

So in summary, the Indwelling Measure of the Spirit — unlike the other two measures — is given to *all* Christians. It is given on the condition that those to whom it is given have met the requirements to repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. This measure *does not give miraculous gifts* to those who receive it as did the other two measures that we have discussed.

Since Ephesians 4:5 states that there is “*one baptism*,” it also becomes crystal clear that there is no longer a “baptism of the Holy Spirit” as many denominations teach today. The giving of both the Baptismal and the Secondary Measures of the Holy Spirit ceased many centuries ago. The giving of the Indwelling Measure of the Holy Spirit continues yet today and will continue until the end of time. So it is important that we realize there is a distinct difference between the “*miraculous gifts of the Spirit*” given centuries ago for very specific purposes and the “*gift of the Spirit*” that is *not* manifested through miraculous demonstrations and is bestowed on a believer at the time of his/her immersion in the watery grave of baptism.

How then is the Indwelling Measure of the Spirit manifested today in the lives of those to whom it is given?

*“So I say, live by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the sinful nature. For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want.”*  
(Galatians 5:16-17 NIV)

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the sinful nature with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.”* (Galatians 5:22-25 NIV)

So we can see that the three measures — Baptismal, Secondary and Indwelling are each different from the other. Perhaps this study will help each of us better understand the way the Spirit worked in the lives of those many centuries ago and the way the Spirit works in our lives today.



Please note — there will not be a  
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Have a joyous holiday season.



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# DILIGENCE

*“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11*

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## Measures Of The Spirit — Part 3

This issue is the third in a series of discussions on the measures of the Spirit. We’ve already discussed the Baptismal Measure and the Secondary Measure in the previous two issues and will be discussing the Indwelling Measure of the Spirit in this issue. Before we move on to the Indwelling Measure, let’s begin with a very brief summary of the first two of those measures.

The Baptismal Measure was bestowed from an unseen source and was given *only* two times — to the Apostles and to Cornelius and the Gentiles who were with him. Christ was the Administrator of this measure. It did not save those who received it, but was given for the specific purpose of revealing and confirming the truth and establishing the New Testament Church. In the case of Cornelius and the Gentiles it was given specifically to demonstrate that salvation was also available to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

The Secondary Measure was given through the laying on of the hands of the Apostles. This measure was given to *some* disciples (those whom the Apostles laid hands on). This measure also did not save those who received it but was given to help establish and sustain the church during its very early years. So this measure also was given for a specific purpose that is no longer needed.

## The Indwelling Measure

We want to conclude our study now with a discussion of the Indwelling Measure of the Spirit. This measure is unlike the other two measures in several ways. The first difference is that this measure is given to *all* Christians who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior and are baptized for forgiveness of their sins. This measure is given *at the time of baptism* in the watery grave. We can determine this from the following Scripture.

*“Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.’”* (Acts 2:38-39 NIV)

Notice in this Scripture that there are two conditions (or commands) that must be met and there are two promises. The promises will be received *if* the two commands are completed. The first command is “*repent*” and the second command is “*be baptized*.” The first promise for completing these two commands is “*forgiveness of your sins*” and the second promise is “*you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*.”  
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So we know from this verse that when we are baptized we “*receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*” We have God’s Word on it. We also know from this verse that we *do not* have the gift of the Holy Spirit *unless* we have been baptized because baptism is when we receive this gift.

It is also evident from these next two verses that obedience to the Gospel is necessary for us to receive this measure of the Indwelling Spirit.

*“We are witnesses of these things, and so is the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who obey him.” (Acts 5:32 NIV)*

*“Because you are sons, God sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, the Spirit who calls out, ‘Abba, Father.’” (Galatians 4:6 NIV)*

We could say then, that this measure — the Indwelling Measure resides in the “Church.” We must of course understand then that the “Church” is *not* the building in which we assemble together to collectively worship God. The Church is the Body of Christ and that Body is made up of individual Christians — or those who have met the conditions necessary to become a child of God.

*“Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God’s Spirit lives in you?” (I Corinthians 3:16 NIV)*

*“For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit. Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God’s people and members of God’s household, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in Him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.” (Ephesians 2:18-22 NIV)*

So once again, the Scriptures tell us that this Indwelling Measure of the Spirit is given only to those who are a part of the Body of Christ — or in other words, only to those who have met the conditions that are required by the Word of God to become His children or a part of God’s household.

Now, it is our opinion that much of the confusion in the religious world today concerning the subject of the Holy Spirit, stems from the fact that many people fail to understand that there is a difference between the “*miraculous gifts* of the Spirit” and the “*gift of the Spirit.*” In the previous issues, we discussed the first two measures of the Spirit — both of which were manifested by *miraculous* gifts done by those to whom those measures had been given. We saw from those previous two discussions that those *miraculous* gifts are not still being given today. In fact, there is much that determines they are *not* and we discussed that in the two previous issues. The measure of the Spirit that is given today is an Indwelling Measure and does not give its receivers *miraculous* abilities as did the other two measures.

There are absolutely *no* examples whatsoever in the Word that indicate in any way that baptism gives a believer miraculous gifts or that “baptism of the Holy Spirit” will occur if only we pray hard enough or are “spiritual” enough.. We just read Acts 2:38 and 39 earlier in this article. Let’s read those again but this time read several verses following those verses.

*“38) Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. 39) The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off — for all whom the Lord our God will call.’ 40) With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ 41) Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day. 42) They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. 43) Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. (Acts 2:38-43 NIV)*

We want to call your attention to verse 41. First and foremost, it states that “*those who accepted his message were baptized...*” Then it states that there were “*about three thousand...added to their number that day.*” That’s a lot of people. But read on in verse 42 now — there is *no mention* of any of those three thousand speaking in tongues (languages they had never *learned* to speak) or demonstrating *miraculous* gifts such as healing the sick, making the blind to see, etc.. The list rather says that they “*devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*” If indeed *all* of those three thousand had been given *miraculous* gifts, we surely would have multiple Scriptures telling of the thousands of miracles they performed — but we don’t! Instead, we read that they did exactly the same things we do today. But now let’s read verse 43 again.

*“Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles.”*

Who was it that was doing the “*wonders and miraculous signs?*” It was the Apostles — no mention of the three thousand. Yet we know from Acts 2:38 that those who were baptized *did* receive the Holy Spirit. So this Indwelling Measure does *not* manifest itself through *miraculous* signs and wonders.

The Indwelling Measure of the Spirit lives in every Christian who has been baptized in the watery grave for the remission of their sins. According to Acts 2:38, it is *at that specific time* that this measure is given and it is at that specific time that one becomes a child of God — a member of the household of God or the Church (I Timothy 3:15). We cannot belong to Christ unless we have the Indwelling Spirit.

*“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.” (Romans 8:9 NIV)*