holy Ghost. And he said unto them, Unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.

And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied. And all the men were about twelve."

(See also: Acts 8:37-39; 9:17-18; 16:30-34.)

- B. The book of Acts establishes a clear pattern of what happened in the first church when people believed, repented and were baptized in the name of the Lord – they received the Holy Ghost, speaking with other tongues.

IV. WHY IS THE HOLY GHOST IMPORTANT?

- A. The Holy Ghost is part of our birth of “water and Spirit.” Just as baptism is being “born of water” so receiving the Holy Ghost is being “born of the Spirit.”
1. *The Holy Ghost is part of our new birth* – it ushers believers into the kingdom of God.
 - **John 3:5** – “Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”
 2. *The Holy Ghost is part of God's process of imparting salvation to us.*
 - a. Titus 3:5 lists two elements through which God saves us – the washing of regeneration (water baptism) and the renewing of the Holy Ghost (Holy Ghost infilling).
 - **Titus 3:5** – “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost.”
 - b. In 2 Thessalonians 2:13 Paul states that we are saved through sanctification of the Spirit (Holy Ghost infilling) and belief in the truth (faith).
 - **2 Thessalonians. 2:13** – “But we are bound to give thanks alway to God for you, brethren beloved of the Lord, because God hath from the beginning chosen you to salvation through sanctification of the Spirit and belief of the truth.”
 3. *The Holy Spirit makes us God's property* – when we have the Spirit, we belong to Him!
 - **Romans 8:9** – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”
 4. *The Holy Ghost dwelling within us gives us resurrection power!*
 1. **Romans 8:11** – “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

V. WHO CAN RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST?

- A. Anyone – anytime – anywhere, can receive the Baptism of the Holy Ghost!
1. The Prophet Joel foretold that the Spirit would be poured out upon all flesh.

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- *Joel 2:28* – “And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh...”
2. The Apostle Peter proclaimed that the Holy Ghost was for those who were “afar off.”
 - *Acts 2:39* – “For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call.”
 3. The Apostle Peter, after his experience with Cornelius, proclaimed that the promise of the Holy Spirit was not for the Jews only, but also for the Gentiles.
 - *Acts 11:15-18* – “And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.”
 4. The Apostle Peter went on to state that people of every nation were eligible to receive the Holy Ghost.
 - *Acts 10:34-35* – “Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.”

VI. WHAT MUST WE DO TO RECEIVE THE HOLY GHOST?

- A. This is the question that the multitude asked Peter and the other apostles on the Day of Pentecost.
 - *Acts 2:37-38* – “Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
 1. Peter’s answer was direct and distinct, simple and clear – repent, be baptized in Jesus’ Name and then you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.
 2. The answer of Peter is in perfect harmony with the rest of the scriptural record:
 - Faith and repentance
 - Water baptism in the name of the Lord Jesus
 - Receiving of the Holy Ghost
- B. The Holy Ghost comes to all those who fully obey God.
 - *Acts 5:32* – “And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.”

VII. WHAT DOES THE HOLY GHOST DO FOR US?

- A. *It identifies us as belonging to God* – it makes us His personal property.
 - *Romans 8:9* – “But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.”

B. It teaches us the things of God.

- **John 14:26** – “But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you.”

C. It guides us.

- **John 16:13** – “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.”

D. It gives power and boldness.

- **Acts 1:8** – “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.”
- **Acts 4:31** – “And when they had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and they spake the word of God with boldness.”

E. It is quickening power – (power to resurrect us and make us alive!)

- **Romans 8:11** – “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

F. It gives power to overcome the flesh.

- **Romans 8:13-14** – “For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.”

G. It helps us to pray and intercede – it leads us into effective prayer.

- **Romans 8:26-27** – “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God.”

H. It baptizes us into the Body of Christ – it unifies the church, the “body of Christ.”

- **1 Corinthians 12:13** – “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”

I. It is part of our washing, sanctification and justification.

- **1 Corinthians 6:11** – “... ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”

J. It frees us and gives us liberty.

- **2 Corinthians 3:17** – “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty.”

K. It seals us, marks us and secures us.

- **Ephesians 1:13** – “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of

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promise.”

- **Ephesians 4:30** – “*And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.*”

(The word “seal” [Greek – “*sphragizo*”] means to stamp with a signet or private mark for security or preservation.)

VIII. CONCLUSION

A. In conclusion, let’s review what the scriptures tell us about the Holy Ghost. (It would be wise to take the time to study all of the following scriptures.)

