

Welcome

MAY 7, 2024

*“15” Symbols
of the
Holy Spirit*

Reverend Deborah Dillard

The Holy Spirit in Action

When the restrictions are lifted and the Holy Spirit is allowed to move, He produces mighty, supernatural acts in our lives, our churches and our communities.

The Holy Spirit: GIFT

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.

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.

The Holy Spirit: Gift

The Holy Spirit is a gift that's freely given to every believer the moment they repent of their sin and make Jesus the Lord of their life. This gift cannot be acquired by entitlement or merit. It's freely given and is the most amazing gift you'll ever receive in your life.

Repentance Positions Us

To Receive the Gift of the Holy Spirit

Peter said that anyone who makes the decision to repent will receive the "remission of sins" (Acts 2:38). This word "remissions" in Greek means to set free; to release; or to permanently dismiss. It can also be translated to send away with no option to ever retrieve it again; to loosen from the detrimental effects of sickness; to release from the effects of brokenness.

The use of this word tells us that when you have received the “remission of sins,” (forgiveness), you are permanently set free from past sins. God dismisses them from you and sends them away, never to retrieve them again. This wonderful promise is confirmed in Psalm 103:12, which says, “As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us.” East and west will never meet, which means when God dismisses your sins, they are gone forever. Praise God!

Along with the remission of sins, Peter said, “...and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). The word “receive” here in Greek means to seize or to lay hold of something in order to make it one’s very own, almost like a person who reaches out to grab, capture, or take possession of something. This depicts one who graciously receives something that is freely and easily given.

God's gift to you is the Holy Spirit, and it is the most marvelous gift you'll ever receive. Every person receives this gift the moment he or she fully surrenders to the Lordship of Jesus and repents of sin. In fact, Peter went on to say, "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" (Acts 2:39).

God wants us to totally unwrap the gift of the Holy Spirit and explore everything about Him.

The Holy Spirit: Seal and Earnest

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 promise,

¹⁴ Which is the *earnest* of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory. Ephesians 1:14-15

²² Who hath also sealed us and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts. 2 Corinthians 1:22

The Holy Spirit: Seal and Earnest

“Sealed” — pictures a seal placed on a package after the product had been thoroughly examined and inspected to make sure it was fully intact and complete; the seal was proof the product was impeccable; normally such seals bore the insignia of a wealthy or famous person, which meant that this package was to be treated with tender care; the seal affirmed who was the owner and guaranteed the package would make it to its final destination.

The Holy Spirit: Seal and Earnest

“Earnest” — a payment given in advance to guarantee the whole amount will be paid afterward; earnest-money; an installment; a deposit; a down-payment which guarantees full delivery of a promise; security deposit given by the purchaser to assure confidence and peace to the seller that he will fulfill his promise.

The Holy Spirit: Seal and Earnest

The Bible declares that as a believer, you have been sealed with the Holy Spirit. We have been thoroughly examined by God and found flawless. Therefore, He has deposited His Spirit in us as an earnest or down payment of even greater things that are still to come.

The Holy Spirit: Seal and Earnest

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 promise, Ephesians 1:13

In this verse, we see a description of the miracle of salvation. The moment we heard the word of truth — the gospel message — and we put our faith in Christ, something extraordinary happened. Paul said we “...were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise.” The word “sealed” is described as a seal placed on a package after the product had been thoroughly examined and inspected to make sure it was fully intact and complete. The seal was proof that the product was impeccable.

This also tells us that when we were born again, God thoroughly examined everything inside our heart to make sure we were made completely new. Through the miraculous work of the Holy Spirit, we were made a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17); God found no flaws, no defects, and no shattered places in us. Once He confirmed our perfect condition in Christ, we were sealed with the gift of His Spirit and branded as His own.

Figuratively speaking, Jesus poured His spiritual wax on us and pressed the insignia of the Holy Spirit into us. Through the Spirit's indwelling presence, we have guaranteed proof that we belong to God and that we will make it all the way to our ultimate destination, which is Heaven. That's what the word "sealed" means. Even if we've had some bumps and detours along the way, the seal of the Holy Spirit on our lives is God's guarantee that we will make it all the way to our heavenly home.

