

WHAT WE BELIEVE:
THE HOLY SPIRIT

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WE BELIEVE that once we confess Jesus as Lord, the Holy Spirit becomes a permanent presence in our lives.

WE BELIEVE that the Holy Spirit fills (Ephesians 5: 15) anoints (Luke 4: 14) empowers (Acts 1: 6) and bestows gifts upon us (I Corinthians 12: 4-6) to equip saints for ministry, to edify the body of Christ (Ephesians 4: 12) and to set the captives free (Luke 4: 18).

Misconceptions Regarding the Holy Spirit

The Holy Spirit is NOT:

1. An "IT"
2. The Force/Divine Energy
3. Ghost/Spook
4. Emotion/Feeling
5. Supernatural gifts (Acts 8: 14-24; 16: 16-24)
6. Lesser God/god
7. The flu, cold or ball that we catch

Identity of the Holy Spirit

1. Full member of the Godhead (Matthew 28: 19; II Corinthians 13: 13)
2. Holy Spirit is a living being (as God the Father and Jesus Christ, the Son)
3. Prayer is offered to Holy Spirit even as we call upon God the Father and Christ Jesus

God the Holy Spirit

1. God as Comforter, Advocate, Teacher (John 14: 25-26)
2. God as Guide (John 16: 12-13; Acts 16: 6-10)
3. God as Revelation (John 15: 26-27; I Corinthians 12: 3)
4. God as Indwelling and Abiding Presence (Romans 8: 9-11; I Corinthians 6: 19; II Timothy 1: 14)
5. God as Dispenser of Spiritual Gifts (I Corinthians 12: 4-12)

Difference between talent and gift:

Individual human aptitude or ability

Individual anointing for empowering saints and church for divine assignment and work the Kingdom

No general, free-floating anointing---we are anointed for something

The anointing with oil is

- a. a symbol and sign that a person is set aside for a special purpose or assignment
- b. a seal, symbol or sign that a person is expecting, believing or prepared to receive a special move of God in his or her life
- c. We must be discerning about whose hands we allow to be placed upon us and whose anointing we receive

Spiritual Gifts

Romans 12:6-8---prophecy; serving (ministry); teaching; giving; leadership; mercy

I. Corinthians 12: 4-11---word of wisdom; word of knowledge; faith; healing; miracles (not all miracles involve physical healing); prophecy; discernment of spirits (pay attention to the checks we receive in our spirits); tongues; interpretation of tongues

I. Corinthians 12: apostles; prophets; teachers; deeds of power; healing; **helps**; Leadership; variety of tongues (glossolalia and other languages)

Celibacy and/or singleness (?)---Matthew 19: 10-12

Hospitality (I Peter 4: 8-10)

6. Dispenser of the Fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5: 22)

Often there is too much emphasis on the gifts of the Spirit and not enough focus on the fruit of the Spirit

Spiritual gifts differ but all Christians should manifest the fruit of the spirit

No gift can be consistently and most effectively ministered without the fruit

We must be discerning about receiving the anointing from someone who does not manifest the fruit of the Spirit

7. God as Power (Acts 1: 8)

8. God as Intercessor and Interpreter (Romans 8: 26-27)

Blaspheming Against the Holy Spirit: The Unforgiveable Sin (Mark 3: 28-30)

What blaspheming is not?

Blaspheming is not doubt

Blaspheming is not questioning God

Blaspheming is not anger with God

Blaspheming is not breaking a vow or promise to God

Blaspheming is not discouragement

Blaspheming is not feeling distant from God

Blaspheming is

The resolute, adamant, consistent, determined opposition to and denial of the reality of to the point that one removes oneself totally from the will, purpose, and power of God

Blasphemy is not a momentary act but a consistent hardened attitude against God to the point that one lives exclusively to for oneself

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is not to say that God does not exist; to blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to live in such a way that God does not exist.

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to have such a reprobate and rebellious heart and that one shuts oneself off completely from any possibility of God's mercy and grace reaching them.

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to nail the door so tight that God cannot enter (Revelation 3: 20)

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to fall overboard from a boat and throw back any life preservers and refuse to be rescued by lifeguards

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to be so full of hate that one removes oneself from any possibility of being touched by the Holy Spirit

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to be so full of anger that one removes oneself from the possibility of being touched by the anointing.

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to be so lewd that one that one removes oneself from being loved.

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to be so lost that one removes oneself from the possibility of being found

To blaspheme against the Holy Spirit is to commit spiritual, mental, and emotional (not necessarily physical) suicide for a sustained period of time

We blaspheme against the Holy Spirit not simply with our lips but with our life, our minds, our heart and our attitude

The reason that blaspheming against the Holy Spirit is the unforgiveable sin is that **we have removed ourselves mentally, emotionally, and spiritually**, from the fullness of who God is---Father, who alone can forgive; Jesus Christ, the Son, whose blood alone cleanses us from all unrighteousness; and God, the Holy Spirit, who lives and abides in us as Teacher, Sanctifier, Gift Conferrer, Fruit Grower, Interpreter and Intercessor, Divine Presence and Power

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3: 11)

1. Jesus as first recipient of Holy Spirit (Mark 1: 9-11; John 1: 29-34)
2. The Church and the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)
3. Abiding presence and Baptism of Holy Spirit for individual believers (Acts 8: 14-24; 10: 44-48; 19: 1-7)