

## The Spirit and the Bride

We are living in ‘the age of the Spirit’ or ‘Church age,’ which began with the Spirit coming on Pentecost. The church is called the ‘bride’ of Christ (He is the ‘bridegroom’). This link between the Spirit and the Bride has everything to do with our lives today.

### Spirit Baptism: Becoming part of the Bride (Body)

Scripture: *Mt. 3.11; Mk. 1.8; Lk. 3.16; Jn. 1.33; Acts 1.5; 11.16; 1 Cor. 12.13*

When: First at Pentecost; today at the moment a person believes in Jesus.

Who: Every person who has believed in Jesus as personal Savior.

What: We become members of the body/bride of Christ.

### Spirit Indwelling: Our Live-In Spiritual Counselor

Scripture: *Jn. 14.16-17; Rom. 8; 1 Cor. 6.19; 1 Jn. 2.20, 27*

When: The moment a person believes.

Who: Every person who has believed in Jesus as personal Savior.

What: A ready source of wisdom, guidance, and power.

### Spirit Gifts: Presents for the Bride-in-waiting (the Church)

Scripture: *Rom. 12.6-8; 1 Cor. 12; Eph. 2.20; 4.11; Heb. 2.3-4; 1 Pet. 4.10*

When: At salvation, and after.

Who: Every believer in Jesus has one or more gifts.

What: Special abilities for service to build up the body of Christ.

### The Call of the Spirit and the Bride: Revelation 22.17



## Digging Deeper

1. Take a few minutes to reflect on your understanding of the role of the Holy Spirit in your life. What experiences and teachings have formed your perception of the Spirit’s ministry? Do you view the role of the Spirit as something ‘exceptional’? Does the Spirit *really* impact your life daily? How?
2. Spirit baptism became a central tenet in the 20<sup>th</sup> century in the teaching of the Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, but this doctrine was based *entirely* on experiential grounds, not on Scripture. The baptism of the Holy Spirit is found in seven NT verses (see over). Which ones look *forward* to the baptism of the Spirit? Which *one* points *back* to the baptism of the Spirit? Which *one* describes what the baptism of the Spirit does? How many Christians have had this baptism of the Holy Spirit?
3. The ‘indwelling of the Holy Spirit’ – the Spirit *living in us*, is a fact that is expressed both *explicitly* and *implicitly* throughout the NT. Romans 8 reveals many truths about the Spirit’s work. How many Christians have the Spirit (v9)? What will the Spirit give us *right now* (11)? (What *kind* of life is this?) What else does He do for us (see verses 14, 16, 23, 26).
4. The gifts of the Holy Spirit have been more of a *battlefield* than a *blessing* in the church; since the first century (Corinth), some have made certain gifts, especially *sign gifts* (healing, miracles, tongues) a focal point. What should our focus be whenever we think of spiritual gifts (1 Cor. 12.7, 12-27; Eph. 4.12)? What *gifted roles* were given for the *foundation* (beginning) of the church (Eph. 2.20)? What ‘signs’ (*sign gifts*) validated these early church leaders (2 Cor. 12.12; Heb. 2.3-4)?
5. The ‘Great Commission’ (Matt. 28.19; see Mk. 16.15; Acts 1.8) reminds us that our goal in this life as Christians is to tell others the good news of Jesus, and make disciples. Rev. 22.17 reminds us that the Spirit ‘partners’ with us when we witness (see John 16.7-10). Have you ‘partnered with the Spirit’ by sharing the gospel with someone recently?