

Chapter 12: Please Receive The Holy Spirit's Healing Today!

"Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20: 22.)

The reception of the Holy Spirit is conditional; those who receive him must comply with all the conditions involved. The richest blessing that God can give and the most needed by man cannot be forced upon anyone.

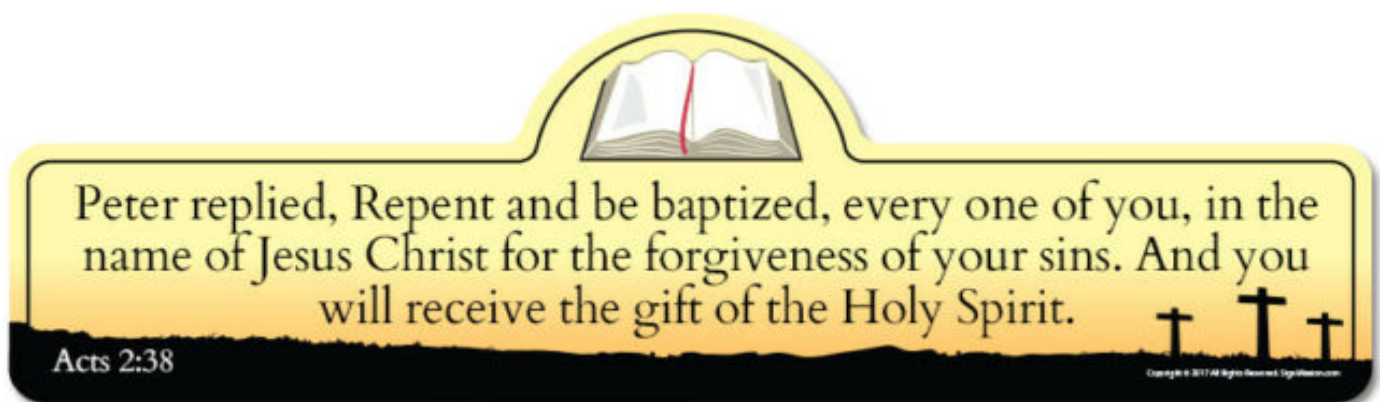


The book of Acts, sometimes called Acts of Apostles, may appropriately be called "Acts of the Holy Spirit," since this book gives a record of many cases of the reception and the rejection of the Holy Spirit. On the day of Pentecost the obedient received the Holy Spirit (Acts 2); a little later Stephen's hearers rejected the Holy Spirit (Acts 7). Some of the Samaritans received the Holy Spirit (Acts 8: 15,18), while others rejected him.

We have many references to the fact that the Holy Spirit had come and dwelt among men. It is proper to raise the question as to who should receive the Holy Spirit. Jesus said: "But this he spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those believing in him would receive: for the Spirit was not yet given; because Jesus was not yet glorified." (John 7: 39.)

Paul said: "Having believed, you were sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise." (Eph. 1: 13.) The testimony is conclusive that only believers in Christ could receive the Holy Spirit in his plenitude of blessings. The evidence is clear, furthermore, that the believers who obeyed God should be the recipients of the Holy Spirit; only those who obey him should receive him.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,"
Ephesians 1:3 NKJV



"And we are witnesses to these things; and so also is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those that obey him." (Acts 5:32)

How is the Holy Spirit received? Since it is in the power of man to receive or reject the Holy Spirit, it may be in order to study this phase of the subject. Jesus said to his apostles after his resurrection and just before his ascension: "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John 20: 22.)

The word "receive" is said to be in the imperative mood; it is not here a promise, not a suggestion, not a request, not an overture, but a positive command. The disciples could obey this command or disobey it. How could they obey this command? Jesus had said: "If you love me, keep my commandments." (John 14: 15.) Again: "No one can say that Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit." (1 Cor. 12: 3.)