The Holy Spirit: Glory and Light

The “Glory” of God Is the
Heaviness of His Presence

The Holy Spirit: Glory and Light

¹³ But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy.

1 Peter 4:13

The word “glory” here is the Greek word doxa, which pictures brightness; glory; honor; or something exalted. It can also be translated as majestic; magnificent, resplendent, or of great worth. Additionally, the word doxa is used in the Old Testament Septuagint to describe the heavy weight of God’s presence. The glory of God was considered to be the manifestation of God’s presence. This was sometimes referred to as the Shekinah glory that could be tangibly felt, seen, and experienced.

In Solomon's day, when they dedicated the temple, the Shekinah glory of God came into the temple, and the presence of His glory was so heavy that the Bible says the priests couldn't enter it to fulfill their priestly duties (2 Chronicles 7:1,2). This helps us understand how people today will often collapse or fall to the ground when the glory of God touches them during a time of prayer. Although some have fallen over on their own accord for appearance's sake, this is a genuine manifestation of God's glory that countless people have experienced.

The Holy Spirit: Glory and Light

When we come to the New Testament, the meaning of the “glory” of God expands. In addition to describing the heavy, weighty presence of God that is filled with all His goodness, “glory” also carries the idea of discernment or judgment. At first glance, this may seem strange, but it is actually very significant.

The Holy Spirit: Glory and Light

It means that when the glory of God manifests today, the Holy Spirit hovers over all who are gathered, discerning and judging every need that each individual has. Once the Spirit discerns the needs, He begins to miraculously meet them, distributing to each person out of His rich treasury what they lack.

If someone needs conviction of sin, the Holy Spirit gives them conviction. If someone needs physical healing, He imparts it. If someone needs relational restoration, He releases it. If a person is overwhelmed by brokenness, the Holy Spirit begins to piece together the fractured places of their life. If someone needs a financial breakthrough, He begins to put the people in place to provide the provision. Whatever the need is, the "glory" discerns it and begins to meet it. That is what happens when the Holy Spirit is present as the Spirit of glory.

The Holy Spirit: Glory

The Holy Spirit's 'Glory'

Is a Flooding, Glorious Presence

That Outshines the Law

The apostle Paul wrote about the glory of God in 2 Corinthians 3, comparing it to the Old Testament law. He said, “But if the ministration of death, written and engraven in stones, was glorious, so that the children of Israel could not stedfastly behold the face of Moses for the glory of his countenance; which glory was to be done away: how shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?”

(2 Corinthians 3:7,8).

Notice the phrase “was glorious” in verse 7. The Bible tells us that the Ten Commandments were written on stone tablets by the finger of God, which was quite a glorious demonstration. Thus, the commandments came into existence by God’s glory.

Immediately, Paul contrasted the glory of the Ten Commandments with the glory of the new covenant administered by the Holy Spirit, saying, “How shall not the ministration of the spirit be rather glorious?” (2 Corinthians 3:8). The word “rather” in Greek, means much more; comparatively much more; vastly more. Hence, the ministry of the Holy Spirit is vastly more glorious than that of the Law.

He went on to say, “For if the ministration of condemnation be glory, much more doth the ministration of righteousness exceed in glory” (2 Corinthians 3:9). The words “much more... exceed” is a translation of the Greek phrase, which means much more abound, overflow, and flood. Interestingly, the word “exceed” is derived from a Greek word that was often used to describe a river so full it was beginning to exceed its banks and flood everything.

The use of this word indicates that the presence of the Holy Spirit is a flooding, glorious presence. In the next verse, Paul continued by saying, “For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious” (2 Corinthians 3:11). In other words, once Christ came and established the new and better covenant through His sacrifice on the Cross, the Old Testament Law was done away with.

What He gave us in its place is “much more glorious,” which in Greek means much, much more; vastly more; incomparably more glorious. What we have today through the Holy Spirit is incomparably more glorious than what we had through the Law. Several verses later, Paul made this powerful statement: “Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty” (2 Corinthians 3:17). The word “liberty” in Greek, which describes liberty or freedom.

