

Are We Ready To Receive The Holy Spirit?

1 Thessalonians 4:7-8 [NIV] *“For God did not call us to be impure, but to live a holy life. Therefore, he who rejects this instruction does not reject man but God, who gives you his Holy Spirit.”*

The Holy life that God calls us to live can only be lived by our receiving and being full of the Holy Spirit.

Luke 11:13 [NIV] *“If you then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”*

We have to ask God to send the Holy Spirit but are we ready and willing to receive the Holy Spirit?

The Holy Spirit, being God, will only dwell and be active in us on His terms.

There are certain questions we must ask and answer honestly.

Are we sure that we want to subject our will totally to another Being?

Matthew 26:39,42 [NIV] *“... not as I will, but as you will.” ... “may your will be done.”*

Here we see into the mind of our Saviour Jesus Christ the Son of Man. This is our perfect example for this was the human Son of Man opening to us His mind not the Son of God.

Jesus the Son of Man was allowing His human spirit to be totally subject to, even possessed by, the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 4:1 [NIV] *“Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert to be tempted by the devil.”*

Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit to do the will of His Father.

John 14:15-18 [NIV] *“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. I will not leave you as orphans; **I will come to you.**”*

Jesus lives in us today by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in us.

Romans 8:9 [NIV] *“You, however, are **controlled** not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. **And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ.**”*

“Controlled” and “belong” the context of the statement indicate possession.

Acts 20:28 [NIV] *“Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers. Be shepherds of the church of God, which he [Jesus Christ] bought with his own blood.”*

Purchased as a bond slave was in the slave market of that day to become the possession of His master.

Romans 1:1 [NIV] *“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle and set apart for the gospel of God”*

Paul acknowledges he was a bond slave of Jesus Christ first, then called to be an apostle.

Deuteronomy 15:15-17 [NIV] *“... But if your servant says to you, “I do not want to leave you,” because he loves you and your family and is well off with you, then take an awl and push it through his ear lobe into the door, and he will become **your servant for life**. Do the same for your maidservant.”*

The origin of what Paul was stating in his relationship with Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit will only dwell in us as our Master.

Do we want Him to be the Lord of our lives?

Do we want our very personality to be taken over by One Who will expect obedience to the written and living Word of God?

Ephesians 4:30 [NIV] *“And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”*

A grieved Holy Spirit will not be active in our lives.

Ephesians 4:17-29 [NIV] *“So I tell you this, and insist on it in the Lord, that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more. You, however, did not come to know Christ that way. Surely you heard of him and were taught in him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. **You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; to be made new in the attitude of your minds; and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.** Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to his neighbour, for we are all members of one body. **“In your anger do not sin”:** Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold. He who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with his own hands, that he may have something to share with those in need. Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.”*

Here we see a total re-making of our lives and personality by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.

In the light of what God’s Holy Christian Bible, tells us are we ready to receive the Holy Spirit into our lives to take over and transform our lives?

Before we ask for God to fill our lives with the Holy Spirit we need to consider the full extent of what we are asking.