



Pray to receive the Holy Spirit and Fire by faith.

<u>The Introduction to Today's Lesson</u>

"The Holy Spirit" Written by Ella Samuels (Ret. P.E.) and Read by: *Sis. Mary Mullins*

There are many misconceptions about the identity of the Holy Spirit. Some view the Holy Spirit as a mystical force. Others consider the Holy Spirit to be a **detached** power that God makes available to the followers of Christ. But what does the Bible say about the identity of the Holy Spirit? Simply put, the Bible declares that the Holy Spirit is God. The Holy Spirit is a Divine Person with a mind, with emotions, and a will. (Sis. Carol Davenport: Acts 5:3-4) The scripture is very clear that the Holy Spirit is God. In the 4th chapter of Acts, Peter and John had been in prison for preaching and teaching about Jesus. After they were released, they went back to their people and as they were praying everyone was filled with the Holy Spirit. All the people agreed to share all of their material worth with each other. Those who owned land sold their land and brought the proceeds and laid them at the feet of the Apostles, and the Apostles divided the money among all those who were in need. A man by the name of Ananias and his wife agreed to sell their land and give the money to the Apostles, to be used in like manner. However, when they sold the land, they agreed with **each other** to give only a portion of the money. After Ananias gave the money, Peter asked him, "How was it that Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit?" Then Peter said to Ananias, "You have not lied to man but to **God**." Peter's comments are clear, the Holy Spirit and God are the same person. It's dangerous to pretend to be something that we are not. After Ananias lied to the Holy Spirit he fell dead. (Sis. Panya Porter: Acts 5: 7-10) Likewise the wife, Sapphira, also tried to test or deceive God and she fell dead. In their attempt to deceive men, they were trying to deceive God, who was living in the Apostles by the power of the Holy Spirit. They also tried to deceive the people, and by so doing, there again, they were trying to deceive God who was living in the **people** by the power of the Holy Spirit. So, the Holy Spirit is God Himself.

Receiving the Holy Spirit will radically change our lives, because it's through Him that we will experience the life of God within us. **(Sis. Carol Davenport-Scott: John 20:21-22)** When Christians speak about God coming to live in their hearts, it's the Holy Spirit they are describing. The Bible describes the Spirit as the **"breath"** of God. Therefore, just as we need oxygen to live in our human body, the Holy Spirit becomes the source of the new life that God places within us, when we are born again. We no longer relate to God, just as a higher power **outside** of ourselves, because He now lives **within** us. **(Sis. Panya Porter: Philippians 2:12-13)** As the Holy Spirit lives in us, we are to work hard, not **FOR** our Salvation but to work **OUT** our Salvation, because God is working in and through us. He enables us to will, or desire, to work for His good pleasure. He doesn't do the work for us, like a parent helping the child to do his/her homework, He makes it possible for us to obey, and to work out the calling He places on our lives, by giving us access to the power we need. His divine power, through the Holy Spirit, will give us everything we need to live Godly lives, and to fulfill the purpose He has for us.



