

HOW TO RECEIVE THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Because the Bible views each person as a complex unity, an individual cannot be divided neatly into various “parts.” Nevertheless, even though we are an essential unity, our integrated make-up (I Thess. 5:23; Hebrews 4:12) involves the:

- **BODY** (soma)—The five physical senses
Man, through his **body**, has contact with the outside world through his five physical senses. This gives him a sense of **world**-consciousness.

- **SOUL** (psyche)—The psychological nature: Mind, Will, and Emotions
Man, through his **soul nature**, is able to know himself as a person through his mind, will, and emotions (his psychological nature). This give him a sense of **self**-consciousness.

- **SPIRIT** (pneuma)—The Holy Spirit living in the lives of believers
Man, through his **spirit**, has the capacity to know the Holy Spirit of Almighty God Himself. This gives him a sense of **God**-consciousness. My spirit nature is the most effective means through which to communicate with the unseen, spiritual world. It is what the Apostle Paul will sometimes call “the inner man”—See:

Romans	7 :22
II Cor.	4 :16
Eph.	3:14-16

Ideally, for those Christians who get married, we are to become married:

**Body
Soul
& Spirit**

That is...We are to become ONE:

- Physically.....One in **body**
For the continuation of marriage
- Psychologically..... One in **soul**
For communication within marriage
- Spiritually.....One in **spirit**
For communion with God in marriage

After “The Fall” of Adam and Eve...They died:

- Immediately in their **spirits**
- Progressively in their **souls**
- Ultimately in their **bodies**

When a person is transformed by the Spirit of Jesus Christ, God reverses that entire process as Christians are now:

- Justified immediately in the **Spirit**
- Sanctified progressively in their **souls**
- Glorified ultimately in their **bodies**

There are two main words for “life” in the New Testament:

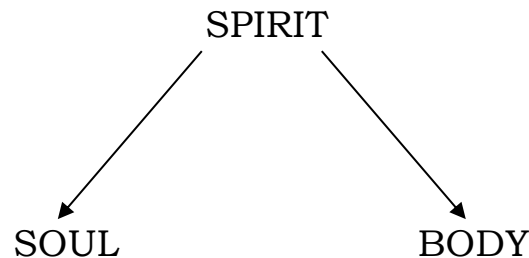
#1 Bios

#2 Zoe

An important caution:

Your “spirit” is **not** fully mature the day you were born again!
Just as, for example, your mind grows as it continues to learn,
so must your spirit grow as it continues to know and obey the
Spirit of God!

God desires that our bodies and souls be the primary means of expressing
His Spirit through us to the world!



The primary functions of “the spirit nature” within a Christian are as follows:

#1 It is a chief means to receive revelation from God.

#2 It will sense conviction of sin.

#3 It provides a key into the exercise of spiritual gifts.

#4 It can help a Christian realize his/her full potential spiritually.

What are some “red flags” of concern that some people have when they hear the idea expressed that God wants to “control” our bodies and souls?

QUESTION:

Does a Christian become empowered by the Holy Spirit at the time of conversion, **OR** can it occur as a separate experience apart from and after conversion?

ANSWER:

EXAMPLES—Empowerment **at** salvation:

1. Cornelius—Acts 10
2. The disciples of John the Baptist—Acts 19

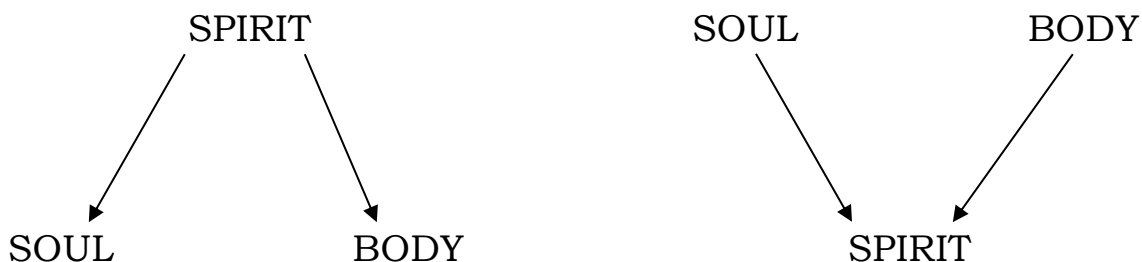
Empowerment **after** salvation:

1. The disciples of Jesus
2. The new Christians in Samaria—Acts 8

Biblical terminology that describes the same event:

Acts	1:5	“Baptized with the Holy Spirit”
Acts	1:8	“Holy Spirit has come upon you”
Acts	2:4	“Filled with the Holy Spirit”
Acts	8:14-17	“Receive the Holy Spirit”

Two different spiritual levels/planes:



In the days of the OT, God had a **temple/building** for His **people**. But, from the time of Jesus Christ and onward, God now has a **people** for His **temple/dwelling place!**

The Holy Spirit:

Is a **person** who wants to live in us...**To be known!**
 Is **not just a power**.....**To be used!**

Being controlled by the Holy Spirit provides Christian believers with a double blessing in that it allows one to relate:

BOTH...To the **human** realm
 AND.....To the **spiritual** realm...**At the same time** [Cf. I Cor. 2:10-11]

QUESTIONS:

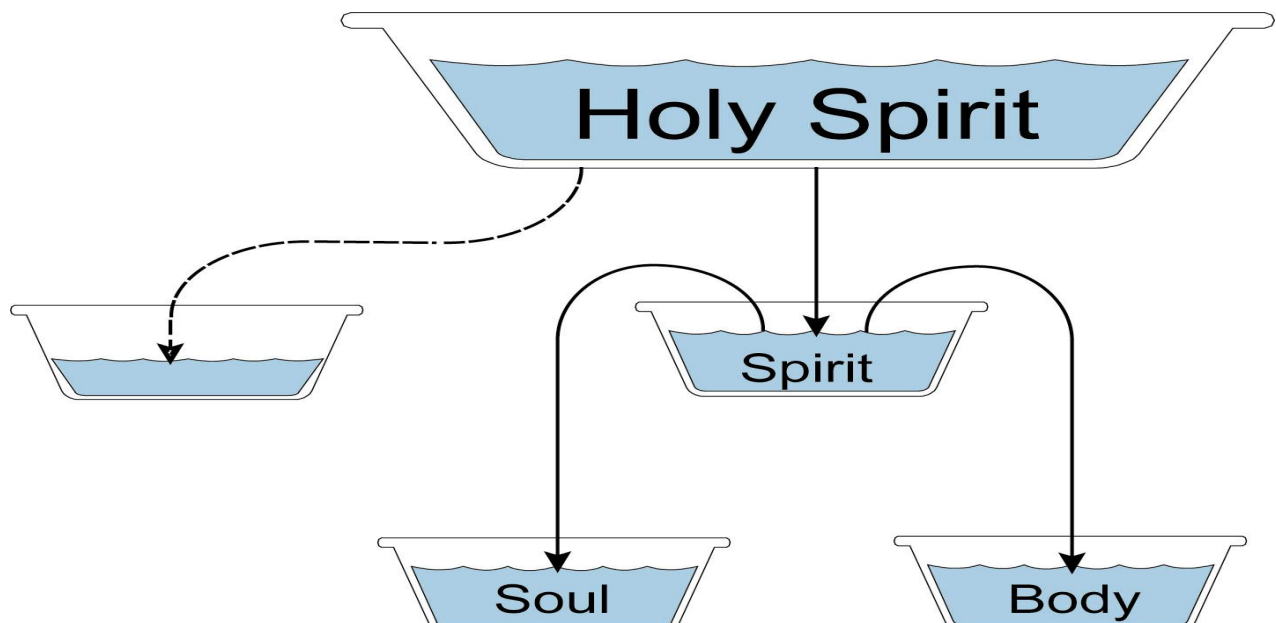
Is the Holy Spirit present, prominent, or preeminent in your life?

Is the Holy Spirit merely resident, or is He president of your life?

Some scriptural references that deal with different spiritual levels of living:

I Cor. 2:14-3:3	The “natural man” The “carnal Christian” The “spiritual man”
Romans 5:6-8	The “ungodly” The “righteous” man The “good” man
Hebrews 6:1-2	Some Christians have not matured beyond the “elementary principles” about Christ.
II Peter 2:7-8	Despite his extremely poor life spiritually, from the perspective of the NT, three times in these two verses, Lot is called “righteous.”

A limitation of the following diagram is that we are not to be seen merely as “containers” for the Holy Spirit to fill, but rather as conduits or channels through whom He ministers to other Christians and to those in the world. Even with this limitation in mind, the following is an attempt to describe, by analogy, what happens when Christians receive the power of the Holy Spirit.



Eph. 5:18c→“...be filled with the Spirit”

There are three crucial things to notice in just this one phrase:

- #1 Passive voice..... We must be acted upon by God
- #2 Present tense..... Continuous action
- #3 Imperative mood..... A command/mandate/order
(not just a suggestion)

God has a double purpose in controlling Christians with His Spirit:

- #1 To develop Christ-likeness in you/me

God wants our entire lives to be found blameless (I Thess. 5:23).

This Christ-likeness is achieved by the “fruit of the Holy Spirit.”
(Gal. 5:22-23)
For our enjoyment→**Me**-centered
- #2 To empower Christians for work/service/ministry to others

This purpose is achieved through the “gifts” of the Holy Spirit.

For our employment→**Others**-centered