

The Holy Spirit—His Presence

Charles Stanley

I. Introduction.

- A. Text: John 7:37-39.
- B. The Holy Spirit could not come in fullness until Jesus' atonement. (John 16, John 14:16)
- C. The Holy Spirit is present in different ways at different times.

II. The presence of the Spirit in the Old Testament.

- A. In the Old Testament, the Spirit came upon specific people for specific tasks. (Exodus 31, Numbers 11)
- B. The Spirit came upon warriors for mighty works. (Judges 6, I Samuel 16:13)
- C. The Spirit of God came upon people to prophesy. (Isaiah 61)
- D. The Spirit would come and go in the Old Testament. (I Samuel 16:4)

III. The presence of the Spirit in Jesus' day.

- A. Jesus Christ was always full of the Holy Spirit. (Luke 1:35, 41, 67)
- B. The Spirit also descended upon Jesus. This was the Spirit's coming for anointing, not His coming for the first time. (Luke 3)
- C. On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit of God came upon the church bringing them together as the body of Christ. (Acts 2:1, I Corinthians 12:13)
- D. It was to the believer's advantage that Christ would go away so that the Spirit could come.
- E. Tongues were given at Pentecost so that the gospel could be preached in other languages.

IV. The presence of the Spirit in our day.

- A. The Spirit indwells your body, and your body belongs to God. (I Corinthians 6:19)
- B. If the Spirit is a gift, there is nothing we have to do to receive it. The Spirit is God's pledge of redemption. (Acts 2, Ephesians 1:13)
- C. One has to have the Spirit of God to be saved. (Romans 8:9)
- D. A person can sin even though the Spirit indwells him, but the Spirit will not keep quiet while he sins. (I Corinthians 3, Acts 5:32)

Application questions:

1. Why is it important to understand how the Spirit related differently with a person over time?

2. How would you respond to someone who says that speaking in tongues is the sign of having received the Spirit? Explain.

3. What does it mean that the Spirit is a pledge (Ephesians 1:13)? Why is important for every new believer to know?
