

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATIONS

LESSON 13

THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE BODY OF CHRIST (THE CHURCH)

1. THE MEMBERS OF THE BODY OF CHRIST

Read 1 Corinthians chapter 12. How do we become members of the Body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 12:13

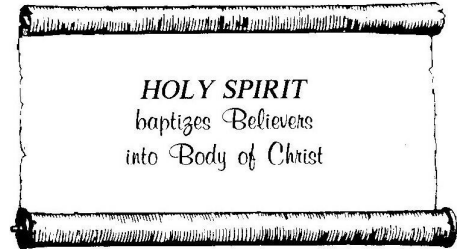
When we become members of the Body of Christ, we also are members of the invisible church.

Who puts us into the Body of Christ? 1 Corinthians 12:13

Notice, the Bible uses the word "baptize" instead of "put into." The meaning of "baptize" is stronger than to "put into." We can take a stone and put it into water. The stone does not become a part of the water. We take salt and put it into water. The salt becomes **a part of the water**. We can say the salt was baptized into the water.

Every person who has put his trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour has been baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13. He has become a part of the Body of Christ. He does not need more baptisms of the Holy Spirit. A person receives everything he needs to live the Christian life when he becomes a part of the Body of Christ.

Who is part of the Body of Christ?



2. THE BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

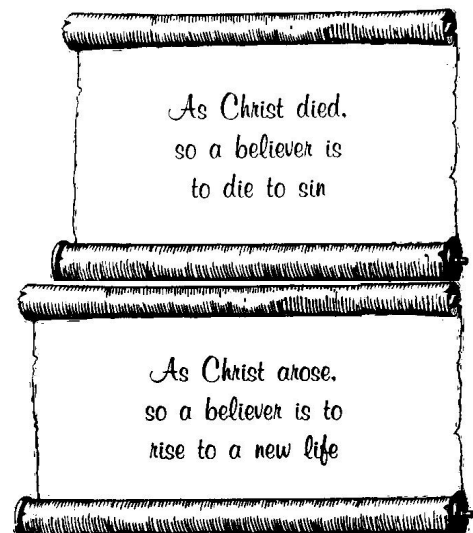
Read Romans 6:1-23.

Those who are baptized into Jesus Christ, how are they baptized? Romans 6:3

When we put our trust in Jesus Christ as our Saviour, God sees us as if we had died with Christ. We are born again. We have a new life, John 3:16.

What did we die to? Romans 6:2,6,11

After Christ died, He was buried. Then He arose from the



dead. As Christ was raised from the dead, we should walk in newness of life, Romans 6:4.

The Holy Spirit causes us to die to the sinful way of the world. We become alive in Christ. We become a part of the Body of Christ. Every person receives the Holy Spirit at the time he puts his trust in Christ, Ephesians 1:13. He is baptized by the Holy Spirit into the Body of Christ, 1 Corinthians 12:13.

When does a person receive the Holy Spirit?

3. THE FILLING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Ephesians 5:18 says,

" . . . be filled with the Spirit."

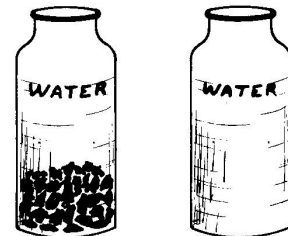
How can we live a good Christian life? Some people believe we have to have something special happen to us before we can live a good Christian life. When we become Christians, we are given everything we need to live a good Christian life, 2 Peter 1:3,4.

Who lives in us? 1 Corinthians 3:16, Romans 8:9

The Holy Spirit is the One Who gives us the strength to live a good Christian life. To help us, the Holy Spirit has to take full control of our life. He has to fill us.

For example, take a bottle. Put some rocks into it. Then fill it with water to the top. We can say the bottle is full.

But is the bottle full of water? No, it is not full of water because the rocks are also in the bottle.



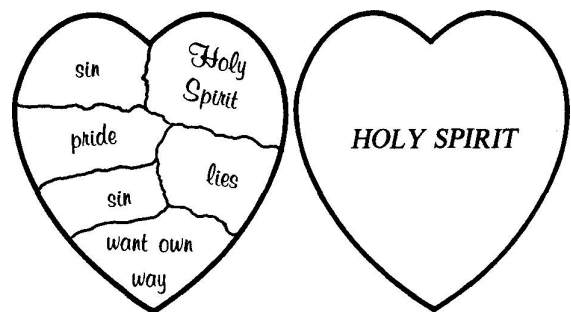
Take the same bottle. Dump all the rocks out of it. Fill it with water.

