

HOLY SPIRIT: IN THE GOSPELS

The life of Christ was a period of transition from the dispensation of law to the dispensation of grace. Jesus possessed the Spirit without measure (John 3:34). The dispensation of the Holy Spirit would not arrive until after the ascension of Jesus into Heaven. While Jesus was on earth, He offered the Spirit to all who asked for Him (Luke 11:3). Jesus promised the Spirit would come and abide in believers after He was gone (John 14:16-17). After the resurrection He breathed the Spirit upon the disciples (John 20:22). He then told them to wait in Jerusalem until the Spirit would come in power for the church age (Luke 24:49). The Holy Spirit came on Pentecost and baptized the church, forming it into the Body of Christ. After that people are added to the church as they believe (Acts 2:47). Jesus baptized the church in the Spirit as John the Baptist promised He would. The Spirit descended on Jesus at His baptism, and all his miracles were performed in the power of the Holy Spirit. "In Him dwells all the fulness of the Godhead bodily" (Colossians 2:9), which included His being filled with the Spirit while He was on earth. The Holy Spirit is the "Helper" Jesus promised would indwell us after He ascended into Heaven (John 14:16). The Holy Spirit came to indwell and empower believers in this present age. The church age is the dispensation of the Holy Spirit.