This is the exact word used to describe a slave that has been emancipated. What Paul is saying is that when the Spirit of God begins to work and manifest His glory, people are emancipated—they are set free from bondages in many areas of their lives. Again, this is what happens when the Holy Spirit comes in the form of “glory.” There is a heavy presence of God that can be felt, and it is loaded with every good thing that is needed. As the glorious presence of the Holy Spirit fills the room,

He begins to discern the needs in every person, and then He begins to meet those needs, touching and transforming the lives of those who are present.

“Light” is a Powerful Symbol of God’s Spirit

Another major symbol of the Holy Spirit described all through Scripture is light. The apostle John declared this again and again, stating, “...God is light, and in him is no darkness at all” (1 John 1:5). The apostle Paul also elaborated on this facet of God’s Spirit. In his second letter to the believers at Corinth — and to believers throughout all generations.

Paul wrote: "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: in whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

2 Corinthians 4:3,4

This is a clear picture of an unbeliever who cannot see the Gospel until the Holy Spirit supernaturally gives them spiritual eyes to see. How does the Spirit do this? The Bible says He brings them “light. “For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus’ sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. ”2 Corinthians 4:5,6

Two words appear repeatedly in these four verses. First is the word “shine” or “shined.” This tells us that when the Holy Spirit begins to “shine” His light in our lives, it is as if He focuses a direct beam of light on the problem that needs to be addressed. The word “light” also appears multiple times. It describes a light that is so intensely bright that it makes a permanent, lasting impression. This means that when the Holy Spirit shines His searchlight on our lives and on the truth of God’s Word,

He creates such a lasting impression that we're never the same again. Only the Holy Spirit can give us spiritual eyes to see and understand Scripture and know what needs to change in our lives.

The Holy Spirit

Like Wine

The last symbol of the Holy Spirit we are going to look at is the emblem of wine. In several places, the Bible indirectly likens the Spirit to wine, and the first place we see this is on the Day of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit descended on the disciples like a rushing mighty wind and cloven tongues of fire, the disciples who were gathered in the Upper Room“...were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance”

(Acts 2:4).

When the multitude of travelers who were in Jerusalem for the feast heard the uproar of the disciples, they were dumbfounded. “Others mocking said, “These men are full of new wine” (Acts 2:13). In other words, they said, “These guys are drunk,” which was certainly not the case. Moved by the Holy Spirit, Peter stood up and declared, “For these are not drunken, as ye suppose...” (Acts 2:15). He then proceeded to tell them that what they were hearing was what was prophesied by the prophet Joel — God was pouring out His Spirit!

What's amazing is that the devout Jewish men from every nation heard the disciples speaking about the wonderful works of God in their own native dialects. But how could this be? How could thousands of people from over a dozen different regions clearly hear praise to God in their own native tongue? The answer is simple. The miracle didn't happen in the mouths of the speakers; the miracle happened in the ears of the hearers

Again and again in Acts 2, the listeners made statements like, “...How hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?” (Acts 2:8). By the time the language of tongues reached the ears of the listeners, the Holy Spirit had supernaturally translated the words so that each person could hear the wonders of God in their own language! When we begin to drink of the wine of the Holy Spirit, we come under His influence, and it affects our behavior in amazing ways.

It's God's Will That You "Be Filled With the Spirit"

The apostle Paul elaborated on the Holy Spirit being a symbol of wine in his letter to the Ephesian believers. Speaking to them candidly about their example of Christian living, Paul told them, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is" (Ephesians 5:17). Then in the next several verses, he clearly unpacked God's will for their lives — and for ours.

It's God's Will That You "Be Filled With the Spirit"

The first thing Paul said was, "And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18). It is the equivalent of Paul saying, "Stop getting drunk with wine, and stop it now!" Paul's strong warning here indicates the Ephesian believers were drinking way too much. In fact, they were drinking to the point of intoxication.

This brings up an important question: why do people usually drink? The answer is they like the way it makes them feel. It helps them temporarily forget about the pain of life, and for many, being intoxicated lifts their spirit. It's amazing how alcohol alters a person's personality. When someone is drunk, they will say and do things they would not normally say or do. Their inhibitions are removed, making them bolder and unrestrained in their actions, causing them to do things they later regret.

