



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#37)

What must we do to receive the Holy Spirit? Though it's a free gift, there are requirements.

**YOU CANNOT PURCHASE** → **THE HOLY SPIRIT**

✓ **Simon the magician tried it...** And got this response:

Peter answered: "May your money perish with you, because you thought you could buy the gift of God with money! Repent of this wickedness and pray to the Lord. Perhaps he will forgive you for having such a thought in your heart."

Acts 8:20, 22 (NIV)

(There is no evidence that Simon ever did repent. Instead, historical evidence suggests that he began a false religion that competed with Christianity.)

**NOR CAN YOU**

✓ **BRIBE** or **MANIPULATE** God ...


>> or <<

✓ Use any other type of **HUMAN EFFORT** ...

⇒ In order to get, gain, attain, earn ...

**THE HOLY SPIRIT**

**IT IS THE GIFT OF GOD**



... the gift of God ...  
Acts 8:20b (NIV)

... the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
Acts 2:38b (NIV)

... the gift of the Holy Spirit ...  
Acts 10:45b (NIV)

... the same gift [= the Holy Spirit]  
Acts 11:17b (NIV)

**EVEN SO ...**

There are **REQUIREMENTS** you must meet, in order to qualify for this gift!

**QUALIFICATIONS TO RECEIVE A FREE GIFT THAT YOU CAN'T EARN?**

**of course!**

God's gifts are *valuable*. He does not waste them the way the world often does.

FREE HANDOUTS... COME AND GET 'EM!!



**GOD REQUIRES US TO HAVE A GENEROUS SPIRIT (ATTITUDE).**

Freely you have received, freely give.  
Matthew 10:8b (NIV)

These passages focus on *attitude*; they do not encourage unrestrained wastefulness.

A wicked person borrows, but he does not repay. A righteous person is generous and giving.  
Psalm 37:21 (GW)

> BUT <

**THAT DOESN'T MEAN TO BE CARELESS, FOOLISH AND BLIND!**

Don't give what is holy to dogs or throw your pearls to pigs. Otherwise, they will trample them and then tear you to pieces.  
Matthew 7:6 (GW)

**EVEN THE FREE GIFT OF SALVATION HAS RESTRICTIONS!**

**Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.**  
Rev. 22:17b (NIV); see also 21:6.

**Some can have it ...**  
All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be my children.  
Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life.  
Rev. 21:7, 14 (NLT)

**Some can't ...**  
But cowards who turn away from me, and unbelievers, and the corrupt, and murderers, and the immoral, and those who practice witchcraft, and idol worshipers, and all liars—their doom is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death.  
Outside the [eternal] city are the dogs—the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.  
Rev. 21:8, 15 (NLT)

**WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING THE GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT?**

**THE SAME AS THE REQUIREMENTS FOR RECEIVING THE GIFT OF SALVATION!**

✓ **We must be willing to "hear" (accept as true) the Good News.**  
While Peter was still speaking, the Holy Spirit came to everyone who **heard**\* his message.  
Acts 10:44 (GW)

\* According to v. 33, all who were present were ready to accept what Peter said as being true – i.e., from God. They all had the right type of "hearing." See also Romans 10:17.

✓ **We must repent and be baptized.**  
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."  
Acts 2:38 (NIV)

• **REPENTANCE** – WHAT DOES IT MEAN?  
[See how these translations explain the word.]

... turn from your sins and turn to God, ...  
Acts 2:38b (NLT)

... turn to God and change the way you think and act, ...  
Acts 2:38b (GW)

• **BAPTISM** – BACK THEN... It was a *public* act of obedience that let everybody know you were rejecting your former ways and were choosing to follow Jesus.