- It is the Spirit of Christ (Romans 8:9-11; 2 Corinthians 3:17; John 14:16-20)
- It is part of salvation (John 3:5; Titus 3:5; Romans 8:9-11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 John 3:24; 1 John 4:13)
- It is a gift (Acts 2:38; Acts 8:9-20; Acts 10:45)
- It is the Comforter (John 14:16-18; John 14:26; John 15:26; John 16:7-8; Acts 9:31)
- It is Living Water (John 4:6-14; John 7:37-39; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4)
- It is the Spirit of Truth (John 14:16-17; John 15:26; John 16:12-16; 1 John 5:6)
- It is resurrection (quickening) power (John 6:63; Romans 8:11; 1 Peter 3:18)
- It is a baptism (Matthew 3:11; Mark 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; Acts 11:16; 1 Corinthians 12:13)
- It is a birth (John 3:1-8; Galatians 4:28-29)
- It is a seal or stamp that protects and preserves us (Ephesians 4:30; Ephesians 1:13; 2 Corinthians 1:22)
- It is power from heaven (Acts 1:8; Romans 15:13; Ephesians 3:16)
- It is the Spirit by which we are adopted into the kingdom (Romans 8:15)
- It is the earnest (*down payment, an advance*) of our inheritance (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5; Ephesians 1:13-14)
- It is a discerner, an intercessor and a helper in prayer (Romans 8:26-27; Jude 1:20; 1 Corinthians 14:14-15; Ephesians 6:18)
- It will lead us into all truth (John 16:13)
- It teaches us spiritual things (1 Corinthians 2:9-16; 2 Corinthians 2:13)
- It gives us the ability to truthfully say that Jesus is our Lord and Master (1 Corinthians 12:3)
- It pours out the love of God in our hearts (Romans 5:5)
- It sanctifies us (Romans 15:16; 1 Corinthians 6:11; 2 Thessalonians 2:13; 1 Peter 1:2)
- It empowers us to bear spiritual fruit (Galatians 5:22-25; Ephesians 5:9)
- It imparts spiritual gifts (1 Corinthians 12:4-13)
- It gives us wisdom in difficult times (Mark 13:11; Luke 12:12)
- It is given to those who ask (Luke 11:13)
- It is given to those that obey Him (Acts 5:32)
- It is for everyone (Acts 10:34-35)

B. We should be very careful what we say and believe about the Holy Ghost. To deny the Holy Ghost, to belittle its importance, to reject its role in salvation, or to dismiss it as insignificant or unessential, is dangerous and has eternal consequences.

- **Matthew 12:31-32** – “*Wherefore I say unto you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come.*”

- C. Stephen, the first martyr of the Church, condemned those who resisted or opposed the Holy Ghost.
- *Acts 7:51* – “*Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.*”
- D. Some might ask, “Do I have to receive the Holy Ghost? Is the Holy Ghost necessary?” To respond to this, consider the following:
- Do you need to belong to God? (Romans 8:9)
 - Do you need to obey Jesus Christ? (John 7:37-39; John 3:5)
 - Do you need to obey the Apostle Peter? (Acts 2:38)
 - Do you need to be washed, sanctified and justified? (1 Corinthians 6:11)
 - Do you need to be “sealed” and protected unto the day of redemption? (Ephesians 4:30)
 - Do you need Christ in you, the hope of glory? (John 14:17)
 - Do you need the Comforter? (John 14:26)
 - Do you need holy power and boldness? (Acts 1:8)
 - Do you need power to overcome the flesh? (Romans 8:13)
 - Do you need resurrection power dwelling in you? (Romans 8:11)
 - Do you need the spiritual guidance and teaching of the Spirit? (John 14:26)
 - Do you need to be baptized into the body of Christ? (1 Corinthians 12:13)
 - Do you need the Spirit of Truth in you? (John 15:26)
1. If the answer to even one of these questions is “yes,” then the Word admonishes you to receive the Holy Ghost.
- E. The steps of God’s glorious salvation plan are inseparable. The scriptures link them together repeatedly, directing us to follow from one step immediately into the next.
1. *Faith and repentance are linked together.*
- *Mark 1:14-15* – “*Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*”
 - *Hebrews 6:1* – “*Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God.*”
2. *Faith and baptism are linked together.*
- *Mark 16:16* – “*He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”
 - *Acts 18:8* – “*And Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized.*”
 - *Acts 8:13* – “*Then Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized, he continued with Philip, and wondered, beholding the miracles and signs which were done.*”
3. *Faith and the Holy Ghost are linked together.*
- *John 7:39* – “*(But this spake he (Jesus) of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)*”
4. *Water baptism and the Holy Ghost are linked together.*
- *Acts 10:47* – “*Can any man forbid water, that these should not be baptized, which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?”*

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5. On the Day of Pentecost, the birthday of the Church, the Apostle Peter, to whom Jesus had given the keys to Kingdom, preached the inaugural sermon of the church and conclusively linked all the steps together.
 - Acts 2:38 – “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
- F. We must not separate these precious, God-given steps or attempt to accept only some of them. For when taken together they comprise the “so great salvation” that the divine scriptures clearly reveal to us.
 - Hebrews 2:3 – “How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.”
 1. The word translated in this scripture as “neglect” is the Greek word “ameleo” which means to be careless of, to make light of, to neglect, to be negligent, to disregard.
 2. We must take extreme care not to be careless, negligent or disregarding of this glorious plan of salvation – for it is God’s greatest gift to mankind!

We have studied the initial steps of our entrance into the kingdom of God. We must not stop walking until we have “stepped” into all of the fullness of God’s plan for us. We must take all the steps: repent and have faith, be baptized in water in Jesus’ name, receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost; arise to walk in newness of life, and follow after holiness and righteousness.

The Psalmist said it well:

“The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighteth in his way.” (Psalm 37:23)

“Order my steps in thy word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me.” (Psalm 119:133)

Additional reading material (available through the Pentecostal Publishing House):

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, Jack Visker

Salvation in the Book of Acts, Fred Kinzie

Essentials of the New Birth, David Bernard

The Conversion Experience, Gary Erickson

How To Receive the Holy Ghost, J. T. Pugh

Pentecost – What’s That?, T. F. Tenney

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