Is it full of water?

Yes, now we can say it is full of water.

How can we be filled with the Holy Spirit? **Sin** and **wanting our own way** are like rocks in our life. We have the Holy Spirit living in our life. If we have sin and want our own way in our life, we are not filled with the Holy Spirit.

When we **confess a sin** and **turn from it**, the Holy Spirit fills that part of our life. When we give up our own way and do what God wants us to do, the Holy Spirit fills that part of our life. The filling of the Holy



Spirit is a day by day experience. We have this experience as we **give our life to God**.

We receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit by **faith** just like we receive our salvation by faith. Living a Spirit filled life is done by faith in what God has given us. Living a Spirit filled life is not done by feelings.

Galatians 3:14 says,

" . . . and by putting our trust in Christ, we receive the Holy Spirit He has promised." (N.L.T.).

When are we not filled with the Holy Spirit?

When _____ and _____ are in our life.

How are we filled with the Holy Spirit?

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When sin and wanting our own way are in our life, we are not filled with the Holy Spirit. When we confess our sin, and give in to God, the Holy Spirit fills us. We are also filled with the Holy Spirit by faith.

4. THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

A. Kinds of gifts.

When we become a part of the Body of Christ, the Holy Spirit gives us a gift or gifts.

Read
Romans 12
and 1
Corinthians
12. Write
down these
gifts.

Romans 12	
1)	12:6
2)	12:7
3)	12:7
4)	12:8
5)	12:8
6)	12:8
7)	12:8
8)	12:9

1 Corinthians 12	
9)	12:8
10)	12:8
11)	12:9
12)	12:9
13)	12:10
14)	12:10
15)	12:10
16)	12:10

The Holy Spirit has given these gifts to do the work of the church. He has chosen different people in the church to do his work.

What are the three most important works to be done in the church? 1 Corinthians 12:27,28

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Missionaries speak God's word. To be able to speak God's Word is a gift. Preaching and teaching are also gifts of the Holy Spirit. Other gifts are used to help in the Church.

Who gives the believer different gifts to use in the church?

B. The use of gifts.

These gifts are to be used to do special work in the Church.

Ephesians 4:12 (N.L.T.)

These gifts help His people work well for Him. And then the church which is the body of Christ will be made strong.



What are these gifts to be used for? Ephesians 4:11,12

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Read Romans 12:3-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-13; 1 Corinthians chapter 14.

We are warned not to be proud of our gifts, Romans 12:3.

In these verses we have a picture of the Body of Christ seen as a human body. Every part in the human body has a work to do. Each part helps the other parts to do the work right. Not one part is better than the other part. Some parts have more important work to do. In the body the heart and lungs have a more important work to do than the toes, but they are not better than the toes.

This is true in the Body of Christ. Every person in the Body of Christ helps the others do the work of the Body of Christ. Some people have more important work to do than others. Yet, not one person is better than the other in the Body of Christ.

The gifts are to **make the church strong**.

Do people who preach, or teach the Word of God make the church strong? Ephesians 4:11,12.

Does a person who speaks in tongues make the church strong? 1 Corinthians 14:4,11,12.

How are we to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

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C. How the gifts are given.

How does the Holy Spirit give us these gifts? 1 Corinthians 12:11

The Holy Spirit gives the gifts as He sees a person will use them in the right way.

Does the Holy Spirit give the same gifts to every person in the church? 1 Corinthians 12:29-30

Does the Holy Spirit give every person the gift of tongues? 1 Corinthians 12:30

The Holy Spirit does not give the same gifts to all Christians. He does not give every Christian the gift of tongues, 1 Corinthians 12:30.

How does the Holy Spirit give the gifts?

5. THE GIFT OF TONGUES

The gift of tongues is to be able to speak in a language which the speaker does not know. Peter and the apostles spoke in languages they had not learned. They did this at Pentecost. We know they spoke in languages because the people who were there understood them. Read Acts 2:1-12. To speak in tongues is not to speak with strange sounds. To speak in tongues is to speak in other languages.

Paul spoke in tongues. Yet, Paul said he would rather say words that could be understood than words in tongues not understood, 1 Corinthians 14:19.

