

God's Spirit Guidance

Key verses

- “God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bare it.” 1 Cor.10:13
- “In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.” Prov.3:6
- “Let your conduct be without covetousness; be content with such things as you have. For He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you.'” Heb.13:5

Cited from Josh.1:5

God's Holy Spirit in our lives

Nobody would argue that God answers the prayers of His children and provides them with the necessities of life both in the spiritual and physical sense (Psalm 103). God also promises help in difficult life situations which could be threatening in the spiritual or natural sense. The word “direct” in the verse above means, ‘to make smooth’ or ‘straight’. There are also situations that arise in our lives where God through His Angels can intervene on our behalf in an emergency (Psa.34:7; Heb.1:14). Probably one of the most comforting verses of Scripture with reference to God's help in our lives is found in Hebrews 13:5 which is also quoted above.

Avoid confusion

Help from God in our lives should not be confused with the claim by some that the Holy Spirit with the extra measure that was poured out in the first century is available today. It is because of this misconception that many believers choose to use words like “providence” or phrases like “it was meant to be” in order to avoid confusion when talking to those who make claims about possessing God's power in a first century miracle working capacity. There is also strong evidence in Scripture to show that if we **purposely go against God's will**, that He will push us further into the direction of darkness that **we have already chosen of our own free will**.

See Rom.1:28; 2 Thess.2:11-12; 2 Chron.18:18-22; 1 Sam.16:14; Exod.10:1.

What is 'Spirit birth'?

Jesus says that without “Spirit birth” we cannot enter God's Kingdom (John 3:5). The Apostle Paul states that “flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God” (1 Cor.15:50), or to put it another way, if we are to inherit **God's promise of eternal life and rulership** in His coming Kingdom, then it goes without saying that we must have an immortal body (“divine nature” 2 Pet.1:4), and **the right state of spiritual mind** for the circumstance. Development of this spirit mind starts when we first hear the Gospel message and become obedient servants of Jesus. **Spirit birth reaches fullness** at the resurrection, when, if judged “**good and faithful servants**”, we receive the reward that God has promised us in His word.

Holy Spirit in 'extra measure'

- “...for He has given you the **former rain** faithfully, and He will cause the rain to come down for you – the former rain, and the **latter rain** in the first month.” Joel 2:23

God's Holy Spirit power was poured out in **extra measure** on believers in the first century starting on the day of Pentecost. This was in fulfillment of the words of Joel the prophet quoted above. This outpouring of Holy Spirit in the first century was known as, “**the former rain faithfully**” (“mowreh tsedaqah” Strong's 4175, 6666), and in the Hebrew language, means literally, “**teacher of righteousness**”. This light 'autumn rain' was firstly for instruction, “**the good word of God**”, and then as an example of “**the powers of the age to come**” (Heb.6:5).

The second extra measure pouring out of Holy Spirit is described in Scripture as taking place at the dawn of the kingdom age (Isa.59:20-21; Ezek.39:29), and is described by Joel as the “**latter rain**”. With Israel's climate, the latter rain in spring is **always heavier** than the former rain.

A very important principle

- “**There will be trouble and distress for every human being who does evil: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile; but glory, honour and peace for everyone who does good: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile.**” Rom.2:9-10 NIV

Both these outpourings of Holy Spirit uphold a **very important Godly principle** that was firstly shown at Pentecost and later described by the Apostle Paul. The principle is, that when it comes to reward or punishment, it is, “**to the Jew first and then to the Gentile**” Rom.2:9-10. The Jews at Pentecost, who came from all over the then known world, were the first to receive the Holy Spirit power and take the Gospel message back to the area of their dispersion. Later we read of the first Gentile converts in Acts ch10. **The second outpouring must also follow this same Godly principle**, when the natural Jews at the dawn of the Kingdom Age will be the first to receive the Holy Spirit followed by the Gentiles. **This Godly principle alone is sufficient Bible evidence to prove that any claims that the second outpouring is happening today, are just plain false.**

The heavier 'latter rain'

The latter rain in Israel is always heavier than the former rain and there is **no evidence of Spirit power today that would even come close to the former first century outpouring**. This “mere sprinkling” included the dead being raised (Acts 9:36-43, ch20:9), the imprisoned were miraculously released (Acts 5:17-23, ch12:5-19), the totally crippled (some from birth), walked in an instant (Acts 3:1-11, ch8:7, ch9:32-35), and enemies were blinded (Acts 13:6-12). Just try and imagine for a moment how vast and powerful the latter rain will be, when it is finally poured out after Jesus returns.

All Scripture quoted on this sheet is from the N.K.J.V.