

## The Holy Spirit- The person and work of the Holy Spirit

### 1 Kings 19:11-14 New International Version (NIV)

<sup>11</sup> The LORD said, "Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by."

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind, there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake. <sup>12</sup> After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup> When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Acts 2:1-4 When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit enabled them.

People often have asked me about the Holy Spirit. There is no simple answer to the question, for the Holy Spirit is known at a different time and places by people on a journey. People willing to discover the living God of Heaven and Earth. God reveals Himself in different ways and means: gentle whisper and tongues of fire, to name a few. I often said that God knows how to speak to each of us because He is the one who created us. We see the Holy Spirit's work in the Old as well as New Testament. The Holy Spirit is the promise made by Jesus. The Holy Spirit manifests itself at different times and ways throughout history, even at the beginning of creation. We profess the Spirit's existence and work in the Apostle's Creed. We even sense the Holy Spirit's presence in our personal and corporate life.

I believe receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit happens at the time of salvation: "There is one body and one Spirit—just as you are called to the one hope that belongs to your call—one Lord, one faith, one baptism" (Ephesians 4:4–5).

In short, we receive the Holy Spirit when we receive Christ as Lord and Savior. Paul says in Romans: "You, however, are not in the flesh but the Spirit, if in fact, the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him" (Romans 8:9).

Once the Holy Spirit is received, a person begins a life-long journey of being led by the Holy Spirit to bring glory to God.

If you have received Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, you have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. How the Holy Spirit manifests through you is a part of learning to be aware. We begin listening to that small still voice, discovering the gifts the Spirit has given you and using those gifts for building up the body of Christ.

It's because of the Holy Spirit given to us by Jesus that we can always be in the presence of God. The good news is Christ is in us. Christ will never leave us. Christ's resurrection seals us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Now we can walk with him, and talk with him, and know that God will guide and lead us.