The gift of tongues was one gift that caused trouble in the church at Corinth. We do not read as much about the gift of tongues in the other churches. 1 Corinthians chapter 14 tells about some Christians who became proud because they spoke in tongues. These people thought they were better than the other Christians.

What did Paul say about the way they acted? 1 Corinthians 14:20

He told the Corinthians they needed tongues because they were weak in faith. A person who is weak in faith in Christ desires special signs to help him.

For a long time the church did not have a problem with speaking in tongues. Very few spoke in tongues in the church. In the last few years the problem has come up again. This problem is mostly among those who look for excitement or feelings to help them in their Christian life. When there is no excitement or feelings, they think they are not good Christians. **We are to live by faith in Christ and not by our feelings**, 2 Corinthians 5:7.

What is better? Put a (✓) in front of the right answer.

- to speak many words which cannot be understood.
- to speak a few words which can be understood.

Are we to live by feelings or by faith?

6. TESTING THE SPIRITS

Read 1 John 4:1-6.

A. Are things done in the way the Word of God says they are to be done?

When we want to test the spirit, we can ask two questions:

- Are things done in the way the Word of God says they are to be done?
- Does the spirit confess that Jesus Christ has come in a human body?

The devil knows he has little time left. He has many evil spirits who work in the minds of people. Some of these evil spirits are religious. They copy the gifts of the Holy Spirit, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15, They do this to deceive the Christians. Sometimes evil spirits use the gift of tongues. They cause a person to speak in tongues. The person thinks he is a better Christian than those who do not speak in tongues. This causes division in the church. It causes confusion. It makes things all mixed up.

Is confusion from God? 1 Corinthians 14:33

What rules does the Bible say must be followed when a person speaks in tongues? 1 Corinthians 14:27-40

- 14:27
- 14:28
- 14:29
- 14:30
- 14:40

We must do all things the way God wants them done.

When we want to test the spirit, we can ask two questions:

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- Does the spirit confess that Jesus Christ has come in a human body?

B. Does the spirit confess that Jesus Christ has come in a human body?

1 John 4:1-6 tells us to test the spirits to see if they are of God. A spirit who says Jesus Christ came in the flesh (has come in a human body) is from God. A spirit who does not say Jesus Christ came in the flesh, is not of God.

Many people who speak in tongues have been tested in this way. When the spirits who made them speak in tongues were asked if Jesus Christ came in the flesh, many of them would not say, "Jesus Christ came in the flesh." Some even started to speak evil of Christ.

When we want to test the spirit, we can ask two questions:

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7. WARNING

Be careful when a person comes to you and asks, "Have you received the baptism of the Holy Spirit?" You can tell him, "I have received the Holy Spirit when I put my trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour, Ephesians 1:13."

Maybe a person will ask you, "Can you show that you are baptized or filled with the Holy Spirit by speaking in tongues?" You can tell him, "The Holy Spirit does not give the gift of tongues to everyone. The Holy Spirit gives gifts to those to whom He wants to give them."

When people wait for the filling of the Holy Spirit they often leave themselves open to receive wrong spirits.

Does every Christian speak in tongues?

MEMORY VERSE

Memorize: Ephesians 5:18.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

1. Who is part of the Body of Christ?
2. When does a person receive the Holy Spirit?
3. When are we not filled with the Holy Spirit?

When _____ and _____ are in our life.

4. How are we filled with the Holy Spirit?
5. Who gives the believer different gifts to use in the church?

6. How are we to use the gifts of the Holy Spirit?

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7. How does the Holy Spirit give the gifts?

8. What is better? Put a (✓) in front of the right answer.

- to speak many words which cannot be understood.
- to speak a few words which can be understood.

9. Are we to live by feelings or by faith?

10. When we want to test the spirit, we can ask two questions:

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11. Does every Christian speak in tongues?

WORDS TO LEARN

1. apostles - the twelve disciples of Christ were called apostles after Christ went to heaven.
2. baptize - to put into something or someone so as to become part of it.
3. confusion - when things are all mixed up.
4. discerning of spirits - to be able to know what kind of spirits are around or in a person.
5. division - to break into parts or groups.

6. exhort - to warn.
7. ministry - helping others.
8. prophecy - preaching
9. speaking in tongues - to speak in a language the person has not learned.

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