With his strong warning, he offered them a healthy alternative: “...But be filled with the Spirit” (Ephesians 5:18). When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, something incredible happens. Just like drinking excessive amounts of alcohol changes us, drinking of the Spirit changes us too — but in a positive way. It makes our faith more appealing, makes us bolder, and enables us to do and say things we wouldn’t normally do and say. Being filled with the Holy Spirit has an intoxicating effect that is truly transforming.

As Paul continued his letter to the Ephesians, he began to describe the effects of being filled with the Spirit. He said that when you are filled with the Spirit, you begin “speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord” (Ephesians 5:19). So being filled with the Holy Spirit releases such joy and peace in us that we have a perpetual song inside our hearts.

But that's not all. When we're filled with the Holy Spirit, Paul said we begin "giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 5:20). Instead of griping and complaining about everything, the wine of the Spirit transforms our perspective and makes us thankful for God's goodness.

But there's more. Paul went on to say that when you are filled with the Holy Spirit, you begin "submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21). In other words, one of the intoxicating effects of the wine of the Spirit is liberation from pride and a willingness to submit to fellow believers. With positive effects like these, it is no wonder Paul urged us to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

God wants us to become *professional drinkers*! He wants us to develop the habit of feasting on His Word and drinking of His Spirit every day. Just as people who regularly drink wine become controlled by it, the more we drink of the Spirit, the more we become controlled by Him. Remember, Paul said we “...have been all made to drink into one Spirit” (1 Corinthians 12:13). So, we have a God-given ability to drink of the wine of the Holy Spirit and experience the life-giving effects He brings.

What Kind of Container Are You?

When it comes to storing wine, there are basically two types of containers. There are vases and wineskins — and it's important for us to know the difference between these two and know which one God wants us to be.

What Kind of Container Are You?

Vases were used for fermenting and long-term storage. They were very large and quite heavy. In fact, vases were so heavy it usually took at least two men to carry one, which is why they were only used for fermenting and storing wine. Vases were not something you would walk around with and drink from or use to serve wine to others. Their sheer size and weight made it impossible.

What Kind of Container Are You?

The truth is, many individuals are functioning like vases. They have been baptized in the Holy Spirit and have received His marvelous infilling, but all they do is collect and store the Spirit's wine. The same is true of many churches. They have experienced many powerful moves of God's Spirit over the years and have allowed the wine of the Spirit to collect and ferment, becoming stronger and stronger.

What Kind of Container Are You?

But because all they do is receive and never share with others; they have no capacity to receive anything new. God never intended for us to be vases. He wants us to be wineskins. Wineskins were small and made out of leather. They were meant to be filled and carry small amounts of wine that could be shared with others. And because wineskins didn't hold much, they had to be refilled over and over again.

What Kind of Container Are You?

Jesus used the wineskin as an illustration of what we are supposed to be. We are to carry the wine of the Spirit and share it with others everywhere we go. Then we are to be refilled again and again with a fresh supply of the Holy Spirit, continually sharing what we have with others. A vase cannot be refilled because it's made to store wine. Again, God doesn't want us to be vases that just hold what we receive; He wants us to be wineskins that are constantly replenished with a new filling.

Old Wineskins Can Be Made New Again

During New Testament times, the juice from freshly pressed grapes was placed in new wineskins. Yeast naturally occurring in the skins began to break down the sugar in the juice into alcohol and carbon dioxide — a process known as fermentation. This made the new wineskins expand. Over time, as the bags aged, they would become stretched out, rigid, and even crack. Thus, old wineskins were no longer able to receive new wine due to the stretching that was required of the wineskins.

Old Wineskins Can Be Made New Again

If new wine was placed in old wineskins, they would burst during fermentation, spilling the valuable new wine and destroying the wineskins. That is why Jesus said, “No one puts new wine into old wineskins.”

The good news is that if a wineskin became old and rigid, it could be renewed and made usable again. To do this, the old wineskin had to be scrubbed thoroughly again and again. Next, it had to be beaten in order to make it soft again.

Old Wineskins Can Be Made New Again

Then it had to be washed thoroughly. After that, the wineskin was heated in order to shrink it back to its original size and form. If an old wineskin was submitted to this laborious process of scrubbing, beating, washing, and heating, it could be made new again and refilled with new wine. Spiritually speaking, we are like wineskins that hold the wine of the Holy Spirit, which represents His presence, His moving, and His revelation of truth.