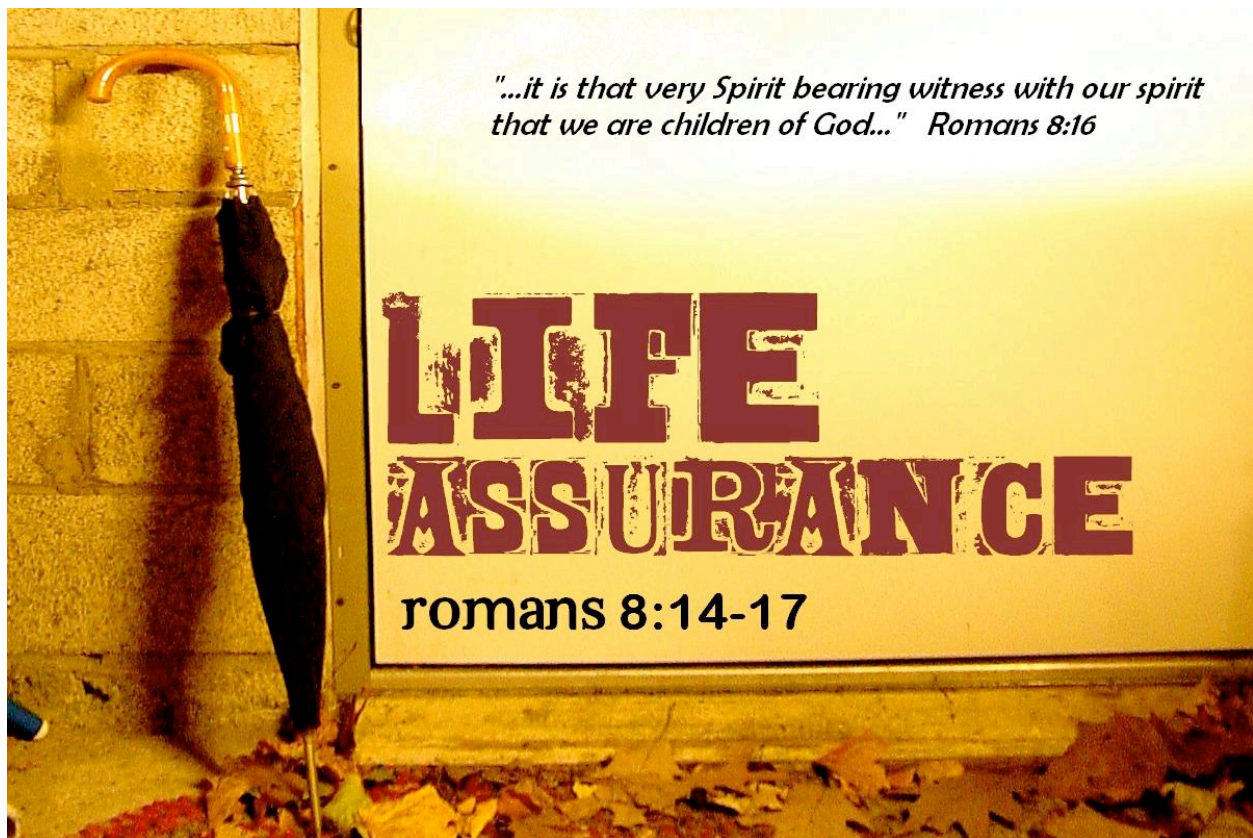
One can receive God by receiving his teachings. One can receive Christ by receiving the teachings of Christ. Jesus said as he sent out his disciples : "He who receives you receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me." Matthew 10:40

The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians. (Romans 5: 5; 8: 9, 11, 15; 2 Timothy 1: 14; James 4: 5.) However, the Holy Spirit dwells in Christians to the extent that they receive the teachings of the Spirit.



The full and rich blessings cluster around the faithful life of Christians on earth because they have received the Holy Spirit.

Those who have received the Holy Spirit are "heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if indeed we suffer with him, that we may also be glorified together." (Rom. 8: 17.)



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1. The reception of the Holy Spirit is _____. Those who receive Him must _____ with all the conditions involved.

conditional - comply

2. The book of Acts, sometimes called Acts of Apostles, may appropriately be called the _____ of the _____

Acts – Holy Spirit

3. The Holy Spirit dwells in Christians to the _____ that they _____ the teachings of the Spirit.

Extent - Receive

4. "Blessed be the _____ and Father of our Lord _____, who has blessed us with every _____ in the heavenly places in Christ," Ephesians 1:3
NKJV

"Blessed be the **God** and Father of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us with every **spiritual blessing** in the heavenly places in Christ,"
Ephesians 1:3 NKJV

5. What does receiving the Holy Spirit make us in relation to God and Christ?

heirs of God and Joint heirs with Christ