

## Food for thought from the Gospel of John

### # 7 Jesus and the Holy Spirit

#### Read John 1:29-34

Last time we looked at the significance of Jesus as “The Lamb of God.” He came to be the ultimate and permanent sacrifice. He substituted Himself for us. He came to pay for our sins, so that we would not be condemned by the Father. We have a perfectly pure relationship with the Father.

This time we will note that Jesus Christ brings us into union with God through His Spirit. It is difficult to discuss such an important subject in a short message. But here are two things that will give us food for thought:

#### # 1 – Jesus was united with the Spirit of God in fulfilling earthly His ministry.

As the Son of God, Christ was always in union with the Holy Spirit. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are three united in One (II Corinthians 13:14). However, in the beginning of Jesus’ earthly ministry, there was a formal anointing of Jesus, by God’s Spirit, at His Baptism (Matthew 3:13-17). This was particularly done for the benefit of John the Baptist. He was told to look for the One whom he would see the Spirit descend upon Him. Immediately, John also heard the voice of the Father saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.” John needed these verifications because he would have to fearlessly confess that Jesus is the Christ / Messiah. It would ultimately cost John his life. So, this sign was given to him, so that he would have all boldness and authority.

Look at these prophetic verses concerning Christ and the Holy Spirit:

- Isaiah 61:1-2a (note how Jesus read this passage to others in Luke 4:16-21)
- Isaiah 11:1-2 (do the math and note “the seven Spirits of God in Revelation 3:1; 4:5; 5:6).

# 2 – Jesus is the one that baptizes with the Holy Spirit, after we repent and believe.

John's baptism was with water. At the time, this was seen as a symbolic washing for people who had repented of their sins. Jesus was baptized, not to show repentance of any sin, but to identify with those who had repented. Later, baptism became a symbol of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ – and our subsequent death to self and rising to walk in newness of life with Christ (Colossians 2:12-13).

As John used water, Jesus uses the Holy Spirit (I Corinthians 12:13 – "... by one Spirit." Some translations say "... in one Spirit..."). Jesus Christ immerses us / places us together in a relationship with the Holy Spirit at the time of our salvation / new birth (Ephesians 1:13; 2:11-18; 4:4-6; John 15:26; 16:7).

There has been much confusion and controversy over the subjects of baptism and the Holy Spirit. We offer you a simple solution. The Father sent and signified His Son to be the Savior of the world. Repent and believe on Him. Publicly confess your faith by following Christ's example of baptism with water. However, understand that before a person has been baptized with water, they have first been baptized with God's Spirit when they received salvation by grace through faith (Titus 3:5).