✓ **We must be worshippers of the true God.**

"This promise [= the Holy Spirit] belongs to ... everyone who **worships** the Lord our God."  
Acts 2:39 (GW)

**THIS MEANS** → **We need to find out in Scripture what genuine "worship" is!**

**Find out what this means!** → "God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship *in spirit and truth*."  
John 4:24 (NASB)

**It's easy to have FAKE worship.** → "These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. **They worship me in vain**; their teachings are but rules taught by men." "  
Matthew 15:8-9 (NIV)

✓ **We must be willing to obey God.**  
... the Holy Spirit, whom God has given to those who **obey** him.  
Acts 5:32b (GW)

👉 **CONTEXT:** Their "obeying" included a willingness to acknowledge who Jesus was.  
In the previous verses, the apostles were warned to stop telling people about Jesus... and they responded this way:  
But Peter and the apostles replied, "We must **obey** God rather than human authority."  
Acts 5:29 (NLT)

**CAUTION!**  
**DON'T TREAT THESE REQUIREMENTS AS A CHECK-LIST!**

**THEY ARE NOT A STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS! (FOR EXAMPLE...)**

👉 In Acts 2:38, Peter mentions the gift of the Spirit AFTER he mentions baptism. In Acts 10:44-47, the Spirit arrives BEFORE baptism is mentioned.

👉 This shows us that we don't have to focus so much on a specific "chronological time sequence" of these things.

**WHAT THIS SHOWS US:**  
👉 Basically, as we are *changing* (turning to God), the Spirit is *coming* (entering our lives).

**SOVEREIGNTY**  
**RESPONSIBILITY**

**CAUTION!**  
DON'T FORGET THE **SOVEREIGNTY** ASPECT!

THE SPIRIT CAN DO AS HE WISHES ...  
 BUT HE WILL NEVER CONTRADICT HIS WORD.

The wind blows **where it wishes**, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit."  
 John 3:8 (ESV)

**SOVEREIGNTY GUARANTEES:**  
 that we **cannot ignore** OUR **RESPONSIBILITY** to do these things (repent, etc.), and still receive the Holy Spirit.

**SURPRISE!!**

Receiving the Spirit is an **ongoing process!**

⇒ But it's dependent on **our willingness** to qualify.

**OUR WILLINGNESS TO OBEY GOD,**  
**ENABLES GOD'S OUTPOURING OF THE SPIRIT!**

This is illustrated in Acts 4,  
when the religious leaders tried to stop the apostles from sharing of the Good News.

**BACKGROUND SITUATION:**  
 God told the apostles to *tell others* about the Good News... but the religious leaders told them to *be quiet!*

**HOW DO YOU THINK THEY RESPONDED?**  
 [HINT: They did *not* pray, "Give us the Holy Spirit"! They already had the Spirit!]

**THEIR RESPONSE** (when the leaders tried to silence them) ...

✓ They did *not* fear or obey the leaders (and become silent).  
 ✓ **INSTEAD, THE ENTIRE GROUP PRAYED ...**

1 ⇒ They acknowledged *God's sovereign control* over the matter. (Plus human responsibility.)

Then all the believers were united as they lifted their voices in prayer: "O Sovereign Lord, ..."  
 Acts 4:24a (NLT)

Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate ... did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen.  
 Acts 4:27a, 28 (NIV)

⇒ **And based on this fact...**

[Based on the fact that God had control over the whole matter...]

2 ⇒ They asked for *boldness to obey* God!  
 And now, Lord, consider their threats, and grant that your servants may speak your word with all boldness, ...  
 Acts 4:29 (CSB)

✓ **RESULT? THEIR PRAYER WAS ANSWERED ...**

3 ⇒ They prayed for *boldness*... they were given more of the *Spirit!*

When they had prayed, ... they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak the word of God boldly.  
 Acts 4:31 (CSB)

[ Other things also occurred (v. 30, 31b) – the focus of a future study. ]

**THIS WEEK...**

**PURSUE**  
**CLING TO**

**THIS FREE GIFT!**  
 NOT by pursuing the GIFT,  
 BUT by fulfilling the QUALIFICATIONS.

If you are already following Jesus,  
**THEN YOU ALREADY HAVE THE GIFT!**  
 IN THAT CASE,  
**PURSUE HAVING IT MORE ABUNDANTLY!**

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