Old Wineskins Can Be Made New Again

Over time we can become stretched out from our service to God and even hardened in our ways. In order to remain pliable and usable in His hands we must be willing to submit ourselves to the process of spiritual scrubbing, beating, washing, and heating. If we are willing to submit ourselves to God's dealings with us, we can be made new again and refilled with the wine of His Spirit.

Old Wineskins Can Be Made New Again

David prayed,

“Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.... Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit.”

Psalm 51:7,10-12

STUDY & GROW with US each Sunday

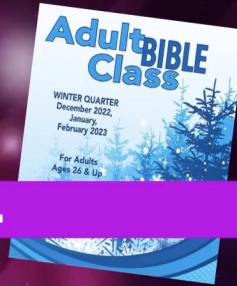
ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

8:30-9:30AM -- IN-PERSON or VIRTUAL

Dial-In: (267) 807-9601

Meeting ID: 709-940-080#

Info: www.NewMacedonia.org or contact Rev. Gina Williams
678-516-7459 / williamsgc@bellsouth.net



YOUTH MINISTRY

AGES 6 - 17

Sunday School: 8:30am

Bible Study: Monday - 7:00pm

www.NewMacedonia.org for links to join

Contact: Rev. Dillard 404-403-4483

JOIN US FOR A
"WALK THROUGH THE BIBLE"

WEDNESDAY
NOON DAY
12:00 - 1:00 PM

BIBLE

Study

With:
Rev.
Vanessa
Anderson

LOCATION: NEW MACEDONIA BAPTIST CHURCH, 7725 HIGHWAY 85, RIVERDALE, GA

MIDWEEK PRAYER MEETING

WEDNESDAYS | 7:00pm

www.newmacedonia.org for link to join

**APPLICATION
ONLINE
&
AT SECURITY DESK**

DEADLINES:

Oral Presentation – May 15th
Completed Packet – June 2nd



**APPLY FOR
SCHOLARSHIPS**

NMBC

Members Only

New Macedonia Baptist Church

7725 Highway 85 | Riverdale, GA 30274

Rev. Gerry T. Anderson, Pastor

120th Church Anniversary 1904-2024

Sunday, May 19, 2024 - 10:00 AM



Guest Speaker:
Pastor Claude Franklin
Pleasant Grove MBC
Griffin, GA

More More More
in 2024 *Ephesians 3:20-21*



2024 Graduates

RECOGNITION DAY--SUNDAY, MAY 26

-- FOR NMBC MEMBERS --

**HIGH SCHOOL & COLLEGE GRADUATES MUST SUBMIT INVITATION/PROOF
OF GRADUATION TO THE CHURCH BY SUNDAY, MAY 19TH**

**INCLUDE ADDRESS & CONTACT INFORMATION
CERTIFICATES WILL NOT BE HONORED**



Missionary Ministry Food Pantry Collection

- ❖ **Beans, Peas, Corn**
- ❖ **Cornbread Mix**
- ❖ **Canned Meat**
- ❖ **Crackers**

**Give Your Best as
God our Father Did**

MILITARY CARE PACKAGES



Scan and Submit active duty member's information.





VOTE EARLY

YOUR TIME | YOUR VOICE | YOUR VOTE

April 29 – May 17, 2024

Primary – Tuesday, May 21, 2024

Go to: *www.mvp.sos.gov*

2024

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

CONFERENCE

AUGUST 23-25

Join us for
"More, More, More in 2024"
Ephesians 3:20-21

Hilton Garden Inn
Orange Beach, AL

Event contacts:

Lester Copeland, Eric Jenkins, Thomas Dumas

Register online at www.newmacedonia.org
or via registration form from security desk

Deposit due: June 2nd

Balance due: August 4th

2024

SEPT 20-22

Join us for a weekend of
Worship + Fellowship + Uplifting Sisterhood

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

COURTYARD BY MARRIOTT
PIGEON FORGE, TN



Event contact: Rev. Nannette Divens
Register online @ www.newmacedonia.org
or via registration form @ Security Desk
Deposit due: May 5th | Balance due: Sept 1st



